



MARCH 2008

## A new Tiger fan

### *Rusty Brock called to First Baptist Church in Clemson*

Rusty Brock and his family are excited about being in Clemson at “a historic university church with a progressive mindset and vision for its future.”

Rusty joined the staff in December, called to the church following the retirement of Todd Wilson. “The members of First Clemson are determined to remain relevant in an ever-changing landscape,” he said. “It’s also exciting to live in a small town with all the advantages of having a major university.”

Two years ago, Rusty said, the church took a step of faith and built a \$5 million Family Life Center, office suite and new educational space including a college student lounge. “This facility improvement has positioned us to be the center of religious community activity in the downtown area,” he said.

Some of the goals Rusty has for his first year of service include: (1) to communicate to the Clemson community all the ministry opportunities that are available at FBC Clemson, (2) to celebrate as a congregation the good ministries that are currently taking place, (3) to begin to cast a long range vision for the use of the Family Life Center.

Rusty came to Clemson from Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, OK. “Like that church, First Clemson is a loving congregation with a passion for worship, fellowship and missions,” he said.

Another part of Rusty’s excitement is being part of a church with rich and varied resources among its members and the community. “For example, the music program here is inspiring, current and professional,” he said.

Coming and a going bring both celebration and sadness to First Baptist Church in Clemson. While the congregation has been rejoicing with the arrival of its new pastor, Rusty Brock, it is also saddened by the impending retirement of long-time campus minister Tim Willis.

**Tim Willis announces June retirement**  
More on page 3.

“Tim’s retirement from student ministry at FBC Clemson and Clemson University will leave both

a void and a legacy,” Rusty said. “Tim’s 30 plus years of student ministry has in many ways blazed the trail for future student work. The Cooperative Student Fellowship that Tim established was at the time the new paradigm for Baptist student work and his efforts have positioned us and the next student minister to take this ministry model to the next level.”

### **RUSTY’S CBF INVOLVEMENT**

Chair, CBF Global Missions Initiative Team, 2004-2006

Search Committee, CBF Global Missions Coordinator, 2005-2006.

CBF Advisory Council, 2004-2006

CBF Coordinating Council, 2003-2006

Chair, CBF Nominating Committee, 2003

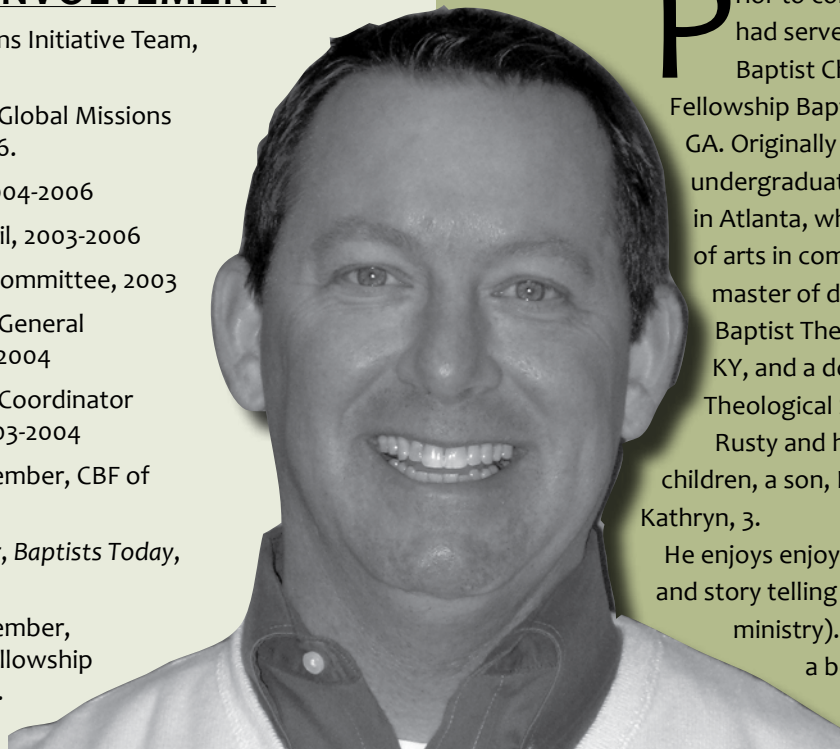
Chair, CBF of Oklahoma General Assembly Committee, 2004

Chair, CBF of Oklahoma Coordinator Search Committee, 2003-2004

Coordinating Council Member, CBF of Oklahoma, 2002-2005.

Advisory Board Member, *Baptists Today*, 1994-1997

Coordinating Council Member, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, 1995 - 1998.



