

FELLOWSHIP

SEPTEMBER 2006



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Belgium connection comes to Rock Hill

Greens on field assignment in South Carolina

Nell and Butch Green have served as missionaries in Africa, Miami, and Belgium. Now they are working from a home base in Rock Hill.

Many in South Carolina know Nell and Butch through the partnership the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina established with them and with the Union of Baptists in Belgium. Even earlier some of our churches worked with Nell and Butch in Miami.

The Greens are on off field assignment and are being hosted by Oakland Baptist Church. "Oakland has hosted us in the past," Nell said. "Connecting with CBF churches in South Carolina has been a personally rewarding aspect of the partnership that SC/CBF has had with our ministry these past few years. We desired to continue that during these months."

While based in Rock Hill, the Greens will be working with Oakland on its continuing development of a ministry to internationals and Nell will be completing her master's degree

at Gordon Cornwell Theological Seminary.

They definitely want the opportunity to speak in churches. "We already have several speaking engagements lined up and sincerely desire that South Carolina churches call on us as much as our schedules permit for speaking and/or training and/or consulting for ministry development to refugees, immigrants, and other internationals," Nell said.

Reared in Louisiana, Nell is a graduate of Baptist Memorial School of Nursing in San Antonio and the University of Texas at Arlington. She practiced as a registered nurse for a few years and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A Texas native, Butch is a graduate of Texas A&M and Southwestern Seminary. He received his Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington.

They were appointed as career missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board in 1986 and served in Dakar, Senegal, West Africa, where Butch

directed a social center and Nell directed well baby clinics.

In 1994 they were appointed to serve with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Miami, FL, where they founded Touching Miami with Love Ministries.

In 1997 they moved to Brussels, Belgium, where they began the Centre Oasis developing a variety of ministries to meet the physical and spiritual needs of immigrants in the inner city.

Nell thinks it is vital that Christians work toward better understanding of internationals. "We are living in some troubling times," she said. "World events of the past few years have brought to churches' attention the need for understanding Islam, immigration, and ministry needs of those seeking refuge. We are available to churches to deal with these subjects as well as to speak of the work in Brussels."

The Greens will be in Rock Hill for at least a year, until their son Brandon finishes his senior year of high school. Their daughter Christen is a junior at the University of South Carolina.

HOW TO REACH THE GREENS

Butch and Nell Green
774 Sumter Ave.
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Home: 803 329 3447
Nell's Cell: 803 517 5994
Butch's Cell: 803 517 3735
bgreen@thefellowship.info



The Greens: Brandon, Nell, Christen, Butch. The photo was taken at an International Fashion Show that Nell and Christen organized.

First Baptist Church Anderson celebrates 185th anniversary

First Baptist Church in Anderson celebrated its 185th anniversary July 30. Among those on the program was Sam Stewart, the pastor of Charity Springs Community Church. This church, about two years old, meets in the gym at First Baptist on Sunday mornings. About 40 of that church's members were present for FBC's 185th celebration. In its history, First Baptist has started 15 churches.

As part of the celebration, FBC pastor Jim Thomason wrote an anniversary hymn. You can read it on our website, www.cbfofsc.org.

Others participating in the service were SC/CBF Missions Coordinator Beverly Greer, Anderson City Council representative Tony Stewart; and Anderson University representative Dean Woods.

Pictured at right are Thomason and Stewart.



St. Andrews Baptist Church, Columbia

A renewed “atmosphere of excitement”

By Greg Barr, pastor

We have just finished *40 Days of Purpose*, which made a terrific impact on the church. We were averaging about 460 in Sunday School going into it. We challenged church members to consider hosting small groups in their homes or places of business tied to *The Purpose Driven Life*, and we had 1,249 people

our relationship with the elementary school next door to the church. Our Kids Café ministry has been a great help in recent years. Twice a week we provide homework help and a meal to about 15 children who need extra attention. We are also able to send a backpack filled with food home with each child once a week.

Last summer we said to the principal

that was needed. About 300 members were involved in this ministry. The volunteers who led our ministry at the hotel did such a great job that it became the model for South Carolina Cares. Their ministry impact was mentioned by a reporter for the *New York Times*, who called it “the most comprehensive relief services provided by a faith-based organization nationwide.”

