



MARCH 2006

FELLOWSHIP



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CBF Young Leaders The future (or is it the present?) of CBF is in good hands

Exhibit 1: *Current* retreat

Moving from a childhood commitment of baptism into an adult world of living that faith is what Kayla Johnson, children's ministry coordinator at First Baptist Church in Conway, faces. And she has learned that she is not the only one trying to meld the past with the present and the future.

Kayla was one of five from South

Carolina who attended this year's *Current* retreat at First Baptist Church in Decatur, GA, Feb, 8-11.

Current is CBF's young leader's network, and "Streams" was this year's retreat theme. Each year, the retreat is planned with the intention of attracting pastors, youth ministers, college ministers, seminarians and other young Baptist leaders.

Exhibit 2: Clemson CSF day trip to Atlanta

Twenty-one students from the Cooperative Student Fellowship at Clemson participated in a day-long mission opportunity Feb. 4 called *Now Serving Atlanta*, sponsored by McAfee School of Theology and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia.

"Our group joined with more than 80 students who were there from all over Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama," said CSF director Tim Willis. "We drove over early that morning, had breakfast at McAfee, broke into groups and worked all over Atlanta. The group I led worked at the Techwood Center near

downtown. Each group had a different experience. All the groups met back at McAfee for dinner which was followed by a worship experience together."

"This was the first time anything like this had been done by CBF of Georgia and McAfee and it proved very successful," Tim said. "We hope to do it every year."

"Our students had a great time and it has motivated us even more as we prepare to go to the Gulf Coast with FBC Pendleton on our spring break mission trip to work in hurricane response March 17-24," he said.

Exhibit 3: Furman CSF concert

The Kate Campbell Concert sponsored by the Cooperative Student Fellowship at Furman University in Greenville raised \$655 for its Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project. SC/CBF underwrote the cost of the concert so that all proceeds could benefit the Phillis Wheatley Community Center in Greenville. "The concert was excellent," said CSF director Joe Farry. "We hope the concert, as well as the related t-shirts, will help get our name out on campus." CSF is new at Furman this year.

Others from South Carolina who attended the retreat were Tricia Kilgore, Kelly Dickerson and Loris Adams, all students in the Baptist Studies program at Lutheran Seminary; and Alan Redditt, interim pastor at FBC Conway.

"I attended my first national CBF event with a young generation filled with ecstatic Baptist leaders," said Kayla. "I find great peace as I surround myself with old and new friends who all share the same vision for Baptist life."

"Eight months ago I answered the call of Children's Ministry Coordinator at First Baptist Church. This has been my home
(continued on page 4)



Clemson CSF students sitting on the swings are Lauren Deer and Shawn Whitman. Standing are Christy Beemer, Jonathan Linder, Bradley Flowers, Alli Arra, Shannon Thornburg and Kleber Cunha (a CSF student from Brazil).

Moderator's Message: *An Earful*

Someone at our church gave me a little card with some very important words on it, which I keep in front of me in the office. The card says "what people really need is a good listening to." I consider this the best advice I've ever received. It deserves being passed along to all you ministers, lay or clergy.

Think of all the Biblical passages which describe listening. Think of God listening in that early creation garden. Think of Abraham and Sarah listening to God's voice, Moses listening to that burning bush, the great prophets listening, the judges listening, Samuel listening. Think of maiden Mary, mute Zechariah and dreaming Joseph, listening. Think of shepherds, sages, fearful kings and Temple priests listening.

It is easy to imagine Jesus listening. He could hear one small needy voice in a noisy crowd. He could hear the way suffering skewed speech. He could hear deceit and betrayal from the lips of friends. He could hear who people were and what

they needed most.

So how much listening do we do? How good are we S.C. Christians at listening to people in our state? Our Urban Ministers, Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield, spent a year listening when they began ministry. Our Coordinator, Marion Aldridge, spent some time just listening while on Sabbatical last fall.

There are some important voices we will need to train our ears to hear if we are to listen as Christ to the people of our home state. These voices might direct our work if we give them a good listening to.

First, we must listen to the voices of children and adolescents. They are telling us whether our churches are relevant to their lives, and whether or not we are successfully transmitting theology to future

disciples. Are we hearing their questions, their critical thought, or their silence? It is tempting to ignore them. Listening might require extra work and unappetizing changes.

Second, we must listen to the voices of the poor. We have had a ministry in Allendale County for many years, but still there is a shocking and shameful degree of poverty, ignorance, and neglect in this particular area of our state. Many of us don't live anywhere near Allendale County. It is tempting to forget them as easily as we have learned to be deaf to the voices of the poor around the block from us. Listening might require lowering our own living standard to afford sacrificial giving.

Third, we must listen to the voices of people who are called to be new ministers. They are telling us God calls them to do God's work differently than we are accustomed to. A whole lot of them are women telling us they are ready to pastor

(continued on the next page)



By Kelly Belcher
Moderator



Festival by the Sea

Nine churches and 146 singers participated in the Festival by the Sea for Adult Choirs Jan. 27-28 at Providence Baptist Church in Charleston. The clinician was Eric Nelson, Director of Choral Studies at Emory University, where he teaches graduate Choral Conducting and Choral Literature. Read more on our website, cbfofsc.org.



