

FELLOWSHIP

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

Milestones on the road to watching a vision become a reality

First class of Metanoia Young Leaders graduates

By Bill Stanfield, Director, Metanoia

In 2003, Metanoia began working with 17 students living in our distressed community. They were recommended to us for their leadership potential. Even though we mostly worried about just keeping the doors open in those early days, we had a stated bigger goal of raising up a 'new generation of leaders' for our community.

This month I snuck in late and left early to a local graduation in which two of our first class of graduating seniors were receiving their diplomas. One of these seniors, Dasha Drayton, was valedictorian of her class and the other has really overcome much to graduate and now be accepted to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design. Both students want to continue to work at Metanoia while they are in college (at least during the summer months).

Sitting alone in the back of this graduation ceremony in a darkened North Charleston Performing Arts Center, I could see a group of supportive Metanoia staff seated closer to the front, cheering our students on. I could see them smile as they received well deserved accolades from Dasha as she praised Metanoia and many of these staff by name in her valedictory speech. I had other

meetings that day that meant I could only stay long enough to hear the speech and then see our students walk across the stage, but it was a remarkably satisfying moment.

While I readily admit that graduation from high school is only a step along a longer road to 'raising a new generation of leaders for the

community,' it's an important and crucial step and one that should not be overlooked when under 38% of students from our neighborhood actually graduate high school. We are so grateful to South Carolina CBF for its sustained commitment. I wish all of you could have sat with me to see this good occasion.





From the rubble of an earthquake

FBC Aiken youth built a house

by Jack Eisenman, Collegiate Congregational Intern
First Baptist Church, Aiken

A group of 20 youth, college, and adults from First Baptist Church in Aiken spent a week in June touching lives and spreading God's love in Grand Goâve, Haiti.

Under the leadership of Associate Minister in Student Ministries, Mary Carol Anderson, this trip marked the beginning of a tradition of making it possible for each high school student to have an international missions experience.

In partnership with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Conscience International, the site of Grand Goâve was selected as the spot the group would serve and provide humanitarian relief as a follow-up to the 2010 earthquake that devastated parts of Haiti. Preparing for the trip meant getting passports and vaccinations and finalizing travel arrangements. Our group consisted of a variety of people, including seasoned travelers to those who had never boarded an airplane.



The primary goal of the week was to build a house out of rubble from the earthquake. The construction technique was to pour small pieces of rubble into wire cage columns. Using this method, the walls provide improved safety for the residents, with each one-room house measuring 14 by 20 feet.

Our work, combined with the opportunity to be fully immersed in Haitian culture, provided a life-changing experience for all who were involved.

Not only did we construct a rubble home from start to finish, we

also donated clothing, shoes, and linens to Conscience International and to the people of Grand Goâve. Beginning this fall, we will sponsor a Haitian child's education. So, although our week of service has ended, we continue to grow and be challenged from the time we spent in Haiti. We hope the impact we had on those we encountered is as great as the impact they have made on us.



CBF OF SC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

Practical experience goes well with theoretical

by Carrie Walker Nettles, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

At LTSS, I've found the combination of field experience in the local church, a small peer group at school, and regular seminary classes to be most beneficial. In my previous seminary experiences, an internship was placed in the midst of study, but it was never simultaneous. I've appreciated feedback from my peer group in addressing

internship issues, having an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to actual church leadership not merely theoretical, and most especially developing relationships with church members. Being offered access to people's lives and stories is a sacred, precious gift enriching both my personal and pastoral identity.

Greer retires as CBF of SC missions coordinator

Beverly retired in June as missions coordinator for CBF of SC. A retirement dinner in her honor was held at First Baptist Church, Greenville.

by Beverly Greer

Words are inadequate to convey my thanks and appreciation for your gifts as an organization and individually. The gracious and generous spirit of South Carolina Fellowship people during my tenure as Missions Coordinator, and especially surrounding my retirement, has been overwhelming. Thank you so very much!

Being allowed to do this ministry has been a joyful blessing. We partner with amazing and dedicated people at Metanoia, in Allendale, the Japanese ministry and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina is filled with everyday missionaries who impacted my life in profound ways too numerous to recount.

Recently I read a quote by Brother Callistus from the Monastery of the

Holy Spirit. "God offers everybody a number of options. The important thing is which one is beautiful for you." With great joy it was my privilege to serve the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina in a variety of ways. For 23 years, CBF and CBF of SC have been an important part of what was beautiful for me.

I will miss the daily contact with Fellowship folks calling and e-mailing for information and assistance. I will miss being in your churches and homes. More than churches and people I worked for, you are friends who continually enriched my life. I cherish being part of an organization whose focus is being the presence of Christ that values inclusivity and diversity and sets them as hallmarks that we try to honor as "big tent Baptists."

Marion Aldridge has left CBF of



CBF of SC Coordinator Jay Kieve and Ellen Sechrest, Minister of Spiritual Formation & Missions at Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson, enjoy laughs with Beverly Greer at her retirement dinner.

