

FELLOWSHIP

FEBRUARY 2005

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



A new church in the Upstate?

Hospital chaplain ready to lead effort to find interest level

Conversations to discover what the potential interest might be in a new CBF church in Simpsonville are just beginning, under the leadership of Steven Smith, a chaplain with the Greenville Hospital System.

“As a graduate of two Southern Baptist seminaries, I have witnessed first-hand the injuries and harm inflicted upon churches when freedoms are denied to thoughtful Christians,” Steven said. “My interest in helping start a CBF church stems from a desire to offer a church for what matters.”

A church for what matters includes, he said, a community of biblical spirituality; an assembly for doxology; a voice in society for justice and

morality; a memory for identity; and a family for loving unconditionally.

“What better evidence is there that God is at work in South Carolina than the prospect of new churches springing up?” said Helen Phillips, chair of the Membership/New Church Starts committee. “This is a missional kind of thing for Christians to be involved in. We have folks in several areas who are working diligently to get new CBF churches up and running.”

“Steven is a committed Baptist who values the principles of CBF and is excited about gathering other people in the Upstate who share those principles,” said SC/CBF moderator Marion Aldridge. “I fully support this effort.”

Steven Smith came to CBF through the Southern Baptist Convention route. He earned an M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary and a Ph.D. from New Orleans Seminary. An Illinois native, he has been a chaplain for most of his career and now serves as Supervisor in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Greenville Hospital System. He has been endorsed for Chaplaincy ministry through CBF since 1999, and is a member of First Baptist Church in Mauldin.

Steven can be reached at 864.762.1652 or sfsmith@ghs.org.

First Step: Who's interested?

Steven has scheduled an initial meeting to find out who's interested and perhaps willing to help SC/CBF get the work in Simpsonville underway. We invite anyone who wants to be a part of a new church start, either as a leader or a participant, or anyone who's just curious, to join Steven on Feb. 10.

Thursday,
Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express
Grandview Drive
in Simpsonville.

More about new
church starts
on page 3.

What comes out of a new church start?

A MASH unit in India

Tidal Creek Fellowship in Beaufort County was a new church start of SC/CBF that had its beginnings in 2001. It started with just a few people getting together in homes. Today the church has more than 330 members, and baptized 20 last year. But this is not a story about numbers. It's a story about mission. It is a story of what can happen when a few gather. In response to the tsunami disaster six members from Tidal Creek left for India on Jan. 29 as part of the relief missions work of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The cost will be about \$3000 per person and church members have covered the cost for each team member. As this newsletter went to the printer, the exact location for the Tidal Creek team was not certain. “But it looks like they will be in Southern India on the coast just above Sri Lanka,” said pastor David Holland. The group will provide medical assistance in a “MASH” unit there.

Randy Wright, pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, spent Nov. 15-19 teaching at the Gypsy Smith School in Bucharest, Romania. The school trains Romany pastors to minister among the gypsy population. Periodically, guest lecturers (volunteers) come to the Ruth School facility (where the Gypsy Smith School is held) for a week to teach. Randy became interested in being one of those volunteer teachers after participating in a SC/CBF sponsored trip to visit CBF mission points in various parts of Europe in January 2004. These are his impressions of his week there. Read his full report at www.cbfofsc.org.



Fernwood pastor shares his ‘simple faith’ with Gypsy pastors during week in Romania

By P. Randall Wright

Remembering how much my church and I (and others) prayed for my teaching mission, I wondered why I felt surprised that all went so well. We so often forget the power of prayer and always must remember to be grateful for the privilege and joy of praying for those who are our CBF field personnel. If my one-week volunteer experience was so supported with the prayers of family, friends, and church family, then think of just how important it is for us to continue to pray for our CBF field personnel.

As we’ve heard before, the missionary (volunteer like me or otherwise) usually receives the most from the mission experience. I learned a lot about myself and my gifts.

I quickly learned that my approach to teaching the Old Testament among the 18 Romany pastors and ministers should be presented within the context of who I am. In other words, my approach was more proclamation than lecture. After all, I am a preacher and not a professor. I presented the material more devotionally than

academically. I tried to be more practical than academic.

