

## Lutheran/Baptist intern provides on-the-ground help in Allendale

When Ben Lucas starts his work in Allendale the first week of September, it will be a partnership that seems to have been made in heaven.

Here's the summary: Ben is a student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, which requires all candidates for the master of divinity degree to do a one year full-time internship in a ministry setting. CBF of South Carolina has been hoping to find someone to live in Allendale and coordinate our work there to help our state's poorest county. Put all of this together and you have the match made in heaven.

"Most LTSS seminary students serve their internship on a church staff," said CBF missions coordinator Beverly Greer. "Ben is taking a different direction. He wants his ministry to be focused toward missions and particularly with those who are disadvantaged economically, who have few advocates and need partnerships to help them achieve their potential."

"Ben has a good bit of experience with mission trips and he completed a required cross-cultural experience in his first year at LTSS," said Ginger Barfield, director of the Baptist Studies Program at LTSS. "His dream internship setting was one where he could combine a different kind of congregational experience with focused mission opportunities in a community setting that would be more

cross-cultural. Allendale naturally came to mind.

This is the first time a project such as this has been undertaken as a student internship, Ginger said. "Ben will have to be entrepreneurial in order for this to be successful. He will have to build bridges between different organizations and constituents. He will have to be creative and take a lot of initiative in that creativity while balancing reporting to different supervisors — FBC Allendale, SC/CBF, and the various folks already at work in Allendale."

"This will be a good learning experience for Ben," Ginger said. "He has had course work to prepare him, but nothing in books can really build the skills like being in the setting."

"Our hope is that this will be a life-shaping and faith-shaping experience for Ben and that it will build on the foundations in place in Allendale for more effective ministry in that community," Ginger said. "It will be a difficult formation in ministry to realize that hard work and prayer do not produce instant measurable results but that it is as Paul described in Romans 3: 'I planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the growth.'"

"I am really looking forward to working in Allendale," Ben said. "There is a great need in that area. I am just excited to be one of God's instruments in this area of our state."

### Meet Ben

Ben is a member of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. He graduated from Winthrop University in May 2004 with a B.S. in biology, likes music and reality TV. You can email him at [ben@cbfosc.org](mailto:ben@cbfosc.org).



I was brought up in a very open and loving church by two very loving and supportive parents. They have supported me in whatever life decisions I have ever made, and they have also been excellent examples on how to live a Christian life. Following my calling from God and the examples of my church family, I believe that seminary is the right place for me. The internship is a great opportunity for me to learn more about the everyday workings of a church, and the way it interacts with the community. I am really looking forward to living/working/and worshipping with the people of First Baptist Church in Allendale.

—Ben Lucas

More specifics of the internship are posted on our web site, [www.cbfosc.org](http://www.cbfosc.org).

As many already know, SC/CBF intends to be a missional partner in the Allendale community. This partnership has sent several mission teams from South Carolina congregations to Allendale to do work in a number of ministry areas. Churches have come here to work with Christ Central, assist with home repair and construction, participate in our college ministry activities, and a number of other tasks. Of course, that commitment to missional partnership was strongly expressed last October when more than 200 people from all over the state came to Allendale for a work day.

These are the areas in which Ben will be doing most of his work. He will serve SC/CBF as a liaison, a "man on the ground" in Allendale, helping churches continue to find ways of being the presence of Christ to this community. Ben will also serve as an explorer and a fact finder, helping to build relationships in Allendale that will result in more and new opportunities for our missional partnership.

—Chip Reeves, pastor of First Baptist Church Allendale, who will serve as Ben's onsite supervisor.

**Register now for Fall Work Day Oct. 4. See page 2.**



# Fall Work Day— Oct. 4

## ALLEDALE

This was the single site of last year's inaugural Fall Work Day. Many of the same kinds of projects will be done again in 2008, including:

- All kinds of construction work from tearing down to building up, repairing and painting.
- A landscaping project at Christ Central Ministries
- Yard clean-up at Department of Recreation playground and ball field.
- A big children's event, something like a Back Yard Bible Club or Day Camp.
- Nursing Home ministry

Some activities will be suitable for families with children.

Please bring any equipment you have that would be suitable for these kinds of tasks, including paint brushes/rollers and chainsaws.

Lunch will be provided. Bring your own drinks. Registration is at FBC Allendale.