SC in good shape. Jay Kieve is the right person to lead us into an exciting future. A new Missions Coordinator will be employed with new and creative ways to be the presence of Christ locally and globally. It's a good time to be part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. I join you with my prayers and support for what lies ahead.

God's blessings as we move forward into a beautiful new day.

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



featuring **Rachel Held Evans**

Choose 1 (or more!) of 3 different gatherings with Rachel Held Evans.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00 – 9:00 pm Gathering for College Students

Dinner is included at no cost to students.

Sign up for dinner by Sept. 1. Email Casey Callahan, casey.fbc@gmail.com. hosted by Clemson Cooperative Student Fellowship

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:00 – 2:00 pm Gathering for Women

Cost is \$10 per person for lunch. Childcare is included at no additional cost. Children should bring a lunch.

Register by Sept. 1 at www.cbfofsc.org (click on News & Events).

6:00 – 8:00 pm Gathering for Everyone

Cost is \$15 per person for dinner.

Childcare and dinner for children are included at no additional cost. Register by Sept. 1 at www.cbfofsc.org (click on News & Events).

Sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina and hosted by First Baptist Church of Clemson

Follow Rachel's blog at <http://rachelheldevans.com/blog>. She also has two books published, *Evolving in Monkey Town*, and *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*.

Emma: One reason I'm a Fellowship-type Baptist

By Jay Kieve, Coordinator

One of the reasons I'm a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-type of Baptist is because I have a daughter, Emma. She will turn 13 this August, and she loves church.

Emma is a follower of Jesus who is kind, bright, energetic, and social. She met Jesus first from the cradle roll and has been growing in relationship with him ever since. Loving teachers at church explore the scriptures with her, pray with her, and play with her. Emma has been to church camp every year she could. She has been on at least five mission trips already. Emma loves church because from her birth into Allendale's First Baptist up until now, church has been a positive social space that brings love, faith, friends, encouragement, and connection to God.



At only 13, I can scarcely imagine what type of woman Emma will be or what profession she may pursue (most days I don't even want to think about her being any older than 13!). I can't imagine what her adult life will be, but I am a Fellowship Baptist because I want to keep open the possibility that God will call her into vocational ministry. Emma loves the church, and if God calls her to serve the church as preacher, teacher, or missionary I want her church to love her into that service. In CBF life, Emma hears female voices preach sermons and sees the gifts for ministry affirmed in men and women.

I don't know how many times - but more than a dozen - I have had conversations with women who felt called into ministry yet heard discouragement from their churches. These daughters who, like Emma, love Jesus and church heard calls to ministry from experiences in Sunday School, youth group, mission trips, and camp. But churches failed

I am a CBF-type Baptist because we affirm God's calling of men and women to ministry. But more than merely affirming the calling, we actively support God's calling of women and men because:

- we support seminaries and divinity schools that train women and men as pastors;
- we give scholarships to women and men to study for ministry;
- we partner with organizations like Passport Camps, Unidiversity, and Baptist Women in Ministry that help create cultures of call for women and men;
- we model equality of calling as we rotate CBF of SC leadership among women and men, clergy and laity.

to affirm their calling, leading to struggle and pain as these women sought communities that would receive their leadership and bless their faith. If God calls Emma to ministry, she would not have that experience among us. Praise God!

As I crossed the parking lot last month to enter the 30th anniversary celebration of the Baptist Women in Ministry organization, I did a roll call of ministry colleagues over my 20-plus years in church work. It turns out that I have worked with twice as many women ministers as men ministers. I am deeply grateful for the women who followed God's call into ministry against a limiting church culture to bless me, our churches, and families. I am also deeply grateful that I serve a part of the church that encourages all 13-year-old boys and girls to listen for God's call.

OPERATION MATCHING BACKPACK

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina is asking churches to participate in Operation Matching Backpack this August. Every community has students who need help with their school supplies. We are encouraging churches to pack a set of bags for families in their community and match that with backpacks for families in Allendale. We suggest congregations find the class list for a school in their community to use as a guide to packing their bags.

Questions?

Contact Carrie Veal
(theologygirl@yahoo.com),
the chair of the Missions
Team for CBF of SC.

The following places will serve as drop off points: Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, the CBF of SC office in Columbia, Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, and First Baptist Church in Greenwood. If your church is not close to one of these locations, but you would like to participate, please contact the CBF office and we will help to get your supplies picked up. Please drop-off or arrange for pick up by August 7 in order to deliver to Allendale on August 8.

Not just another trip to Project Ruth

By Ellen Sechrest
Minister of Spiritual Formation & Missions
Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson

As the 29 of us (22 youth & 7 adults) began our two-week trip to Romania, we knew we were setting out for an adventure. This trip would be a bit different because we were having a choir tour/mission trip. Once we arrived and settled in, we rehearsed with the mandolin orchestra. Then for the next 4 days we would sing in different church settings and work at the Ruth School.

