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It seems that most of the news we hear regarding churches always has to do with decline. We have had to deal with a change in church culture since Covid and the strange things we did during that time. Many churches are still reporting nearly one third of pre covid attendance is now missing. Many are bemoaning the losses and trying to understand how many of those we can get back. While we should be concerned about those who are no longer in attendance, we often miss the importance of reaching the lost.

We have no shortage of lost people in all of our church mission fields. Sometimes we fail to realize that most of the world is not like us. Have you thought about the number of single people compared to years ago? In 1960 singles were 6.9 % of the US population. By 1980, the percentage was almost 20%. Now some 43 years later we are very close 50 %. 1 of every 2 Americans is not married. Now here in the Bible belt, our numbers are probably not quite as high. According to Mission Insite (ACS

Technologies), in Florence County, 48% of the population 15 years old and older are married. Given these numbers, we are about like the national statistics. This includes divorced and widowed but is still nearly one half of all the adults.

Is your church single friendly? Is there a place for a new member to really plug in if they are visiting and ready to take the next step? Are there events planned for singles? Are there any special ministries for singles? We should not lose sight of the fact that the family is by God's design and the backbone of our society. We also should not fail to meet people where they are. This is just one of many areas we have failed to see how different much of the world is from us. By the way, Jesus was single!

Looking forward, Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, February, 2023

IMPACT 2023

February 22-23, 2023
Church at The Mill

February 22, 2023
Wednesday Night Pre-Game
Church at The Mill
\$10 add-on for Pre-Game

February 23, 2023
Church at The Mill
Doors Open - 8:15 am
IMPACT- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

IMPACT is one day dedicated to creating a vibrant environment for networking and resourcing like mind pastors, church planters, staff, and church leaders. Don't miss the Wednesday Night Pre-Game from 6-8 pm to network with other church staff with BBQ and have the opportunity to get a glance of the ministries at Church at The Mill. There is a \$10 add-on for Pre-Game that you can select in registration. *For information regarding costs and group rates please visit <http://www.scbaptist.org/impact>*

Again this year there will be a track offered for Ministry Assistants

Cost is \$25 (with code "SCBMAA")

Conference Leaders:

Denise Johnston
"Carving a Pathway with Faith and Influence"

Donald King
"Communicating to the Church and Community"

Visit www.scbmaa.org for more information

Children’s Ministry Day Project: For 2023 Children’s Ministry Day, we are going to be collecting gift bags for Faith Healthcare (Nursing Home) 617 W. Marion Street. They have 104 residents so we hope to have enough for all the residents. The gift bags are due at the FBA office by Thursday, February 23. Joye Anderson will deliver them on Monday, February 27th.

You can collect through your children’s ministry or make this a church wide project.

Please put the following in a small gift bag with handles:

A little squish mallow or other Squishy animal – something they can hold on to when agitated; toothbrush; toothpaste; denture cup ; anti-skid socks; comb; soft bristle brush

Also collecting – but DO NOT put in the gift bags:

Any kind of tee shirt or undershirt size Medium to 2 XL
Snacks for the staff (individually wrapped)

Love Packages Collection: In the summer of 1975 God spoke to Steven Schmidt as clearly as could be. That summer, God showed him the abundance of Christian literature that we all had at our disposal and the tremendous lack of literature in third world nations. He began to send their excess literature overseas. That first year he and his wife shipped sixty boxes of literature to missionaries in four countries. Soon the word spread about what they were doing. Friends started bringing their excess literature to them for shipment overseas. They never realized or imagined that from that small seed God would build an ever increasing world outreach through Love Packages.

They continue to send Christian literature to missionaries and Christian workers around the world. Statistics tell us that every piece of literature will be read by an average of 20 people. Each container has at least 1 million pieces, so **the potential is to reach 20 million every time they send a container.** Since the beginning of Love Packages in 1975, they have been able to send over 15,000 tons of literature. Thousands of people have been saved, healed, and delivered as a result of this mission. There are two warehouses where they collect the material – Butler, Illinois and one in Decatur, Alabama. Love Packages currently sends 20-foot ocean going containers to port cities around the world. These locations act as distribution points and have the capability to distribute these materials to thousands of churches overseas.

The FBA will be collecting old SS material, Bibles (any version and in any shape) and other Christian material **April 2-6, 2023** . Remember the office is closed on Fridays. **Material will not be taken after this week until our next collection time because of storage.** Please box “like material” together and place in boxes NO BIGGER than a box of a ream of paper. Bigger boxes are really hard to lift and the sorters struggle if the boxes are too big. If you need a complete list of what can be brought for Love Packages, please contact Louanne at the FBA office.

LifeChangers 2023 is June 18-23 at Calvary Baptist in Florence. This will be the 20th year that God has blessed us with having LifeChangers. Registration information has been emailed to all of our churches and it is posted on the FBA website – www.florenceba.org. If you are not familiar with LifeChangers, please go to our LifeChangers Facebook page and see the pictures from past years. Louanne would love to talk with you about bringing a group to LifeChangers. It’s a great mission experience for all who participate.

**Financial Information
December 2022**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,166.67
Monthly Received:	\$20,025.47
Monthly Expenses:	\$29,900.05
Year to Date Received:	\$227,775.43
Year to Date Expenses:	\$213,399.43

Southside Baptist Missions Golf Tournament

Friday, March 31, 2023
Traces Golf Club
Hole Sponsor - \$110 (3-24-23 deadline)
Individual Player - \$60
Register at Southside Baptist Church 843-669-7288



“For such a time as this...”, churches are being invited and encouraged to take part in trauma-informed training in order to strengthen the Body of Christ as we minister to children and teens who have been placed in foster or kinship care, as well as those who are now caring for them. We have the unique opportunity to partner with a local ministry, The Jade Bridge, in receiving training as we equip ourselves for loving on those who are in great need of love and support. The South Carolina Baptist Convention recently announced that they are providing grants to churches who are interested in training their fellowship; the grants will help cover the cost of this training. To apply for the grant, go to <https://www.scbaptist.org/fostercare/grants> and to learn more about the training and schedule it for your church, contact Jennifer Danford, Executive Director of The Jade Bridge, at (843) 245-1686 or jennifer@thejadebridge.org

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------------|
| 12 | Rev. Harry Adkins (MY), Florence First |
| 14 | Rev. Bobby Earls (P), Northgate |
| 17 | Rev. Dwight Elijah (P), New Covenant |

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------------|
| 6 | Johnny (P) & Anita McDaniel, Greenwood |
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Around the Association

Chosen Road Concert - Calvary Baptist Church in Florence, SC presents Chosen Road Live on Saturday, February 18, at 6:30pm. Join the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church (915 Cherokee Rd.) and chart-topping Christian recording artists Chosen Road for a night of worship. The night will be full of bluegrass music and congregational singing for the entire family. This is a free concert with a love offering being received. We hope to see you there!

Cartersville....Honored Rev. David George for his 20 years of serving as their pastor on Dec. 18th. The church presented a monetary gift to Rev. and Mrs. George.

Ministers Conference...Will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 11:30 am. Please let us know if you plan to attend so appropriate lunch arrangements can be made.



Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Rev. Jim Crooks, Pastor, Tans Bay, in the death of his mother.