Prior to coming to Clemson, Rusty Brock had served as pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, OK, and Fellowship Baptist Church in Fitzgerald, GA. Originally from Atlanta, he did his undergraduate work at Mercer University in Atlanta, where he received a bachelor of arts in communications. He received his master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and a doctor of ministry from Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. Rusty and his wife Kerry have two children, a son, Peyton, 8, and a daughter, Kathryn, 3.

He enjoys enjoy golf, traveling, theater, and story telling (which is a large part of his ministry). He looks forward to becoming a bonafide Clemson Tiger fan.

# Celebration OF A NEW BAPTIST COVENANT

Numerous people from South Carolina participated in parts of the New Baptist Covenant Celebration Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Atlanta. No definite future plans were laid, no particular alliances formed, no long-reaching decisions made or projects organized. Yet, a feeling of hope and expectation

JOHN ROY, *pastor of Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville*: "I have felt inspired here. I feel like we are just barely breaking the ground and there is much to be done. We'll have to wait to see if the enthusiasm leads to pragmatic work."



filtered through the Georgia World Congress Center as Baptists from across the country, across the racial spectrum, and even across theological lines gathered for worship, education, and fellowship at the behest of former President Jimmy Carter. President Carter announced on Feb. 21 that leaders of various partner organizations will convene at the Carter Center on March 12 to begin the process of making decisions about where we go from here.

On this page are reflections from some SC/CBF people at the gathering:



RANDY GARDNER, pastor of First Baptist Church, Walterboro: "It's a beginning. This week has been the revival. Now we have to decide what we will do with what we have heard and felt. I don't know what I will do in the local church setting or what we will do jointly as a movement. I'm going to step back and let it percolate."

Go to [www.newbaptistcelebration.org](http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org) to read more about what happened at the meeting, to view videos from the meeting, and to learn more about what former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton had to say.

HELEN LEE TURNER, *professor of religion at Furman and member of First Baptist Church in Greenville*: "I'm still processing but I do think it has been hopeful. The speakers have been impressive."



JEANETTE COTHRAN, *member of First Baptist Church, Greenville*: "I'm sorry everybody in my church isn't here. We need mountain-top experiences like this to remind us about what we need to be doing in the name of Christ."



T.C. SMITH of Columbia, *retired professor of religion at Furman and former professor at Southern Seminary*: "This has brought all Baptists together and helped us realize that we are all Baptist, that we share the same things. I didn't expect this many people. I didn't think they would come."



MIKE HENSLEY, *member of Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg*: "The value of this meeting will come in what we do after we leave, such as finding joint ventures where we can continue to work together."



JEFF NEAL, *member of First Baptist Church, Anderson*: "It's been a wonderful experience. The worship services have been meaningful and the speeches thought-provoking."



CLARY GARDNER, *formerly of York and now a first-year student at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta*: "The most important thing to me has been the special sessions held for seminary students where we have talked about how we can bring the interests we have seen here into our ministries as pastors, counselors, or in non-profit organizations."





By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

# A little laughter

When my daughter Jenna was about 12 years old, she showed her indignation about something one day by stomping up the steps in our home toward her bedroom. I called her back downstairs and said, "Jenna, This is how you stomp up the stairs when you are mad." Then I demonstrated a grown man's stomp that literally rattled the house. She broke up laughing and, of course, forgot whatever it was that had angered her.

On another occasion, when Jenna was a bit older, and her younger sister Julie was irritating her, Jenna complained that we always favored Julie in our parenting. I sat Jenna down and said to her as seriously as possible, "That's because we love her more." As she was preparing to protest more about her horrible plight in life, she suddenly realized what I had said, and responded, "No, you don't." Then, within 24 hours, Julie was complaining about how we always sympathized with Jenna when they disagreed. I sat her in my lap and said quite gravely, "You know, Julie, that's because we love her more." She erupted with indignation, "No, you don't."

In each instance, if I had argued with either of them, we would have quickly gotten mired deeply in an impossible quagmire of "Yes, you do" and "No, I don't." I would probably to this day still be trying to argue that I loved them equally. By bringing some lightheartedness into the situation, an intense parent-child confrontation was avoided. By the way, don't try this if your children don't know that you love them equally!

A bit of humor will sometimes defuse difficult situations. Obviously, I am not recommending that you make fun of or demean someone who is suffering from a severe case of the

Grims or who is already annoyed about life in general. I have also noticed, over a lifetime of ministry, that you cannot make an unhappy person happy.

