



NOVEMBER 2008

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
FELLOWSHIP
of South Carolina

FALL WORK DAY 2008

At least 20 churches were represented in Allendale and Greenwood on Oct. 4 for the second SC/CBF Fall Work Day. These volunteers worked alongside Girl Scouts, college fraternity pledges, United Center for Community Care board members (Greenwood), Christ Central shelter residents (Allendale), and other community members. "They exemplified the wording on the sign – Working Together, Caring Together," said SC/CBF missions coordinator Beverly Greer. "As I walked around the Greenwood site people were working hard with people they already knew and new friends they had just met that day and were having a good time. When the day was over I think everyone had a feeling of accomplishment and gratitude that they had an opportunity to be the presence of Christ in a tangible way."

“The October 4th work day had a significant impact on the United Center for Community Care. Our purpose is to provide a centralized and collaborative environment to address the needs and improve the quality of life for the hungry, homeless and disenfranchised. The work day improved the environment in which service providers such as the Food Bank can meet the needs of individuals in a more effective and efficient manner. Many times when individuals are hurting they prefer privacy when seeking assistance in order to avoid embarrassment. It is a goal to provide services in a more humane and dignified way. Having centralized services and accessibility is an ideal situation for anyone who may be in need.”

—Deborah Parks, director of UCCC

GREENWOOD

More than 150 worked at the United Center for Community Care in Greenwood. Tony Hopkins, pastor of First Baptist Church there and church member Jack Parham headed the effort. After completing an "It's Time" study on what it means to be a missional church, FBC Greenwood worked to acquire an old school building that can be used to provide needed services to the community.



Volunteers scrape up old carpet at the United Center for Community Care in Greenwood.



ALLENDALE

More than 200 volunteers worked on various projects in Allendale, including renovating houses like this one that will be rented or sold to low income residents. Chip Reeves, pastor of First Baptist Church there, chaired the committee that organized the Allendale projects. Carol Holladay, minister of education, co-chaired the committee. This was the second year we have worked in Allendale.



The sign reads "You've been flamingoed by the Kathwood Baptist Youth." It was just one way the youth raised money for Heifer International this year.

Kathwood youth group raises \$5,000 for Heifer International

Thinking that feeding hungry people is something that Jesus did, the youth group — all 10 of them — at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia decided early in 2008 they wanted to work on a hunger project.

Having a working knowledge of Heifer International's mission, the group decided not to buy just a goat or a cow but a whole ARK — two of every animal. They agreed that world hunger was a big problem, and it required a big goal...no small dreams would do here. To buy an ark meant raising \$5,000.

With the help of dedicated youth workers and parents, they proceeded to plan and implement fundraising projects to meet their goal. No one knew how long it would take to raise enough to buy the ark, but most of the *smart* adults believed it would take at least a year, probably longer.

The project began with "The Super Bowl of Caring," where youth stood at every church exit with a large soup bowl on Super Bowl Sunday.

This was followed by a church-wide "Flamingo Adoption" in April whereby

church members reserved plastic flamingos to be placed in the yards of other church members. The youth headed up this fundraiser by advertising the event, collecting the money and placing the flamingos in more than 30 yards. Unsuspecting church members woke up on youth Sunday to plastic flamingos gently grazing in their front yards. And if anyone wanted the pink birds out of their yard, the youth charged a "collection fee" for that job too.

Throughout the spring and summer the youth continued to spread the word about Heifer International. By August they had raised more than \$3,000 of their goal. With victory in sight they began to plan their most rigorous fundraiser: a church-wide yard sale.

The date was set for Sept. 6, the advertising was done and the donations came rolling in by boxes, bags and truckloads. On the night of September 5, the youth met at the church to organize and price all

of the items. Bright and early Saturday morning they met back at church to work the sale. Community members lined up outside of the church in the dark at 6:30 a.m. to be first inside. The response was overwhelming and most of the items were scooped up by 9:30. After more than 15 hours of work by each youth member, the yard sale raised more than \$3,000.

Not only did the youth exceed their goal of \$5,000, they met this goal in "less than a year." So much for *smart* adults.

Throughout the process the youth have learned what it means to care for others, appreciate their blessings and pass on the gift.

"Ask me about Heifer International!" ↴



Rogers takes new job at FBC Laurens



Adair Rogers is the new minister to children at First Baptist Church Laurens. She previously was the church's minister of music and has been on the staff for the past 13 years. Adair will assume her new position as soon as a new minister of music can be hired.

PRAYER *for the attention deficit Christian*

I have never thought of myself as a good pray-er. I don't sit still or stay focused for long. I have no doubt that if I were in school today, I would be diagnosed as ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). But my mom just said I had "ants in my pants," and we all learned to deal with my hyperactivity.

