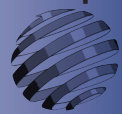
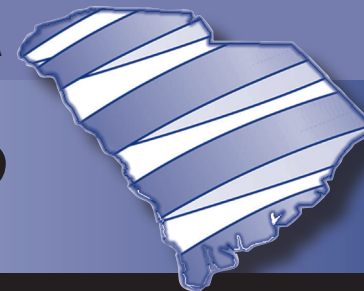


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COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



ELLOWSHIP



APRIL 2007

**2007
Assembly****When:** April 27-28**Where:** First Baptist

Church, Clemson

Theme: Building
Relationships Around
the Table**Speakers:**Friday Lunch: Spotlight
on South Carolina:*FBC's ministry to
students at Clemson*

Friday Missions

Banquet: *CBF Global
Missions Coordinator
Rob Nash*

General Assembly

Keynote Speaker: *CBF
former moderator Joy
Yee***Host Hotel:** RamadaInn and Conference
Center, U.S. Highway
123 & 76. 864-654-
7501. Deadline for
reservations is April 13.**Parking:** Onsite
parking is limited
but nearby parking
is available. Go to
our web site for
information.**REGISTER
NOW!**www.cbfosc.org**It's Time****SC/CBF churches searching for ways to BE missional
not just TALK missions in the 21st century**

First Baptist Church in Greenwood has just spent more than two months studying the CBF resource *It's Time* to help members discover their own personal call to missions and to help the church as a body find its place of service in the local community.

The study of *It's Time* in Greenwood grew out of a process of looking toward the future of the church. "In that process, we came up with six areas of focus for the church and one of them was missions," said senior pastor Tony

Hopkins. "That was a part of our heritage we wanted to hold onto. So a missions task force and I began to look at things we could do to carry forward and strengthen that missions heritage. *It's Time* is what we decided to study."

"I introduced the theme on Sunday mornings during my sermon and had follow-up Bible studies on Sunday and Wednesday evenings," Tony said. "*It's Time* wasn't designed specifically for the way we did it but the beauty is that the curriculum

(continued on page 2)

The Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church**Missional from its first day**

The Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church, a new church in Conway, used *It's Time* to lay its very foundation. The pastor, Cheryl Adamson, preached from *It's Time* for the first eight Sundays the church worshipped together, beginning Oct. 1, 2006, and led weekly Bible studies to reinforce the Sunday message.

"I thought it was important to introduce our people to what it means to be a missional church, particularly since we were coming from different backgrounds to this new venture," Cheryl said. "I wanted to lay the foundation for them seeing themselves as missionaries to the world as opposed to members of the church."

The early lessons are paying off. "Our people really do appreciate that they are to be the presence

of Christ in the world," she said. "Already in 2007, we have had three servant evangelism projects. In January, we did a laundromat mission, where we passed out quarters and fabric sheets, along with invitations to our church. In February and March, we worked on our first Habitat House."

"We are looking forward to having as our project for April an *Undies Sunday* to benefit Fostering Hope, an organization that supplies clothing to foster children when they are initially placed into foster care," she said.

"I realize that it is more difficult to turn the Titanic than to set out in a row boat, but if churches want to experience a shift in direction with their congregations, *It's Time* will definitely serve as an excellent tug boat," Cheryl said.

**Cheryl Moore Adamson**
revcheryl@msn.com**What it means to be missional**

What is the difference between a missional church and a church with a mission program? A church with a mission program usually sees missions as one activity alongside many activities of the church. A missional church focuses all of its activities around its participation in God's mission in the world — it trains people for discipleship and witness. A church with a mission sends others to witness on its behalf. A missional church understands that the congregation itself is sent by God to proclaim and to act and to be a sign of the reign of God.

Going missional

To learn how you and your church can become missional, contact Bo Prosser, the Coordinator for Congregational Life at bprosser@thefellowship.info. To talk with someone about missional church resources, contact Rick Bennett, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life at rbennett@thefellowship.info. Call 888.801.4223 to order *It's Time*.

