

FELLOWSHIP



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

Merianna “eases” into interim pastorate

by Merianna Neely

It's week two of my serving as the Interim Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship in Lexington, and already we have celebrated a baptism, packed 150 snack packs for a local school, visited one of the first members in a retirement center, and have planned for two long-time attenders to become members of our fellowship.

I thought I would ease into the pastorate...you know, take it nice and easy, but it seems the community I have been drawn and called to has other plans. They live out their call to be a missional church every week. Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship began 10 years ago with relationships and conversations about creating a community of moderate Baptists in the Lexington/Irmo area.

They held their first worship service in the Salvation Army. The congregation has

watched the church grow from the ground up.

Last week as a part of our first Wednesday night together, I asked them to share their stories about how they ended up around this table. I was struck by how many of our community had experienced deep hurt and disappointment in other church communities. There was a repeating line through each person's story, “When I came to Emmanuel, I felt like I was home.” I can wholeheartedly agree. To be affirmed and welcomed as a woman preacher and pastor and to have been invited to learn how to be a pastor with them has been a blessing.

I am learning more and more each day I am with them and through each conversation I have. I just pray that they may be able to say the same about our interactions and our time together.



Merianna Neely is a third year student at Gardner-Webb Divinity School. She was nominated by Gardner-Webb in 2012 and again in 2013 for the Addie Davis Excellence in Preaching Award for Baptist Women in Ministry. Merianna has also participated in BWIM's Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching at First Baptist Greenville and Ecclesia Baptist Church in Fairview, NC. Before pursuing seminary, she taught in Spartanburg and overseas for four years.

A baptism by the lake and packing snacks for a local school were two of the first events Merianna led as interim pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship in Lexington.



WOMEN IN MINISTRY: *S.C. chapter of BWIM being organized*

Over the summer Carrie Veal and Ellen Sechrest began talking about starting a chapter of Baptist Women in Ministry in South Carolina.

Ellen is the Minister of Spiritual Formation & Missions at Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, and Carrie is the Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry at Morningside Baptist Church. Spartanburg. They talked with BWIM executive director Pam Durso. On Friday, September 13, those

conversations came to fruition during the Rachel Held Evans Fall Event at First Baptist Church, Clemson.

Several women from across the state—including church staff members, chaplains, and laity—gathered there for a meet and greet time. “It was a wonderful beginning to what we hope becomes a regular part of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina life,” Carrie said.

If you are a Baptist woman who

does ministry in any capacity, you are invited to be a part of our group. “We are working on a comprehensive email and traditional mail address list,” Carrie said. “This will be easier if we can hear from you. Please contact me at theologygirl@yahoo.com or Ellen at esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com for more information. If you are on Facebook please join our group. We are listed at Baptist Women in Ministry of South Carolina.”

CBF of SC churches donate more than 400 backpacks for Allendale students

Churches across the state were asked to participate in Operation Matching Backpacks. This project involved packing bags with school supplies for children in their local community as well as Allendale. And what a success this project was. We collected and distributed more than 400 bags to Allendale, with many more staying in communities all over the state.

As we continue into the fall, the Missions Committee is hard at work to engage churches in the work of God. This project showed that we have some of the best churches and congregations in the country. Thanks to Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, the CBF office in Columbia, Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, and First Baptist Church Greenwood for being collection sites for this project.

—Carrie Veal, Missions Committee Chair



Jo Nunn from FBC Allendale along with Maddie Haag, Jay Kieve, Lottie Lewis and Frank Lewis load backpacks for children of Allendale County schools.

Oasis retreat for youth workers coming in February

The CBF Youth Ministry Network will host OASIS, a spiritual retreat for youth workers Feb. 18-21 at Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. The retreat will focus on spiritual growth and rest, and will be led by Mark Yaconelli, youth worker and author of numerous books including *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*. To register, visit www.cbfgymn.org and click on the registration link provided.



CBF OF SC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

Serving your community with love

by Allan Smith, Duke Divinity School

I had the opportunity to serve Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in the Fifth Ward of Houston, TX, last summer as an intern through Duke. This was an incredible learning opportunity for me as it was a completely different cultural experience than anything I had been familiar with previously.

The Fifth Ward is a poor, predominantly African-American area of Houston with a myriad of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is deeply involved in the community of the Fifth Ward, which was a great learning experience for me.

I have been involved with suburban churches which mostly focused on the spiritual development of their congregations, so it was really interesting to see a church

take such responsibility in the needs of the community. For example, Pleasant Hill led efforts to build a retirement home next to the church because they recognized that the community needed better options for elderly residents. They also have church members who participate in a feeding the hungry ministry each Wednesday where 200 folks in the neighborhood enjoy a spaghetti lunch.

I found Pleasant Hill's interest in its local community to be convicting, and I intend to lead churches to be involved in their own local communities in a similar way. Isn't that what being the church is about, anyway — serving those within the community with love?

CBF OF SC FALL EVENT GROWING UP WITH YOUR FAITH

Our Fall Event at First Baptist Church in Clemson included three different gatherings with author Rachel Held Evans Sept. 12-13.

On Thursday evening, Rachel addressed an audience of about 90 college students from various schools.

