

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Seminary Scholarships

Students from varied backgrounds grateful for SC/CBF help

Tricia H. Kilgore is an environmental engineer with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. She is also a student in the Baptist Studies program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia.

"I wanted to go to seminary to learn more than what was being taught in Sunday School but I also wanted a Baptist context to what I was learning," she said. "A non-denominational school didn't seem appropriate for me. LTSS is a good seminary, and the Baptist studies program gives a Baptist flavor to what I am learning."

Tricia graduated from Virginia Tech, spent two years in Kenya as an IMB Journeyman missionary, worked a year with international students at Virginia Tech, went to England for graduate school, then settled in Columbia, where she is a member of Shandon Baptist Church.

Tricia hopes to eventually use her knowledge



Whitney Hodges

of water supply and sanitation as a platform for ministry among unreached people groups.

Kelly Dickerson is also studying at Lutheran Seminary. "I could not think of a better seminary education," she said. "I am educated in a healthy, ecumenical environment. I am able to dialogue with those from different denominations. I am able (most of the time) to answer students' and professors' questions about Baptists."

Kelly has a masters degree in counseling and works part-time at an elementary school.

Casey L. Callahan is in his third year at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. He grew up a Methodist and became acquainted with CBF while studying agronomy at Clemson.

"I had a tremendous church experience at Clemson, and I believe that the variety of congregations and community experiences provided a solid foundation for my future interaction and involvement with Baptist churches," he said.

Casey is currently minister to students at May *(continued on the back page)*



Tricia Kilgore

Fall 2005 Scholarship Recipients

Each of the seminary students listed below received a \$600 scholarship for the Fall semester from SC/CBF. If you would like to send a note of encouragement to any of them, contact the SC/CBF office for their addresses.

**McAfee School of Theology
Mercer University, Atlanta**
Cody Joshua Sanders

**Lutheran Theological
Southern Seminary,
Columbia**
Loris Adams
Kelly Evon Dickerson
Tricia H. Kilgore

**Wake Forest University
School of Divinity,
Winston-Salem**
Whitney Joy Hodges

BTSR, Richmond, VA
Mary Carol Anderson
Casey Loraine Callahan
Malcolm McMillan Jordan
Amber Blackwell Sloan

**M. Christopher White
School of Divinity,
Gardner Webb University
Boiling Springs, NC**
Jubilee Eason
Christopher Thomas Gillespie
Derek Scott Gillespie
Jennifer Robin Zoellner

Cody Sanders



Read more from these students

Several of the students who have received scholarships have supplied more information about their journey to seminary and their future plans. We encourage you to read the stories of our future SC/CBF leaders on our website, www.cbfofsc.org.

Hurricanes, earthquakes, wars, rumors of wars, prospects of economic difficulty and a long hard climb back to normal. This is what autumn of 2005 has held in store so far. For most of us, normal daily living is hard enough. We are overwhelmed when some additional burden is added, not to mention three or four of them. Some of these additional things aren't even happening to us personally, but they affect us emotionally anyway, because our brothers and sisters and fellow citizens are suffering. We are called on to assist in relief.

Our CBF churches are doing a wonderful job assisting in relief for hurricane victims along the gulf coast. We must be encouraged by the excellent responses being generated in individual churches and for the quick strong gathering of supplies which were trucked to Covington, LA, from all over South Carolina in September. Our Missions Coordinator, Beverly Greer, arranged for that huge effort in time to give real help to people stuck in shelters.

When you are feeling inundated with requests for help, when you are overwhelmed by the massive needs in the world, when you can no longer comprehend the myriad earthquake deaths of Pakistani school children or the daily explosions in political hot spots, it is good to take comfort in the incomprehensible greatness of God.

The world is a huge and hurting place. God cares for every bit of it, and God cares for each of us, ones who are suffering and

ones who are bereaved by the suffering.

When it feels as if there is no way big enough to relieve this much suffering, then we must turn to small ways. Mother Teresa once said that she did not do great things, only small things with great love. This is what God is calling us to do now. Our CBF churches can do many small things with great love, and they will reach to assuage the hurt of many parts of the world for the sake of Christ.