Overall, we are trying to get more connected to the community. Like most churches, we have traditionally spent a lot more time and energy meeting our own needs than that of the community, and we're trying to turn that around. **Two of the three ministerial staff members we will hire this year will be focused more on the community than on the members of the church.**

I am fortunate to work here with a great team of staff and volunteer leaders who are committed to making a difference. Our two full-time staff ministers have both been here well over a decade. They are very talented and have been a great help to me as I seek to better understand the congregation and the community.

Like a lot of churches, St. Andrews is involved in both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We have members who serve in both organizations and, I think in many ways, it makes us stronger. We have been involved with SC/CBF from the beginning.

The current membership is about 1,500.



Greg Barr, pastor at St. Andrews since June 2005, grew up in Louisville, KY, and graduated from Georgetown College. He earned both an M. Div. and Ph. D. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He has been married to Jackie, who works for IBM, for 16 years. “The folks from the search committee here often remind me that I’m only here because she wouldn’t come without me,” Greg said.

In his spare time, Greg enjoys reading, basketball, and golf and he and Jackie enjoy traveling.

participate. We’ve seen people come to faith, lives changed, and spiritual growth take place in many lives. It also created an atmosphere of excitement and unity here at St. Andrews that had been missing for a while.

We are preparing to hire several staff members in the next couple of months, one of whom will live, and minister in a local apartment community. His job will be to develop relationships with the residents and look for ways the church can have a ministry presence there. We are partnering with the management company of the apartment community in this ministry.

We are continuing to strengthen

of the school, “Let the teachers concentrate on teaching and we will provide you with whatever supplies you need to help children.” So far that’s been a tremendous help to the school. We have provided thousands of dollars of school supplies so that children can be prepared to learn.

We were very involved in meeting the needs of people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We were the first church in Columbia to volunteer to partner with a local hotel to care for residents. We staffed a conference room at the hotel 13 hours a day for two months, providing food, clothing, computers, activities, laundry services, and any other assistance

When I was a pastor, I loved preaching about money! Jesus didn't limit himself to one stewardship sermon each year, and apparently ignored critics who complained that he talked about money too much. Jesus understood the importance of commerce in human relationships. His parables included The Rich Fool, The Shrewd Steward, The Wasteful Son and The Lost Coin. Money is where theory and reality meet in our lives. "Best wishes" don't go very far. If you want to support somebody or something, whether it is a family member or a church, you give your time and your money. The Bible tells us that uttering the words, "Go, and be filled," to a hungry person, or "Go, and be warm," to a person who is freezing, is worthless drivel. Buy them lunch. Fix them a casserole. Give them a coat and a blanket.

In our early years, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship decided not to pass "resolutions." How resolved is a group, after all, which votes 60% to 40% for or against something? We decided to put our money where our mouth is. If we care about something, instead of passing a resolution, which is ultimately a pretty wimpy thing to do, then we would actually do some act of kindness. CBF wants to be in the business of going, doing, and giving ourselves and our money. Glen Stassen calls these "transforming initiatives."

The church is composed of all kinds of people with different resources and gifts, but nobody is let off the hook financially. Jesus did not chase down the poor widow and return her mite because she couldn't afford it. Jesus praised her gift, and such sacrificial giving continues to be the model for compassionate living.

Jesus was and is watching what we give! People get uptight about whether or not the Pastor knows what they contribute to the church. If you have reason to be embarrassed, then God's opinion, not the Pastor's, should be your primary concern. Of course, Jesus is not the only one watching. People are far more transparent than they think they are. Some people have a reputation for being stingy or mean, and that doesn't change when they walk through the doors of the church. Some Christians ask "How can I help out?" while other individuals wonder, "What is

the least I can do?" Some people excuse themselves by saying, "It's just my Scottish blood that makes me frugal." My response: They have Tithers in Scotland. If you are going to cheat God by being cheap, just admit it, and don't involve the Christian people of Scotland!

In the church and in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, well-wishers don't really do anybody much good. People want the benefits of having stable organizations acting compassionately in their lives and neighborhoods, but these Freddie Freeloaders don't want to pay the Piper. Did you ever hear the country singer lament, "They're Putting in a Nickel, but They Want a Dollar Song?" Sounds like some Baptists I know!