Missions is Metanoia – And much, much more

By Pat Kirkbride
Chair, Missions Committee

Metanoia, of course, is CBF's crown jewel for ministry. It has been more than four years in developing to its current stage of operation. It is truly the flagship of missions ministries in South Carolina.

We continue to nurture and support Metanoia as it grows and matures into an independent, self-sufficient and permanent ministry in the North Charleston area.

Missions is, however, much more than this one ministry. CBF state missions is an everyday ministry.

Missions is the ministries of Aki and Yoko Shigimi as they serve as chaplains and counselors and ministers. This couple not only serves the Japanese population in various locations throughout the state, they also serve the sick, the lonely, the confused and the lost of all nationalities, with whom they come in contact. This Japanese ministry is not a church but truly a missions ministry.

Missions is ministering to the Hispanics both here and in other countries. English as a Second Language classes are being taught throughout the state.

Missions is ministering to the Vietnamese population at Parisview Baptist Church in Greenville.

Missions is partnering with the Union

of Baptists in Belgium, helping bridge the waters and reach out to these brothers and sisters in this area. Various churches in the state have and are organizing trips there where they are helping, building, praying, listening and learning. Belgium Baptists will be coming here to teach us and help us learn from them as well.

Missions is partnering with Christ Central Ministries in Allendale, an area where the needs are so very great. CBF was there to work with children at Kids Camps; CBF helped renovate the house which now houses the homeless; CBF gave its dollars to help refurbish a motel to provide more housing for mothers and children.

The ministries mentioned here are supported through your gifts to the State Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina.



Tony Joyner is the new full-time director of housing for Metanoia.

The work in Allendale is ongoing and will continue as long as there is the need.

Missions is sending our dollars to help purchase water filtration systems when the tsunami hit.

Missions is our work in Mississippi and Louisiana after Katrina. CBF Disaster Response Coordinators Marion and Shirley Black and others in the state continue to make trips assisting and providing support for the displaced in that area.

In working with immigrants, the poor, the elderly, the sick and the very young, CBF is helping to "make disciples of all the nations."

This organization may sometimes have limited funds with which to work, but it has a heart of love and believes in opening its arms of love to all who are in need. These mission ministries are truly serving "the least of these."

An earful — (continued from page 2)

our churches! It is tempting to pay search committee lip service to these fellow ministers, to expect them to pay their way and their dues. Listening might require that we re-evaluate our identity and direction, a threatening prospect.

Finally, we must listen to newcomers. We must hear the timid voice of ones who are unfamiliar and feel lost and alone. We must not fall into a comfortable, habitual practice of church life to

the detriment of the very ones God would have us attend to and draw redeemingly toward God's kingdom. It is tempting to sit in the same place with the same friends and ignore those on the edge. Listening might require that we miss out, reach out, and give up our seats or our prejudices.

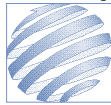
Most people need a good listening to. Each of us needs, wants and hopes somebody will listen! Let it be that in our

CBF church life we become Christ-like listeners, willing to hear the truth and not to turn away from those whose voices cry from their particular wildernesses. Listen to someone new every day during Lent, and allow what you hear to change you in a Lenten way. "All who have ears to hear, let them hear."

Kelly is Minister for Children and Family Life at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg. She completes her term as moderator at the General Assembly in April.

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of South Carolina**

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FBC Pendleton budget rejected! Why?

First Baptist Church in Pendleton had a problem getting its budget passed this year. Twice during the 2006 budgeting process the Mission Development Council had its budget proposal rejected. The reason—the budget was too small!

“The first rejection came when the Budget and Finance Committee sent it back demanding that more money be spent on missions,” said pastor Courtney Krueger. “This was the first time in my ministry that a B&F committee has ever complained about a line item being too small.”

“The second rejection came in the church conference when we voted on the budget,” Courtney said. “A member made a motion to double the mission budget in order to do a better job of meeting human needs in the name of Jesus.”

The result of all of this rejection is that 14 local, national and international ministries are now benefitting from the gifts of FBC Pendleton. The church has compiled a comprehensive booklet outlining each grant that it made. You can view it at cbfosc.org.

Loris Adams and Kelly Dickerson, students in the Baptist Studies program at Lutheran Seminary, at the *Current* retreat where CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal outlined six statements for the young leaders to explain the future of CBF. He covered the topics of leadership, the present Fellowship vision as expressed in CBF’s mission statement, partners, cultural context and shared values including global missions. Read more at thefellowship.info.



CBFs Young Leaders — (continued from page 1)

church for the past 16 years, the church where I also accepted Christ into my heart and celebrated my baptism,” Kayla said. “As a 23-year-old senior at Coastal Carolina University, I often find it difficult to join my two worlds together. However, I recognize I am not alone. Because of the networking *Current* provides, I now have a community of seminarians, interns and ministers who share in the joy and frustration of these two worlds.”

The *Current* retreat, Kayla said, provided times of reflection on personal ministry. “Not only did we worship

together, but also celebrated the Lord’s Supper, remembered our baptisms, spent time in fellowship and attended break-out sessions on various topics such as children, youth, collegiate and congregational ministry,” she said.

“We are a unique community of believers who stick together in the current to create a powerful stream. Dreams, goals and visions are accomplished,” she said. “It is now time for this generation of young leaders to influence, motivate and continue to shape our rich, Baptist heritage.”