

# FELLOWSHIP

JUNE 2006

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



**Bessie Ball and Jim Somerville.**

## Somerville introduced by long-time family friend

Jim Somerville, pastor of First Baptist Church in Washington, DC, spoke twice at the General Assembly and also led two workshops on how to be neighbors in your own community. He was introduced by Bessie Ball, widow of Billy Ball, first pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church. During Billy's tenure, Jim Somerville's father-in-law, Bill Treadwell, was on the staff. So, Bessie knows the Treadwell family well.

Bessie is a graduate of Converse College and is an accomplished pianist. She met her husband when she was a member of First Baptist Church Belton and Billy was pastor there. She is the mother of five children — Will, David, Elizabeth, Terry, and Joe. Bessie has been committed to CBF since its inception and has been very active in the life of Fernwood Baptist Church.

## 250 attend General Assembly

About 250 people attended this year's assembly April 28-29 at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

At the business meeting, a budget of \$548,456 for July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007 was adopted, and a constitutional change that would allow committee chairs or the moderator to add members to committees during the year IF recommended by the Nominating Committee was approved.

The offering taken during the General Assembly supported CBF drought relief efforts in East Africa. CBF plans to train volunteers who can introduce a low-cost well-drilling system and a simple irrigation drip kit in East Africa as well as teach residents how to grow crops for better nutrition. The offering totaled \$1,815.91.

Twenty-three exhibitors and 17 break-out sessions rounded out the meeting.

Next year's General Assembly will be April 27-28 at First Baptist Church in Clemson.

### 2006-07 officers of SC/CBF

**Moderator:** Macon Sheppard, Providence Baptist Church, Charleston

**Moderator-Elect:** Helen Phillips, Fernwood Baptist Church, Spartanburg

**Secretary:** Gayle Phillip, New Heights Baptist Church, Gaffney

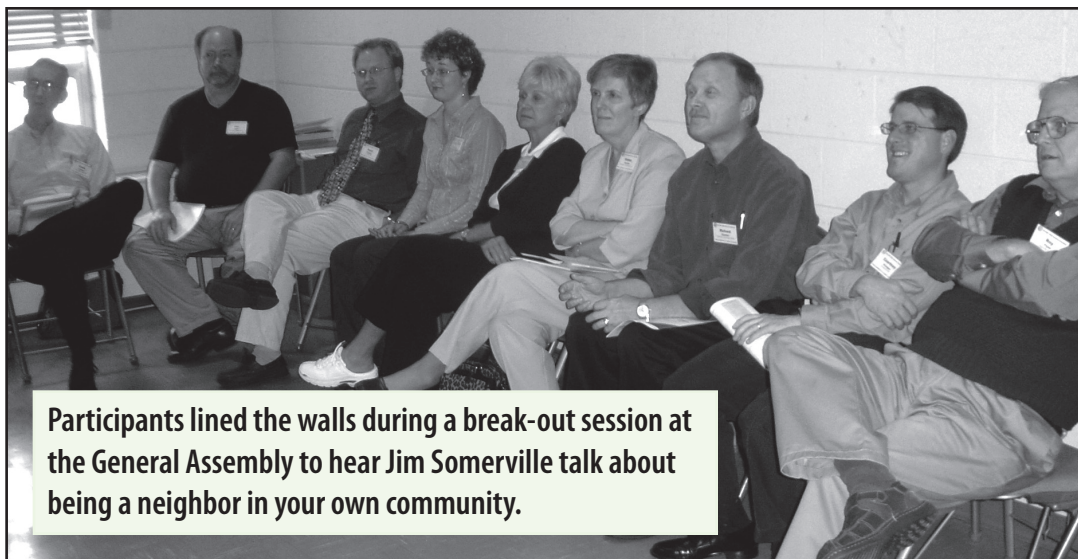
**Treasurer:** Cal Griffin, First Baptist Church, Walterboro

**Immediate Past Moderator:** Kelly Belcher, Fernwood Baptist Church, Spartanburg

More photos and details, including the new budget, are on the website, [www.cbfofsc.org](http://www.cbfofsc.org).



