

# FELLOWSHIP



Growing as a community of grace on a shared spiritual journey which connects people to Christ and one another.

Experiences in Roanoke Rapids, NC, Bozeman, Montana, and New York City have led three CBF of SC churches to start community gardens this year. Kathwood in Columbia, First Baptist in Orangeburg, and Pelham Road in Greenville found places on their property to plant

## Gardens to feed those in need



**101 people built and filled boxes on the day God's Garden Orangeburg began. Individuals and Sunday Bible Study groups adopted 28 boxes for the 2013 growing season.**

### Unused tennis courts make for excellent garden location in Orangeburg

During the summer of 2012 First Baptist Orangeburg took a group of 20 high school students to Montana to work with First Baptist Bozeman. There, they met Dale, who has a ministry called God's Garden Bozeman. Dale had been working a 1¼ acre garden for the past three seasons mostly by himself. He had produced and given away between 18,000 and 22,000 pounds of vegetables each year.

"Like any church we are always looking for new ways to engage more of our members in a missional life," said FBC Orangeburg pastor Ryan Tucker. "Thanks to the vision of Dale in Montana we began talking about ways to plant our own garden."

The mission is simple: Grow Food and Grow people. "We wanted to come up with a system which would involve

*We plan to grow corn, beans, okra, radishes, summer squash, tomatoes and more this summer, and potatoes this fall. All the produce will be given to a coalition of six soup kitchens in town.*

—Ryan Tucker

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### Kathwood's youth led church to start garden on its beautiful sloping hill

Kathwood got the idea for its Youth Community Garden after a mission trip to Union Mission in Roanoke Rapids, NC. There, the youth worked with CBF field personnel who had a garden to feed the men at their mission and other hungry people in their community.

"On the trip back, the youth wondered about doing the same on the Kathwood campus," said renewal pastor Mark Tidsworth. "With support from youth leaders, they developed a proposal, and began a discussion with Kathwood's Leadership Council. This was a novel idea for this group, and for the entire church for that matter."



"When the youth shared that they wanted to become *Matthew 25* kinds of disciples, then the Leadership Council wholeheartedly endorsed the idea," Mark said. "Kathwood is in a period of renewal, and this was consistent with the theme of trying new holy experiments."

They planted a winter crop and are now doing spring planting. The youth are thrilled with it, working hard on it, and the adults are also helping.

"The entire church is very happy about the opportunity to use the church campus to make a difference in its community," Mark said.

## Orangeburg garden— (continued from page 1)

a large section of our church,” Ryan said. “Originally we thought about using land offered to us by more than one church member. In the end though we saw value in having the garden on our campus.”

So, the church turned its unused tennis courts into *God's Garden Orangeburg*. They have 56 4x8 boxes of plants. One box of corn has the potential to produce close to 200 ears.

“The old set up of the tennis courts brings benefits to our garden,” Ryan said. “It is enclosed so we have a barrier to animals who might want to munch on our produce. It is lighted so if a person wants to work on their box after hours they are able to do so. The pavement the boxes sit on allows people to tend their boxes after work in clothes not meant for gardening.”

“Of course, we have challenges as well,” he said. “The soil depth limits the type of plants we might grow. The pavement has the potential to over heat the boxes. Like

any garden we simply have to be willing to adjust to whatever conditions arise so our growing season will be a success.”

“We have no idea what is coming next,”

Ryan said.

“While we have several members

who know a thing or two about gardening, box gardening is proving to be a different animal. We are learning. In the end our goal is to fulfill our mission: Grow Food and Grow People. The food part is in the ground and we are waiting to see it grow. I know the people part has already and will continue to be a part of this ministry. God is

certainly at work in this time and place in the lives of our people and this church.”



### Council meets

The CBF of SC Coordinating Council met at The Baptist Church of Beaufort prior to the General Assembly for a time of orientation and planning. The Council is divided among nine teams and committees—finance, nominating, personnel, advancement, communications, General Assembly, leadership development, congregational life and missions— that help carry out the work of CBF in South Carolina.

### CBF OF SC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

## Meeting people as they face traumatic events

by William Blake Traynham, graduating in May from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Last summer I entered into the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Spartanburg Regional Hospital System, a trauma level 1 hospital. It was a summer I will never forget.