As an adult, though I knew the importance of prayer, I never felt I succeeded as what we call a "prayer warrior" because I just could not endure the silence and stillness of a personal prayer time. I read the Bible about as much as anyone I know, but praying has always been a challenge. If knowing how to pray is as difficult for you as it has always been for me, here are some things I have learned:

Coordinator's Column



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

- 1) Spend an hour alone in a public park. Look around you. Thank God for each thing you see—trees, lawn, clouds, people, pets, flowers.
- 2) Pray the words of hymns. "Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love," and "I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice," and "Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come." I find that saying and praying the words of hymns slows me down and makes me think about words that are too easy, because of their familiarity, to gloss over when I am singing them.
- 3) This idea is from Simone Weil, and it worked for me. Pray the Lord's Prayer this way: One word at a time. Focus on the adjective "Our." Is it important that Jesus did not teach us to pray, "MY" Father? Go through the prayer, word by word. You can't do this in 15 minutes! It may take hours, days, weeks, or a lifetime.
- 4) Make a list of people you love. Ask for God's favor on them. Make a list of people you do not like. Confess your own sin in these relationships. Ask God for reconciliation.
- 5) Write a poem or draw a picture that expresses how you feel about God. If you are a woodworker, make a cross. If you are a seamstress,

create something for Jesus and let that creation be your offering to God. Some prayers do not need words.

- 6) Although God is not Santa Claus, just this once, pretend that God is: Make a Wish List of everything you want! Everything! Wow! Go back over the list, slowly. Do you think God wants that for you? Maybe, maybe not: "Thy will be done" is the prayer Jesus taught us.
- 7) If you are in the car, turn off the radio or CD player. Where are you going? If it is important enough to go there, it is important enough to pray about! Who will you meet? Pray for them. What will you do? Ask God to help,
- 8) Meditate: I have heard of Baptists resisting meditation because it sounds Buddhist. The Bible tells us to meditate. One method is simply to repeat a single phrase over and over: "God, I love you. Jesus, I love you. Holy Spirit, I love you." Repeat and repeat again. The Bible does NOT condemn repetition, but "vain repetition," meaningless ritual. So, repeat it and mean it.
- 9) Prayer walks come in all shapes and sizes. I walk through our church building during my prayer time and pray for whatever happens in each room—for Sunday School classes, for choirs, for church secretaries. I do the same at home. Remember that I don't sit still well, so this kind of movement in my prayer life is helpful to me. Do you have a guest bedroom that hasn't had a guest in five years? Maybe God wants you to be a better steward of your home than that. Pray in each room at home and at work. God will change the way you live and think!
- 10) Read a Psalm from the Bible, then, rewrite it in your own language and phrasing. There are no shepherds in our neighborhoods. How would you fill in the blank? "The Lord is my _____."

Happy praying, everyone!



P.O. Box 11159
Columbia, SC 29211

November 2008

Tony Hopkins MODERATOR
864.229.5557 | moderator@cbfosc.org

Marion Aldridge COORDINATOR
803.779.1888 | Cell: 803.413.2734
marion@cbfosc.org

Christina Whitehouse-Suggs ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR
803.779.1888 | Cell: 803.727.7581
christina@cbfosc.org

Beverly Greer MISSIONS COORDINATOR
864.338.9923 | Cell: 864.360.1396
beverly@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss EDITOR AND WEBMASTER
864.469.0779 | editor@cbfosc.org

SC/CBF Web site: www.cbfosc.org
Fax: 803.779.2242

National CBF: www.thefellowship.info • 800.352.8741

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FALL Convocation

Schedule and cost

5:30 p.m. Dinner with remarks from Benjamin Snoddy and Marion Aldridge
7:00 p.m. Worship with sermons by William Shaw and Daniel Vestal

Monday, Nov. 10

St. Andrews Baptist Church, Columbia

Cost of the dinner is \$12. There is no cost to attend the meeting.
Childcare available with advance reservations.

Location for convocation:

St. Andrews Baptist Church
230 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29210
<http://www.standrewsbaptist.org/>

For questions, childcare and/or dinner reservations, call 803-779-1888

or email debbie@cbfosc.org.

Deadline for reservations: Monday, November 3.



Allendale nursing home visit a part of Fall Work Day

Volunteers from First Baptist Church in Walterboro led a team that spent the day at a local nursing home between Allendale and Fairfax at this year's Fall Work Day. Shown here are FBC pastor Randy Gardner and his wife Sarah, who presented a dramatic biblical dialogue to residents. Randy also cooked and led singing while Sarah helped with games, baked, and served meals. Among others on the nursing home team from FBC Walterboro were Ned Oswald, Ann Oswald, Mack Jones, and Betty Jones. Volunteers from Providence Baptist Church in Charleston and First Baptist Church in Aiken also helped during the day.

Go to our website to view more photos and read comments from some who participated in this year's Fall Work Day, both in Allendale and Greenwood.

