

ELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 2008



In the spirit of the New Baptist Covenant...

Together with one voice, glorify God

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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Monday, Nov. 10
St. Andrews Baptist Church
Columbia

Schedule and cost

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner in the fellowship hall
With remarks from Benjamin Snoddy and Marion Aldridge
- 7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary
Sermons by William Shaw and Daniel Vestal
- Cost of the dinner is \$12.
- There is no cost to attend the meeting.
- Childcare available with advance reservations.

New Baptist Covenant follow-up

This year's Fall Convocation picks up on suggestions that came from the January meeting of the New Baptist Covenant about how all Baptists can work together in their local settings. Representatives of two black Baptist bodies will be with us as we begin to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Baptists.

The celebration of a New Baptist Covenant was held in January in Atlanta to bring Baptists from all denominations together for worship and fellowship. Some of the suggested issues on which Baptists can cooperate include global warming, health care, poverty, criminal justice, human rights, religious liberty, elimination of nuclear weapons, and peace in the Middle East and elsewhere.

An extensive list of specific recommendations is published at www.NewBaptistCovenant.org, for congregations and individual Baptists who desire to expand their Christian ministry by reaching out in their own immediate neighborhoods.

**Our convocation will also be a celebration
of the 400th anniversary of Baptists**

Preaching during worship

WILLIAM J. SHAW

is president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, and pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia, a position he has held since 1956.



DANIEL VESTAL

has been coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, based in Atlanta, since 1996. He is a native of Texas.



Conversations during dinner

BENAJMIN SNODDY

is president of the Baptist E & M Convention of South Carolina and has been senior pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Spartanburg for the past 30 years.



MARION ALDRIDGE

of Columbia is coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina, a job he has held since 1998.



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.



Register now for the Fall Convocation Nov. 10.

FALL CONVOCAATION

PARTICIPANTS



SC/CBF Leadership Scholars

Clary Gardner has grown up in SC/CBF

Clary Gardner has begun her second year of studies at *McAfee School of Theology* in Atlanta. She is concentrating on academic research focusing on the New Testament.

She is working part-time at the CBF resource center as a financial assistant for global missions and at Westminster Presbyterian in Snellville as director of children's ministries. She remains a member of First Baptist Church in York where she was ordained last October. She is a graduate of Furman University and was a founding member of the Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship.

"I've practically grown up in SC/CBF," she said. "Ever since I felt a calling to ministry, I have been supported both my home church, FBC York, and SC/CBF. In high school, FBC York gave me an opportunity to express a calling to ministry. In college, SC/CBF supported my friends and me when we started Furman CBSE. I was also able to serve several CBF churches in Greenville and Spartanburg. The SC/CBF scholarship is yet another way that SC/CBF is supporting me."

Lauren Deer took up running to relieve stress

Lauren Deer is in her third and final year at *Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond*. She will graduate in May.

She is working in youth ministry at Biltmore Baptist Church in Glen Allen, VA, for her internship, and hopes to find a full-time youth minister position after graduating.

The SC/CBF scholarship will help fund her trip to China in January as part of a seminary requirement.

She is from The Baptist Church of Beaufort.

"To relax and burn stress, I have started running 3-4 days a week," she said. "I enjoy running because it helps me get away from school and get some exercise."



Greg Dover looks forward to graduation—and marriage

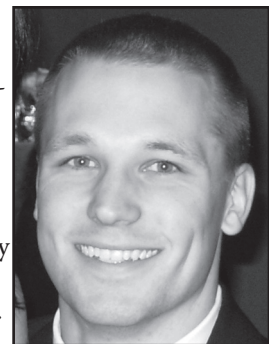
Greg Dover is in his third year of study at *Wake Forest Divinity School*. "Everything is going well so far this year. I am mainly looking forward to finishing the program and getting married in May," he said.

Greg's primary field of interest is in biblical studies, New Testament and early Christianity in particular. Theology has also recently gotten his attention.

After graduation, Greg would like to work as an adjunct professor at a small school or community college, or in a church setting in some form of Christian education. His goal is get a Ph. D.

From First Baptist Church in Greenville, Greg has developed friends throughout CBF through participation with Unidiversity youth camp.

"The scholarship from SC/CBF is extremely important to me," he said, "and basically covers the costs of my books for each semester (a valuable resource)...and the costs keep getting higher!"



Lori Strickland following in her father's footsteps

Lori Strickland grew up in Greenville, where her father served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Mauldin. "My father was a minister and I always knew I wanted to go into some field of ministry," she said. She majored in early childhood/elementary education at Samford University in Birmingham,

taught school in Greenville for a year, and then served a year-and-a-half as a volunteer missionary with CBF in China and Morocco.

She is in her second year of studies at *Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond*. "I knew it was a place where I would

be challenged theologically, but also be taught to think for myself," she said.

"During my time abroad, I realized how beneficial a seminary education would be to me during this time in my life," she said. "My desire to pursue a seminary degree came from both a craving to intensely study the Word of the Lord as well as explore the ways in which I can use the spiritual gifts the Lord has given me. I wanted to pursue an education that would allow me to focus on missions ministry and learn how to engage others in local or global missions.

Lori is serving as children's minister at Northside Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, VA. "I don't know what God has for me following graduation, but I am confident that I desire to continue working with children," she said.

Jessica and Darren Williams commute from Seneca to Atlanta for their studies

Jessica and Darren Williams will graduate from *McAfee School of Theology* in December 2009.