There are suffering people very nearby who are poor and hopeless, and whose definition of normal life would be considered emergency to most of us. In the fight against hurricanes and earthquakes, the comparable misery of the poor, which we will always have with us, can be forgotten.

I encourage our churches to remember in their relief efforts that a suffering person is a suffering person, regardless of nationality, gender, ethnicity, creed, situation, location or amount of TV coverage, and is loved by God. I encourage churches to make every effort to maintain regular mission efforts in their normal, local, small ways even as we make additional efforts to assist globally.

I encourage us to work doing small things in the name of Christ. It is in this holy work that some emotional comfort can come to all of us, because we participate in the incomprehensibly massive purpose of God, who saves and restores and makes new, one person at a time.

Doing small things with great love



By Kelly Belcher
Moderator

Kelly is Minister for Children and Family Life at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

A focus on diversity

SC/CBF Fall Convocation • Nov. 14

Eau Claire
Baptist Church
4427 Main Street
Columbia SC 29203
803.786.7769

2:00 p. m.	Registration
2:30 - 3:30	Walter Edgar
3:30 - 4:00	Fellowship
4:00 - 5:30	Inter-religious Dialogue
5:30 - 7:00	Dinner
7:00 - 8:15	Tom Long

Advance reservations required for dinner.

Metanoia approved to offer tax credits

Metanoia, SC/CBF's Urban Ministry in North Charleston, has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Commerce to offer South Carolina community development tax credits to donors. For each dollar given to Metanoia donors may become eligible for a 33 percent tax credit on each dollar owed to the state. Donations must be more than \$250 in a calendar year and they must be given directly to Metanoia. If you have questions, contact Bill Stanfield at (843) 529-3014.



PEOPLE PUSHING FORWARD
INTO NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH
GOD AND ONE ANOTHER TO
CREATE STRONG COMMUNITIES.

Metanoia Update

Four years ago SC/CBF made a commitment to engage in ministry alongside a struggling community in North Charleston. Here is an update on the fruit of that commitment.

A Snapshot

Four years ago SC/CBF began a ministry of listening and working alongside community residents of faith in the Chicora/Cherokee neighborhood of North Charleston. Perhaps the best way to gauge the success of this effort is to take a look at the events of a recent Wednesday afternoon at Metanoia.

Wednesday October 5, 2005 - 3 p.m.:

- In the Metanoia Main classroom: 35 students are arriving for the daily Young Leaders Program and beginning to say their Young Leaders Pledge that begins, "I am a Young Leader Created in the Beautiful Image of God."
- In Metanoia's recently added kitchen, made possible by a grant from FBC Greenville, a hot meal is being prepared for the 35 Young Leaders.
- In the Metanoia 'conference room,' candidates are being interviewed for a newly created Director of Housing Development position. The new Director is being interviewed by both staff and Board members who live in Chicora/Cherokee.
- Around the corner, work continues on the rehabilitation of 3321 Kraft Avenue, Metanoia's latest home renovation effort. Next to this property sits a former drug infested park that Metanoia has worked with the city to get cleaned up in the last week.
- Mentors begin arriving for the Young Leaders. Mentors range in age from high school students to older adults. They work with an individual student once a week and aid that student in homework and life.
- All of these events have been prayed for earlier in the day at Metanoia's daily noon prayer.



A Mentor from North Charleston's Academic Magnet High School helps a Metanoia Young Leader with her homework.

Guiding Principles

Through all the growth and change Metanoia has seen in the past few years, three guiding principles have remained constant. We are still:

Rooted in Faith: All that we do is bathed in prayer and we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout our work.

Asset Driven: One significant reason for Metanoia's success is that we believe in the potential of our community and we invest in that potential every day. This maximizes the success of people and the community.