But the Bible tells us that "A cheerful heart is good medicine," (Proverbs 17: 22) and instructs us to "Be joyful always." (I Thessalonians 5: 16)

I resisted following Jesus for a long time because of the rather harsh and bleak way in which the Christian faith was presented to me: an angry God with dismal and drably dressed followers. Isn't it weird what you remember from childhood? When contemporary styles had men wearing wide ties and the women wearing short dresses, the men in the church were still wearing narrow ties and the women were wearing long dresses. People at church didn't seem to have fun in the same way people at school had fun. At school, we had parties, and at church, we had fellowships. There was never any confusion about which was which.

The best book (other than the Bible) that I have ever read about congregations was written by a rabbi, which in itself is a surprise! Rabbi Ed Freidman, in *Generation to Generation*, has a section about playfulness and paradox, another way of describing lightheartedness. Seriousness, he says, is characterized by a lack of flexibility, an inability to adjust to the unexpected. The opposite of inflexibility, as all we moderates know, is grace. That's enough to make me giggle.



The Laughing  
Jesus

## Tim Willis

### Long-time campus minister moving into new ministry

After more than 30 years, Tim Willis has announced that he will retire from campus ministry at the end of June. He's spent most of those years at Clemson University. Four years ago, he joined the staff of First Baptist Church in Clemson and began the Cooperative Student Fellowship (CSF).

"The time has come for me to pursue a new sense of calling and direction," he said. Tim has been trained as an intentional interim pastor, and wants to serve churches in transition. He also wants to consult with churches that are looking to begin or expand their college ministry.

"I feel that my leaving campus ministry will not create any undue stress on CSF or the church," he said. "CSF is established and going strong. We have committed students who will help the new person acclimate quickly, and we have a strong college committee that has provided great support for students here at FBC."

"When CSF began, CBF of SC was there with support and encouragement from the start and it has continued to be strong," Tim said. "Because of the support of CBF of SC, I feel that the evolving of a CBF-related campus ministry at Clemson received national exposure and a ground swell of support and encouragement from around the country. I believe that what FBC Clemson did by starting CSF was a historical move, one that has set a precedent for other churches in CBF aided by the strong support of SC/CBF"

Of course Tim expects to miss the interaction with students. "But I know that this new sense of calling is an exciting challenge for me," he said.

Tim and his wife Lynda will continue to live in Clemson, and Tim will continue to serve as the voice of the Tiger Band, a job he's had for the past 14 years.



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**Register now for the General Assembly April 25-26**

# On the horizon of missions in South Carolina

by David Brown  
Oakland Baptist Church, Rock Hill  
Chair, SC/CBF Missions Committee

Throughout our existence, CBF of South Carolina has passionately held missions to be a central part of our identity as a fellowship of believers. We are committed to being the presence of Christ in our communities, state, and beyond. As we move further in 2008, the missions committee is looking toward the horizon of missions in South Carolina. Alongside many of our long-time partnerships, several new opportunities are emerging.

*Metanoia's* community development ministry in the Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood of North Charleston continues to flourish and to expand. Developing young community and school leaders has been a hallmark of *Metanoia's* ministry. In addition to leadership development, *Metanoia's* recent endeavors focus on establishing quality housing and generating economic development in that neighborhood.

Our focus on *Ministry with Internationals* includes the support of a number of diverse ministry efforts. Aki and Yoko Shigemi work with Japanese populations and lead Japanese churches across the state. Janée Angel teaches English and builds relationships with Muslim refugees and internationals in Brussels, Belgium. Zadda R. Chakravarthy (Chaks), a graduate of the Baptist Studies Program at LTSS, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chicago with the intention of returning to India to teach in a

seminary there. The sort of indigenous ministry Chaks, as a native of India, will be undertaking may be the most effective way for us to share the gospel cross-culturally.

Our connections with and involvement in *Allendale* took great strides last year – with several church-based mission endeavors, continued partnership with Christ Central Ministries, and the Mission Work Day in October that involved more than 200 people from across the state. This year, we are applying for an Affiliate from CBF National for placement in Allendale. With a more permanent CBF presence in Allendale, we envision a community-changing ministry will develop in this pocket of rural poverty. This is an important horizon for missions in South Carolina, just as *Metanoia* was the horizon for our mission efforts six years ago.

In addition to these three focal areas, the missions committee supports and partners with disaster relief in South Carolina and nationwide, provides our connection point to the Baptist World Alliance, and plans missions-related events around the state including the missions banquet at General Assembly. You have opportunities to support these partnerships – old, new, and emerging – through your giving to the CBF general budget and especially to **JUST SHARING** the CBF of SC state missions offering.

**JUST**  
Sharing

If you need material to help you  
promote state mission giving,  
contact the SC/CBF office.