On Friday at noon, 100 women gathered to hear Rachel share about her year of Biblical womanhood.

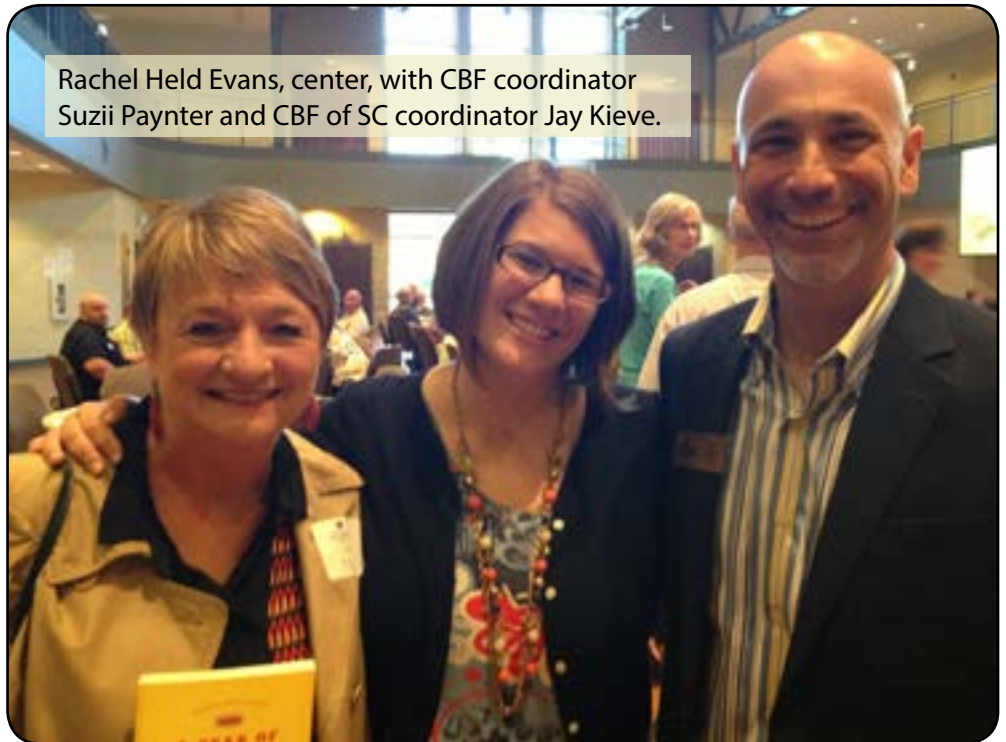
Friday evening, 150 people listened to Rachel share about how she deals with criticism as a nationally acclaimed writer and how she has found strength through making time for stillness.

All three gatherings centered around the theme "Growing Up With Your Faith." Rachel shared how asking questions and engaging doubts has helped her faith to grow.

The attendees for the event included many who have been actively involved in CBF as well as some who had never heard of CBF but were fans of Rachel Held Evans.

Rachel currently has two books published, *Evolving in Monkeytown* and *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. She also blogs regularly at www.rachelheldevans.com/blog.

Rachel Held Evans, center, with CBF coordinator Suzii Paynter and CBF of SC coordinator Jay Kieve.



Dial (803) 767-3456. *Why the parentheses?*

by Jay Kieve, Coordinator

Area codes come in parentheses. They nearly always have come in parentheses. But why? Area codes could come in brackets or separated by dashes or run together with the other



seven phone numbers. Why parentheses?

Area codes come in parentheses because Ladislav Sutnar designed them that way. Sutnar (b.1897-d.1976), a Czech immigrant to New York, worked as a commercial art designer for catalogues and brochures. He specialized in creating typographical methods for visually simplifying complex pages of information. Sutnar pioneered the use of italics

and changing font sizes, introducing lines, arrows, and loops, and altering punctuation marks to draw the eye to the most important information. In the late

1950s and early 1960s, while working on design projects for Bell System, he introduced the parentheses to draw the eye of dialers to the area codes. Sutnar's design sensibilities prefigure and inform the modern internet staple "infographic."

Area codes come in parentheses because Ladislav Sutnar had a good idea that emerged from a lifetime of training, practice, discipline, and inspiration. Ladislav Sutnar *designed* the area code. He chose parentheses because they reflected his values and aesthetic. Sutnar believed that complex tables of information could be made accessible and beautiful. He believed that the modern world, as it coped with growing systems of information, could be both visually interest-

ing and manageable. Sutnar's good idea sprang from a commitment to fashion a world in which humanity engages information in an artistic and functional way.

Ladislav Sutnar designed the area code. I think that we, Christians and Baptists and CBF-Baptists, can learn a few things from the area code.

First, let's learn that life is designed and doesn't just happen. Nearly everything around us has a history of value-laden choices behind it. As Christians, Jesus calls us to design our lives from his values and teachings (Matthew 16:24-26). As we study the Bible and worship together as the church, as we travel together as

them in a new way transformed our acquisition of information. His commitment to use the symbols of typography to express his design values gave Sutnar the tools he needed to craft a new experience of phone numbers. In the church, we inherit a treasure trove of meaningful symbols, songs, prayers, and images that give us the tools to fashion experiences of faith. Applying our values that shape worship, evangelism, and missions we can wield those tools in new ways to design new expressions of faith.