More than 150 people participated in the small group Bible study of *It's Time* at First Baptist Church in Greenwood. The church spent a total of 10 weeks in the study to help it discern how it can be most missional in its community and how its members can find places of service most suited to them.

**It's Time. Just what is it?**

It's Time is an eight-week CBF curriculum designed to help churches and Christians discover and fulfill their God-given mission. "Our hope is that Baptist Christians and churches would begin to live missionally, and that they would live their lives and do church attuned to the mission of God in the world," said Rick Bennett, CBF's Associate Coordinator for Faith Formations. "*It's Time* seeks to help churches and Christians join the missional journey, to embrace the perspective that God is at work in the world and that God has invited us to join in that work." Churches that complete the study are eligible to apply for a grant from CBF national to help them implement their missional strategy. Call 888.801.4223 to order *It's Time*.

It's Time IN AIKEN

I certainly have changed my perspective about what missions is in the 21st century and I have felt more personally responsible to do what God has called and will call me to do following our study of *It's Time*. As a result of the study, I dug up an old dream of mine to offer four-year-old kindergarten to children who could not afford a private kindergarten and did not qualify for public school kindergarten since they were not classified as at-risk. So, our kindergarten applied for and received an *It's Time* grant following our study. Beginning in the fall, we will be able to provide scholarship assistance to six children in K-4. We have already begun the process of locating the children and families that God would have us to serve. Our intention is to work with the Hispanic community, and to accept referrals from the public school system. In addition to helping the children, we also hope to diversify our population which benefits everyone including families already a part of the program. I would highly recommend the *It's Time* study. It opens your eyes and heart to dreaming about possibilities. In a world and a culture that consistently discourages people with a *what's the use* attitude, it certainly opened our congregation to dreaming God's dream of a world touched by his love.

—Vicky McCullough, kindergarten director and children's minister, First Baptist Church, Aiken

FBC Greenwood

Continued from page 1

can be adapted to fit your church."

By using the *It's Time* curriculum as the basis for Sunday sermons for eight weeks, everybody who came to worship was a part of the study. About 150 members also came to the Bible study. "From my point of view, it was a huge group that learned about being a missional church," Tony said.

"For eight weeks we talked about and prayed about setting individual goals and corporate church goals," he said. "We wanted each person to discover the spiritual gift that she or he could be using, what ministry each could be involved in and how each could be serving Jesus Christ in this community."

Some individuals, Tony said, quickly realized the ministries they should be involved in. Others are still searching.

"Corporately we began to pray eight weeks ago that we would find what unmet need God would want our church to meet," Tony said. "In week six, we began to set aside

time in our small groups to brainstorm about possible ministries."

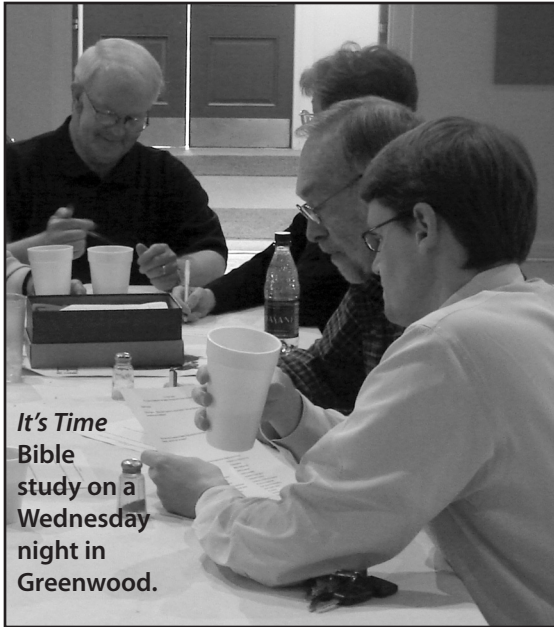
The *It's Time* study concluded at the end of March

with a celebration luncheon on a Sunday after worship. The celebration highlighted the formal end to the study of *It's Time* and provided the pivot point for the church to move from a period of prayer and discernment to a period of decision and action.

A slide presentation identifying the needs in Greenwood was shown at the luncheon. "That will allow us to pray in a more informed way," Tony said. "We haven't come to our final decisions yet. We are being intentional about not getting ahead of God."

