

JANUARY 2006

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



With a travel trailer and a pickup loaded with supplies, the Blacks left Cameron

Looking for a place to serve

Shirley and Marion Black were in Kentucky helping victims of a local flood rebuild when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. They weren't back at home in Cameron, SC, long before they felt called to Mississippi.

So they loaded up their pickup and travel trailer and went looking for a place that needed help. They found that place just before they reached the Louisiana state line. "We didn't want to go into Louisiana so we pulled off to look at our map," said Marion. "Right in front of us was the sign for the town of Pearlinton. We knew we had found our place of service."

The Blacks were looking for CBF people in the area and got connected with CBF of Mississippi's

disaster response coordinator Greg Wolfe, who had also been looking for a town forgotten by other disaster response organizations. Wolfe met the Blacks in Pearlinton and started work with help from a few volunteer

teams along the way.

The discovery of Pearlinton came in week three after the storm. The couple stayed for two weeks, clearing debris from people's yards and houses. "We were running the chain saw and moving limbs so that FEMA could bring trailers in," Marion said.

The Blacks came home briefly, then went back for four weeks to start rebuilding. "We cleared houses of mud and furniture, tore out sheetrock, pulled out wiring, treated for mold, whatever we could do so the houses could be reconstructed," Marion said.

But their main contribution to the victims, Marion said, was the spark of hope they brought to a devastated town. House by house, person by person, the Blacks spent time talking with the people, listening to their stories, learning about their lives, hearing how they were coping. "We simply took time to talk to them," he said.

The Blacks are members of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg. He is a retired builder and Shirley worked for a builder too so they both know their way around home repair. Using their construction skills, they have been working in disaster situations and helping churches in need for 25 years.

FBC supported the Black's work with Katrina victims by first commissioning them to "look for a place to serve" and then sending

(continued on page 4)

CBF and disaster response

"As an organization, the Fellowship is committed to partnering as an effective way to do ministry around the world," said Jack Snell, interim coordinator of CBF Global Missions. "We are following this model in responding to natural disasters. We depend heavily on our state and regional CBF organizations as strategic partners in responding to disasters in the U.S. We have asked them to develop an Initial Disaster Preparedness Plan that suits their goals and objectives. Our state and regional groups have also developed relationships with state and local partners. Through these strategic partnerships, we will be able to respond to the needs of those most impacted in the quickest and most efficient way."

"I'm convinced that CBF is serious about helping people, and I can see that more work is being done in disaster relief," said Marion Black. "I think we can begin now to talk with churches, get people who are interested in disaster situations organized and start working toward a plan so that when the next disaster comes, we'll be ready. Churches can individually and through a cooperative effort find ways to get involved."

Shirley Black at work in Pearlinton. Photo by Carla Wynn



The Blacks plan to return to Pearlinton sometime after the new year. They are looking for volunteers to go with them. You can reach Marion at (803) 823-2521 or email him at crzylzrd@juno.com. Pearlinton, MS, is an unincorporated town of about 800 houses along the Pearl River. It is mainly a residential area of moderate to low income families.

“God got on the bus with us.”

—a paraphrase of John 1: 14

There are worlds out there I know nothing about.

I was waiting in the train station in Washington, D.C., and entered into a conversation with an African-American woman from Philadelphia who was going to Chicago. As we talked, she showed me a copy of her congregation's newsletter for which she wrote articles. It is a big, inner-city Baptist church. One column stopped me cold: a list of Philadelphia phone numbers to call if you encountered certain problems:

Street collapsed

Rats

Graffiti

Dumpster overflowing

Drug dealing in open

Dead animal in abandoned building

Belligerent homeless person

Alley light broken

Each problem had a different phone number listed beside it. I have been in churches for almost 60 years and this was the first time I had ever seen such a list in a newsletter. Rats have never been a problem at Kathwood or Greenlawn or First Baptist Church in Batesburg or Immanuel in North Augusta. Neither have dead animals in abandoned buildings been a problem in our suburban neighborhoods.

The Incarnation is the belief that God moves in with us, that God lives where we live, that God suffers with us. If we are going to minister in the name of Jesus, to function as Jesus functioned, then we must go to where people are and spend time with them, walking in their shoes, living with them, not talking down to them from our supposedly superior position as evangelical Christians—for Jesus's sake.

Years ago, I worked for an organization called Young Life that taught me the concept of Incarnational Evangelism. Incarnational Evangelism means you spend time with and have a real relationship with and get to know the

Get on the bus with them — for Christ's sake



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

people and the world of those you want to “win” to Christ.

