



Courtney Krueger is a graduate of Furman University, Duke Divinity School and Columbia Theological Seminary, where he earned the D.Min. degree in 2003. He has been pastor of FBC Pendleton for 11 years. The sermon text is posted on our website, www.cbfofsc.org.

Krueger wins preaching award

Courtney Krueger, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pendleton, has won the 2008 Best Preaching Award from the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

The purpose of the annual contest is to encourage the preaching of sermons that emphasize Baptist heritage and principles.

Courtney's sermon on religious liberty was titled "Til Moss Grows On My Eyebrows!" based on Acts 5:17-40.

It was from a five-part series called 'Being Baptist means living dangerously' that Courtney preached in 2006 on Baptist distinctives.

"In the past, Baptists have insisted on religious liberty for all, regardless of their belief or unbelief," Courtney said. "We trusted that God's truth will win out in the end and that in an environment where all are free to live out their faith, that which is true will emerge."

"For Baptists today to actively work to chip away at religious liberty for all is to unconsciously confess a lack of trust in God," he said. "In Acts 5 Gamaliel urges his fellow Jewish leaders to leave the church alone. He is essentially asking the leaders to give them the freedom to worship and witness as they choose, trusting that if their movement is not of God it will ultimately fail. Although he was not, of course, a Baptist – his counsel is good counsel for Baptists."

"The closing illustration in the sermon recounts the time that FBC Pendleton had to decide whether or not to have a forum at our church with the Upstate S.C. secular humanists," Courtney said. "We decided that we would have the forum (the topic was religious liberty).

At the end of the evening, one of the secular humanists said to me, 'I didn't know there were Christians like the ones I met tonight and I didn't know there were Baptists like the ones I met tonight. Tonight was a breath of fresh air for me.' He was expecting to be attacked and instead was treated with respect even though he knew we disagreed with his ideas and philosophy. FBC Pendleton trusted God that night and it made a difference."

This is the seventh year the preaching contest has been held, said Pam Durso, associate executive director of the society. There were 18 participants — 16 men and 2 women—from 11 states. Courtney was the only South Carolinian to participate, she said.

"In his sermon, Courtney offered wonderful examples from our heritage to remind Baptists about the many freedoms we have," Pam said. "And he challenged Baptists to also remember that it is our responsibility to work for the freedom of all people. In telling the story of John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress* and a good Baptist, Courtney reminded us that Bunyan was imprisoned because he simply refused to behave. He was told that if he wanted to get out of jail, he would have to give up his dangerous Baptist beliefs. Bunyan's response is classic. He said, 'I will stay in prison until the moss grows on my eyebrows rather than make a slaughterhouse of my conscience or a butchery of my principles!'"

Courtney received a small monetary gift with his award and was invited to preach his sermon at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society on May 24.

2008 General Assembly

Photos and videos from the meeting are posted on our web site. DVDs of the Assembly are available for \$5 each. Contact the SC/CBF office to order your copy.

St. Matthew Baptist Church in North Charleston and Providence Baptist Church on Daniel Island hosted SC/CBF's 2008 General Assembly April 25-26. In the business meeting on Friday, participants adopted a 2008-09 budget of \$563,513, up less than \$500 from the 2007-08 budget. Treasurer Wayne Patterson reported that SC/CBF is in good financial condition currently, even though receipts are below expectations.

Christina Whitehouse-Suggs was installed as Associate Coordinator of SC/CBF at the 2008 General Assembly. The robe she is wearing was presented to her at the installation as a gift from SC/CBF. Christina joined the staff in December. She is shown with moderator Tony Hopkins.





Tony Hopkins has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Greenwood since September 2002.

I LOVE CBF.

WHY?

By Tony Hopkins
Moderator

At the retreat which kicks off the year for our Coordinating Council, I told them, "I love CBF!" In this, my first opportunity to share some thoughts in our SC/CBF newsletter, I thought I'd tell you some of the reasons I love CBF.

CBF is focused on Jesus. Theologians call this being Christocentric or professing the doctrine of the lord-

ship of Christ. Call it what you will, we are Jesus people. We believe that Jesus Christ is the fullest revelation of God's love and grace; and that knowing Jesus (not just knowing about Jesus, but having a relationship with him) is the most important thing in life. As it turns out, this focus on Jesus is the foundation for all of the other things which make CBF so loveable.

CBF believes in missions. What's more, because our mission work is founded on Jesus, it is wholistic. In terms of human need, spiritual needs are inseparable from physical and emotional needs. In terms of Jesus' teaching, the Great Commandments are as important as the Great Commission. The result is wholistic missions and ministry.