**New moderator  
Macon Sheppard**



**Participants lined the walls during a break-out session at the General Assembly to hear Jim Somerville talk about being a neighbor in your own community.**

A pastor has one of the hardest jobs in the world. When I was a pastor, I was not willing to say that sentence. It seemed self-serving and whiny. I heard other people say how hard a pastor's work is, but my good friends who are not pastors also work hard. Now that I have had another job for eight years, I am willing to say it: A pastor has one of the hardest jobs in the world. This is a fact: I work as hard now as I ever worked, but with one-tenth of the stress I had when I was a pastor.

Five of my six predecessors at First Baptist of Batesburg left the pastoral ministry when they left Batesburg. At Greenlawn Baptist in

and one getting lost. The shepherd/pastor goes hunting for that lost sheep. That is the task of the pastor. Apparently Jesus didn't imagine a church in which, out of every 100 sheep, about 70 are lost. We call them "inactive members." And many of those 70 would say they are not lost. They are just grazing elsewhere and really don't want the shepherd to bother them. But they want to stay "attached" to the flock just in case they ever have a need that the shepherd can help with.

And even of the 30 sheep that the pastor can find easily and sees often, they all have their own opinions about the role of the shepherd.

Some expect the shepherd to speak soothing words of comfort and/or entertain them. Others want the shepherd to grow the flock: numbers, numbers, numbers. Others only want a shepherd around when the wild animals are threatening. Some of the sheep have opinions about how the shepherd should dress, and what kind of music

is acceptable in the sheep fold. They even have opinions about the shepherd's spouse and children. Sometimes the church reminds me of "talk radio." Everyone is allowed an opinion, no matter how absurd.

You get the idea. If we change parables, we encounter an even worse scenario. In Mark 4, we are told about four different kinds of soil: hard, rocky, thorny and fertile. All four kinds respond to evangelists, and join our churches. But pastors then find themselves dealing with men and women, boys and girls who responded to the message of God's Good News but withered in the heat, or were choked by weeds. But since they "came forward" during an invitation hymn, they are church members. And many are, we must admit, clueless about Jesus! But they are sheep who vote on the shepherd. It is a weird calling, this business of pastoring. A pastor has one of the hardest jobs in the world.



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

## Coordinator's Column: The hard job of pastor

Columbia, we had about 30 members who had been to seminary, but there was only one pastor in the entire assembly, and that was me. And I am no longer a pastor! Pastors who have hung in there are my heroes, and deserve our respect.

The job description for a pastor is almost foolish. A pastor is supposed to make the people who pay his salary uncomfortable. That is the prophetic task of the preacher. Some church members say they "like their toes stepped on." That is not true. If you preach like Jesus, you will offend people. Jesus was killed by the people to whom he preached.

To whom did Jesus preach? He preached to the same people to whom pastors preach, that is, people who claim to be people of faith. Evangelists have the easy task. They preach to people outside the faith and invite them in. If anyone says "Yes" to following Jesus, the evangelist is a success.

The pastor's task is different. Luke 15 is not about evangelism, about sheep who were never in the fold, about a son who was never in the family. A beloved son leaves the family and the Father waits for his estranged son to return. Jesus tells another parable about 100 sheep

## My Favorite Baptist Essay Contest winners

Winners of the 2006 My Favorite Baptist essay contest were announced at the General Assembly in Spartanburg.



Matthew Erps

Matthew Erps, member at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, won the 4th-6th grade contest for his essay on Clarence Batts, his Sunday

School teacher. Matthew won four tickets to Carowinds.

Jonathan Jeffery, member of Great Commission Baptist Church in Lancaster, won the 7th-9th grade contest for his essay on Bertha Roddey. Jonathan won four tickets to Carowinds.



Jonathan Jeffery

Richard O'Neal, a member of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, won the 10th-12th grade contest for his essay on John Smyth. He won a \$1,000 college scholarship. Richard could not be present to read his essay. Zsaneal Benson, member of Great Commission Baptist Church in Lancaster, was the runner-up in the 10th-12th grade contest for her essay on Harvey Gantt. She won a \$500 college scholarship.