Baptists are good at programs and attempts at short-cuts to bring more people to Jesus with less effort, but I think Jesus has shown us the best way to do evangelism. We get on the bus with these dear people who are loved by Jesus. We go to their neighborhoods. We discover the world they live in and figure out a way to live in it ourselves.

What do you know about people who live in your city but not in your neighborhood? Are you willing to get on the bus with them for Christ's sake?

Need a lawnmower repaired? Call the new pastor at Greenlawn

If you're in the Columbia area and need your lawnmower repaired, you might seek out the new pastor at Greenlawn Baptist Church.

Terry Cagle begins work at Greenlawn on Jan. 15. One of his hobbies is repairing lawnmowers.

Terry is currently pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Shelby, NC, where he has served for nearly 18 years. Previously he was pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Gaffney for three years.

Terry is a 1975 graduate of Gardner-Webb College. He earned the M.Div. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1982; and the D.Min. from Gardner-Webb University in 2005.

Terry has been married to Ann for 26 years. She is a special education teacher at a middle school in Shelby, earned a degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina, and will graduate in May from Converse College with an education degree.

Ann and Terry are parents of Lynn, a masters student at the Medical University of South Carolina (Charleston) and a 2005 graduate of Converse College; Chris, a junior civil engineering major at The Citadel, where he is an Air Force Contract Cadet, and Ben, a fifth grader.

In addition to lawnmower repair, Terry is an amateur radio operator and enjoys working with computers.

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL
JOHN A. HAMRICK
LECTURESHIP**
JANUARY 15 - 16, 2006

DR. WILLIAM WILLIMON
Bishop, North Alabama Conference
United Methodist Church
Formerly Dean of Chapel at
Duke University
Sunday, January 15 ~ 6:30 pm
Monday, January 16 ~ 10:45 am

DR. JEFF ROGERS
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Greenville, South Carolina
Monday, January 16 ~ 9:30 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Charleston South Carolina
Sanctuary at 61 Church Street
Parking at 48 Meeting Street
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Help us complete our database

SC/CBF has been on a new database system for the past few months. Now we need your help to improve the information we have in our system so that we can communicate better. Please take a minute, complete this form, and send it to us. PRINT CLEARLY.

Church you attend (include city and state): _____

Do you contribute to CBF directly or through your church? _____

Person 1: _____ Phone: _____ Gender: _____ E-mail: _____ Birthday: _____ Are you Laity or Clergy? _____ Responsibilites/Interests in the local church: <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Advocate <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon (Active or Inactive) <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Person 2: _____ Phone: _____ Gender: _____ E-mail: _____ Birthday: _____ Are you Laity or Clergy? _____ Responsibilites/Interests in the local church: <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Advocate <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon (Active or Inactive) <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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Do you wish to continue receiving this newsletter? Yes ___ No ___ Indicate any corrections needed for name and/or address on the other side.

Mail to: CBF of SC, P.O. Box 11159, Columbia, SC 29211. You may also use the enclosed envelope.

First Baptist Church in Aiken celebrates bicentennial

By Wanda Payne

In 1805, 15 church members met to form a new church closer to their homes than the church they attended more than 20 miles away. This small church was the humble beginnings of First Baptist Church of Aiken. Two hundred years later, Aiken's First Baptist Church celebrated its Bicentennial year.

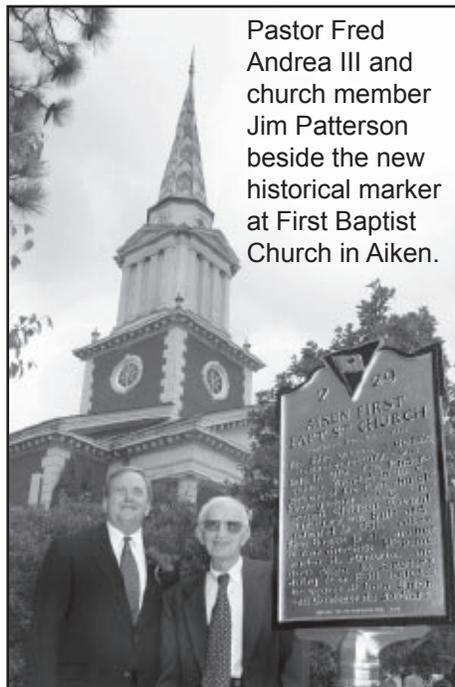
First Baptist Church was the first Baptist church in Aiken, and was organized before the City of Aiken itself. Originally located about a mile south of its present location, the church was granted land within the city limits when the city of Aiken was surveyed and incorporated in 1835.