CPE allowed for great hands-on pastoral care with patients and employees, and it also allowed me to reflect upon myself. This was the first of my CPE experiences, but not my last. Not only was I exposed to a real hands-on experience of

meeting people where they were—be that joy, death, sickness, or just a bad day—I also had the opportunity to put my education to use. I found great fulfillment stepping into the lives of individuals and helping them face the traumatic events before them.

*Blake's home church is River Road in Richmond, where he was ordained on April 14.*







# Pelham Road’s Giving Patch produce will go to center that helps feed the needy

*Pelham Road in Greenville had been toying with the idea of a garden since several members helped tend the garden atop Metro Baptist Church in New York City.*

On a Sunday morning just before Easter, John Roy, pastor at Pelham Road for 13 years, asked that anyone who wanted to help with a garden this summer come to the front after worship to hear his plan to provide fresh produce for the needy. He was surprised when more than 50 people came forward to volunteer.

It didn’t take long to get a coordinator for the project, for another to volunteer to build eight raised boxes, for someone else to order the dirt, and for the whole plan to take shape. After careful discussion and consideration, the gardeners decided to place the boxes just outside of the church kitchen. Close to the building but not visible from the street, the convenient location provided easy access to water.

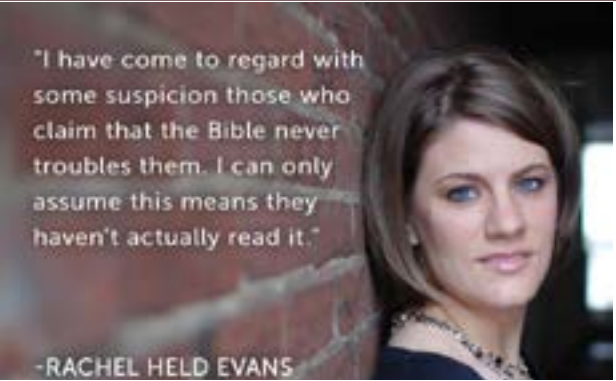
In mid-April, the *Giving Patch* came to life. “The Giving Patch is our humble response to the need for the poor to have nutritional food,” John said. “I’m sure the poor are thankful for whatever they receive. The peanut butter and the spaghetti are welcomed gifts, but we can do better.”

“A by-product of such work is that it builds fellowship in a congregation in unexpected places,” John said. “On our day of planting, we had 8-year-olds working alongside 80-year-olds. We had long time members working side by side with members so new their phone numbers are not in the church directory.”

“The *giving patch* gives to others but it also gives to those who plant, water, hoe, and harvest and all in the name of the one who gave it all,” John said.



## CBFSC FALL EVENT | GROWING UP WITH YOUR FAITH | FBC CLEMSON



“I have come to regard with some suspicion those who claim that the Bible never troubles them. I can only assume this means they haven’t actually read it.”

-RACHEL HELD EVANS

featuring **Rachel Held Evans**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
7:00 – 9:00 pm **Gathering for College Students** (includes dinner)  
hosted by Clemson Cooperative Student Fellowship  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
12:00 – 2:00 pm **Gathering for Women**  
(includes lunch; childcare provided but bring bag lunch for children)  
6:00 – 8:00 pm **Gathering for Everyone**  
(includes dinner; childcare provided)



# What I saw at the General Assembly

By Jay Kieve, Coordinator

This is what I saw at our General Assembly at Tidal Creek Fellowship in Beaufort: energetic and hopeful people; laughing and sharing; people swapping stories and encouragement; meaningful worship; and Baptists embracing a shared spiritual journey.



Leslie Rowell, HOME Groups Pastor at Tidal Creek and chair of the CBF of SC General Assembly team, led a tireless group of hosts, guides, cooks, musicians, technicians, chair movers, and ice cream scoopers to create an atmosphere of energy and joy.

The sound that rings in my ears from the General Assembly—ringing above great music from choirs and instrumentalists of Tidal Creek and The Baptist Church of Beaufort and beyond great sermons from Paul Moore and Brett Younger—is laughter. People laughed in the hallways and breakout rooms, as they ate, and hugged, and teased one another (and I might have even seen one person dance!). To me the laughter sounded grace-filled, like people freed to be their faithful selves without pretense or competition, without judgment or reservation. At the General Assembly the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship did fellowship in an earnest and authentic way.

