

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



DECEMBER 2003

A shortage of ministers?

Spartanburg event hopes to encourage students to choose Christian ministry as a full-time vocation

With fewer students going into full-time ministry, churches in the future may have a harder time finding qualified ministers. To combat this trend, SC/CBF, Campbell Divinity School and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond are sponsoring an event to encourage students to consider ministry as a vocation.

Called Quest, the event will be held Feb. 6-7 at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg. It is designed for college and high school students who wish to explore various types of Christian ministry as full-time vocation or who struggle with discerning the will of God as it relates to vocation.

Singer/songwriter Kyle Matthews, formerly of Greenville, will perform at a free concert on Feb. 6. Saturday's session will include worship, testimonies, drama, music, vocational testing and vocational breakout sessions led by various Christian professionals from college professors to campus ministers.

The Coordinating Council of SC/CBF has approved funds to defray the cost of this event, so there is no charge for the participants.

For registration and more information, call Stuart Jones at 864.583.7467, or visit www.cbfofsc.org.



The Greater Harbison Community Church was commissioned at the Fall Convocation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Barry Wright, in the foreground at right, is pastor. Members of the church were joined by members of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council for the Litany of Call, led by Jay Kieve, pastor of First Baptist Church in Allendale and chair of the Missions Committee. "This church is an outgrowth of the vision of God," Kieve said. SC/CBF has provided financial and training resources to the congregation, which is meeting at Irmo Elementary School. The convocation was held Nov. 10 at St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia.

LeAnn Gardner, right, was the preacher for the afternoon session of the Fall Convocation. She is about to complete work on a master of divinity degree at Truett Seminary in Waco, TX, where she earned a master of social work degree in May. From Providence Church in Charleston, LeAnn is a recipient of a SC/CBF scholarship. She is shown here with Coordinating Council member Beverly Greer of Belton.



Stuart Jones, minister to students at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, is coordinating this event.

Essay Contest

Students invited to write about their Baptist favorite

It's time again for the annual "My Favorite Baptist" Essay contest. Prizes will be offered at three levels of competition from third grade through high school.

3rd -6th Grades: Write in 300 words or less about your favorite Baptist in your church. The prize will be four tickets to Carowinds.

7th -9th Grades: Write in 500 words or less about your favorite Baptist, past or present, with connections to South Carolina. Some examples are Richard Furman, Benjamin Mayes, and Loulie Lattimer Owens Pettigrew. The prize will be four tickets to Carowinds.

10th -12th Grades: Write in 1000 words or less about your favorite Baptist, past or present. Some examples are: Richard Furman, Thomas Helwys, Coretta Scott King, and Roger Williams. The prize will be a \$1000 college scholarship.

At each level, the papers will be judged on awareness of the character's story; your interpretation of their significance in Baptist life; and the importance of the person for Christians today. Each must be the original work of the student.

Each winner will be invited to read her or his essay at the state CBF General Assembly in Anderson, April 23-24, 2004.

Deadline for all entries at all age levels is Feb. 1, 2004. Winners will be announced March 1.

Each essay must be accompanied by an entry form which is available online at cbfosc.org, or call the CBF Resource Center in Columbia, 803.779.1888.



SC/CBF Financials

July 1-Oct. 31, 2003

Operating Receipts	\$96,862
Expenses	\$131,334
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	(\$34,472)

Train children in the right way and when old they will not stray.

— Proverbs 22:6

Global Mission Offering:

Our Personal Gift to God

I was blessed with Christian parents that were very mission oriented. So growing up, I continually had the example set for me to give back. I can remember as a child being by my mother's side working at different missions serving meals, teaching children, and visiting at the hospitals to name a few.

The missions I treasure most were those in New York and New Jersey. My father worked in the New York office of S.H. Kress and we lived in New Jersey. In the third, fourth, and fifth grades we would travel 1½ hours in to the city from New Jersey and 1½ hours home simply to worship on Sunday mornings. I would help clean an old YMCA, filthy from the Saturday night before, in order to hold Sunday School and worship. I considered the journey and the clean up a pleasure.

On Wednesday evenings, I would help set up chairs in our home for prayer meeting. Madison Baptist Church was literally begun in our home. With great pride, I consider myself the first janitor. So when my family returned to the New York area when I was in high school, we had the privilege once again to be a part of MBC from mission to church and from meeting in a school auditorium to building the church structure.

Following 9-11, I jumped at the opportunity to return to New York to help. This was six months later and it would still eat your heart out to see these people in such desperate situations — no homes, no jobs, no savings.

People blessed like you and I but now in desperate need. What a privilege to be able to help if only in such a small way. They continue to struggle today so please keep remembering them in your prayers.

My church, Kathwood Baptist, was the group that traveled to New York. The Kathwood children had made wrappers

for candy bars to be given to the children there. Not seeing many children where we were working, we began to hand out the candy to the NYPD and the NYFD, as well as construction workers. If you could only have seen their faces as they read the Bible verses on the wrappers and realized the children had made them.

Now back to South Carolina, to our individual churches, and this year's Global Mission Offering.

This is our gift to God. He has given us so much. We are all richly blessed in so many ways. How easy it should be to give back to God. After all, in my opinion, it is all God's anyway.