"Although I am getting tired of the commute, I enjoy each day and I am thankful for the opportunity of studying in a community named McAfee," Jessica said.

"Darren and I hope to co-pastor. This has been stirring in my heart for a long time, but I have actually been able to bring voice to it in the past few months," she said.

Last year, Jessica was an intern with Clemson's Cooperative Student Fellowship. Now, she is minister of children and outreach and Darren is minister of youth at Trinity Baptist in Seneca.

"Not only has the scholarship been a huge help with finances, it is an



honor to be recognized as a Leadership Scholar with SC/CBF," she said.

"I am very thankful for the SC/CBF scholarship that has allowed me to continue seminary," Darren said. "McAfee has been a challenging and rewarding experience that has encouraged and supported Jessica and me on our journey."

"We will always be grateful for SC/CBF and the scholarship that has not only helped pay for school, but also helped us pay for gas," Darren said.

"All of my life I have had a whisper from God calling me to full-time ministry," Darren said. "I knew that I wanted to be in a career that helped others, but I did not believe that God could use me in ministry. I ran from God's call but had great experiences that strengthened my faith."

Crystal Ham found her way to CBF through another scholarship recipient

Crystal Ham, a member of Malvern Hill Baptist Church in Camden, is in her second semester of studies at *McAfee School of Theology* after earning a nursing degree from the University of South Carolina.

At USC, Crystal met Allison Hicks, another SC/CBF Leadership Scholar. "Little did either of us know that our friendship would be the beginning of something incredible," Crystal said. "Growing up in a Southern Baptist church, I was not aware of the endless opportunities that allow women as well as men to serve in the ministry."

"I am so glad that I chose to attend McAfee," she said. "Being in an environment that affirms the call that I have on my life is an amazing feeling."

Crystal is working as a chaplain's assistant at CBF. "I feel by having this job I am able to play a small role in the work that is being accomplished by chaplains and pastoral counselors under the name of CBF," she said. "I look forward to one day becoming endorsed myself and being able to live out the call that I have to be a hospital chaplain. If all things go as planned, I hope to move back to Columbia and complete my residency for chaplaincy there."

SC/CBF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Full scholarships are \$600 per semester; half scholarships are \$300. Half scholarships are awarded to students attending seminary less than full-time.

FALL 2008

Full Scholarships:

Jennifer Chesson	Gardner-Webb
Julia Goldie Day	Gardner-Webb
Lauren Deer	BTSS
Greg Dover	Wake Forest
Clary Gardner	McAfee
Crystal Ham	McAfee
Allison Hicks	McAfee
Ben Lucas	LTSS
Brittany Riddle	BTSS
Cody Sanders	McAfee
Bert Sanders	Wake Forest
Lori Strickland	BTSS
Trey Sullivan	McAfee
Darren Williams	McAfee
Jessica Williams	McAfee

Half Scholarships

Martha Ann Callahan	BTSS
Bridget Kokolis	LTSS

Brittany Riddle on road to becoming a pastor

Brittany Riddle is beginning her studies at *Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond* after earning a degree in religion from Furman in May.

While at Furman she worked as an intern at First Baptist Church and then at Pelham Road Baptist Church, both in Greenville. She was president and one of the founding members of the Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship at Furman.

Brittany grew up at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, KY. "I began feeling called to ministry toward the end of high school, and the Exploration of Vocation and Ministry Program at Furman gave me the opportunity to explore this calling," she said.

"Furman's chaplain, Vaughn CroweTipton, encouraged and challenged me throughout every step of this exploration as I did my internships and began the process of figuring out what it means for me to live out my calling to its fullest," she said.

Brittany recently began working at Second Baptist Church, Richmond, as the adult education ministries intern.

"My goal is to eventually pastor a church," she said. "I have been very fortunate to work with pastors in Louisville, Greenville, and now Richmond, who have helped me explore what it means for a young woman to preach, care for, and lead a congregation."

"By covering the cost of books and student fees, the SC/CBF scholarship allows me to spend more time focusing on school work and gaining ministerial experience in the church," she said.



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Studying at McAfee Aiken's Allison Hicks is a chaplain candidate in the Air Force Reserve

Allison Hicks will graduate from *McAfee School of Theology* in May. She is currently serving at Peachtree Baptist Church in Atlanta as the international program director and is preaching twice a month for the contemporary youth service at Johns Creek Baptist Church.

"My work at Peachtree has put me in touch with so many different internationals in the church's neighborhood and it has given me the chance to be a pastor to this community," she said. Her mentor at Peachtree is a former SC/CBF scholarship recipient, LeAnn Gunter Johns.

Allison is also a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, where she is in the chaplain candidate program and is endorsed by CBF. She completed 11 weeks of training this past summer. She will seek reappointment as a chaplain in August 2009, after completing four more weeks of summer training in June 2009.

From First Baptist Church in Aiken, Allison is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in political science.

"On my first visit to McAfee, I found a wonderful learning community among the students and faculty, and my experience over the past two years has only reaffirmed my first impression of the school," she said. "It is a place where I have felt free to explore my unique path and a place where I have been affirmed in my God-giftedness as a young, Baptist woman called to pastoral ministry.

"Upon graduation in May, I hope to find a ministry position as an associate pastor. With great anticipation and excitement, I look forward to the opportunity to experience life with people—ministering and learning together," she said.

"I am so thankful for the scholarship SC/CBF has provided to me the past two years," she said. "I see it as a gift of support and encouragement from cheerleaders known and unknown to me. I am grateful for the financial assistance and the powerful support SC/CBF has offered to me! What a blessing!"