The small white church built in 1838 served Aiken Baptists through hard times, including the War Between the States. The Battle of Aiken, one of the last Confederate victories, was fought in the streets just in front of the church. Fallen soldiers from this battle are buried in the cemetery surrounding the church.

During Reconstruction, as the South was struggling to rebuild, the little white church was burned to the ground. J. C. Browne, the church's minister, took a job as the Commissioner of Education and donated his church salary to the rebuilding

of the church.

The church grew as the city of Aiken grew. By World War I, the congregation had outgrown its wooden frame building. To build a sanctuary was a grand venture, but the church also needed Sunday School space. To satisfy both needs, the wooden building of 1876 was moved back, and a new brick sanctuary was built. Despite the war and the 1918 flu epidemic, a new sanctuary was completed in 1919.



Pastor Fred Andrea III and church member Jim Patterson beside the new historical marker at First Baptist Church in Aiken.

In January 1946, First Baptist Kindergarten was begun with 25 children and one teacher. This month, FBC celebrates 60 years of teaching the children of Aiken.

Over the years, new buildings have been built, and other buildings, including the 1919 sanctuary, have been removed. The current sanctuary was built in 1958; a Family Life Center was added in 1976.

In September 2005, members presented a play, "Remembering Our Past, Celebrating Our Future." The play told the story of the church through the years. Displays of photographs, artifacts, and other memorabilia gave visitors an opportunity to see the church's history, and a laughter-filled Nostalgia Night gave church members an opportunity to celebrate their recent past.

The Bicentennial Celebration culminated in a Sunday morning worship service, where a bicentennial anthem, "In Unity We Lift Our Song," was performed. The anthem, scored for choir, brass, and organ, was composed by Henry Hinnant, using a hymn text written by Ken Medema. Dinner on the grounds was followed by the unveiling of an historical marker commemorating the long history of First Baptist Church.

Fred Andrea is pastor.

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of South Carolina**

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National CBF: www.thefellowship.info

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Blacks bring hope to Pearlington —

(continued from page 1)

much needed supplies and goods such as winter coats and space heaters.

One example of answered prayer: the Blacks told their fellow church members about a family's need for a washer and dryer.

The church saw to it that the appliances got on an outbound truck loaded with other goods. By the time the truck arrived, however, that family had already received a washer and dryer. In the meantime, the Blacks had learned of another 10-member family in need. Marion put the washer-dryer on his pickup and headed to their house. "What do you need most," Marion asked the woman. "I've been praying for a washer and dryer," she said.

"God does answer prayer," Marion said, "And sometimes he uses us to deliver on those prayers."

During their first trip to Pearlington, the Blacks worshiped one Sunday morning in a high school stadium. At the end of the service the pastor asked if anyone wanted to say anything. "Several church members talked about how God was still faithful to them," Marion said. "They didn't talk about what they had lost but what they still had — their faith, their families, a God who loved them. This was coming from people who had lost everything and they were still praising God."

Jan. 15

CSF brings Kate Campbell to Furman for MLK Day

Singer-songwriter Kate Campbell will be in concert Sunday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in McAlister Auditorium at Furman University thanks to the newly-organized Cooperative Student Fellowship.

CSF stepped out on faith to bring the popular Christian singer to Furman as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observance on the campus, said CSF director Joe Farry. CSF hopes to pay for the \$3,400 concert through contributions from individuals and Fellowship churches.

If enough donations come in, all monies from ticket sales can be used for the campus-wide service project, — building a playground for children in Greenville.

"We didn't have money in the budget for this concert," said SC/CBF Coordinator Marion Aldridge, "but we stepped out on faith to bring Kate to Furman because we thought it was important."

"Kate has written songs that are related to the civil rights movement, some explicitly and some implicitly," Joe said. "Her unique, down to earth style encompasses folk, blues, and other genres. Her mellow voice is the perfect medium for her lyrics that cut to the chase of life, both southern and universal."

"Our primary goal," Joe said, "is to honor Martin Luther King and his legacy. We would also like to contribute to the campus-wide service project. But beyond that, we hope the concert will help more Furman students become aware of CSF, so that they can participate."

Furman students will get in free with an ID. Tickets are being given to the CSF groups at Clemson and Winthrop. Tickets for the general public will be \$15.

Anyone interested in contributing may e-mail Joe at joe.farry@furman.edu or call him at 864.834.7617.