



Ministry in Greenwood has taken off for Hopkins and First Baptist

In the five months since Tony Hopkins became pastor of First Baptist Church in Greenwood, the congregation has begun moving forward and "things have really taken off."

"We are seeing growth in all areas of our work," Tony said. "Our numbers are up in worship, in Sunday School, in our choirs and in our membership."

In the summer of 2002, the church was averaging about 200 on Sundays. By mid-December, more than 400 were present in worship.

"This is a terrific church that has come through a difficult chapter of its history, dealing with an internal struggle related to leadership," he said. He credits Minister of Education and Administration Kenny Standley, and intentional interim pastor Jim Langford with helping the church move forward. "They were godsend to this church," he said. "The Lord used them in

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Tony Hopkins

Diana Garland in South Carolina

"Faith and Family; Service and Society"

Diana R. Garland, chair of the School of Social Work at Baylor University, will be speaking in South Carolina at several locations at the end of January.

Diana is also director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries at Baylor. She is an expert on family issues and will be discussing primarily two topics while she is in the state: "Living Lives of Service and Faith" and "Sacred Stories of Ordinary Christians."

"I am very much looking forward to my visit to South Carolina," Diana said. "I am excited that there is so much interest in the topic of family ministry and family faith."

"In a society where there is so much loneliness, family ministry is the most significant way we can reach out beyond our congregations, with the good news that in Christ, we all can be part of a family," she said. "The challenge for the church, then, is to make that promise real. How do we weave congregations into families? How do we strengthen the families we have? And how do we fold in those who have no family?"

"Those are major challenges for any congregation," she said. "Many congregations find themselves splintering into

generational groups for worship and community, and thus losing the opportunity to meet the hunger of our world for family and for community."



Garland

"I am also excited to share with congregations the work I have been doing on family faith. How does faith form the fabric of our lives together?

What are the stories of our lives that are waiting to be told as the stories of faith that they are?" she said. "I have been doing research with 110 very ordinary families, and yet the stories of their faith were like uncut diamonds just waiting to be told. They surprised themselves, and they surprised me. They didn't tell me stories of conscientious Bible study and prayer time together (although they felt guilty that they weren't able to maintain that kind of Christian discipline). But they told me stories instead of the events of their lives. And as they told those stories, we recognized the meaning they found in those daily experiences together—the faith that holds them together."

"I'm excited about sharing with congregations in South Carolina the importance of our ordinary stories as the conduit for experiencing the extraordinary faith God

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**Garland's
Schedule
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Garland Planning Committee:

Greer Clayton, Minister to Preschoolers, FBC Greenville 864.233.2527; Courtney Krueger, Pastor, FBC Pendleton 864.646.3913; Hal Mitchell, Youth and Family Pastor, FBC Conway 843.248.4067; Marion Aldridge, Coordinator, CBF of SC 803.779.1888.

Jan. 26-27 at FBC Charleston

Hamrick Lectures: Marty and Huff are speakers

Martin E. Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago is the featured speaker for the Eighth Annual John A. Hamrick Lectureship at First Baptist Church, Charleston, on January 26-27.

Marty, for whom the Martin Marty Center to promote public religious endeavors is named, taught at the university for 35 years. He has served on the staff of the *Christian Century* since 1956 and writes a weekly e-mail column, "Sightings." He is an ordained Lutheran minister and served for a decade as a parish minister.

He has written more than 50 books including the three volume *Modern American Religion*. Marty is past president of the American Academy of Religion, the American Society of Church History, and the American Catholic

Historical Society. He has served on two US Presidential Commissions and was the director of the Fundamentalism Project of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He just concluded service as the interim president of St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

His topic at 6:30 pm on January 26 is "When Baptists Are Baptists." His lecture will be followed by a question and

answer session, a reception and book signing.

On January 27 at 9:30 am. A. V. Huff, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Furman University where he has taught since 1968, will speak on "The Charleston Roots of Furman University."

Huff was William Montgomery Burnett Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History. Huff also served as acting president of the university. He is the author of *The History of South Carolina in the Building of a Nation*. He was a Fulbright Fellow in Scotland and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Yale.

