

FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 2006



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SC/CBF makes a difference among the poor in Allendale

SC/CBF churches came through for Christ Central Ministries in Allendale during the summer. That was the word from Carol Holladay, minister of youth and children at First Baptist Church in Allendale and SC/CBF's primary contact with the work there.

"Our annual mortgage payment was made on August 1 with \$200 to spare in the checkbook, thanks to contributions from SC/CBF churches and other friends of Christ Central," Carol said.

Two churches — Augusta Heights in Greenville and First Baptist Church in Greenwood — provided a large supply of baby items in August that made it possible to help several young families.

As school started, several SC/CBF churches contributed school supplies to Christ Central. "We are currently distributing the supplies to the local children along with a card reminding the children to start their day off right by talking to Jesus before school each day," Carol said.

Also, Christ Central is moving forward with plans of having separate housing for men, apart from women and children. "It has been our dream to make the big yellow house a shelter for women and children only, as many times the women are coming in from a situation involving an abusive male," Carol said. "The last thing they need is to be staying in the same shelter with men."

"Our plans are to open our renovated men's quarters in October and redecorate the yellow house to make it child-safe and child-friendly in appearance. We are asking for single and double linens for the beds at the men's shelter and money to purchase child-friendly wallpaper and paints for the women's shelter."



A young mother gets baby goods from the supply cabinet at Christ Central Ministries in Allendale. The baby supplies were provided by members of Augusta Heights Baptist Church in Greenville and First Baptist Church in Greenwood.



Carol Holladay from First Baptist Church in Allendale, right, presents bed linens to Rajmish Kumar, Joseph Frederick, and Sally Thomas, public school teachers from India. The linens go with the mattresses that Christ Central gave the teachers to replace the pallets they were sleeping on at an apartment they are renting in Allendale.

School teachers from India given mattresses, linens to replace pallets

In August, Sally Evans and her friends, Evangeline, Joseph, and Humar moved from India to the Allendale area to teach in the Allendale County public schools. They immediately participated in worship services at First Baptist Church there.

"In getting to know them, I found out they were sleeping on pallets on the floor in the apartment they are renting," said Carol Holladay, minister of youth and children at First Baptist Church. "Through combined efforts of Christ Central and FBC Allendale, we were able to provide them with mattresses and linens to sleep on. They are very happy to be off the floor even though they still do not have any boxsprings or bed frames."

"Seeing people in this situation makes one realize how fortunate we are and how we take our beds for granted," Carol said.

JUST Sharing

The work in Allendale is supported through the State Missions Offering.

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We all know the Parable of the Talents. The two servants who were given five talents and two talents doubled their talents and were rewarded. The third servant who buried his talent was scolded. What if there had been another servant who took the talents he had been given, tried hard to increase his talents, yet lost them? In my parable, he would have been rewarded like the first servant, and not scolded like the third. In my parable, we are rewarded for trying.

Many times we are scared to venture out, to take a chance, to trust in our abilities. We are afraid of failure. In his book *Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart*, the psychiatrist Gordon Livingston says that, in dealing with those depressed about their lives, many people begin to realize what “safe” lives they have chosen to live, and they find these lives have been unfulfilling and unrewarding.

Livingston says, “The walls of our self-constructed prisons are made up in equal parts of our fear of risk and our dream that the world and the people in it will conform to our fondest wishes. To take the risks necessary to achieve a goal is an act of courage. To refuse to take them is an act of despair.”

Having just turned 60 a few months ago, I recently found myself reflecting on past decisions in my life. Age tends to do that to a person. As I look back, I realize that those times of the most meaningful personal, professional, and spiritual growth were when decisions weren’t safe, but the risks were deemed to

be worthwhile. I believe that I am a better person and my faith is stronger because of those times that my heart and mind told me that the safe and secure route wasn’t the best route.

We can apply the concept of taking the route less safe and secure not only to career decisions, but also to daily situations that surround us. Maybe it’s an issue in your church that is bothering you and you need to take a stand. Maybe the church needs to be doing something it’s not. Maybe it’s the role of CBF in your church. Maybe it’s a social injustice you see in your community. Maybe it’s an issue in your family. Maybe it’s a personal relationship.

Look around you. What is it that you need to be doing, but you aren’t — because it is risky — it is outside of your security net — or you fear it may fail — or it just takes too much effort? I urge you to venture out, try something different, take a risk, trust your abilities. No matter what your age, look around you and think “What do I need to be doing?”

In my version of the parable, the master would have looked at the servant who tried but lost the talents and said “That’s OK, my good and faithful servant. You tried your best. I will make you ruler over much.”

Macon Sheppard is a member of Providence Baptist Church in Charleston and is a member of the board for Metanoia, SC/CBF’s urban ministry in Charleston.

Moderator’s Message

What do you need to be doing?



By Macon Sheppard, Moderator

First Baptist Church Greenville celebrating 175th anniversary

First Baptist Church in Greenville will culminate a year of celebrating its 175th anniversary with special services and activities on October 29.

The Greenville Baptist Church was officially organized on November 2, 1831, with nine women and one man as charter members. In December 1890, the name was changed to First Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church Greenville took a lead role in organizing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Church member John Cothran was on the organizing council. Former pastor Hardy Clemons and associate pastor Donna Forrester have served as national coordinators. And Beverly Greer was the South Carolina member of the Nominating Committee in August 1990 that nominated the three S.C. members to the initial Steering

Committee.