I found the students to be very receptive and perceptive as well as interested and interesting. They freely shared from their personal experiences and related with the Old Testament stories and lessons personally and relevantly.

I told them at the outset that I was not the primary teacher. We call Jesus rabbi—teacher. His presence was felt as he taught us all. I also told them that we were learners together. I tried to present the materials from the OT in a way that allowed us to interact with the materials as well as our understanding and application of them so that we would all learn from each other.

A couple of the men kept trying to give me a short course in the Romanian language, but, of course, I failed! But we had fun! It didn’t take long for relationships to develop, even though there was an obvious language barrier. However (and this is what we always hear and expect) our common ground in Christ overcame the barriers. But it’s true. There

was an apparent and felt presence of the Spirit that helped us all relate and share our faith and our understanding.

I worked very hard for several weeks before the trip. Since this was a new experience for me, and since the Old Testament is not really my area, I prepared for the 15-hours by writing out lecture notes for each class. I took a broad brush approach, presenting the big themes--creation and the fall, slavery and the Exodus, the Judges, the unified kingdom, the divided kingdom, the Exile and the post-exilic period. Then we talked about the major and Minor Prophets and the writings. We just didn’t have time to deal at length with the Psalms.

During my time there I realized how simple my faith really is. Here, in my setting, I’m typically expected to be articulate, creative, and fresh. There, I just shared my simple faith in God through Christ and how I try to live that faith each day.

I also realized how much I valued the free time. I taught three hours per day, so that left time for me to be alone in my own room with no distractions. No phone, no computer ---nothing familiar except what I brought. Having time alone, undistracted, was a great gift.

I am grateful for this opportunity and hope to do it again.

One Fernwood member gave \$2,000 toward Randy’s trip. Other members matched that gift, so Fernwood was able to pay not only Randy’s expenses, but the room, board, and materials cost for every Gypsy pastor there, some of whom are pictured here.



Tidsworth engaged to help start more new churches

The church starts in Simpsonville and Greer are just two efforts of SC/CBF. Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship in Lexington, and Tidal Creek Fellowship in Beaufort are already well underway and other potential starts are being considered all around the state.

To aid in the work of starting new churches, the SC/CBF Coordinating Council has approved engaging Mark Tidsworth, Coordinator of the Center for Clergy & Congregations at Palmetto Health in Columbia, for a few hours each month.

“Mark has vast experience and a wealth of knowledge in this area,” said Helen Phillips, chair of the Membership/New Church Starts committee. “Supporting the work of congregations and its ministers is what the Center for Clergy & Congregations is about. Mark’s background as a missionary kid, along with the fact that his family started lots of new churches, makes him well qualified for this task. His first pastorate was a church plant, so

this kind of Christian activity is near and dear to his heart.”

“My parents were missionaries in West Virginia during my growing up years,” Mark said. “Later my father worked at the Home Mission Board in church starting. Our family was always part of new churches, helping one start and then moving on to another. As an adult, my second pastorate was a new church start. Our family was a part of the starting of Providence Baptist Church in Charleston. Since moving to Columbia, we are members of a new CBF church, Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship.”

There are four aspects to the consulting role Mark will provide: 1. Consulting with the SC/CBF on starting new churches 2. Assessment for prospective church starters to include assessment tools, inventories and interviews 3. Clergy coaching for church starters 4. Coaching retreats for church starters.



Mark Tidsworth

What do I hope for in a new CBF church?



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

One of the temptations over the early years of CBF has been to define ourselves by what we are not. The same is true of many new churches. When CBF is involved in a new church plant, we know we are not starting a Lutheran congregation or a fundamentalist or charismatic church. Surely, there are positive dimensions we aim for. What exactly are we creating?