## GREENWOOD

The Work Day site in Greenwood is the United Center for Community Care. The vision for the center started during FBC Greenwood's eight-week *It's Time* study when the church decided to bring together numerous agencies, ministries, and services in a centralized location. "We do not know at this point what those services and ministries will be, but we are hopeful that many existing agencies will come to the United Center; and we believe that some new services and agencies may be birthed as the project develops," said Tony Hopkins, pastor of FBC Greenwood.

Registration will be in the gymnasium at the center. Lunch will be provided by the Women's Mission Groups of FBC.

I am truly excited and deeply grateful for the opportunity to host the work team for this worthy challenge. We have for the first time the pleasure of faith-based, non-profits and government sponsored service agencies all centralized and working together to improve and dignify these services to our less fortunate citizens. Through faith and prayer I strongly believe that we are following God's plan in this mission effort. Thanks to God and to the "It's Time" program for opening our eyes and hearts to this *burning bush*. We look forward to joining hands with you to do this needed work.

—Jack Parham, United Center Chair

Email Tony Hopkins with questions about Greenwood, [adhgrace@yahoo.com](mailto:adhgrace@yahoo.com).  
Email Chip Reeves with questions about Allendale, [revchip24@gmail.com](mailto:revchip24@gmail.com).  
Email Beverly Greer for general information, [beverly@cbfosc.org](mailto:beverly@cbfosc.org).



Through a partnership with the United Way and fundraising efforts on the part of FBC Greenwood, this old school building was acquired for \$12,000. Helping with its renovation is the Fall Work Day project in Greenwood. Specific tasks will be:

- Painting. This will be painting with a brush so if you have a favorite one, bring it.
- Demolition. Bring tools.
- Carpentry. Bring tools.
- Cleaning. Supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own.
- Light yard work. Bring tools.

One of my dreams for the United Center is a homeless shelter. As our church spent eight weeks in prayer and conversation during our *It's Time* study, we kept asking God to point us to a need in Greenwood which our church should help to meet. And the same answer seemed to come back over and over: a shelter for the homeless. There is a very large room in the United Center (formerly a warehouse) which would be ideal for that purpose.

—Tony Hopkins

## YOUTH

### Friday, Oct. 3

#### 9 p.m. Worship Celebration

- First Baptist Church in Orangeburg
- all church youth groups are welcome
- late night ice cream social so church groups that come after football games
- groups participating at Greenwood and Allendale can both attend
- for information email Christina Whitehouse-Suggs, [christina@cbfosc.org](mailto:christina@cbfosc.org)

EVENT

# Check the web site for updates and to register.

Registration is vital so that we know how many and what kinds of projects to prepare for.

*“Jesus loves me, this I know, ‘cause my momma told me so...”*

Several years ago, I decided that was a more honest rendition of our childhood hymn than the way we typically sing it. The Bible does tell us about Jesus’ love, but before I could read the words of Holy Scripture, I learned about the love of God from my Mother and Dad.

Over the past decade, I have been wondering where most of us get our theology (and other opinions). One of the first questions in the Bible is God asking Adam, “Who told you?” (Genesis 3: 11) That is still a huge question. From where do we get our information? Our theology? Our ethics? Who told you? Who told me? Adam forfeited a perfect relationship with God when he began to listen to the wrong advisor. A few years ago I read an article by Barbara Brown Taylor who had an “Aha!” moment when she realized that the neighbor with whom she was having a spirited conversation got much of his “information” from Rush Limbaugh and she got hers from National Public Radio.

Two people used two very different resources for obtaining cultural commentary.

If you grew up in a Catholic home, you will have been taught much that is the same but also much that is different than if you had grown up in a Baptist home.

We have hundreds of sources for statistics, data, facts, opinions and attitudes. Our world view, for good or ill, came earlier than we could read, and it was shaped by our parents, siblings, neighbors, and other significant folks when we were mere toddlers. Teachers, coaches, preachers and others began influencing us when we entered school. Hopefully, when we reached what Baptists have called “the age of accountability,” we actually began to think for ourselves, to read the Bible, to read other books and magazines, and even to listen

## “Who told you?”

to respected friends who were also trying to sort out the issues of life. Finally, if we are people of faith, we made an effort to listen to God’s Holy Spirit. Have you seen or heard any burning bushes lately?

