

FELLOWSHIP



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

FROM DIVORCE TO DIRECTOR

Wanda Ashworth from York finds her place doing holistic ministry in Miami

Wanda Ashworth moved back to South Carolina in 1994 in the midst of a painful divorce. First Baptist Church in York welcomed her and her three children. "At a time when I was totally absorbed in my own pain, the church stepped in and nurtured my children," she said. "As I began to heal, I began to search for ways to give something back. Since I could play the piano, this was a small way I could serve the church."

After several years as pianist, Wanda became the director of music, and a few years later, the director of music and youth. "I was happy to serve, but I realized I needed to go back to school to really prepare for this ministry," she said.

She enrolled at Gardner-Webb University, where she discovered a passion for social ministry — caring for the whole person. She earned a degree in human services and upon graduation got a call from her former pastor, Ray Johnson, asking her how she intended to use her degree. At the time, Ray, now coordinator of CBF of Florida, was president of Open House Ministries in Homestead, FL.

"When I described the programs I hoped to implement in South Carolina, Ray informed me Open House was doing exactly what I wanted to do — and was without a director," she said. "That's how I ended up in Homestead as director of this holistic ministry."

Open House Ministries was born out of the disaster response following Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

OHM sponsors an emergency food bank, a clothing closet/thrift store, a family literacy program that includes ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) classes, pre-school education,

after-school programs for elementary children, teen Bible studies, free summer camp, and praise and worship experiences for the community.

Beyond the direct ministries provided by OHM, it also gives

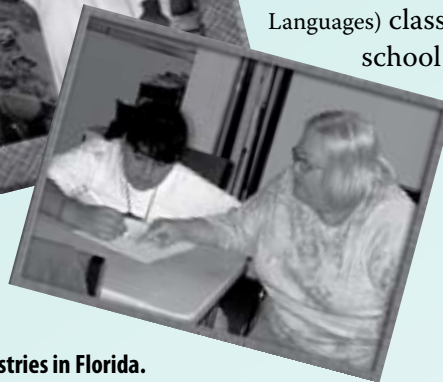
building space to a free health clinic and social service referral agency.

Wanda has been the director at Open House

CBF Affiliates are a part of the CBF Global Missions team but are self-supporting. Some, such as Wanda, support themselves through their jobs. Others, such as Janee Angel (featured on the back page), raise their own financial support through direct contributions.



Top photo: Wanda Ashworth working with a student at Open Heart Ministries in Florida.



Lower photo: Janet Myrick, a member of First Baptist Church in York, worked at Open Heart Ministries on a summer mission team while on dialysis. "Talk about servanthood!" Wanda said. "Janet's faithfulness certainly sheds a bright light on our excuses for NOT serving." Wanda's email: wanderful43@yahoo.com.

"We'd love to have some South Carolina partners in this ministry, but I think the greater story is that if God can use Wanda, God can use ANYBODY!"

— Wanda Ashworth

Heart to Heart

2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 25-26
CHARLESTON MORE INSIDE

Heart to Heart



OURSELVES

OUR NEIGHBORS

OUR WORLD

A BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING

2008 General Assembly

April 25-26

FRIDAY at St. Matthew Baptist Church in North Charleston (home of Metanoia)

SATURDAY at Providence Baptist Church on Daniel Island

WHEN AND WHERE: The General Assembly begins with the Spotlight on South Carolina luncheon at 11:45 a.m. on Friday at St. Matthew Baptist Church in North Charleston. The business session starts at 1:15 and other events follow.

FRIDAY sessions —the business meeting, workshops, missions banquet and worship — will be at St. Matthew.

SATURDAY sessions will be held at Providence Baptist Church on Daniel Island.

The Assembly will adjourn before lunch on Saturday.

A brochure will be included in the March newsletter with more details and a registration form. You can register NOW online.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Cleophus J. LaRue, Princeton Theological Seminary's Francis Landey Patton Associate Professor of Homiletics, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University, his M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Seminary. He specializes in the theory and method of African American preaching and worship. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, Cleo is the former pastor of two churches in

Texas as well as the former interim pastor of churches in Harlem and Jamaica, Queens, New York. He is a frequent speaker at churches, seminaries, and conferences throughout the country and is a member of the Academy of Homiletics.