And as the Fellowship did fellowship, we also did cooperate in our characteristic way. I heard and engaged conversations of encouragement and brainstorming, planning and scheming and dreaming. Pastors shared with each other what life is like within their congregations and ministry. They shared ideas, joy, and hope for things to come. Staff ministers talked of mission trips and youth camps, Vacation Bible School and internships. They questioned and collaborated, recruited and rejoiced. Chaplains and pastoral counselors swapped ministry stories and dreamed of a growing presence within CBF life. Friendships renewed among people from churches across South Carolina spawned stories of success and cast visions of collaboration.

This is what I saw at our General Assembly at Tidal Creek Fellowship in Beaufort: a beautiful chalice, paten, and pitcher crafted in South Carolina and given to me as symbols of service; prayerful people commissioning me into service; and a crowd of Baptist Christians eager to engage their service in God's reign. Thank you for all of the hard work that went into crafting our time together and all the effort it took to come together. I look forward to the dreams, the laughter, and the missions and ministry that will grow from the General Assembly.



## Officers installed

CBF of SC installed officers at the General Assembly: moderator, Amy Stertz, FBC Aiken; moderator-elect, Vaden (Mac) McMillin, Trinity, Seneca; past moderator, Paul Moore, Inman FBC; treasurer: Suzanne Morse, FBC Pendleton; secretary: Fred DeFoor, St. Andrews, Columbia; assistant treasurer: Jim Catoe, Belmont, Columbia. At the podium is coordinator Jay Kieve. Missions coordinator Beverly Greer and disaster response coordinator Mason Harris also participated in the installation.

## CBF of SC financial update

During the business meeting at the General Assembly, those gathered adopted a 2013-14 budget of \$419,046, down from \$427,000 during the current year. The budget year runs July through June. Treasurer Suzanne Morse, member of FBC Pendleton, reported that, through the first nine months of 2012-13, receipts are below budget by about \$4,000 a month. She also said expenditures have been below budget so all bills have been paid.



Friday's lunch at General Assembly included mission and ministry specific conversations.

## Allendale responds to CBF of SC participation in Operation We Care

by Lottie Lewis, neighborhood leader in Allendale

Poverty is a multifaceted issue in Allendale. People's lives are complicated and there are no easy answers or quick fixes. There are many good, proud people experiencing poverty. In poverty-stricken areas, resources are limited, making it difficult to recruit and retain the "best" (teachers, doctors, etc.). Generational and situational poverty has had a ripple effect on families and the Allendale community. Some experience poverty because of situations and circumstances beyond their control. They need bridges and other things to take them over the gap. This is why we are so very grateful for all that you do! Thank you for the bridges that you have given us.

*Lottie wrote this in response to CBF of SC's work day in Allendale in March.*

## Meet CBF of SC Moderator Amy R. Stertz

Associate Minister in Christian Education  
First Baptist Church, Aiken

Amy has been associate minister in Christian education at First Baptist Church of Aiken since January 27, 2008.

Born in Georgia, Amy lived and was reared in the southeast. She graduated from Mars Hill College in 1998, where she earned a bachelor of social work degree. She holds a master of divinity with concentration in counseling/chaplaincy and missions/ministry from Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, NC.

Amy served from May 1997 until December 2000 as youth and childrens Minister at First Baptist Church, Franklinville, NC. She also completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, NC. From August 2002 through January 2008, Amy served as minister of Christian education at Azalea Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA, where she was ordained.

She is married to Joe Stertz, a Clemson University and Old Dominion University graduate. Joe is a Human Services Specialist for Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health. They are the parents of Sophie.

Amy succeeds Paul Moore, pastor of Inman FBC, as moderator.



Leslie Rowell, HOME Groups Pastor at Tidal Creek Fellowship and co-chair of the CBF of SC General Assembly team, led a tireless group of hosts, guides, cooks, musicians, technicians, chair movers, and ice cream scoopers April 26-27 during the 2013 General Assembly.



## Missions in May

by Beverly Greer

Missions in South Carolina is fourfold—local, state, national and global. To have a balanced focus, all four need our support. Gifts to your church undergird your local efforts and gifts to the state missions offering extend your concern and love

to people involved with Metanoia, Allendale, the Japanese ministry, Together For Hope rural poverty

ministry and the Roma in Romania and Slovakia. In doing that, you help God's love light their world.