Finally, let's learn that design choices become hidden over time. Sutnar's innovation for the area code fifty years ago is now a diminishing

part of phone calling. New computer forms and the obsolescence of the phone book reduce the importance of the parentheses' visual design quality. How we write our area codes

If you have a great design idea for CBF of SC or for your church, I'd love to hear it. Call me: (803) 767-3456.

missions teams and retreat groups, we take in the vision of life with Jesus and allow him to shape our lives. As we venture out into the world, let us with intentionality and faithfulness base our lives on the Jesus-shaped life we have learned. The parentheses didn't just appear naturally around the area code. The parentheses developed from a disciplined and careful expression of a design value. The Christian life doesn't just happen, either, but grows as our disciplined and careful demonstration of Jesus' values and life.

Second, let's learn that existing forms might find a new and meaningful expression. Parentheses existed long before Sutnar enclosed three numbers within them, but using

is changing but the design standards and esthetic qualities behind the area code continue to shape modern information presentations. The transition away from parentheses is nearly imperceptible as long as the information remains beautiful, accessible, and manageable. Let us remember that the things we do in church and denominational life have a design history. We apply our faithfulness and values as we create programs and activities to address contemporary needs. But like the area code, as culture and needs change so do the programs and activities. In the midst of transition, focus less on the programs and more on the design values: the beauty, faithfulness, power, and love of a life shaped by Jesus.



SPRUCING UP

Above: Volunteers and community residents pitched in this summer to spruce up the Chicora Place Community Garden which Metanoia sponsors. In November a new playground is coming to the space thanks to a partnership with a local health insurance company, Select Health.

METANOIA

Students in Metanoia's summer CDF Freedom School attended a field trip every Friday that exposed them to new experiences. One of the most delicious was a trip to a local blueberry farm to pick blueberries that they could take home with them.



CENTER NEARS COMPLETION

Left: Metanoia's Youth Entrepreneurship and Volunteer Center is about 75% complete with an anticipated completion being in early 2014. The facility will house Metanoia's expanding youth entrepreneurship efforts and house volunteers who want to serve alongside the neighborhood.

Pray for the Missions Coordinator Search Team

Please be in prayer for the Missions Coordinator Search Team: Jay Kieve, Amy Stertz, Richard Dantzler, Sam Raney, and Stephanie Patterson. The team collected resumes from mid-July through August and is now evaluating the applicants and arranging interviews for this important position. Pray for God's guidance and care as the team seeks to call a gifted and passionate Missions Coordinator. We are seeking a replacement for Beverly Greer, who retired earlier this year.

Call of the Shore

Practicing Resurrection:

The call of the shore

A CBF spiritual renewal retreat

April 21-24 | Naples, FL

Visit www.thefellowship.info/practicingresurrection to see a proposed event schedule, sign up and more.

CBF of SC newsletter article makes the newspapers in Northern Ireland

Jim Thomason, pastor of FBC Anderson, reports that our CBF of SC newsletter is read internationally. An article about FBC Anderson and its partnership with a church in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland (a sister city with Anderson) was featured in the May-June newsletter.

"I spoke for a Sister City's luncheon in Anderson, and shared with them a copy of the article from the CBF of SC newsletter," Jim said. "A member of the Northern Ireland assembly was present at the luncheon and told me that the article had appeared in both of their newspapers. Who knew? Don't know if they asked permission, but it got to them somehow."



P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013

Amy Stertz MODERATOR

803.648.5476 | astertz@fbcaiken.org

Jay Kieve COORDINATOR

803.767.3456 | jay@cbfosc.org

Debbie Haag ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

803.779.1888 | debbie@cbfosc.org

Mason Harris DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

864.612.9851 | motorlaunch@bellsouth.net

Sue Poss NEWSLETTER EDITOR

864.934.6112 | editor@cbfosc.org

CBF of SC Web site: www.cbfosc.org

National CBF: www.thefellowship.info • 800.352.8741

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The Greenwood group—people watching in Times Square.



The Pelham Road group—posing for people watching in Times Square.

CBF of SC youth get a CLUE about New York City

At least two of our South Carolina CBF churches—FBC Greenwood and Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville—partnered with Metro Baptist Church and Rauscenbush Ministries to host a week of CLUE camp in two sites this summer. "CLUE" stands for "Children Living the Urban Experience." Youth from the two churches worked in camps in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Each group hosted a full week of camp that featured recreation, Bible study, summer learning and reading, arts and crafts, and a field trip for inner-city children. There were 30 children in the Brooklyn CLUE camp site and 48 in the Hell's Kitchen site. Both groups, who were in New York at different times, enjoyed touring the city after their work was done. Some of their activities included a tour of NBC studios, kayaking on the Hudson River, and riding the Staten Island Ferry. The Greenwood group was also on TV for a few seconds on NBC's "Today" show. Blake Kendrick led the Greenwood group and Tabatha Coker led the Pelham Road group.