

THANK YOU, MINISTERS

BEING A MINISTER IS STILL ONE OF THE TOUGHEST JOBS



I've seen firsthand the conscientious work of the ministers who partner with CBFSC as they learn new platforms for ministry.

Two decades or so ago, CBFSC's first coordinator Marion Aldridge wrote a newsletter article describing how difficult a pastor's job is. I remember this article because at the time I was a pastor experiencing the difficulty of church ministry. I felt seen and appreciated because Marion identified the depth of personal investment in the lives of others that may not be reciprocated, the often demanding schedule, the conflicts that are bound to come...and the frank recognition that the next deacons' meeting or church business meeting could bring termination and loss of livelihood and relationship.

I know that there are lots of hard jobs in the world. And I know that over past seven months every worker has made adjustments and sacrifices because of the pandemic.

Even so, I've seen firsthand the conscientious work of the ministers who partner with CBFSC. They have learned new technologies and new skills. They developed content for online platforms untouched before. They made difficult, health-conscious decisions. They have presented researched, prayed-over Bible studies and sermons each week—

sometimes multiple times a week—no matter the technological challenges or other demands on their time. And in this season of growing partisanship, they have sought faithfully to minister to folks who agree with them and disagree, who laud and criticize. Ministers meet us in the anxious crucible of the world with a consistent Gospel witness of love and grace.

I agree with Marion, being a minister is still one of the toughest jobs. That is why I am so filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve CBFSC-




By Jay Kieve
Coordinator

partner churches. Called and equipped by God to serve us, they accompany our grief and join our celebrations. They call us to faithfulness and help us find forgiveness. They love us, our children, and our communities in tangible and life-giving ways.

Thank you! Thank you pastors and associate pastors; thank you youth and children's ministers; thank you ministers of music, administration, missions, and spiritual formation. Thank you for your service to God by serving us.

Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment

G•R•A•C•E



A safe church
**EMPOWERS
& EQUIPS**
all victims to walk away
from those who
abuse them.



community, where responsibility, accountability, and compassion are second nature and caring for children and adult survivors of abuse are non-negotiable,” Tchividjian writes at the GRACE website,

The CBF / GRACE partnership will train 6 to 8 CBF clergy as “safeguarding specialists” to work with CBF-related congregations. In a pilot project associated with the new partnership, churches that agree to become “certified safeguarding congregations” will have their fees offset by CBF as leaders in the movement to prevent abuse.

The GRACE safeguarding initiative is a six month process during which congregations receive leadership training, policy development support, a campus safety consultation, support for conversations with children and teens, and an all church training. Congregations learn the biblical mandate to care for children and other vulnerable people, common tactics of abusers and the dynamics of abuse, and how to report and respond well.

“I’ve followed the work of GRACE for several years,” CBFSC Coordinator Jay Kieve noted, “and I believe they are the best organization to provide this leadership for CBF congregations in South Carolina and beyond.”

CBF Partners with G.R.A.C.E. for abuse prevention

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship entered a covenant partnership this summer with GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) to offer safeguarding training and other resources to CBF churches.

GRACE, founded by Billy Graham’s grandson and former sex crimes prosecutor Basyle “Boz” Tchividjian, is a leader

among Evangelical churches for abuse prevention education, policy development, independent investigations, and victim support. Led by a board of experts in church, law, and mental health, the GRACE approach to safeguarding is victim-centered, Biblically driven, and congregational in focus.

“GRACE exists to equip the Church with a vision for authentic

If your church is interested
in joining the GRACE
safeguarding initiative,
contact Jay Kieve
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GRACE
Godly Response to Abuse
in the Christian Environment

OUR MISSION: We are women and men participating in God's mission together. We nurture spiritual development, encourage congregations to thrive, and value collaborative and innovative ministry and missions.

Blake Hart, director of Carolina Immigrant Alliance, with a representative of the Mexican Consulate when they started a new education initiative.

<https://carolinaimmigrantalliance.org/>

Carolina Immigrant Alliance to host virtual 5k race

By Lane Riley, Associate Coordinator

The coronavirus pandemic has affected our country's economy, and this means decreased revenue and donations for a lot of nonprofits. Many organizations have had to cancel fundraisers that fund a lot of their programs, and general giving is down. And many organizations actually need more funding because there is an increased need for services across the state.

Carolina Immigrant Alliance, one of CBFSC's covenant mission partners in Rock Hill, serves people from all over the world. They provide legal assistance to immigrants, participate in public policy advocacy, lead education initiatives, and build



relationships.

When they made the difficult decision to cancel their 5k race that funds many of their programs, they decided to move into a virtual experience so people could still become involved and learn about their work. Their virtual race this October allows participants to sign up to run, cycle, or walk, and then log in their times and distances online.

Participants also receive information about music, art, language, and cooking recipes so everyone can experience cultures from all over the world.

CBFSC also encourages all congregations to remember their ministry partners during this difficult time. If you would like to support CBFSC's covenant mission partners, you can give to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions.

▶ IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE CBFSC.ORG | [ABOUT CBFSC](#) | [NEWS](#)

We have published numerous articles about CBFSC life on our website since our last newsletter in July. Here's a sampling:

- CBFSC missions grant means "Godly Play" at Koinonia by Kelly Shrum
- Summer of racial tensions and online ministry challenging for first-year pastor by Jeffrey Howard, New Hope Christian Fellowship
- Between career and Covid, it's been a roller coaster ride for Preston Cooley at Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca
- Moving from biochemistry to ministry, CBF Fellow Lucy Cauthen knows how to adjust to change at Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson
- John Painter, Chaplain at Charleston VA hospital, receives award for excellence
- Zeke Stephenson at FBC Orangeburg sees a hundred paths to a new normal
- Home-churned ice cream on the porch replaces VBS, summer camps at FBC Laurens by Elizabeth Franklin
- Kyle Minyard has home church advantage as Student. Church intern at FBC Anderson
- Hospice chaplain David Deming navigates tough world of Covid
- CBF Global grant supports Palmetto Works from CBF Global



Being in community means being disappointed together when doors remained closed, and celebrating together when our doors can finally reopen.

Some of our preschools and daycares are reopening after months of silence

Right down the hall from me at First Baptist Church in Greenwood, Cheerful Cherubs preschool just reopened.

I can now hear children playing, learning, exploring, and making friends. Students in one class recently all got little toy cars, and raced them down the hallway right past my office.

After months of silence and darkness, I love seeing the lights on in the hallway, seeing the classrooms filled with children and teachers, and hearing laughter (and sometimes crying!).

In January, CBFSC held a meeting for preschool and daycare directors, where we discussed different issues relevant to this ministry for our youngest students.

I didn't know how important this group would be because just a few months later, these directors were having conversations about how or if to close their doors.

While most of the daycares and preschools closed

in March, a few remained opened, and these directors were able to provide valuable advice and recommendations as others have reopened, and some decided to stay closed.

The daycare and preschool directors can now share different policies and examples of communication, and have regular virtual calls to check in.

Being in community with CBFSC isn't just for churches on Wednesdays and Sundays. Being in community means building relationships with people all across the state, and sharing resources.

It means texts and phone calls to people that have experience in the same type of ministry to check in and ask for advice.

It means being disappointed together when doors remained closed, and celebrating together when our doors can finally reopen.



By Lane Riley
Associate Coordinator

If you would like to join the preschool and daycare director cohort, contact Lane Riley at lane@cbfsc.org.