May is one of the two months we give particular focus to state missions. Churches should have already received a sample packet of promotional materials that can be ordered from the CBF of SC office.

We will focus again on state missions during September.

Our goal this year for state missions is \$75,000. Through April 30, we have received \$13,208.31.





# FBC Allendale revs up for change

by Carol Holladay and Jo Nunn, FBC Allendale

Allendale’s population, like many small rural communities, has changed in the past 25 years. Our church recognized the need to change with the community. Our neighbors at home became our neighbors in church. Our youth and children’s programs were growing in numbers and diversity. Several international families had become active members in the church, and their children were leaders in the youth group and other church ministries. On any given Sunday, six to eight different nationalities were represented by Abba’s Kitchen (USC Salkehatchie) students attending services.

Loving God’s children has never been a problem for our church and now God has given us children to love who happen to be in a rainbow of colors. Getting to know our neighbors helped the church to see their needs.

Opening our doors to all of our neighbors opened our hearts to all avenues of ministry. ESL classes began because James Everett, ESL Coordinator, saw the hardship faced by his Hispanic neighbors in their inability to speak English when visiting the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store.

Student Minister Carol Holladay needed an interpreter to talk with Hispanic parents about upcoming children’s ministry trips. Ministering to the parents helps the parents and improves the lives of the children.

A common interest in motorcycles by Minister Tom Hiers and other church members led to the first Hog Heaven Motorcycle Sunday.

As more talented international teachers came to teach in Allendale’s schools, a ministry to help the teachers and their families transition their living arrangements developed.

A ministry to internationals, led by two international members of FBC Allendale, has begun offering encouragement and guidance in citizenship applications. First Baptist recently sponsored application for citizenship for eight Indian teachers.

Kairos Prison Ministry became part of our church with the influence of Roger Nunn, a long time Kairos Minis-

try leader. Along with Roger, three men from our church volunteer for instructional weekends at the Allendale Correctional Institute. Our youth and college ministries make encouraging cards and placemats to be used during the weekends and our members bake hundreds of homemade cookies for the event.

Our CBF of SC-sponsored Abba’s Kitchen college ministry continues to thrive. The diverse Abba’s Kitchen students are made to feel at home with many hugs (from their away from

home moms) available on Sunday mornings. At Christmas time, international students who were unable to go home were treated to multiple Christmas meals and celebrations at the homes of First Baptist families.

The church family is stronger for its diversity and we continue to learn from each other. Color of skin or manner of dress have nothing to do with the love shared by the First Baptist Allendale family. Celebrating diversity happens every Sunday at First Baptist Allendale, and we carry the celebration into our neighborhoods and community.

## WHAT HAS/IS HAPPENING

**1.** ESL classes have brought additional Hispanic children and youth to be involved in First Baptist programs including plans for four additional Hispanic children to attend Passport Kids Camp this summer. ESL volunteers include people from the community, other churches, and students from USC Salkehatchie.

**2.** A second Hog Heaven II Sunday was held with 41 motorcyclists attending and a motorcycle ministry website with 187 members.

**3.** A spring picnic event is planned to help other international families meet each other and develop support groups.

**4.** Nine members of our youth group made commitments and/or were baptized during the past year.

**5.** Kairos Prison Ministry grew from 1 to 4 committed volunteers and prayer/cookie support is church wide.



*Our youth and children taught our church how to embrace and celebrate diversity.*

# HOLY WEEK IN NORTHERN IRELAND

## *Jim Thomason spent sabbatical in country of church twin*

by James R. (Jim) Thomason  
Pastor, FBC, Anderson

The church of Jesus Christ is alive and well in Northern Ireland. That's the message I sent home to the folks I have the privilege of serving at First Baptist Church, Anderson, a conviction I also shared with the people of Carrickfergus, a suburb of Belfast and Anderson's Sister City, as I preached for Holy Week services there.

Although a smaller percentage of people in Northern Ireland attend church compared with what we experience here, those who do are deeply committed to Christ and enthusiastic in their devotion to God's church.