Community Based: Since its inception with SC/CBF Metanoia has always believed that community people of faith know best how to reach out to their own neighbors. Metanoia is led by local community residents at the staff and Board level.

www.pushingforward.org

PO Box 5313, 2005 Reynolds Ave. N. Charleston, SC 29405 (843) 529-3014; Fax (843) 529-3639; Metanoia@cbfsc.org



Before and after pictures of a Metanoia Home Rehabilitation.

Interested in receiving Metanoia's quarterly newsletter? E-mail your address to metanoia@cbfofsc.org or call and leave your address at (843)529-3014



Young Leaders enjoy tacos through the Kids Café program that offers them a daily afternoon meal.

Metanoia by the numbers

What does positive change look like? Here are a few statistics that represent the impact Metanoia has had in working alongside the Chicora community to share the love of God in concrete ways;

- 35 The number of students currently enrolled in Metanoia's Young Leaders Program. This is up from an average attendance of 19 in our first year.
- 7 The number of homes Metanoia has either rehabilitated or secured funding to rehabilitate by the spring of 2006.
- 95% Attendance level of Young Leaders.
- 100+ The number of community volunteer hours logged this fall by Young Leaders parents who 'pay' for the program by getting involved in their community.
- 150+ The number of people who have attended a free home buyer orientation seminar hosted by Metanoia.
- 83% Percentage of YLP students scoring proficient or above on Language Arts area of PACT test.
- 0% Percentage of YLP students scoring Below Basic on Language Arts area of PACT

Thank you Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of SC

Metanoia began as a dream in the hearts of faithful members of SC/CBF. From the hiring of Urban Ministers Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield the work has blossomed into a ministry with five additional employees that makes a concrete impact every day on a community that very much needs to see the hope of God's love. None of this would be possible without

the faith and generosity of SC/CBF members and churches. If you are interested in finding out more about Metanoia, you are invited to visit our website or call Evelyn or Bill. If your church is interested in special donations or projects please call and we will be glad to provide you with the information you need to get started in furthering this work.

When you give to Metanoia

There are several ways to make monetary gifts to Metanoia. You may give to the South Carolina State Missions offering or give a designated gift to Metanoia through SC/CBF. You may also give directly to Metanoia. If you feel led to give, here are a few things you might like to 'purchase.'

- \$25 pays for an afternoon of the Young Leaders Program for 3 students.
- \$100 pays for a week's worth of food to supplement daily hot meals from the Food Bank for the 35 students.
- \$250 pays for the cost of printing one of Metanoia's quarterly newsletters.
- \$500 pays for a home ownership class where 40 to 100 people learn about buying homes in the community.
- \$1,000 pays for one student to attend the Young Leaders Program for a year.
- \$2500 pays for a year of Metanoia home ownership classes for more than 100 people.
- \$5000 gives two Metanoia summer interns jobs that build their leadership skills.



AFTER THE SCHOLARSHIP: STUDY IN SCOTLAND

Meg Ramey isn't a SC/CBF scholarship recipient this year – but she used to be.

Meg Ramey received a SC/CBF scholarship while she was earning her M. Div. from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. Now she is a student at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland's oldest university. Specifically, she is enrolled at St. Mary's College, the department within the university that houses the Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts.

"The center aims to advance and enrich theological reflection through the imagination and the arts, and as I was especially interested in the role that literature plays in shaping of theological and moral attitudes towards life, St. Andrews was a natural fit," Meg said.

Right now, Meg is working on a Masters of Letters with a focus on theology. "This degree can be completed in one year, but I hope that it will turn into a doctorate," she said.

Meg is a native of Florence where she grew up in Calvary Baptist Church. She is a former staff member at Camp LaVida, and served with the North American Mission Board as a sojourner at the Laurens Baptist Association and at Martha Franks Retirement Center.

After graduating from Furman University in 2000 with a degree in Spanish, she served with the International Mission Board in Venezuela as an International Service Corps missionary after the massive mudslides devastated the coastal region.

