

# FELLOWSHIP



NOVEMBER 2007

## ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR

### Christina Whitehouse-Suggs to begin work Dec. 3

Christina Whitehouse-Suggs has been named the first Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. She will begin work Dec. 3.

Christina will work with churches and committees to provide needed resources, and be responsible for administrative matters of SC/CBF.

From Florida, Christina is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC, where she earned a degree in American sign language and theatre arts. She earned a master of divinity degree from Campbell Divinity School in Buies Creek, NC, where she was a CBF national leadership scholar.

While completing her seminary studies, Christina was self-employed as a sign language interpreter and served on the staff of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC. She is currently a member of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, where she co-teaches a Sunday School class with her husband Matt. Christina has served as an intern with the Alliance of AIDS Services in North Carolina.

Christina and Matt, a chemist, decided to enter divinity school together after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. "We had been wrestling with a call to

ministry and 9-11 made us stop and think about what kind of a difference we wanted to make in the world," she said.

Christina was born and reared in Miami near the site where CBF missionaries Nell and Butch Green started the Touching Miami With Love ministry. "Nell has been my spiritual mentor for many years and helped me to discover my call to ministry," Christina said.

The job of associate coordinator interested Christina because the mission and vision of SC/CBF aligns with her own personal beliefs and ministry. "I want to equip congregations and ministers to be the presence of Christ in their communities," she said.

She also said coordinator Marion Aldridge influenced her. "Marion inspired me with his candor and his passion," she said. "This job gives

**Christina Whitehouse-Suggs enjoys reading, the theater, music, and volleyball. She and husband Matt have one daughter, Kara, age 2. Christina's resume is posted on our web site.**



#### Christina's primary duties:

- 1) Provide resources for churches.
- 2) Perform the day-to-day administrative functions of CBF of SC, including working with committees and partners, planning events, maintaining the database, computers and other technology, and dealing with evaluations, insurance, computers, the constitution, and budgets.
- 3) Provide resources for CBF of SC officers, committees, regions and affinity groups.

me the opportunity to use my gifts in the 21st century to help churches find and live into their identity."

Christina grew up in Central Baptist Church in Miami going to Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens, has always been in leadership positions, and believes in building up the body of Christ.

She brings many strengths to the new job. "She cares about people passionately, and she has a solid work ethic," Marion said. "She is very 21st century. One of the challenges of our churches and our post-denominational organization is to make sure we are relevant to the present and the future. We do not merely want to serve as caretakers of the Baptist traditions

of the 20th century. We value the historic Baptist principles of religious liberty, church autonomy and priesthood of the believers, for example, but we don't want to get stuck with promoting outdated cultural habits as the gospel."

Christina's annual salary will be \$40,100, plus medical and retirement benefits.

# WHERE THE WORD BECOMES THE WORK

## First SC/CBF work day big success in Allendale



Above: Nursing home visitation

### Participating Churches

Aiken FBC	39
Allendale FBC	19
Augusta Heights Gvll	7
Cedar Creek Blythewood	8
Clemson FBC	2
Fernwood Spartanburg	12
Furman CBSF	2
Greenville FBC	7
Greenwood FBC	8
Kathwood Columbia	12
Lakeview Camden	9
Lawtonville Estill	6
Metanoia	1
Nixonville Conway	4
Oakland Rock Hill	12
Orangeburg FBC	5
Overbrook Greenville	3
Pendleton FBC	4
Providence Charleston	9
Rivertown Conway	6
Shandon Columbia	1
St. Andrews Columbia	1
Trinity Seneca	8
Walterboro FBC	4
Walterboro FBC	
World Changers	19



Rebuilding one of the rooms at the Men's Shelter (above) and demolishing a house (right).

When the membership committee was thinking of alternatives to the traditional Fall Convocation that it sponsors each year, several ideas were tossed about. The one the committee finally settled on was a hands-on project in Allendale.

So the date was set for Oct. 13 and the theme of "Where the word becomes the work" was chosen. Informational materials went out via the newsletter, email and the web site.

Marion Black, the SC/CBF disaster relief coordinator and member of First Baptist Church in Orangeburg, agreed to work with Allendale County Alive to identify construction-related needs. Committee chair Dave Rothell, member of Augusta Heights Baptist Church in Greenville, set up other projects so that there would be something for everyone who came.