God should be #1 on our Christmas list — the gift that is the biggest and best of all. In tithing, we should not only tithe our money (before taxes) but also our time and talents and missions. Missions is a big part of that.

I have a child-like belief. The Lord always has and always will take care of me.

So consider **your** Christmas gift to God this year very carefully. Make it the biggest and best ever.

Guest Column



By Ruth Anne Collins

Ruth Anne is a member of Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, where she owns a modeling agency.

“The rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house: yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7: 25

FBC Clemson builds a strong foundation in Honduras

By Muriel B. Bishop
First Baptist Church, Clemson

Rock! That is where the volunteers from First Baptist Church in Clemson started on our building site near Santa Cruz, Honduras. For the previous seven years, we had begun our Habitat for Humanity building projects on foundations ready for laying concrete block walls. This time, our eighth trip, we began below ground level.

We filled trenches with huge stones, covered them with cement, and topped it all with six-inch concrete blocks. On top of that went four long metal rebar rods and wooden reinforcement. The rains did come each night, beating in torrential sheets, and left the soil on the work site so gluey that over the period of the workday the soles of our shoes increased in height by a couple of inches. But the houses did not wash down the hills, thanks to the stringent foundation requirements of Habitat.

The hammers, chisels, gloves, levels, electric saws, extension cords and trowels we had taken to build the houses, but didn't get a chance to use, were given to the Habitat Santa Cruz affiliate office for future builders.

Our hope is that someday good houses will replace the substandard ones, and that better housing will lead to better health for the numerous children with diseases. There is a desperate need for water purification, sewage disposal and pollution control systems.

Each year on our building trip, we also visit the local elementary and technical schools. We bring books, toys and other items for the children. In previous visits to the technical school, we had seen a need for safety glasses and welding shields. The



Judith White, right, presents safety glasses and welding shields to administrators at the technical school in Santa Cruz, Honduras. The man in the middle is Roger Sosa, a former Clemson student who served as interpreter. The sign behind the three says that the school holds a vision of the future for the people of Santa Cruz.

chemistry department at Clemson University donated a dozen safety glasses for use in their chemistry and other labs. Two welding shields were donated by National Welding-Greenville.

Just as important to our mission as the construction to replace substandard houses and the school supplies are the acts of Christian love shown to homeowners, local Habitat masons and leaders, and the children. We took with us 30 suitcases full of clothes, candy, toys, medical supplies and shoes. A nurse who accompanied us distributed bags of vitamins, first-aid kits and some other medicines at several clinics set up for mothers and young children in churches and schools. Many of our group enjoyed playing games—soccer, Frisbee, jump rope—with the many children who came to the building sites.

Five years

At the Nov. 10 Coordinating Council meeting, Moderator Laurie Berry presented Coordinator Marion Aldridge with a small gift and check as a token of appreciation for his five years of service to SC/CBF.



Want to know more about Metanoia?

SC/CBF's Metanoia ministry in North Charleston is busy this fall with its Young Leaders Program, under the direction of Urban Ministers Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield. The program brings students identified by their school as young leaders to St. Matthew Baptist Church every day after school for prayers, singing, homework time, and leadership training. If you would like to hear more about Metanoia's ministry through its newsletter, call 843-529-3014 or email them at billandevelyn@cbfosc.org.



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Please make your contribution to CBF Global Missions.

“Baptist House” in Columbia being considered; could keep students from leaving the state

An effort is underway to establish a Baptist House of Studies at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia.

“The seminary has long served as a continuing education resource for the entire community,” said SC/CBF coordinator Marion Aldridge. “In a time when Baptist students are attending non-traditional (for Baptists) institutions for post-graduate, seminary education, I highly recommend the Lutheran Seminary.”

CBF has a Baptist House of Studies at several schools already, the closest being Duke and Candler, both Methodist institutions. A Baptist presence on a non-Baptist seminary campus ensures that Baptist history is taught and Baptists students are networked with the right people to help them secure jobs when they graduate, Aldridge said.

“The details are not worked out for a Baptist House at the Lutheran Seminary, but it appears that the pieces are falling into place wonderfully and they will be ready for a full supply of Baptist students in the spring,” Aldridge said. “Actually, they already have some Baptist students, including one of our CBF scholars.”

“The reasons for this partnership at this time are many, but at least one of my motivations is to allow South Carolina students the option of staying in South Carolina,” Aldridge said. “Sometimes it is a matter of convenience, of being near relatives, or a good job.”

“Furthermore, from my point of view, we lose too many students, and always have, to schools in North Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky, and many of these students never return to South Carolina,” he said.

Principles guru speaks to convocation

James Dunn, former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, spoke about Baptist principles during evening worship Nov. 10

at the Fall Convocation. He said that when anyone’s religious freedom is denied, everyone’s religious

freedom is in danger. He used four words to characterize authenticity in Baptist life: rooted (in the scripture); spiritual; voluntary, and personal.



James Dunn

Dean Swamp celebrates its 200th anniversary

Dean Swamp Baptist Church near Springfield in Edisto Association celebrated its 200th anniversary Nov. 2. Guest preacher for the service was Gary Lecroy II, the great-great-grandson of former pastor Hiram Lecroy who served the church for 20 years in the mid-1800s. The church has been situated on the same grounds throughout its history. The current sanctuary was built in 1890. Dalton Ward has been pastor since 1998.