The Oct. 29 service will feature the premiere of two anthems with brass and percussion ensemble written for the church’s anniversary. Former interim minister Walter Shurden of Macon, GA, will preach.

The day will include a picnic following morning worship and archival exhibits on display in the church gymnasium. Former members, staff and friends are invited to participate. Reservations are required for the picnic. For reservations and/or more information, contact Becky Bouton (bouton@charter.net) or Susan Shelley (SKShelley@aol.com).





Chesterfield Baptist Church

Small church pastors to gather

There is such a thing as a free lunch and pastors of small churches in South Carolina will be treated to one. A conference and luncheon for small church pastors will be held Oct. 27 at Chesterfield Baptist Church. "Baptists, like every other denomination, have more small churches than large churches," said SC/CBF coordinator Marion Aldridge. "In our 'bigger is better' society, it's sometimes easy to forget that."

Participants will receive a free lunch, a free book and have their mileage reimbursed by SC/CBF. The conference, called *A Breath of Fresh Air: An Emotional and Spiritual Boost for Pastors of Small Membership Churches*, will include small group conversation where pastors can share their experiences.

The conference will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent but if you would like to attend, email Marion at marion@cbfosc.org.

The 'people groups' of Orangeburg

Shifting demographics put FBC members in the minority

Members of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg are looking for ways to embrace the diverse cultural shift that is taking place around them and to minister in a community in which they are the ethnic minority.

The church is in a city that is 70 percent black, and that also has substantial Asian, Hispanic and Indian populations, according to senior pastor Terry Peele.

This demographic, Terry said, requires mainstream white churches to find new ways to relate. To that end, last spring the church held a week-long mission focus called "This Year — Our Jerusalem." Church members were involved in numerous activities in the community, including painting houses, cutting grass, and building ramps for the handicapped. Church member Nell Lavender, 103, a retired seamstress, helped prepare 1,000 donated articles of clothing to be used in the church's clothes closet or shipped to other mission points. Members also built a shower trailer that can be used by SC/CBF in disaster response efforts.

The church has for years operated a soup kitchen and clothes closet. It partnered with other churches to establish a homeless shelter. And members regularly have worked with Habitat for Humanity.

The "Our Jerusalem" week was designed to help church members find even more ways to get involved in its community, and while the emphasis has passed, the church still looks for new ways to minister. Church members are ready, for example, to begin tutoring in one of the local elementary schools. "The school is over 90 percent black and we want to show these children that we are their friends," Terry said. "We're willing to do whatever the school needs."

The church is also considering sponsoring a Hispanic congregation that will meet in its Family Life Center.

With the shift in demographics, Terry said, FBC Orangeburg must look at a future different from its past. "The diversity here is astounding," he said. "We are working hard to get our folks to embrace the people groups that are showing up in Orangeburg." He hopes some of those people groups will join his church. "We want to say to these folks, 'Give us a chance to be your church,'" he said. "We think some will find us to be a good fit."

In the meantime, the church continues to reach out to its community. "We are continuing everything and more that we did during 'Our Jerusalem,'" Terry said. "It gives us good visibility and enables us to say 'Yes, we do care.'"

Suits for Romanian pastors

This pile of suits is just a sampling of the men's clothing that was donated by SC/CBF churches for Coordinator Marion Aldridge to take to Romania. The suits were delivered to the Gypsy Smith School in Bucharest, where Marion and Randy Wright, pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, taught the last week of September. The school trains Gypsy pastors, and relies on volunteers such as Marion and Randy to teach. The suits will be given to pastors there as needed.



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of South Carolina**

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Intern will help SC/CBF discover how to help churches

Draper Smith will be working as an intern for SC/CBF this year.

Draper is a member of First Baptist Church in Greenville and a student at the University of South Carolina. She is a junior journalism student focusing on public relations with a minor in sociology.

One of Draper's first responsibilities will be to call churches to gather information about

what they are doing and how CBF can help.

"I see the intern's role as giving CBF of SC one more opportunity to be in conversation with churches, to discover better how we can serve congregations," said SC/CBF coordinator Marion Aldridge. "The big question for CBF is always 'How can we serve your church?' and I think Draper can help us discover that."

Draper has been a summer intern for United Ministries in Greenville, sponsored by FBC Greenville. In that position, she observed and assisted staff with daily counseling services to aid homeless and poor, and analyzed and responded to situations that lead to poverty.

"I wanted this job because I believe in CBF and this internship is an amazing opportunity," Draper said.



Draper Smith

Metanoia Christmas Store

Metanoia is collecting small new gifts for adults to stock its "Christmas Store." At the store, children who participate in Metanoia's programs can spend "metabucks" that they earn for good behavior to buy gifts for their parents. The Christmas store teaches children both good economics and the value of giving back to their families. Those interested in contributing should bring gifts with them to the Fall Convocation Nov. 13 and place them at the Metanoia display table.

Connecting in CBF —

In addition to our Fall Convocation on Nov. 13, two other big events are coming up this Fall to help you get or stay connected with others in CBF.

Nov. 26-Dec. 13:

face2face.

CBF field personnel will be speaking at various churches as invited. Email Vickie Traynum at vickie@720designs.com if your church would like to host someone.

Nov. 27-29: Meet Rob

Nash, CBF's Global Missions Coordinator. Email Marion Aldridge at marion@cbfofsc.org if you would like to attend a meeting.

Look for more information in our November newsletter or on our website about the specific schedule for these events.

Fall Convocation • Nov. 13 • FBC Clinton

Please register early. Only cost is for dinner. www.cbfofsc.org.