The only cost:
\$8 for Spotlight on South Carolina luncheon
\$15 for Missions Banquet

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
St. Matthew Church on Friday afternoon between 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Topics will include Baptist principles, Metanoia (including a tour of the area) and the work of Butch and Nell Green with Muslims.

WHERE TO STAY

HOST HOTEL:

Hilton Garden Inn
5265 International Blvd, N. Charleston
843.308.9330
\$119 king or double

OVERFLOW HOTEL:

Hampton Inn Charleston Airport
4071 Saul White Blvd, N. Charleston
843.554.7154
\$114 king or double

FOR BOTH HOTELS:

Deadline for reservations: March 24

Refer to group code CBF when calling for reservations.

Both hotels offer breakfast for our group.

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTH CAROLINA

LUNCHEON SPEAKER: Carol Holladay, minister of education at First Baptist Church in Allendale, will speak about that church's work with USC Salkahatchie students.



MISSIONS BANQUET SPEAKER: Colleen Burroughs is the executive vice president of Passport, Inc., an international non-profit student ministry empowering students to encounter Christ, embrace community and extend grace to the world. She is also the founder of Watering Malawi, an advocacy for long-term solutions for clean water and simple irrigation systems in the country of Malawi. Colleen holds a B.A. in communications, an M.Div. in pastoral care and has been awarded the Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Award and the John Knox Press Homiletics Award. She has been a Staley Lecturer and is a published writer and photographer. Born in Africa to missionary parents, Colleen grew up in four countries: Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Bophuthatswana. Colleen lives with her husband David and nine-year-old twins in Birmingham, AL.

2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHARLESTON

New year, new work, new goals SAME ZEAL

As we turn the calendar from December 2007 to January 2008, we at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina, like everyone else, find ourselves reflecting over the past. Since we began in 1991, God has grown this ministry into something no one had the faith to foresee then. God has worked "exceedingly abundantly" above all we asked or even thought about in 1991. Let us rejoice, but let us also realize that God is not finished with us yet. It is wonderful to celebrate, but it is equally important that we see where God will take us in the years ahead.

As we celebrate the goodness of God in blessing this ministry, let us carefully examine with joy and thanksgiving what God has done in the past, as we look with great anticipation to what lies ahead. Let us re-examine our mission, stay focused, restate our objectives and find edges that have become dull, surfaces that need polishing. *Let us stay on the cutting edge of being the presence of Christ.* Let us remind ourselves of what we believe and why. Let us put our hands to the plow and move out of the planning room into the field. Let us recommit ourselves to the purpose of God's calling, being good stewards of our assignments and the resources God provides. Praise and thanksgiving should be the bookends that surround our every ministry effort.

It is great to glance back at what we've accomplished, but we've got to

focus on the present and press on to the future, going deeper, higher, and further for Christ. We don't want to lose any of our vigor or our zeal. Our strength may ebb, but our enthusiasm for the kingdom should grow stronger with time.

January is the month we start with a clean slate. We're asking, "What's next in 2008?" As Christians, we are not called to be survivors of yesterday; we are called to be "thrivers" every day. We need what January gives us...a chance to make a fresh start, set new priorities, and achieve new goals. It's an opportunity to make new resolutions in our hearts, dream new dreams in our minds, and start afresh with new opportunities. We have a chance for a new beginning every day and a new start every year. There will be a myriad of decisions and significant plans we as SC/CBF have to make in the coming year. And with God's help, we will do just that!

If you've read the book or seen the movie *Schindler's List*, you know the story of a German industrialist during WW II who strived to save as many Jews from the Germans as possible. When the Germans surrendered and

Moderator's Message



By Helen Phillips, Moderator

OPPORTUNITIES

for YOU to participate with us during 2008

- January 25-26: Adult Choir Festival by the Sea, Charleston
- January 30-February 1: New Baptist Covenant, Atlanta
- February 16: Handbell Festival, Greenville
- March 7-9: Youth Choir Festival by the Sea, Myrtle Beach
- February 28-29: Women of the Church Conference, Myrtle Beach (clergy)
- February 29-March 2: Women of the Church Conference, Myrtle Beach (laity)
- April 25-26: SC/CBF General Assembly, Charleston
- June 18-20: National CBF General Assembly in Memphis, TN
- November 10: Fall Convocation, St. Andrews, Columbia

Schindler declared that all his Jewish employees were free to go, he sobbed, "I could have done more...why didn't I do more?" Those are poignant questions for us all. Let us take advantage of every opportunity God provides for us in SC/CBF during 2008.