"People have been very responsive," Tony said. "They are excited. We are feeling a high energy level

in our church. *It's Time* has helped us focus on Christ and serving him as individuals and as a church."



It's Time Bible study on a Wednesday night in Greenwood.

It's Time IN WALTERBORO

We've just finished our study of *It's Time* and participants are still completing the last days of the devotional guide so we don't have results yet. We used the *It's Time* material for an evening study and in one Sunday School class. My sermons were keyed to the themes and I even adapted a couple of the support sermons provided in the study format. The sermon ideas and topics have been well received and our Sunday evening discussions have been good.

—Randy Gardner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Walterboro



STEPHEN ROBINSON, the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, grew up in Carrollton, Georgia, with his mom, dad, and two older sisters. He is married to Bonnie, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary who is a special education teacher at Lexington Middle School. They have a five-year-old daughter, Mary Rose.

CHURCH/PASTOR PROFILE

EMMANUEL

Baptist Fellowship

When Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship near Lexington looked for a pastor, it didn't have to go far. In October, the church called Stephen Robinson, a member at the church for a year and a half.

Emmanuel has fewer than 100 members. But, said Stephen, "it has a strong leadership group that cares for the church, has vision for the church, and takes all of that on as its responsibility."

Stephen became pastor of his first church at age 19 as a freshman in college. He later attended McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, where he quickly became pastor of a church in Snellville, GA. After seminary, he continued to pastor the church part-time and also enrolled in a residency program for Clinical Pastoral Education. "I discovered what it was like to be in community with peers, something I had never experienced in pastoring two small churches," he said. "This gave me the space to explore my pastoral and personal identity, and make some connections between my history, my theology, and my practice of ministry."

Working full-time now at Palmetto Health in Columbia, Stephen still is committed to leading by example at Emmanuel with the energy and work he puts into the church.

He describes Emmanuel as a warm, giving congregation, that is mission minded and equipped to do ministry. The church has several ordained ministers that attend the church and very competent laity. The missions committee meets regularly and keeps the church active.

"Church members are closely connected as a community and truly care for each other," he said. "We provide creative worship and spiritual growth that is relevant to our people."

STEPHEN

Robinson

"There is a newness at Emmanuel that allows us to be creative with our identity," he said. "The only traditions we fight against are the ones we impose on ourselves, and we are constantly engaging those issues."

"My vision for Emmanuel is that we move to a sense of comfort with who we are, that we don't just define ourselves with who we are not," Stephen said. "My hope is that we shift our vision toward claiming our own sense of identity, making us active instead of just reactive."

"I also hope that we find that balance between investing in our own growth and making real investments in the community around us," he said. "I hope that we can become better at being a place where worship is meaningful, connected, creative, fun, demanding and encouraging at the same time."

"The church shares much of that same vision, which is exciting," he said. "We are a place where we are willing to try new things and process how they are working. Our vision is very alive and growing, as we change and grow."

Stephen said the church's ultimate hope is to be a resource for people who are excited about their own faith journey and want to make a difference in their world. "We have people with a passion for local issues and people with a passion for global issues, and everything in between," he said.

"My ultimate goal as the pastor is to encourage and care for this group of ministers, lead them in worship and study that is helpful and relevant to their spiritual formation, and lead by example with my own energy and work," he said. "I offer Emmanuel enough time to commit to that ultimate goal. They do the bulk of the work."

2007-08 budget proposal

At the business meeting to be held April 27 at the beginning of the 2007 General Assembly of SC/CBF, the Coordinating Council will recommend a 2007-08 budget of \$563,043, a 2.6 percent increase over the current budget. The budget includes personnel increases of 3.75 percent.

Associate coordinator

The Coordinating Council has approved a recommendation that SC/CBF employ an associate coordinator. A search committee will be appointed. The retirement of Terry Brooks as reference and referral coordinator and a change in the way Ginger Barfield, the director of the Baptist studies program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, is paid makes the new position possible.

GA offering

The offering that will be taken at the General Assembly in Clemson will go toward SC/CBF work in the Allendale area.