At 10:30 Marty will lecture on "What Baptists Have that Others Need and What Others Have that Baptists Need."

The Hamrick Lectureship, which honors the work of John A. Hamrick, is open free to the public.

The First Baptist Church parking lot is located at 48 Meeting Street. For more information call the church office at 843.722.3896, visit the web site at www.fbcharleston.org, or call Mitch Carnelli, chair of the Hamrick Lectureship Committee, at 843.556.2310.

First Baptist Church Greenwood

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such a marvelous way to help the congregation through some very difficult times. They, along with a host of other people, worked and labored and prayed. They laid such a good ground work that when I came things have really taken off. The atmosphere here is one of excitement. We're having fun and that's the way church ought to be."

"My top priority from the beginning was wanting to make sure that everybody here is focused on Jesus Christ," Tony said. "That became our permanent fixture point: Once you're all focused on Christ, by definition, you're all focused in the same direction and the church can move forward."

Tony said SC/CBF can look for continued support both from him and the church. "One of the reasons this opportunity was attractive to me is that it would afford me the opportunity to move in CBF circles much more openly and frequently," he said. "And I am very interested in helping our church have the strongest possible relationship with CBF on both the state and national levels. We feel CBF is one of our strengths."

Tony came to Greenwood in September after serving for 10 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Edgefield. Before that, he taught Greek and New Testament at Southern Seminary while he was finishing a Ph. D. in New Testament. He also earned an M. Div. at Southern, and a B.A. in English from Furman University.

Tony grew up in the Columbia area in First Baptist and Northside churches in West Columbia. He said his priority in

First Baptist Denmark needs music minister

First Baptist Church in Denmark needs a full-time Minister of Music/Associate Pastor. Major responsibility would be to develop, promote and implement the music program of the church and to lead in worship. 100-150 avg. SS attendance. Search Committee, First Baptist Church Denmark, P.O. Box 325, Denmark, SC 29042, or e-mail mail: FBCDenmark@msn.com.

life is his family. Wife Carol earned a B.A. in music from Furman and a Master's in Music Education from the University of Louisville. She has taught public school in South Carolina for the past eight years. Their daughter Michelle is a freshman at Greenwood High School and Caleb is a sixth grader at Northside Middle School.

A fitness buff, Tony likes to jog and strength train "for my emotional and physical health." He also likes to read.

Tony said it is because of God's grace that he has been able to achieve what he has and it is that grace that is driving the church's growth now. "I'm glad to be here while God is doing such good things at our church," he said.



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE
By Mack Jones
Walterboro

DEFINITIONS
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Words have different meanings to different people. Some words that are common in one area of the country are foreign in other areas. Would you believe there are some people in the United States who cannot define "Y'all" or "Grits"?

One of my favorite examples of different meanings of words is the word *ramp*. To an invalid it's what you push the wheelchair on to enter a building. To a native of Western North Carolina or Eastern Tennessee, it's a wild onion that grows in the spring of the year.

Is revolution a complete turning wheel or is it a total change of governments? In the English language definitions of words depend on who we are or where we live. It could even depend on our age.

Baptists have redefined themselves over the years, and many have seen the wheel do a complete revolution. As a child in the forties, my church was pretty much a strict fundamentalist church. We could not dance, play cards, or buy on Sunday. We definitely would not think of going to a movie on Sunday afternoon.

In the fifties and sixties, more ministers became educated and led their churches through a period of enlightenment. It was during this period that

men like Herschell Hobbs, Walter Shurden, and Cecil Sherman defined those historic principles of what Baptists believe.

Many of us now felt that Methodists would go to heaven and there was some hope for Catholics. We went through a period of tremendous growth. Our mission was to spread the word of Jesus Christ to the uttermost parts of the earth.

In the late seventies the wheel turned again to a more conservative mindset. Once again, outsiders considered us backward and narrow-minded. A friend from Maryland said, "You do not want to go to a church with Baptist in its name."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has redefined *Baptist*. We have returned to that age of enlightenment. We have not only returned to principles such as the autonomy of each believer and the priesthood of each believer but we have added **equality**.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has supported the equality of women in all areas of ministry. The leadership of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is now reaching out to African-American Baptists who have felt disenfranchised.