The word "impossible" isn't found in heaven's dictionaries; and our job is to do our best, letting the Lord do the rest. **Look** for situations where you can have an impact. **Look** for lives you can influence. **Seek** out places where you can serve. And remember John Wesley's little rule of life: "Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can." May God bless us all as we continue striving to be the presence of Christ in our world.

Amy Stertz called to FBC Aiken



Amy R. Stertz is the new associate minister in Christian education at First Baptist Church in Aiken, effective January 27.

A graduate of Mars Hill College

and Campbell University Divinity School, Amy has served since 2002 as minister of Christian education at Azalea Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA.

WHERE TO PUT IT ALL? HANGERS NEEDED

A group of volunteers, headed by Caroline Krueger from Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, has been working at the clothing thrift stores at Christ Central Ministries in Allendale trying to organize all of the donated goods. Storage space, display racks and hangers are needed. If you have a big supply of sturdy hangers, especially for skirts/pants and children's clothing, contact missions coordinator Beverly Greer. Her contact information is on the back page.



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of South Carolina**

P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211



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January-February 2008

Helen Phillips **MODERATOR**
(864) 489-9673 | moderator@cbfosc.org

Marion Aldridge **COORDINATOR**
(803) 779-1888 | Fax: (803) 779-2242
marion@cbfosc.org

Christina Whitehouse-Suggs **ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR**
(803) 779-1888 | Fax: (803) 779-2242
christina@cbfosc.org

Beverly Greer **MISSIONS COORDINATOR**
(864) 338-9923 office | (864) 360-1396 cell
beverly@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss **EDITOR AND WEBMASTER**
(864) 469-0779 | editor@cbfosc.org

SC/CBF Website: www.cbfosc.org
National CBF: www.thefellowship.info

SC/CBF and several South Carolina churches have committed ongoing support for Janee Angel, pictured on the right, as she serves among Muslim Arabs and others in Brussels, Belgium, as a CBF affiliate. An affiliate must raise her own funds for ministry.

Work among Muslims in Brussels continues because of SC/CBF

by Janee Angel
CBF Affiliate in Brussels, Belgium

As the calendar pages turn to another year, it is a good time for reflection. As I look back, I had expected to return to the States in 2007 — not because I felt it was time to leave Belgium but because my three-year position with CBF was coming to an end and it seemed financially impossible for me to remain here.

However South Carolina CBF churches saw a need for the ministry in Brussels and paved a financial way for me to stay. You had vision for this place and these people and became a prophetic voice within CBF for me to continue work here.

Over the past four months you helped to print 2,000 flyers and you made it possible for me to conduct multiple English classes. You provided classroom supplies. You paid for electricity, gas, water and insurance for the building. You bought cups of coffee and tea that helped begin many new friendships. You helped do repairs on the building. You helped play the piano at the Arab church each week. You hosted Bible studies. You drove people home on late nights and visited many others. You watched movies and ate dinners with many Muslim women. You made hamburgers and fed 35 people at a cookout. You cooked Thanksgiving dinner for 60 people from the Arab church. You helped make a Christmas dinner where Christians and Muslims came and ate at the same table. You



made it possible for me to remain and build relationships in Jesus' name.

As the new year begins, I know there are still ministry needs here. I am still short of my goal budget for the year. And I would love to see some of you on this side of the ocean if you have the time. But more than anything, I want to say thank you for your encouragement and support of both me and the ministry. Without South Carolina churches, there would be no CBF presence in Belgium. You enable me to be the presence of Christ here. Thank you and happy new year.

Most of Janee's support through SC/CBF and its churches is above and beyond our operating budget and comes from individuals and churches. Contributions for Janee's work can be sent to the SC/CBF office and marked for her ministry. Janee's email: janeangel@gmail.com.

Gifts given through CBF of South Carolina

Calendar Year January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

These are gifts given through SC/CBF. Some churches may make direct gifts to CBF National, and to other designated causes.