Four years ago, Anderson went searching for a city in some other part of the world that had similar characteristics, problems, and potentials to our city. The idea behind these sister city relationships is the potential to learn from each other as we face the opportunities and challenges before us. Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, emerged as the best candidate. Leaders of the two communities made visits to each other's respective cities, and documents were signed to make the relationship official.


Years ago, while I was a pastor in Roanoke, VA, a similar relationship was forged between that city and Wonju, Korea. I asked community leaders about the possibility of forming a sister church relationship with a church in that city, and the idea was embraced. Soon I was in communication with a pastor in Wonju. He brought a delegation from his church to Roanoke, preaching through an interpreter, and hosting our church for a traditional Korean meal.

Soon, however, I was called to Overbrook Baptist Church in Greenville, so my involvement in the relationship was short-lived; but I found it to

be beneficial in raising awareness of Christians in other cultures and in learning about the challenges and opportunities we share wherever church happens for us. It's encouraging to learn about kingdom work in other parts of the globe. The family of Christ is quite large and diverse, yet one in the Lord.

When Anderson chose to "twin" (as the Irish call it) with Carrickfergus, I once again suggested that sister churches be established as part of this relationship. The idea was well received; and when Stewart Dickson, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who often "holidays" in Anderson on Lake Hartwell and attends our church while here, suggested that pastor Lindsay Allen and the Carrickfergus Baptist Church could be a good twin for FBC Anderson, I began making the contacts. I found Lindsay and the congregation he serves to be kindred spirits, and the relationship has blessed us all. Our recent visit there was our second, and the Allens hope to be back for their second time with us later this year.

Most of you know that Northern Ireland is very politically fractured, and sometimes this erupts into what they refer to as "the troubles." Stewart Dickson's office in Carrickfergus was

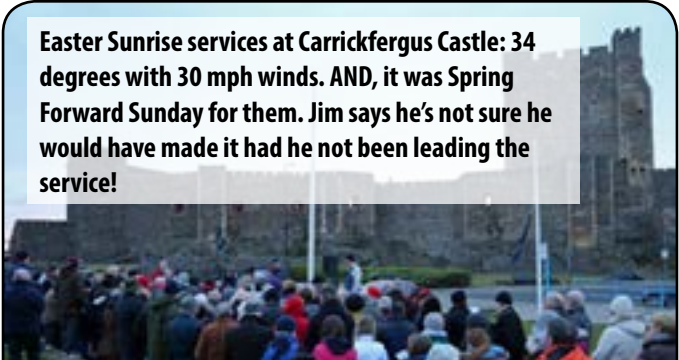


Jim and Pam Thomason touring the beautiful coast of Northern Ireland.

recently fire bombed over a vote he made to try to bring about a compromise between two political factions there. The issue: when and where to fly the British flag. (Remember SC's own infamous flag debate!)

These conflicts are often characterized by the press as Protestant versus Catholic; but as the pastors and priests there point out, the people who resort to violence are seldom attending any church. These divisions are very old and run so deep that those of us who are not part of this culture find them difficult to understand. Those who support a continuing alliance with England are traditionally Protestant, while those who insist on a single government for the whole of Ireland usually have Catholic roots—but exceptions to this are numerous. All of this is complicated, of course, by the "wedding" of church and state in this region. Spending time there increases one's awareness of how wise our forefathers were in deciding to keep the two separated.

When I think about the increasingly vitriolic political rhetoric in our own land, however, it does concern me that some here might also resort to bombs and bullets to try to get their point across. Faithful churches in Northern Ireland continue to pray for and work toward peace and reconciliation. May we remain ever vigilant in doing the same.



**Easter Sunrise services at Carrickfergus Castle: 34 degrees with 30 mph winds. AND, it was Spring Forward Sunday for them. Jim says he's not sure he would have made it had he not been leading the service!**





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**MAY-JUNE 2013**

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## **YOUNG LEADERS AT METANOIA HELP HOMEOWNERS**

Each March, Metanoia hosts a community town hall to gather neighborhood feedback. This year, our youth took a key role in leading the town hall for the first time. Students in Metanoia's programs helped neighborhood residents map neighborhood problems, strengths and opportunities. The town hall is one key way that Metanoia does ministry WITH the neighborhoods it serves rather than TO the neighborhoods it serves. And our youth leaders offered proof positive that our long term commitment to raising up new leaders for the neighborhood is working.