Here is what I hope and pray for:

- That Jesus is taught and followed, that God is worshiped, and that the Holy Spirit is lively.
- That the four fragile freedoms of traditional Baptists are valued.
 1. Priesthood of the believer(s)
 2. Autonomy of the local church
 3. Separation of church and state
 4. A Bible free from restrictive interpretations
- That a culture of discipleship

(life-long learning) is practiced rather than an attitude of we-already-know-it-all. There is a difference in education and indoctrination.

- That ambiguity is tolerated, grace is the norm, and unity grows out of diversity.
- That change is embraced rather than mindlessly resisted.
- That female and male, laity and clergy, are equally empowered.
- That using the gifts of the members is more important than promoting pre-determined programs.
- That practical life issues are dealt with honestly and openly.
- That Good News is preached and lived (as opposed to the No News or Bad News prevalent at many churches).
- That a just and compassionate system be used to govern the

church.

- That each person and each local body of believers be unique, as opposed to being “cookie cutter” Christians or congregations that are little different from a thousand others. If everyone does what they are called to do, we have a better chance of getting it right as his Body.
 - That paying attention to those outside the church is at least as important as tending to the needs, desires, expectations and habits of the church’s own members.
 - That ministry is hands-on and feet-moving, as well as pocketbook-stretching.
- My pastor, Kevin Roberts, said that “most churches are populated by some of the best people in the world.” I agree. When we see a church at its best, the gates of Hell cannot stand against it.

SC/CBF General Assembly • April 22-23 Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach

Details about the General Assembly, including registration forms, will be included in the March newsletter. Information about hotels is already posted at www.cbfofsc.org. Other information will be posted on the web site as soon as it is available. The Assembly will begin right after lunch on Friday, April 22 and will conclude before lunch on Saturday, April 23.



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Council gives money toward water filtration system

The Coordinating Council of SC/CBF has approved a donation of \$2,500 toward a water filtration system for use to aid victims of the tsunami in South Asia. Each system cost \$10,000. CBF field personnel have been in Charleston to receive training on the system and are now back at their posts and ready to help with the installation of systems as they are donated.

Scholarships South Carolina students attending seminaries related to CBF are invited to apply for scholarships through SC/CBF. Applications are on our website.

Clemson students explore calling at Anthiphony

Ten students from Clemson University were among the 250 students and leaders who participated in Antiphony, a five-day collegiate conference co-sponsored by CBF Global Missions, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, and Passport Inc. at the end of December in Birmingham.

"I promoted this conference because of the speakers and music leaders and because it was the first national CBF student gathering," said Tim Willis, minister to students at First Baptist Church Clemson. "The students were challenged by excellent creative worship, speakers and workshops."

The theme of Antiphony was about calling. "My students really enjoyed it," Tim said. "Their experience was very positive. Many said that they were challenged to think and were not

manipulated by guilt to be a certain way."

"It was a very freeing experience to explore a variety of options and to decide for myself without being coerced," said student John Callaway. "The workshops provided a real challenge and I felt free to choose and have my own beliefs about certain issues."

SC/CBF made a contribution that enabled most of the students to participate, Willis said.

Antiphony brought much to the conversation table, not only in worship but also through the approximately 55 religious leaders that shared their expertise during discussion groups and chat room sessions. Many students said the interaction with leaders forged new mentoring relationships while other students appreciated meeting religious leaders they had only heard about previously.

Clemson students enjoyed not only the worship and breakout sessions at Antiphony but also the opportunity to get to know one another better in a more casual setting. Pictured here are Clemson junior Lauren Deer from The Baptist Church of Beaufort and John Callaway, a senior from Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.