	General Budget CBF of SC	State Missions CBF of SC	General Budget CBF National	Global Missions CBF National	Other	Total
Augusta Heights Baptist Church Greenville	\$792.39	\$1,140.00	\$292.50	\$464.89	\$0.00	\$2,689.78
Augusta Road Baptist Church Greenville	\$3,153.13	\$536.50	\$5,855.69	\$731.00	\$0.00	\$10,276.32
Belmont Baptist Church Columbia	\$1,564.61	\$105.00	\$1,744.73	\$262.12	\$0.00	\$3,676.46
Boulevard Baptist Church Anderson	\$31,496.48	\$0.00	\$58,493.30	\$5,910.48	\$295.00	\$96,195.26
Brunson Baptist Church Brunson	\$2,479.30	\$622.00	\$1,848.28	\$1,600.00	\$1,250.00	\$7,799.58
Cedar Spring Baptist Church Spartanburg	\$128.18	\$0.00	\$238.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$366.19
Chesterfield Baptist Church Chesterfield	\$0.00	\$990.00	\$0.00	\$2,725.00	\$515.00	\$4,230.00
Clearview Baptist Church Anderson	\$159.57	\$500.00	\$296.33	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$2,555.90
Corinth Baptist Church Vance	\$2,598.06	\$0.00	\$4,770.84	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$7,563.90
Cornerstone Baptist Church Hartsville	\$2,347.13	\$0.00	\$782.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,129.56
Dean Swamp Baptist Church Springfield	\$595.00	\$0.00	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00
Earle Street Baptist Church Greenville	\$1,632.15	\$0.00	\$3,031.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,663.27
East Park Baptist Church Greenville	\$41.67	\$0.00	\$70.40	\$6.89	\$0.00	\$118.96
Ebenezer Baptist Church Florence	\$357.00	\$0.00	\$663.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,020.00
Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship Lexington	\$1,853.05	\$946.44	\$3,441.23	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$6,540.72
Fernwood Baptist Church Spartanburg	\$11,054.50	\$0.00	\$11,054.50	\$0.00	\$714.53	\$22,823.53
First Baptist Church Aiken	\$55,255.84	\$2,103.00	\$0.00	\$60,824.42	\$13,570.27	\$131,753.53
First Baptist Church Allendale	\$678.15	\$140.00	\$1,259.37	\$615.00	\$0.00	\$2,692.52
First Baptist Church Anderson	\$14,240.18	\$0.00	\$26,445.85	\$5,503.00	\$0.00	\$46,189.03
First Baptist Church Belton	\$3,774.04	\$1,100.00	\$7,008.80	\$8,048.27	\$16,174.39	\$36,105.50
First Baptist Church Blackville	\$2,737.68	\$950.00	\$4,030.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,718.34
First Baptist Church Clemson	\$2,812.50	\$0.00	\$8,437.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,250.00
First Baptist Church Clinton	\$3,749.25	\$125.00	\$2,967.71	\$1,980.00	\$0.00	\$8,821.96
First Baptist Church Conway	\$5,626.44	\$0.00	\$10,448.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,074.96
First Baptist Church Denmark	\$369.71	\$3,804.04	\$686.55	\$844.31	\$0.00	\$5,704.61
First Baptist Church Easley	\$3,847.03	\$0.00	\$7,144.34	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$11,191.37
First Baptist Church Edgefield	\$1,582.39	\$0.00	\$2,938.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,520.96
First Baptist Church Gaffney	\$1,858.30	\$0.00	\$3,451.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,309.33
First Baptist Church Greenville	\$10,704.42	\$5,276.10	\$27,646.78	\$89,693.68	\$5,830.45	\$139,151.43
First Baptist Church Greenwood	\$7,875.00	\$1,640.40	\$14,625.00	\$9,488.75	\$0.00	\$33,629.15
First Baptist Church Holly Hill	\$2,457.57	\$751.87	\$4,560.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,770.31
First Baptist Church Inman	\$12,528.23	\$0.00	\$14,924.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,452.50
First Baptist Church Lake City	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00
First Baptist Church Lancaster	\$122.50	\$0.00	\$227.50	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
First Baptist Church Laurens	\$1,480.85	\$0.00	\$2,626.77	\$2,208.24	\$0.00	\$6,315.86
First Baptist Church Loris	\$285.60	\$0.00	\$400.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$686.00
First Baptist Church Mauldin	\$495.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$775.00
First Baptist Church Newberry	\$9,251.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,251.84