"We didn't know what to expect in terms of volunteers," Dave said. "We didn't know if we could match up our volunteers with the projects we had. And we didn't know what would happen if we had bad weather."

Turns out it was both a beautiful and successful day. Volunteers from 22 churches, plus representatives from Furman's Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship, Metanoia, and the World Changers of Walterboro, brought the total number of participants to 208.

"What a wonderful day and what a wonderful response," said SC/CBF Moderator Helen Phillips, member of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg. "My thanks to all who participated in being the presence of Christ to a hurting community. The blessing we received was greater than that which we gave."



Sorting donated school supplies (above) and rebuilding a house (right). More photos on our web site.



## What was accomplished

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:** Allendale County Alive, a community development corporation, has acquired a group of old houses in Fairfax and is rehabilitating them to be used as transitional housing. More than 100 of our volunteers worked on demolishing the insides of three of the houses, painting two others, and rebuilding another. Major yard work was also undertaken. Wilbur Cave, director of Allendale County Alive, said SC/CBF volunteers moved the rehabilitation project ahead by three months.

**CHRIST CENTRAL MEN'S SHELTER** in Allendale: Eight volunteers worked at this site. Four of them rebuilt the interior of one of the rooms in the shelter and the others worked on cleaning up and sprucing up the outside.

**CHRIST CENTRAL WOMEN'S SHELTER:** Some of our volunteers planted flowers and shrubbery around the shelter and did general clean-up work.

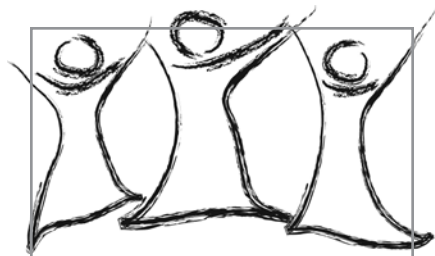
**KIDS CAMP:** Acteens from First Baptist Church Aiken and volunteers from Augusta Heights in Greenville worked in two locations with local children.

**THRIFT STORE AND CLOTHES CLOSET:** Volunteers worked all day trying to find creative ways to organize and display all of the donated clothes.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Several of our volunteers sorted donated school supplies and then delivered them.

**NURSING HOME:** Volunteers who wanted a slower pace spent the day visiting and entertaining residents in a 40-bed nursing home between Allendale and Fairfax.

**MEALS CREW:** One group of volunteers was dedicated to making sure that everyone else got lunch, and another group, primarily from First Baptist Church in Allendale, bought and served a barbecue supper at the end of the day.



Women of the Church

## Garland to speak at 2008 Women's Conference

Speaker: Diana Garland, Dean, Baylor School of Social Work

Clergy Conference — Feb. 28-29. Registration fee, \$40; hotel, \$115 per night.

Laity Conference — Feb. 29-March 2. Theme: "Spring Cleaning: Making Room for God" – Conference Fee, \$30; hotel, \$115 per night

The Hilton at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC

Contact Christy McMillin-Goodwin at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill for more information. [cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com](mailto:cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com).

## Metanoia looking for director for youth program

Metanoia, SC/CBF's urban ministry in Charleston, is looking for a new director for its youth leadership development program to begin work Jan. 1. The full job description is posted on our web site. To learn more about Metanoia, go to [www.pushingforward.org](http://www.pushingforward.org)

## CBF's California wildfire response

National CBF is already studying how CBF churches can best respond to the wildfires in California. It is expected that most loss will be covered by insurance. "Having made contact with those on the ground in San Diego County we are well aware that no one is welcome into the area until after the fires are extinguished and search and rescue is completed," said Charles Ray, CBF's United States Disaster Coordinator. "At this time our emphasis is on partnering with *Save the Children Federation* and beginning a 6-12 month venture to offer counseling, day care and after-school care to those in need. As we get established we may well find other ways to be the presence of Christ in the area." Charles asked that churches respond with funds to allow CBF to help the estimated 7,000 children affected by the fires.

# CIVIC DUTY UNARMED FORCES

**W**e have primaries and elections coming up in America, so maybe this is a good time to say something that has been on my heart and mind for a long, long time.