Gifts given through CBF of South Carolina

January 1 - December 31, 2004

	Gifts to SC/CBF	CBF of SC State Missions	CBF National	Global Theological Missions Education	Total
ACTS Fellowship	\$205.00		\$495.00		\$700.00
Augusta Heights Baptist	\$577.16	\$393.60		\$50.00	\$1,020.76
Augusta Road Baptist	\$966.01		\$2,219.64	\$346.00	\$3,531.65
Blaney Baptist	\$658.23		\$1,112.98	\$100.00	\$1,871.21
Boulevard Baptist	\$26,901.31	\$2,382.50	\$57,268.47	\$11,202.05	\$97,754.33
Brunson Baptist	\$1,129.09	\$335.50	\$2,341.55	\$2,858.00	\$6,664.14
Calvary Baptist	\$120.00		\$280.00		\$400.00
Cedar Spring	\$107.66		\$199.94		\$307.60
Chesterfield Baptist	\$3,507.55		\$7,371.14	\$1,772.83	\$12,651.52
Clearview Baptist	\$3,316.72	\$1,330.00	\$7,288.72		\$11,935.44
Corinth Baptist	\$1,902.41	\$20.00	\$4,439.42	\$135.00	\$6,496.83
Dean Swamp Baptist				\$233.00	\$233.00
Earle Street Baptist	\$1,235.50		\$2,644.32		\$3,879.82
East Park Baptist	\$64.40		\$137.85		\$202.25
Ebenezer Baptist	\$600.75		\$1,304.25		\$1,905.00
Emmanuel Baptist	\$997.95		\$2,061.27	\$55.00	\$3,114.22
Fernwood Baptist	\$11,772.00	\$5,154.05	\$11,772.00	\$4,674.07	\$33,372.12
First Baptist Aiken	\$38,436.29	\$3,883.41		\$39,997.21	\$9,297.88
First Baptist Allendale	\$600.00	\$100.00	\$1,025.00	\$245.00	\$1,970.00
First Baptist Anderson	\$13,758.41	\$711.05	\$30,388.77	\$3,115.00	\$47,973.23
First Baptist Belton	\$3,405.35	\$1,341.00	\$7,412.75	\$4,230.50	\$16,389.60
First Baptist Blackville	\$846.90		\$560.62		\$1,407.52
First Baptist Charleston	\$228.30		\$490.33		\$718.63
First Baptist Clemson	\$7,915.00	\$1,685.75	\$16,830.00	\$6,712.60	\$33,143.35
First Baptist Clinton	\$1,522.28	\$340.00	\$3,578.71	\$6,461.61	\$11,902.60
First Baptist Conway	\$4,573.94	\$2,600.00	\$9,504.48		\$16,678.42
First Baptist Denmark	\$838.70	\$1,866.05	\$264.56	\$2,018.88	\$4,988.19
First Baptist Easley	\$2,857.18	\$25.00	\$7,126.55	\$150.00	\$10,158.73
First Baptist Edgefield	\$1,708.46		\$3,410.87	\$585.00	\$5,704.33
First Baptist Gaffney	\$2,382.33		\$5,136.29		\$7,518.62
First Baptist Greenville	\$14,731.60		\$28,465.80	\$4,080.00	\$47,277.40
First Baptist Greenwood	\$9,750.00	\$777.00	\$20,250.00	\$3,977.10	\$34,754.10
First Baptist Hampton	\$21.30				\$21.30
First Baptist Holly Hill	\$2,053.26	\$806.00	\$4,242.67	\$1,277.25	\$8,379.18
First Baptist Church Inman	\$3,384.48				\$3,384.48
First Baptist Church Lake City	\$30,000.00				\$30,000.00
First Baptist Lancaster	\$407.00		\$843.00	\$250.00	\$1,500.00
First Baptist Laurens	\$338.33				\$338.33
First Baptist Loris	\$1,090.00		\$78.00		\$1,168.00
First Baptist Church Mauldin	\$405.48		\$895.02		\$1,300.50
First Baptist Newberry	\$4,611.70			\$400.00	\$5,011.70
First Baptist N. Charleston	\$312.03		\$672.12		\$984.15
First Baptist Orangeburg	\$15,000.00	\$225.34			\$15,225.34
First Baptist Pamplico	\$2,612.80	\$675.00		\$367.00	\$3,654.80
First Baptist Pendleton	\$11,482.73	\$314.00	\$9,385.27	\$9,814.43	\$30,996.43
First Baptist Piedmont	\$1,337.91	\$1,549.30	\$2,984.22	\$1,375.70	\$7,247.13
First Baptist Simpsonville	\$4,330.95		\$3,279.24	\$1,800.00	\$9,410.19