	General Budget CBF of SC	State Missions CBF of SC	General Budget CBF National	Global Missions CBF National	Other	Total
First Baptist Church North Charleston	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
First Baptist Church Orangeburg	\$16,000.12	\$0.00	\$88,000.12	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$106,500.24
First Baptist Church Pamplico	\$1,783.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$1,913.76
First Baptist Church Pendleton	\$6,370.00	\$2,461.81	\$11,830.00	\$8,014.00	\$0.00	\$28,675.81
First Baptist Church Piedmont	\$1,740.00	\$3,314.00	\$2,712.42	\$1,010.00	\$674.14	\$9,450.56
First Baptist Church Simpsonville	\$4,270.44	\$100.00	\$3,733.42	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$8,203.86
First Baptist Church Walterboro	\$7,297.66	\$1,120.00	\$13,552.84	\$5,472.50	\$0.00	\$27,443.00
First Baptist Church Woodruff	\$847.33	\$0.00	\$1,573.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,420.85
First Baptist Church York	\$4,733.96	\$0.00	\$8,794.57	\$3,034.50	\$0.00	\$16,563.03
Florence Baptist Fellowship Florence	\$1,505.00	\$60.00	\$1,505.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,070.00
Greenlawn Baptist Church Columbia	\$2,047.03	\$1,267.50	\$3,801.58	\$190.00	\$0.00	\$7,306.11
Heath Springs Baptist Church Heath Springs	\$272.46	\$0.00	\$505.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$778.44
Kathwood Baptist Church Columbia	\$10,387.65	\$5,860.77	\$19,291.35	\$31,058.66	\$961.97	\$67,560.40
Lakeview Baptist Church Camden	\$2,716.58	\$1,010.00	\$5,044.96	\$1,650.50	\$0.00	\$10,422.04
Lawtonville Baptist Church Estill	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00
Mountain Bridge Community Church Greer	\$192.50	\$0.00	\$357.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
New Heights Baptist Church Gaffney	\$2,944.76	\$0.00	\$5,468.74	\$2,157.00	\$0.00	\$10,570.50
New Hope Christian Fellowship W. Columbia	\$0.00	\$267.00	\$0.00	\$1,035.00	\$0.00	\$1,302.00
Newkirk Baptist Church Rock Hill	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Nixonville Chapel Conway	\$420.00	\$600.00	\$780.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Oakland Baptist Church Rock Hill	\$32,508.00	\$4,477.50	\$27,972.00	\$6,716.26	\$0.00	\$71,673.76
Overbrook Baptist Church Greenville	\$945.04	\$0.00	\$1,755.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.09
Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church Conway	\$52.50	\$150.00	\$97.50	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$350.00
Pelham Road Baptist Church Greenville	\$2,665.83	\$0.00	\$4,950.74	\$1,877.50	\$970.00	\$10,464.07
Pendleton Street Baptist Church Greenville	\$114.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.00	\$0.00	\$142.64
Providence Baptist Church Daniel Island	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$7,800.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Rivertown Community Church Conway	\$675.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.38	\$0.00	\$3,175.38
Sans Souci Baptist Church Greenville	\$2,064.65	\$105.00	\$3,834.25	\$1,382.00	\$0.00	\$7,385.90
Shaws Fork Baptist Church Aiken	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
St. Andrews Baptist Church Columbia	\$15,031.06	\$0.00	\$27,914.66	\$6,048.00	\$0.00	\$48,993.72
Swift Creek Baptist Church Hartsville	\$1,139.71	\$0.00	\$2,116.29	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$3,356.00
The Baptist Church of Beaufort Beaufort	\$20,663.43	\$4,478.56	\$6,887.71	\$18,970.27	\$1,292.52	\$52,292.49
The Community Church of the Midlands Columbia	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Tidal Creek Fellowship Beaufort	\$385.00	\$0.00	\$715.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Timberlake Baptist Church Myrtle Beach	\$3,661.55	\$50.00	\$6,799.90	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$12,211.45
Trinity Baptist Church Seneca	\$11,478.95	\$2,900.00	\$21,318.05	\$12,700.00	\$333.33	\$48,730.33
TOTAL CHURCH GIFTS	\$392,504.35	\$49,052.49	\$513,226.00	\$306,625.62	\$65,131.60	\$1,326,540.06
INDIVIDUAL GIFTS	\$30,174.10	\$1,025.00	\$14,838.40	\$1,000.00	\$3,950.00	\$50,987.50
TOTAL GIFTS 2007	\$422,678.45	\$50,077.49	\$528,064.40	\$307,625.62	\$69,081.60	\$1,377,527.56

Thank you for your support of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 2007.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina operates on a fiscal year that runs from July 1-June 30.