

FELLOWSHIP



Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca has just completed building a new sanctuary and will host us for the

2012 General Assembly.

Building and renovating are important so that churches have fairly up-to-date facilities to worship, fellowship, and share in Bible studies. The building process is exciting, but it also requires a lot of work, sacrifice, perseverance and patience. Church facilities are vital to building the kingdom to give people spaces to experience God and grow with one another in the faith. Ordinary space becomes sacred space and ordinary people are called out to be about the extraordinary work of God in our world.

—Ryan Wilson,
pastor of Trinity



BUILDING LESSONS

By Ryan Wilson, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Seneca

1 Building is not a sprint, but a marathon. We started our building process almost seven years ago. It takes commitment, dedication, determination, and perseverance to finish a race of this length. So it is with our faith journey. There may be sprints along the way, but to stay the marathon course of faith, we must run the race with perseverance and with our eyes set on the prize ahead.

2 The foundation is vital to the strength of a building. So too in faith we must lay a foundation which will honor the Lord. Often, we try to take short cuts to our faith, but only a solid foundation on Jesus Christ will endure.

3 Great sacrifice is needed to accomplish a large task. We often sing *Jesus paid it all*. Some think that if Jesus paid it all, there is no need for me to pay anything. The reality of faith, though, is that God calls us to be stewards and to follow in Christ's footsteps. This requires us to sacrifice. Stewardship is an investment in what God is doing in our world.

4 Building buildings for building sake will only get us a building. Building disciples for Christ's sake will give us maturity, growth, and a witness that transcends buildings. We wonder if we are just getting a new building or if we are also getting a church transformed. A building may be built, but if we remain emotionally or spiritually uninvolved, we have gained nothing but a building. We must invest ourselves in disciple-making, and we will see God's hand at work in our lives.

5 We know we can worship God anywhere and at any time, but the Bible shares a rich tradition of lifting up certain spaces as holy, set apart, and consecrated (Moses at burning bush, the tabernacle, the temple, etc.). A community of faith needs a common place to encounter God together.

6 There is a cost to doing the work of ministry. The Good Samaritan not only stopped to help the injured man, but he also took time to take the man to get help and paid for his care. With added space, we have the privilege and responsibility to use it to minister to our community. It will cost to do ministry and be the presence of Christ in our community.

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BUILDING Christ's Church

Looking at the possibility of rebuilding the temple, the prophet Haggai said, "The latter splendor of this house will be greater than the former." May this be true in many ways for all of our churches.—*Ryan Wilson*

General Assembly **quick facts**

HOW TO REGISTER
Go to cbfofsc.org. There is a link on the home page to the registration form.

CHILDCARE
Childcare will be available throughout the General Assembly. There is a place on the registration form to indicate when you will need to use this service.

CHAPLAINS
Chaplains are invited to a dutch treat breakfast at Jimmys Restaurant on Saturday morning. Indicate on the registration form that you will attend.

BUILDING LESSONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

7 Going into a church building program is going into the unknown. Some details in life and faith you cannot know until you begin. You have to take the first step in faith. Abraham was told to leave his home and go. Likewise, we are called to step out in faith, sometimes leaving the comfortable to move toward a place God has in store for our future.

8 Renovation is always needed. We constantly are upgrading and maintaining our homes. The same is needed for church buildings and for our spiritual lives. We do not need to become stagnant, but we always need God to work on our lives to renew us each day. God will make us a new creation if we let him. Sometimes it may just be a new coat of paint or a slight adjustment to our spiritual disciplines. Other times it requires tearing things down before building them back.

9 Prayer and hard work are like a hand and glove. Without prayer, we are not in touch with God and are prone to do things aimlessly. With prayer, we discover God's guidance and then must work hard toward a goal.

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.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Friday, April 27

11:00 AM	Registration & exhibits open
11:45 AM	Spotlight on SC Luncheon: Celebrating 10 years of Metanoia (\$8/person)
1:30 PM	Business Session
3:30 PM-5:00 PM	Breakout Sessions
5:30 PM	Retirement Celebration Banquet: Marion's CBFSC Career (\$17/person)
7:00 PM	Worship: Karen Spears Zacharias, Guest Speaker
8:30 PM	Fellowship Social

Saturday, April 28

7:30 AM	Chaplains' Breakfast
8:00 AM	Pastries, Juice, & Coffee at Trinity Baptist
9 AM-10:30 AM	Breakout Sessions
10:30 AM	Worship with Communion: Marion Aldridge preaching



March 17

Church groups are needed to work on several types of projects.