Civic Duty in America has many faces. We are all proud to remember those men and women who served honorably in our Armed Forces. Such tributes are common in our culture. Every Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day and in other large civic celebrations, we honor the lives and mourn the deaths of those who fought for our freedoms. I can never say enough in the way of "Thanks" for the heroes and heroines who were and are willing to die in far away places so that our liberties are preserved.

There are also people who put themselves "in harm's way" daily in our own neighborhoods to preserve our life, health and security. I am thinking about fire fighters and police officers, as well as nurses, doctors and others who regularly expose themselves to communicable diseases and other risks. The horror of 9/11 and the recent tragedy in which nine firemen lost their lives in Charleston are reminders that we are surrounded every day by people whose job it is to protect us. May God bless every man and woman who jeopardizes his or her own life and health so that the rest of us can live peacefully and well.

Also, as we mention people who serve their country and protect our freedoms, I need to mention Jury Duty. Every time I am called to Jury Duty, I count it an honor to do this one task that is actually the only duty required of American citizens. Everyone is not obligated to serve in the military or even to vote, but we are required to serve on Jury Duty if called to do so. No one is too rich or too important, or too poor or too unimportant to serve. Yet, it is almost expected that people will complain about Jury Duty. I hear men and women who fought with bullets for our freedoms

complain about donating a few hours out of their lives for this precious American privilege. If you are called to Jury Duty, then serve gladly and without complaint, and thank God for the opportunity.

Thinking about Jury Duty always gets me thinking about the thousands of ways Americans serve one another in various branches of the UnArmed Forces. Every man, woman or teenager who serves up a bowl of beans at a church Soup Kitchen has served time in the UnArmed Forces that make America great. Every person who volunteers to help the poor in their community is a part of the UnArmed Forces that are so vital to the life and health and liberties of this country. Some of these everyday heroes and heroines have literally given their lives for others just as surely as those in the Armed Forces. There are martyrs who have been



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

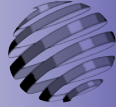
### Coordinator's Column

persecuted, lost their jobs and even been killed for standing up for and doing what they believed to be Right when it wasn't popular. Simply consider the on-going fight for Civil Rights in our own communities to recognize that everyone who has served this country did not do so in a uniform overseas. I thank God for all the men and women in the UnArmed Forces for making America Strong and Great and Good.

That leads us back to where we began. Possibly the most significant on-going Civic Duty each of us has is the privilege of voting. Whether you vote Republican or Democratic or Libertarian or write-in your Mother-in-Law, just vote. It is the right thing to do. It is our duty, and, thank God, you do not need to carry a gun with you.

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## First Baptist Church in York's new pastor

# TREY DOYLE

Trey Doyle has been the pastor of First Baptist Church in York since the end of June and says he is excited about being "where I am supposed to be."

"Jan is my partner in ministry and marriage and we both have this overwhelming understanding that York is precisely where God wants us to be," he said. "I am most excited by the people of FBC York. Their collective desire to discern what it means to be the body of Christ in this community and their willingness to follow their calling wherever it might lead is especially gratifying."

Trey said the immediate community surrounding FBC York is the church's missions/ministry field. "This presents an obvious opportunity to engage folks in dialogue and build bridges in our community," he said. "We've spent time discussing FBC York's calling and the church realizes that calling and challenge are synonymous."

FBC York has about 450 members, averages around 170-180 in worship services, and around 105 in Sunday morning Bible studies.

Trey earned a BS in business management

from Mount Olive College, an M. Div. from Gardner-Webb's School of Divinity, and is currently pursuing a D. Min. from Gardner-Webb.

Jan and Trey met at his home church in Charlotte, NC, Grace Crossing. After they married in 1990, they worked for Methodist Home for Children in North Carolina for 10 years before moving to Asheville to work with Eliada Home for Children. Immediately prior to moving to York, Trey was associate pastor of Hominy Baptist Church in Candler, NC, just outside of Asheville.

Trey said he has found his identity as a "Christ follower within the Baptist tradition, specifically the inclusive, Christ-centered Baptist tradition CBF exemplifies."

"Through my relationship with Hominy, I was able to participate and encourage participation in CBF-NC related functions, activities and missions," he said. "I am willing to do whatever I can in partnership with CBF of SC."

The Doyles have five children and two fish. Trey enjoys eating, reading, playing with his children, golfing and feeding fish.