People create problems for themselves when they confuse 1) their own story with 2) their culture or their community’s story and/or 3) God’s story. It is a **deficient theology** when a Muslim or a Christian believes that the way they

### Coordinator’s Column



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

understood God when they were 10 years old in their small village is how God actually is, no more and no less. It is a **tragic theology** that is unreflectively built on whatever garbage the boldest and noisiest voices of church and culture dump into an adult brain.

- Is baptizing the dead important? Who told you?
  - Are Real Christians vegetarians? Who told you?
  - Is one political candidate “God’s choice” and one “God’s enemy”? Who told you?
  - Who told you that the rapture precedes the tribulation? Or, vice versa? Who told you?
  - Who told you “The Bible says...” this or that? If you are old enough to read, you are old enough to study the entire Bible for yourself. Just because the preacher or a teacher or a parent or a commentary or a political party says so does not make it so.
  - Who told you that “Jesus wants you to be...” such and such? If you are Baptist enough to think for yourself, then think! Pray. Look. Listen. Pay attention. Just because something is written in a Sunday School quarterly or spoken with authority by someone on the television does not make it right.
- Only God is God! No human resource or informant is to be confused with God. Keep asking the question: Who told you?

## FBC Greenwood youth build playground equipment as summer project

A project in Greenwood will be a part of this year’s Fall Work Day and you can almost bet FBC’s experienced youth group will be a part of it. The youth got their most recent experience during a week in Goodman, MS, a town in the county that CBF’s Rural Poverty Initiative calls the poorest in the nation. FBC Greenwood partnered with Walden Memorial United Methodist Church to build playground equipment for the church and the surrounding community because the kids did not have a safe place to play. The youth built by day and led a Vacation Bible School each night. “The trip was a huge success,” said Blake Kendrick, minister to students. “Our youth worked hard, they worked together, and everyone got along great.”



## Trinity cools off with missions

The missions committee at Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca sponsored a baby shower to benefit those in need in Allendale County — and cooled off doing it. The church collected diapers, clothes, and baby supplies at an ice cream social. They also donated school supplies. The homemade ice cream and desserts gave people a chance to cool off in the summer heat.

We look forward to partnering with this congregation in the future. We learned a lot about bridging socio-economic, denominational, and racial gaps to achieve a common goal.

—Blake Kendrick



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## Coming and going from FBC Greenville

### Three called to work with music program

First Baptist Church in Greenville, SC, has called Kyle Matthews, a singer/songwriter from Nashville, TN, as minister of worship and mission; his wife Susan as associate minister of music; and Vivian Hamilton as minister of music. The three take on the roles formerly filled by Glen Adkins, who resigned a year ago to work for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship with gypsy children in Hungary. All three new roles are part-time.

“During the search, the committee came to the conclusion that the variety of skill sets required and the scope of the responsibilities were simply too diverse for one person to meet our congregation’s high expectations in so many

different areas of music and ministry,” the congregation was told.

Kyle’s primary function will be to provide visionary and creative leadership. His 30-hour work week will allow him to maintain an active schedule of performances and leadership in other venues. Kyle grew up in First Baptist Church Greenville while his father David was pastor.

You can read more about Kyle’s views on his new position on the *Baptists Today* blog, <http://www.tonycartledge.com/2008/07/kyle-matthews-on-move.html>. He says he’s “tired of working alone.”



Hamilton



K. Matthews



### Mary Carol Anderson now on staff at FBC Aiken

As Kyle Matthews comes back to FBC Greenville where he was reared, Mary Carol Anderson leaves the church she grew up in to become associate minister in student ministries at FBC Aiken.

Mary Carol is a spring graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, where she earned the M.Div. degree. She also earned a B.S. degree in graphics communications from Clemson University.

Mary Carol served for four summers as youth intern at FBC Greenville, and another summer internship as case manager for the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Following her 2002 graduation from Clemson, Mary Carol worked for 2½ years with Erwin-Penland Advertising in Greenville, before going to seminary.

During seminary, she was youth minister at Northminster Baptist Church in Richmond. She has also served as co-director of the Unidiversity Youth Camp.

Mary Carol has been an active volunteer with such groups as Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, and the Girls and Boys Home. She enjoys her dog Kyla as well as hiking, skiing, and outdoor activities.

She was ordained July 20 at FBC Greenville and began her work in August at FBC Aiken.