Please sign up for projects no later than March 9 so that the proper preparations can be made.

Contact Beverly Greer for information. beverly@cbfofsc.org.



We need volunteers to spruce up various spots around town for the **Follow The Blooms** tour on Saturday, March 24, one week after OWCA. This is a first for Allendale.

Four gardens will be featured — including the Pink Garden on Memorial Avenue and the Sugar Hill Flat Street Community Garden.

The tour is sponsored by the Garden Club of South Carolina.

METANOIA: a transformative change of heart

10 years



by Bill Stanfield
Executive Director of Metanoia
since its beginning



Evelyn Oliveira and some of Metanoia's first participants getting ready for an MLK parade in Charleston in 2002.

Begun in 2002, Metanoia has blossomed from a small after-school program with exclusively CBF funding to a holistic community development ministry where every dollar given by CBF is matched by five other dollars of support from individuals, foundations and other funders.

In 10 years of programming, Metanoia has offered leadership skills to hundreds of children, created 12 new community homeowners, renovated 15 homes for homeowners on a fixed income, and spurred economic development in one of our state's most distressed communities.

Through all of this, Metanoia has remained committed to its three central values. We continue to focus on the assets of our community rather than just the deficiencies. We continue to believe in listening to communities and letting them drive the process of their own renewal rather than imposing change from the outside. And lastly, we continue to be deeply rooted in faith.

On our best days we really do see personal and social "metanoias" all around us that put flesh and blood on the gospel message.

None of this would have been possible without the vision and steady support of the South Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This partnership with CBFSC has provided the vision, volunteers and financial support that has enabled Metanoia not only to survive but thrive through some of the most difficult years in our nation's economy.

As we look forward to years of future partnership, we will take time at this year's General Assembly to celebrate all that God has brought among us so far through Metanoia.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Building a healthy church *Hallmarks of a healthy church* led by Layne Smith of the Center for Congregational Health.

Building a spiritually centered church *The way of prayer* led by Beverly Crowe-Tipton of The Anchorage.

Building a Bible-teaching church *Nurturing faith Bible study curriculum* led by Rick Jordan of *Baptists Today*.

Building the church in relationship with the poor led by Hugh Hollowell of Love Wins Ministries.

Building Christ's church through CBF *Improvisational leadership* led by Bo Prosser of CBF National.

Building Christ's church through Metanoia led by Bill Stanfield of Metanoia.

HONORING MARION'S SERVICE



Marion Aldridge will retire early next year as our coordinator. Since this will be his last General Assembly as coordinator, we will honor his service at the Friday night banquet, where Randy Wright will serve as master of ceremonies. Marion will preach on Saturday morning. Reservations are needed for the dinner, which will cost \$17 per person. A retirement dinner for Marion will be held Jan. 18, 2013.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFERING

This year's offering will be divided between Metanoia and Our Daily Rest, a homeless shelter in Seneca. The shelter is sponsored by eight local churches including Trinity Baptist Church, our host.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

March 2012

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Keynote speaker KAREN SPEARS ZACHARIAS gets what it means to be a person of faith

by Tony Vincent, Associate Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church, Seneca

Author KAREN SPEARS ZACHARIAS has a keen eye for recognizing what's right and wrong within American Christianity. In her book *Would Jesus buy me a double-wide? ('Cause I need more room for my plasma TV)*, Karen shines a light on the flaws found within much of popular Christianity today, but she also offers examples of people who are **BUILDING CHRIST'S CHURCH** in a real, beautiful way in our world. We can learn much from Karen on what it means to be authentic people of faith.

Karen is active in the world of social media, which connects her to a broad range of subjects, personalities, and events. Karen understands how her faith compels her to interact with the world, and she uses her blog, facebook, and twitter to engage in a

multitude of areas. **BUILDING CHRIST'S CHURCH** requires us to engage, not withdraw, from our world. Karen does this in a most compelling way.

Two of Karen's other books:

After the flag has been folded, a reflection on being a "gold star" family. This book has implications on where the church has failed families dealing with the tragedy of loss following a war.

Where's your Jesus now?, essays bristling with doubt and fear, buoyed by flashes of the brightest hope and splashes of the darkest humor, she grants us the privilege of joining her search party for a Jesus that hasn't been co-opted by fundamentalist thought.

She really does get what it means to be an engaged and authentic person of faith.



**KAREN SPEARS
ZACHARIAS**

will speak on Friday
night, April 27, at the
General Assembly.

KAREN'S WEBSITE: [HTTP://KARENZACH.COM/](http://KARENZACH.COM/)