

Florence Baptist Association
2208 Pamplico Highway
Florence, SC 29505-6828
843-662-5921
fbaconnie@sc.rr.com
lgs5155@aol.com
fbachris@gmail.com

www.florenceba.org
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I would like to start by, again, thanking the Florence Baptist Association for the love offering that was given to me for recognition of my ten-year anniversary. We were able to use most of the money on a family cruise. This was a year when my teacher Tracy, student teacher Maggie, and student Lillie all had spring breaks that lined up. We are now entering the next phase of life that means while Lillie is in college, we will again have little hope of all being able to all go away together.

It felt very different on Easter Sunday being on the ocean. On a positive note, I would estimate a crowd of close to two hundred at the Easter Service on board the cruise liner. There were couples, individuals and families at the service. I wondered many things as I examined the congregation. I thought most of these people probably attended church regularly because who would else make the effort to attend a 9:00 AM service on a cruise. I wondered what their faith background was, denomination, and if there were any other ministers missing traditional Easter services?

I wondered about things back home as well. Were sunrise services forced inside because of bad weather? How would the choir at

Elim do with a challenging piece of music to sing? Other things ran through my head as I thought of the 40 churches of the FBA celebrating the resurrection. We boarded the ship on Saturday afternoon and it seems as though after about noon of Easter Sunday, I was free to relax and enjoy our time together. This marked my 59th Easter. I have many memories from Easter. Most are from worship services, most of which I was preaching. And there are other memories like we brought both of our girls home from the hospital on Easter Sunday.

We remember Easter, the resurrection, every Sunday. While we celebrate especially on one Sunday a year, every service of worship should be about the RISEN LORD. Reflect on the resurrection often, in every worship service, and in your time alone with the Lord.

Looking forward,

Chris

Cooperative



Florence Baptist Association, May, 2023



National Day of Prayer
May 4, 2023
12 noon

Florence First Baptist
Church Courtyard
300 N. Irby Street
Florence



*The effective, fervent
prayer of a righteous man avails
much. James 5:16b*



Clay Shoot Benefit for Good News Clubs

Saturday, May 13, 2023
8 am – 2 pm
Shooting begins at 9 am
Moree's Sportsman Preserve
1217 Moree Road, Society Hill, SC
\$100 donation per shooter or \$300 per team of 3
Each shooter gets 1 round sporting clays,
lunch and a chance at door prizes.
There will also be a Silent Auction.

Sponsors are also needed for the Clay Shoot.
There are three levels:

- Bronze - \$300 (1 free shooter and name on one station sign)
- Silver - \$500 (2 free shooters; name on 2 station signs)
- Gold - \$1000 (3 free shooters; name on 3 station signs and a banner)

There will be a drawing for 2 Beretta A300 Outlander Shotguns
Tickets are \$20. Contact Louanne if interested

If you are interested in sponsoring the benefit or registering to shoot,
go to www.heartofthepalmetto.org for more information.

Praise the Lord for His blessings this school year through Good News Clubs. Here are
some stats you can thank God for:
23 Good News Clubs in 20 different locations
233 volunteers
1,258 children enrolled

172 salvations!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **THANK YOU JESUS!!!**



Love Packages

Thank you for all your donations for our Love Packages collection. We had a trailer full and it will be delivered to Shelby NC on Monday, May 1. Thanks to TJ and Janet Ham for taking it.

**Financial Information
March 2023**

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$19,775.00
Monthly Received:	\$10,462.25
Monthly Expenses:	\$21,738.60
Year to Date Received:	\$52,814.22
Year to Date Expenses:	\$55,119.97

LifeChangers 2023 – June 18-23 - has been cancelled. There were less than 15 students that wanted to participate plus 2 of my younger crew chiefs have moved and several others have had major health issues and the heat just doesn't do well with them.

Honestly I felt in my heart at the end of LifeChangers 2022 that it was the last one, but I didn't want to say it out loud because I LOVE LifeChangers with all my heart. It's the hardest week of my life but it's the most fun and rewarding. I have seen so many lives changed because of what God has done in the lives of the students and in the lives of the residents. It's been a great ministry and I am SO THANKFUL for the churches and individuals who have helped provide lunches, evening meals, popsicles, crew chiefs, finances, etc. Some churches have had a vital part in LifeChangers since we started in 2003! For your love, help and support, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. My heart grieves that this "season" is over but at the same time it looks forward to what God has for us in the coming days.
Louanne Stewart



**Ministry Assistants
Conference**
May 5, 2023
Camden First Baptist Church
Cost: \$50

"My Grace is Sufficient For You, For My Power is Made Perfect In Weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

This is an opportunity for our Ministry Assistants to be strengthened and encouraged.

May Birthdays

- 1 Mrs. Louanne Stewart, FBA
- 1 Rev. James Brown, retired
- 1 Rev. Tom Brown, retired
- 1 Rev. Johnny McDaniel (P), Greenwood
- 9 Rev. Randy Shell
- 10 Rev. Travis Cook (P), First Johnsonville
- 11 Rev. Kendal Danford, BCM
- 12 Rev. Dave Bult, (P), Kingsburg
- 29 Rev. Nathan Neighbors (MY), Ebenezer

May Anniversaries

- 6 Travis (P) & Holly Cook, Johnsonville First
- 11 Bryan (P) & Kim Chapman, PD Comm
- 14 John (P) & Melanie Collins, Grace
- 19 Blake (P) & Bridgette Godbold, Mizpah
- 20 Hunter (P) & Summer Harmon, Sparrow Swamp
- 21 Bill (P) & Lila Greene, Hebron
- 21 Chris & Tracy Smith, FBA



Save the Dates:

- BLISS Ball - Theme: "Under the Big Top" (Prom for children and adults with special needs) Saturday, October 14
- Fair Ministry Oct. 26-Nov. 5