**CBF General Assembly: June 22-23 in Atlanta**

**South Carolina Meeting: 3:45- 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 22**

**Check your program for the meeting location**





New associate pastor at Kathwood

## Strong CBF support brings LeAnn Gardner back to SC

**"I have a passion for people being church to one another."  
—LeAnn Gardner**

LeAnn Gardner is the new associate pastor at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia. And she is there primarily through her connection with CBF and the scholarship funds and prayer support that SC/CBF provided to help her through seminary.

LeAnn earned an M.Div. at Truett Seminary and an MSW from Baylor University in Waco,

TX. She also earned a BA from Samford, and served as a journeyman in West Africa for two years. Providence Baptist Church in Charleston is her home church.

"God has blessed me in so many ways through CBF," she said. "Financially, I was able to leave four years of graduate work virtually debt free. SC/CBF and national CBF gave me scholarship after scholarship. This is a gift that I remember almost daily and blush every time I think of it. Four years of graduate work and debt free? That is truly a miracle."

But CBF did not stop with the money, she said. "You didn't just give me money and leave me. You invited me, included me and encouraged me to participate in the kingdom work with you.

I was invited to CBF assemblies which I would not have been able to pay for were it not for CBF scholarships, and at those events, as well as through email and other forms of communications, person after person said things like, 'What can we do to help?' 'What do you need to feel supported?' 'How can we support God's calling in your life?'"

LeAnn was invited to preach at the SC/CBF Fall Convocation in 2003. "That event was a watershed for me," she said, "and looking back, it played a significant role in the calling to the local church that was beginning to take root in my heart."

"CBF has never questioned my calling," LeAnn said. "Whether it was preaching, social work or working in the 'secular' world for a while, CBF has always been a resource for me."

"I don't believe I would be melodramatic in saying that God has used CBF, through its events and people, to help direct my calling to serve in the local church," she said. "Somehow knowing that a larger group of God's people support me and want to be a resource for me makes the task a little less daunting. CBF and Providence Baptist Church have played such a tremendous role in my faith formation and calling that it is difficult to imagine what I would be doing right now if it weren't for their influences."

"CBF is like 'going home' in that I can be myself, struggles and all, and know that I will be accepted," she said.

## World Mission Celebration at Beaufort

Members of all ages were involved with the Touching Our World Missions Celebration at The Baptist Church of Beaufort this spring. SC/CBF Missions Coordinator Beverly Greer, standing in the background, was a key part of the celebration, filling in at the last minute for Samuel Verhaeghe from Belgium. A family illness kept Sam from coming to the US as planned. Others who participated were Jason and Angel Pittman, CBF field personnel; Scott and Jennifer Capshaw, Dollywood chaplain and assistant director of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries; and Lily and Gary Stone, IMB missionaries in Guatemala.

The results: 73 people committed to be missional Christians; 6 to be short term missionaries (1 month — 2 years); 111 committed to pray for missions; 142 to do missions with "Jerusalem" (Beaufort) mission partners; 71 to do missions with "Judea" (regional) mission partners; 41 to be a part of a "Samaria" (national) mission experience; and 35 committed to be a part of an "Ends of the Earth" (global) mission experience (Belgium, Liberia, Haiti, or Winter Olympics in Italy).

"Missions is a year-round life style at The BCOB," said Beverly. "The entire year is punctuated with various ministry opportunities available for individual and team involvement that The Missions Celebration showcases."



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
of South Carolina**

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## General Assembly 2006

<sup>1</sup>. David Holland, pastor of Tidal Creek Fellowship, spoke at the "Spotlight on South Carolina" luncheon that kicked off the General Assembly. <sup>2</sup>. Kim Wyatt, CBF missionary to internationals in Toronto who spoke at the Missions Banquet, and Boo Sheppard, member of Providence Baptist Church in Charleston. <sup>3</sup>. Nancy Shealy and Marie Yates, members of Fernwood, and Cheryl Patterson from FBC Pendleton, at one of the break-out sessions. <sup>4</sup>. Madison McClendon, member, Furman Cooperative Student Fellowship. <sup>5</sup>. John Adams, pastor of FBC Easley, led a Bible study. <sup>6</sup>. Event chair Alan Redditt, FBC Conway. <sup>7</sup>. Seminary students Cody Sanders (McAfee) and Kelly Dickerson (Lutheran). <sup>8</sup>. Charles Maddox from FBC Duncan.