We took the kindergarten and first grade class to an enclosed playground and then to lunch at McDonalds. The next day we took the 2nd grade class to the zoo and for lunch. We also participated in the end of the school year celebrations for each grade and hosted an 8th grade graduation party.

On Monday June 17, we left for Bran with 43 Ruth School students, translators and helpers. For the next 4 1/2 days we would do camp for the children with crafts, drama, Bible stories, recreation, and music. What an amazing time the children had and what a life changing time we had. When you set out to "help" people, you are quickly reminded that it is YOU who is blessed.

Partnering with Project Ruth has been a blessing for us at Boulevard. We've had 113 different members visit the Ruth School. It has changed the hearts of many and has made us a more mission-minded church at the corner of Boulevard and the world.

Each time we go, we are able to see something new and where God is at work. I had the opportunity to visit a new settlement of Roma that had set



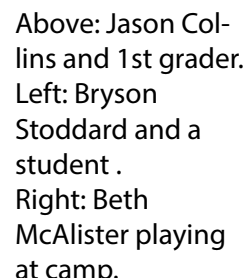
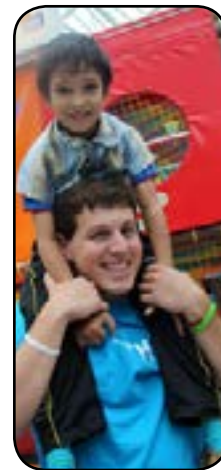
Michael Baker and student.



Jenny & Beth McAlister with Marius, a child they have sponsored for 4 years.



Andrew Wilson and campers



Above: Jason Collins and 1st grader. Left: Bryson Stoddard and a student . Right: Beth McAlister playing at camp.



up near the heated water pipes. To say the conditions are deplorable is an understatement. I was able to take some clothes and toys for the children. We were glad to learn that two of the children were enrolled at the Ruth School. Now the school social worker will be able to make another connection to this group and offer some assistance and hope.

No matter where we go our job is to show the hands-feet-ears-eyes-and heart of Jesus. Before we left camp, our youth asked when would we return to Romania. When they are asking to return, we know it was not just another trip—they saw the face of God.

CBF of SC partnership with Roma in Eastern Europe

The CBFSC Missions Committee has begun a three-year partnership with the Roma (Gypsy) communities of Eastern Europe. We are partnering with CBF field personnel Ralph & Tammy Stocks and Shane & Dianne McNary to find ways to help churches partner with the work already going in Romania and Slovakia.

An onsite trip is planned Nov. 7-Nov. 18 to visit the McNarys' work in Koscie, Slovakia, and the Stocks' work in Bucharest, Romania. Cost will be approximately \$2,700 per person to cover airfare, lodging, food and in-country transportation.

Space is limited to 13 people. You can reserve your spot by sending a \$100 deposit to Debbie Haag at the CBF of SC office. [If you have questions about this new partnership or the trip in November, email Ellen Sechrest at \[esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com\]\(mailto:esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com\).](#)



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Caleb Hopkins, center, a member of First Baptist Church in Greenwood and May graduate of Furman University, is one of many South Carolina students serving in ministry positions this summer. Caleb is working as director of the Passport Choices program at Wingate University in Wingate, NC. Caleb was an intergral part of the music program at First Baptist Church in Greenville while he was a student at Furman.

During summer

College students find places of ministry

Summer is the time that many of our college students serve in missions and ministry positions. Here's a list of those we know about:

CONGREGATIONAL INTERNS

- NOLAN CARROLL** serving Trinity Baptist Church, Seneca
- CARSON COPE** serving Oakland Baptist Church, Rock Hill
- JACK EISENMAN** serving FBC Aiken
- ELIZABETH GERNDT** serving FBC Clemson
- RUTH KENNEDY** serving FBC Greenville
- CHRISTOPHER LESONDAK** serving FBC Pendleton
- BOBBY MCGILL** serving FBC Clemson

- JUDITH MYER** serving Fernwood Baptist Church, Spartanburg,
- CARA MORGAN** serving Kathwood Baptist Church, Columbia
- SCOTT SCHEETZ** serving FBC Aiken
- JUSTIN SILLABOWER** serving Kathwood Baptist Church, Columbia
- ALI LANGFORD** serving FBC Laurens
- CAROL WILSON** serving FBC Greenville

PASSPORT

- CALEB HOPKINS**, member of FBC Greenwood serving as Director at Wingate University
- LAURA KOONE**, member of FBF Greenwood serving as Passport Kids Bible Study Leader

- ALEX YELL**, member of New Hope Christian Fellowship, Columbia, serving as Passport Kids Staff Intern

STUDENT.GO

- ASHLEY HICKS**, member of FBC Aiken serving at The Andrew P. Stewart Center in Atlanta
- EMILY MOELLER**, member of Providence Baptist Church, Charleston serving at Touching Miami with Love, Miami, FL
- ABBY WATERS**, member of Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson serving at Touching Miami with Love, Miami, FL