CBF is more interested in Christianity than denominationalism. Christian is more important than Baptist. Our Baptist ancestors are very important to us, but that is primarily because of their focus on Jesus and how it shaped their beliefs, their churches, and their lives.

CBF has preserved the best parts of Baptist heritage. This is the corollary truth to the previous point. Because our Baptist ancestors were focused on Jesus, they teach us that

Jesus is the one and only head of the church (local church autonomy); that every believer has the privilege— and responsibility— of knowing God in Christ personally (priesthood of believers); that Christians should live as Jesus lived (ethics and discipleship); and that everyone needs to know about God's love in Jesus Christ (missions).

CBF is inclusive. Because of our focus on Jesus, if you confess him as Lord, we say, "Come on in!" And we believe that if we agree about the Lordship of Christ, we can disagree about any number of other things and still work together for the kingdom of God. Where did we get this model? From the life and teaching of Jesus!

CBF leadership is not based on gender or ordination. In a time in Baptist life which has seen a remarkable resurgence in patriarchy, CBF has women leaders in almost every possible capacity. Why? Because although Jesus' culture was very patriarchal, he never treated women as second class citizens. Indeed, it was a group of women whom Christ first commissioned to share the good news of the resurrection! We also recognize the importance and leadership ability of laypersons. So I (a male member of the clergy) became moderator on the heels of a female layperson— and I sincerely hope that I do as good a job as she did.

Speaking of good leaders. I want to close by narrowing my focus to CBF life as it exists in South Carolina. Part of what makes SC/CBF a great organization is Marion Aldridge, our Coordinator. It is worth noting that June 1 marked Marion's 10th anniversary in that position. He has brought many gifts and talents to his work and our fellowship, not the least of which is that he is focused on Jesus. Marion, for helping us keep our focus where it ought to be— and for all that you do for SC/CBF— thank you!

TONY HOPKINS: Moderator for 2008-09

Tony Hopkins is the moderator for SC/CBF for 2008-09.

Born in Knoxville, Tony has lived most of his life in South Carolina. He earned a B.A. in English from Furman University and an M.Div. and Ph.D. (in New Testament studies) from Southern Seminary.

Now in his third pastorate, Tony also taught New Testament and Greek at Southern Seminary and he currently teaches introductory courses to the Old and New Testaments at Lander University.

For 23 years, Tony has been married to Carol Christian Hopkins, who teaches music at Merrywood Elementary School in Greenwood. Their daughter Michelle is a rising junior in the Honors College of the College of Charleston and son Caleb is a rising senior at Greenwood High School.

Looking toward the year ahead, Tony expects the work of

SC/CBF through Metanoia in North Charleston to continue and hopes to strengthen SC/CBF's presence and partnerships in Allendale.

"I'm excited about the work day this fall, when we expect to have 400 workers in two venues, Allendale and a facility in Greenwood named the United Center for Community Care," he said.

"I also hope that this year will see more people in our state discovering who we are and what we are doing in SC/CBF," he said. "Marion Aldridge, our coordinator, has rightly observed that we are more 'hidden' than we want to be—or need to be. The old proverb says, 'Blessed is he who tooteth not his own horn,' but when you have something as good as SC/CBF, you ought to share it!"

Enthusiasm is contagious... Isn't It?



By Christina Whitehouse-Suggs
Associate Coordinator

If you had the opportunity to attend our General Assembly, you heard the EXCELLENT sermon by Helen Phillips, our immediate past moderator.

One of the things she said that stuck in my mind was about the etymology of the word *enthusiasm*. It comes from the ancient Greek and originally meant inspiration or possession by the divine. The root is *entheos*; in God.

When the early Christians would see someone convert to Christianity there was this overwhelming joy that followed but there was no word to describe this feeling so they combined two words to create the word *entheos*, from which we get the English word *enthusiasm*.

Of course, modern usage of the word simply means intense enjoyment, interest, or approval. I'd like to suggest that we in SC/CBF should be all of the above!

Since SC/CBF is a Christian orga-

nization, we should be people who are possessed by the Divine. In other words, we should be the presence of Christ to everyone around us. And you and I both know that when the Spirit starts to move, good things happen. I know good things are happening in SC/CBF because YOU are a part of it...because you are *entheos* – in God.

When someone is passionate about something, they let people know. I could name three schools that exist in the state of South Carolina that I have heard people talk VERY enthusiastically about in the six short months I've been here... but I won't. ☺ My point is, if you're enthusiastic about an organization, team, restaurant, or person, you will share it with others. Enthusiasm is contagious.