	Gifts to SC/CBF	CBF of SC State Missions	CBF National	Global Theological Missions	Education	Total
First Baptist Walterboro	\$11,884.76	\$2,066.50	\$27,720.08	\$5,416.94		\$47,088.28
First Baptist Woodruff	\$920.29		\$2,008.32			\$2,928.61
First Baptist York	\$2,501.82	\$729.25	\$5,417.49	\$606.50		\$9,255.06
Florence Baptist Fellowship	\$1,831.00	\$630.00	\$1,831.00	\$1,225.00		\$5,517.00
Georgetown Baptist	\$20.00					\$20.00
Grace Baptist	\$311.50					\$311.50
Greenlawn Baptist	\$843.43		\$2,530.28	\$611.00		\$3,984.71
Heath Springs Baptist	\$139.67					\$139.67
Kathwood Baptist	\$9,149.10	\$2,254.44	\$18,976.23			\$30,379.77
Lakeview Baptist	\$2,150.55		\$4,812.03	\$2,878.50		\$9,841.08
Lawtonville Baptist	\$133.68	\$350.00	\$248.25	\$750.00		\$1,481.93
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship	\$87.50		\$262.50			\$350.00
New Heights Baptist	\$1,606.83		\$3,349.86	\$1,830.40		\$6,787.09
New Hope Christian Fellowship	\$1,040.18		\$2,160.34	\$624.00		\$3,824.52
Newkirk Baptist				\$25.00		\$25.00
Nixonville Baptist	\$430.00	\$600.00	\$970.00			\$2,000.00
Ocean View Baptist	\$325.00		\$975.00	\$50.00		\$1,350.00
Overbrook Baptist	\$1,091.00		\$1,636.50			\$2,727.50
Parisview Baptist	\$135.40		\$41.60			\$177.00
Pelham Road Baptist	\$2,401.00	\$566.70	\$5,186.12	\$1,804.00		\$9,957.82
Pendleton Street Baptist	\$22.56		\$69.14			\$91.70
Providence Baptist	\$3,906.00		\$7,254.00			\$11,160.00
Rivertown Baptist	\$461.25		\$93.75			\$555.00
Sans Souci Baptist	\$3,155.58	\$320.00	\$6,833.46	\$2,357.50		\$12,666.54
Shaws Fork	\$25.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$2,025.00
St. Andrews Baptist	\$10,859.79	\$100.25	\$24,122.80	\$2,336.75		\$37,419.59
Swift Creek Baptist	\$896.05	\$560.00	\$2,179.65	\$955.00		\$4,590.70
The Baptist Church of Beaufort	\$21,445.76	\$500.00	\$11,081.60	\$4,817.25		\$37,844.61
The Bible Fellowship Baptist	\$931.34			\$2,056.95		\$2,988.29
The Community Church of the Midlands	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00		\$300.00
Tidal Creek Fellowship	\$360.00		\$840.00			\$1,200.00
Timberlake Baptist	\$2,602.47	\$330.00	\$1,916.55	\$685.00		\$5,534.02
Trinity Baptist	\$10,691.50	\$2,215.00	\$23,954.50	\$9,839.65		\$46,700.65
All Churches	\$361,685.81	\$43,751.86	\$438,096.10	\$150,692.78	\$13,377.88	\$1,007,604.43
All Individuals	\$37,483.85	\$4,825.00	\$21,434.77	\$18,554.75		\$82,298.37
TOTAL	\$399,169.66	\$48,576.86	\$459,530.87	\$169,247.53	13377.88	\$1,089,902.80

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Six Month Report for SC/CBF

The figures presented above are for the calendar year Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

The SC/CBF budget year runs July 1-June 30. At right is a summary of the first six months of the fiscal year.

Total Receipts:	\$220,960
Total Expenses:	\$194,813
Receipts over Expenses:	\$27,400
Total Budget:	\$449,995
Amount of budget spent through 12/31/04:	43%
Needed monthly to meet operating budget:	\$37,500

The budget year runs July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005.