She first came into contact with SC/CBF when she was applying to seminaries. "First Baptist Church in

A parent's perspective

"I certainly would like to thank CBF for all the prayers and the support given to Meg during her seminary studies. The financial support was such a blessing to Meg and to many others, I am sure, who are trying to get their seminary education to better prepare themselves to serve our Lord. The scholarship helped her not to have to take on jobs in addition to her work at the seminary, as a graduate assistant and a tutor. It enabled her to have time to volunteer in her church and to do some ministry while still studying enough to receive the Outstanding Student Award for 2004-2005, which was the top award in her graduating class. Again, I am very grateful for all the help you have given to her and so many others."

—Betty Ramey, Meg's mom

Greenwood and SC/CBF were both generous in supporting me financially in my seminary studies," she said.

During her seminary days, she got to know members at Greenwood as well as members of the new Florence Baptist Fellowship. "Members in both congregations were so supportive of me and the ministry to which God had called me," she said. "They encouraged me not to be limited but to feel free to follow Christ passionately in whatever area God might lead. Their cards and emails were a blessing to me throughout my studies."

"And since Truett is one of the seminaries supported by CBF, I came to know the national Fellowship better while in Texas and really felt at home with the general direction and beliefs of the group," Meg said. "Becoming better acquainted with local CBF churches and the national body helped me find a new denominational home."

"As most people are aware, the cost of education has sky-rocketed in America, making it difficult to

complete a course of study without incurring a mountain of debt," she said. "Throughout most of my time in seminary I worked two jobs in order to support myself. The SC/CBF scholarship made it possible for me to pay for most of my tuition. Not only did the scholarship lighten my load financially, but it also gave me a sense of support knowing that there was a group of Christians praying for me and helping me prepare for life in the ministry."

And what does Meg plan to eventually do? "I am still very open to whatever God calls me, but at the moment I am preparing more for teaching theology in a university rather than for parish ministry. I have even considered teaching overseas again. I really enjoyed the missionary work that I did in Venezuela before going to seminary and can see myself teaching somewhere in Latin America. I could just as easily be teaching in America, and also I love the church and am very open to a ministerial position."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

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November 2005

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Scholarship students appreciate help from SC/CBF

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Memorial Baptist Church in Powhatan, VA, "and my excitement for such work is often overwhelming."

Jubilee Eason, from Roebuck, is studying this year at Gardner Webb's School of Divinity. "Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me," she said. "It has lightened the financial burden for me. I am grateful for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

Jubilee is a 2002 health science graduate of Clemson University. She has worked with CBF in a program called student.go, and with Touching Miami with Love. She wants to earn a Ph.D. and teach seminary students.

Jennifer Zoellner, from Newberry, is also studying at Gardner Webb where she expects to earn an M.Div. in December. She will begin a masters degree in organ performance at Winthrop University in January. She earned a B.A. in applied music and German from

Casey Callahan

Newberry College.

"I am incredibly honored to receive a SC/CBF scholarship," she said. "It is such an encouragement that the Christian organization I so greatly admire affirms me in this way." She hopes to serve a CBF church in South Carolina when she finishes her studies.

Cody Sanders, from Duncan, is a student at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta. "The mission of CBF is one that I feel strongly about supporting," he said. "I hope that through my education and in my ministry, I may have further contact with SC/CBF so that I may make a positive contribution to the mission of CBF in South Carolina and throughout the world."

"Whenever I'm asked why I choose to attend McAfee, I tell people that I felt that the personality of McAfee was a good fit for my own personality," he said. "Of the several seminaries that I visited in my decision making process, McAfee felt like home to me. Of course, it was the strong academic

reputation, impressive faculty, and McAfee's connection to CBF that prompted me to consider theological study at there in the first place."

Whitney Hodges, from Greenville, is studying at Wake Forest Divinity School. "Receiving a scholarship from SC/CBF shows interest and support from the denomination with which I align myself," she said. "The scholarship along with the other aid I received has enabled me to spend my time focused on and attentive to classes and ministry opportunities instead of searching for employment, or having to narrow my ministry search to paying opportunities."

Whitney's senior project involves using the arts as part of pastoral counseling with children. "Soon I will begin applying to Clinical Pastoral Education programs at hospitals with the hope of pursuing a residency with a focus on children," she said.



Jennifer
Zoellner