I am enthusiastic about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Are you?

FALL Work Day

Saturday,
October 4

– Allendale and Greenwood

Some of the work needs for Allendale are: construction, tornado cleanup, thrift store work, nursing home ministry and sports clinic. In Greenwood, we will work on a project undertaken by First Baptist Church to renovate a building to house several agencies that work with the most needy in that community. The building is being called UC3 (United Center for Community Care). There is a need for lots of general cleaning, scraping and painting, and some carpentry. Details to come.

The facility represents a partnership between several entities in Greenwood, including the faith-based community. It is our dream that this center will eventually be a place where people can have a variety of physical, mental, and spiritual needs met; and in the process, that they will be treated with the dignity and respect Jesus models in the Gospels.

—Tony Hopkins, on the
UC3 Center in Greenwood, one of
the Fall Work Day projects

Conway in Pearlington

First Baptist Church in Conway is just one SC/CBF church that continues to work on rebuilding areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. A group from the church spent a few days recently in Pearlington, MS. "The group felt like they were able to make a real contribution and, of course, seeing is believing when it comes to understanding the amount of work that needs to be done," said Conway's pastor, Bob Guffey. "Like many of our churches, we're committed to returning to work on a regular basis until volunteers are no longer needed. My wife, Angie, and I grew up in Baton Rouge and have family who were directly affected by Katrina. Going to work for even a short time is an encouragement and a blessing."

Churches and individuals who want to help Katrina victims, many of whom are still without suitable housing, should contact Reid Doster, who is coordinating CBF work in Pearlington, at reid_doster@hotmail.com.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2008

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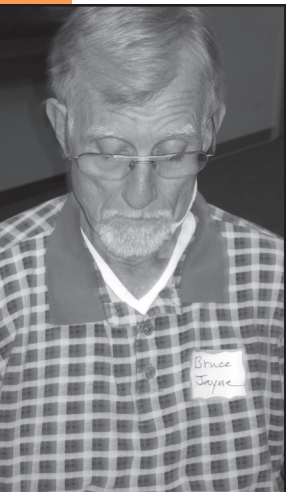
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Bruce Jayne from the

 Isle of Palms and a

 member of Circular

 Congregational

 Church in Charleston

 is serving as an

 associate member

 of the Coordinating

 Council, on the

 missions committee.

 He attended an

 orientation session

 and council retreat

 May 9-10 at White

 Oak Conference

 Center.

2008-09 Officers SC/CBF

MC: Male Clergy FC: Female Clergy ML: Male Laity FL: Female Laity

MODERATOR – Tony Hopkins, FBC Greenwood, MC

MODERATOR-ELECT – Christy McMillin-Goodwin, Oakland, Rock Hill, FC

PAST MODERATOR – Helen Phillips, Fernwood, Spartanburg, FL (pictured)

SECRETARY — Jeff Hayes, Simpsonville, MC

TREASURER — Wayne Patterson, FBC Pendleton, ML



New Council members

(to serve through 2011)

Grace Burton, FBC Greenwood, FL

Shauw Chin Capps, Baptist Church of Beaufort, FL

Vaughn CroweTipton, FBC Greenville, MC

Richard Dantzler, Rivertown Conway, MC

Peggy Gainey, Greenlawn Columbia, FL

Prissy Griffin, FBC Walterboro, FL

Shirley Jacks, Boulevard Anderson, FL

Sam Jones, Boulevard Anderson, ML

Tony McDade, FBC Greenville, MC

Mary Moore, FBC Greenwood, FL

Betty Murphy, Boulevard Anderson, FC

National Coordinating Council

Representing South Carolina CBF on the National Coordinating Council are Wayne Patterson, FBC Pendleton, ML (2010); Helen Phillips, Fernwood Spartanburg, FL (2010); Ginger Barfield, Eau Claire Columbia, FC, (2011); and Terry Brooks, Emmanuel Lexington, MC, (2011).

State **MEETING IN**

MEMPHIS

 If you're going to CBF's 18th Annual General Assembly in Memphis, plan to come to the South Carolina meeting on Thursday, June 19 at 4 p.m. Check the program listing for the room assignment.

 The Assembly gathers June 19-20 at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis. Go to www.fellowship.info for details.

Cleo LaRue

 from Princeton

 Seminary was

 the keynote

 speaker at the

 2008 General

 Assembly. His

 sermons are

 available on DVD

 for \$5. Contact

 the

 SC/CBF office.