One of the realities of the 21st century is that people are more likely to give spontaneously than systematically. I have heard

many people say, "I'd rather give my money to the homeless than to the church." I have begun to ask how much they gave to the homeless in the past year, and the answer is almost always under ten dollars. They ought to be ashamed!

Sometimes, a person will chip in \$100 for a specific "cause," such as "relief" after a Tsunami,

but will not give \$100 per month to the infrastructure of the organizations, whether churches or other groups, that work day in and day out, year in and year out to alleviate hunger and other kinds of human distress. Even as a kid, I figured out that my Dad's tithe of \$10 per week (His salary was \$100 per week) added up to more than the showy gift of the once-a-year contributor who got his name listed in the bulletin. Mother and Dad were

some of the saints who understood the need to bring their tithes to the storehouse. There is nothing sexy about infrastructure, but it is hard to do long-term ministry in chaotic conditions without a stuffed stockroom somewhere. Someone had better be creating and routinely sustaining our valued organizations, or they will not be available in times of crisis. God's church should not be treated like a here-today, gone-tomorrow charity!

Because of changes in giving habits, not because there are fewer Christians, some churches and denominations are in financial trouble. Gimmicks and good sermons will not clean up this mess. Faithful giving by God's children, however, will provide all that is needed, and more.



By Marion
Aldridge
Coordinator

Coordinator's Column:

They're putting in a nickel



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of South Carolina**

P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2006

Macon Sheppard, Moderator

(843) 722-1045

moderator@cbfsc.org

Marion Aldridge, Coordinator

(803) 779-1888

Fax: (803) 779-2242

E-Mail: marion@cbfsc.org

Sue Poss, Editor

(864) 469-0779

editor@cbfsc.org

SC/CBF Website: www.cbfsc.org

National CBF: www.thefellowship.info

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Greenville SC
Permit 113

SC/CBF Fall Convocation—

Missions: The Heart of CBF

Date: Monday, November 13 • 2:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church, Clinton

Speakers: Evelyn Oliveira (Metanoia)
Emmanuel McCall (CBF Moderator)

Schedule

2:00 - 2:30	Registration
2:30 - 3:15	Afternoon worship with Evelyn Oliveira preaching
3:15 - 3:30	Break
3:30 - 4:15	Breakout Session I
4:15 - 4:30	Break
4:30 - 5:15	Breakout Session II
5:15 - 6:45	Dinner & Fellowship
6:45 - 7:30	Evening worship with Emmanuel McCall preaching

Some of the breakout topics: A Biblical Call to Peacemaking by LeDayne Polaski; SC/CBF Disaster Response by Marion & Shirley Black; Missions Through the Eyes of CBF by Matt Norman; Hands-on Missions presented by several churches; Being the Presence of Christ through Operation In-As-Much by Beth McGinley & Judy Ianuzzi; and Cooperative Student Fellowship update from Winthrop, Clemson and Furman.

A brochure with more details, including a registration form, will be included in the October newsletter. You may register online now. The only cost will be for the evening meal.



Fill the backpack

As school starts back around South Carolina, the missions committee of SC/CBF wants to be sure that the children of Allendale have the school supplies they

need for the year

“Many of the students in Allendale have no supplies, clothes or equipment as they begin a new school year,” said Pat Kirkbride, chair of the missions committee. “We can make a difference in the lives of these children who need us so very much.”

A “fill the backpack” campaign is underway through September.

These children need all the usual supplies: glue sticks, crayons, pencils, pencil pouches, note paper, notebooks, spiral binders, zip lock bags, sanitizer soaps, etc. Hygiene items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, wash clothes, towels, and soap are also needed.

Contact Pat at ahbc.edu@charter.net or missions coordinator Beverly Greer at beverly@cbfsc.org for information.

Send backpacks to:
First Baptist Church
259 Memorial Ave.
Allendale, SC 29810

SC/CBF work in Allendale is funded through our State Missions Offering. Gifts to the 2006 offering total \$30,680 through July 31. The goal for the calendar year is \$80,000.

**JUST
Sharing**