Join us in defining *Baptist* so that we can embrace all with the love of Jesus Christ and spread his word to the uttermost parts of the earth.

U P C O M I N G

Leading People in Congregations: Reflecting on Our Experience

March 10-11, 2003 • Led by Hardy Clemons • Providence Baptist Church, Charleston

Purpose: Providing quality pastoral leadership for congregations has always been challenging. Many ministers are no longer interested in providing this leadership in isolation. *Leading Congregations* is a peer learning retreat that is facilitated by an experienced pastor and counselor. Hardy Clemons retired as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Greenville in 2000 and since then has been teaching in divinity schools, preaching and providing resources to pastors and counselors.

Cost: \$35, includes the program fee and the cost of two meals. The fee is due with registration. Attendance limited to 20 individuals. The Center for Congregational Health is handling registration: 336.716.9722, fax 336.716.9875, e-mail dmhall@wfubmc.edu.

Sponsors: The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina and Providence Baptist Church.

500 invited to Women in Ministry Conference at Bright Light

One of our African-American church partners has invited 500 women in ministry to a conference that it is hosting Jan. 24-Jan. 26. Waylon Wallace, the first African-American to serve on the SC/CBF Coordinating Council, is pastor of Bright Light Baptist Church in Lancaster County. "The conference is for lay as well as clergy women," Wallace said. "They may be professional, bi-vocational or volunteer. The purpose is to inspire, encourage, and perhaps inform them of ministry options and opportunities. I especially want to encourage young women considering ministry of educational opportunities that may be available to them."

Break-out sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The conference concludes following worship on Sunday. Conference fee is \$40. Contact Wallace at thespian49@msn.com.

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of South Carolina**

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Garland's Schedule

Thursday, January 23

10 a.m. South Carolina Christian Action Council Annual Meeting, St. Andrews Baptist Church, 230 Bush River Road, Columbia. Diana is the keynote speaker in the afternoon session on the topic "Does Faith Inform Community?" \$30 registration fee includes lunch. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. Call the Christian Action Council at 803.786.7115 for more information.

Thursday, January 23

6:30 p.m. -9 p.m. First Baptist Church, Conway, 603 Elm Street, Fellowship Hall. Supper reservations are not required. Cost is a contribution of \$3-\$5. "Living Lives of Service and Faith" and "Sacred Stories of Ordinary Christians" followed by questions and answers.

Friday, January 24

6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Clearview Baptist Church, 3617 Highway 81 North, Anderson. Soup and sandwiches at 6:30. \$3 per person. At 7:30, "Sacred Stories of Ordinary Christians" followed by questions and answers.

Saturday, January 25

9 a.m.-11 a.m. Clearview Baptist Church, 3617 Highway 81 North, Anderson. Continental breakfast at 9 a.m. no charge. "Living Lives of Service and Faith" followed by questions and answers begins at 9:30 a.m..

Childcare available for children under 10 for both sessions. To register for childcare or the Friday meal, call Clearview at 864.231.0043 and leave a message including when you will need childcare. Deadline is Jan. 20.

Sunday, January 26

9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. First Baptist, Greenville, 847 Cleveland Street, Fellowship Hall. "Living Lives of Service and Faith" followed by questions and answers.

11 a.m.-Noon. Pelham Road Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Road, Greenville. "Sacred Stories of Ordinary Christians."

Garland —

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gives us as families," Diana said. "I am convinced that we hold in the untold stories in our congregations extraordinary possibilities for experiencing God at work in our midst, for seeing with new eyes the challenges before us."

"It ought to be enough for Christians to serve others in the name of Christ, even if there were no return on the investment," said CBF Coordinator Marion Aldridge. "But, miraculously, because this is the way God does things, sociologists like Diana Garland are discovering that Christian service is a magnificent evangelical tool—for both the person being served and for the person serving.

"These weekend missionaries realize the faith they thought they had was pretty anemic," he said. "Religion without service is no news and faith with service is good news."

Garland's sessions are open to anyone interested in participating.