

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA DECEMBER 2004

Fall Convocation

Sheryl Williams, a student in the Baptist Studies program at Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, prepares to serve communion around the tables following the Agape Meal.



From left are Valentine, McCall, Rogers, Weatherford-Crumpler, and Allen.

They said...

McCall: Spirituality is not getting in a closet alone. It is not a part of life separate from the rest. It is living our lives in response to Jesus.

Valentine: Ethics is what you are — character, honor, responsibility, kindness, sacrifice, good works. It's all of this and more.

Crumpler: Let go of the past. Don't complain about what they're doing. Talk about what you're doing.

Allen: It's easy for us to misplace God because we have substituted symbols for substance.



Past leaders take podium together at Fall Convocation

Four long-time leaders in Baptist life were at First Baptist Church Greenville on Nov. 8 for the Fall Convocation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina.

Foy Valentine, former director of the Christian Life Commission; Duke McCall, former president of Southern Seminary; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's

Missionary Union; and Jimmy Allen, former president of the Radio and Television Commission recalled past highlights of Baptist life but also painted a picture of a bright future.

Jeff Rogers, pastor at FBC Greenville, moderated a panel discussion among the four leaders. Each one also preached. About 300 people attended this year's Convocation.



CBF Young Leaders

Among the CBF Young Leaders who served communion around the tables following an Agape Meal at the Fall Convocation were, from left, Ricky Ezzell, Laura Shelly, Yoko Shigemi, Heather Cadenhead, Bill Stanfield, and Corwin Scriven. Ricky and Corwin are students in the Baptist Studies program at the Lutheran Seminary in Columbia. Laura is minister of missions at First Baptist Church Greenville. Yoko, with her husband Aki, leads the Upstate Japanese Ministry. Heather is minister of youth at Augusta Road Baptist Church in Greenville. Bill is urban minister with Metanoia in Charleston.

To neglect justice is to frustrate the will of God

The word "justice" is being used in Cooperative Baptist circles a good bit these days, and it has surprised me that some people have resisted it. My first inclination is to wonder what there is to resist about justice. It is, after all, a biblical word: "Thus says the Lord: maintain justice and do what is right." (Isaiah 56:1) "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." (Amos 5:24) "So set your mind on God's kingdom and his justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

But, in recent years, I have been learning to listen, and I discovered some people think of "political correctness" when they hear the word "justice." To them, conversation about justice has the flavor of partisan politics. To some, it smacks of self-righteousness.

Some people feel about the "justice" crowd like I feel about the "fundamentalist" folks: We will never be good enough for them! Just when you think you've behaved and done the right thing, you discover another layer of requirements has been added to your burden by the True Believers.

I understand the frustration. The Bible,

after all, says for you to do, not to impose, justice.

I live in the part of the world where it is politically incorrect to be politically correct. You are condemned if you are politically incorrect and you are condemned if you are politically correct. It is a lose-lose situation. It's hard to have a conversation without being labeled, categorized and judged after uttering just a few sentences. The Republicans denounce the Democrats and the Democrats rebuke the Republicans and the Libertarians castigate them all. We'd be better off just dropping the concept of "political correctness" from our vocabulary.

I'd love for Christian people to move past this foolishness and try, instead, to determine what is morally correct, what is ethically appropriate. Let us listen to God's word and to sincere people of faith (even those with whom we do not agree) to discover the will of God.



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator of SC/CBF

To do justice is to do what is right, to make right judgments. It is actually a minimum requirement for New Testament Christians. Repaying money you owe is a legal obligation, the least you can do. If you live as Luke 14:13-14 suggests, you will add grace to your justice and give to those to whom you owe nothing. While Christians talk about compassion, grace and love, we actually fail to live up to even the secular expectation of justice.

Justice is not an abstract concept. It becomes very particular. I have no desire for CBF to tell you how to live, but any preacher or Bible teacher who is not using specific illustrations, as the Old Testament prophets did, is not doing his or her job. Is it just for you to sleep in a bed that cost \$5000 when there are people in your town that cover themselves with cardboard boxes at night? Is it just to give a half day's work for a full day's pay or a half day's pay for a full day's work? Those are justice issues. To neglect justice is to frustrate the will of God.

"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Financial Matters

Operating Receipts (October)	\$35,511
Budget Needs (October)	\$37,500
Under Budget	-\$1,989

Year-to-date

(Four Months Ending October 31)

Operating Receipts	\$157,973
Expenses	\$124,270
Annual Budget Total	\$449,995

Stocks for the stocking

CBF of SC is able to receive year-end gifts in the form of stocks. Call Coordinator Marion Aldridge if you would like to make such a gift.



Living in poverty:

Get a taste for what it's really like at General Assembly

What's it like to have to choose between paying the mortgage and putting gas in the car or food on the table? Chances are most of us don't know, and the SC/CBF Justice Committee thinks we should.

At the 2005 General Assembly, the committee will sponsor a poverty simulation workshop led by Pat Fulbright. Participants in the workshop will assume the roles of families living in poverty, be challenged to work with limited resources, work within the governmental system to become eligible for assistance, and attempt to secure basic human needs necessary for life.

Pat is an educator, conference leader and curriculum writer from Waynesville, NC. She is author of numerous articles and books related to difficult issues confronting families in today's society.

The General Assembly will be held April 22-23 at Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach. The poverty simulation will be April 22 beginning at 3:15 at St. James United Methodist Church across the street from Timberlake.

The workshop is limited to 40 participants. Online registration is already available for this workshop. Go to www.cbfofsc.org.

Anyone interested in participating in the Children's Ministry Network is invited to contact Neil Westbrook at 864.353.1881 or neilporterwestbrook@yahoo.com.

Goal of new network for children's ministers: Make ministry better

Neil Westbrook, minister of education and children at First Baptist Church in Anderson, has taken the lead in organizing a network of ministers who work with children in South Carolina.

"It's in its infancy but we hope to develop a network to connect children's ministers with the goal of improving children's ministry in our churches," Neil said. "We want to find ways to plan larger regional or statewide activities for children in different churches, and ways to connect children's ministers with one another."

The group held its first meeting just prior to the Fall Convocation Nov. 8 in



Neil Westbrook from Anderson FBC, left, is trying to organize a network of ministers who work with children. Among those at the first meeting were Teresa Smith, minister to children at First Baptist Church in Clemson, and Kelly Belcher, minister for children and family life at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

Greenville. "Some of the things we talked about are curriculum concerns, who's doing what, what have our successes been, and ideas for doing children's ministry," he said. "We also want to develop friend-

ships among ourselves."

Another meeting will be held early in 2005 in another part of the state. "We expect to see a different group of ministers at that meeting," Neil said.



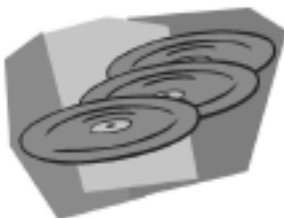
Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, right, with Winnie Williams, Clemson FBC; Ethel Childress, Greenville FBC, and Beverly Greer, Clearview Baptist Church in Anderson.



The McCalls, Duke Sr., former president of Southern Seminary, and Duke Jr., an attorney and member of First Baptist Church in Greenville.



Kelly Dickerson, a student in the Baptist Studies program at the Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, serves communion to Jim Neal, a member of First Baptist Church Greenville.



Audio tapes

If you are interested in getting an audio recording of the four speakers at the Fall Convocation, please contact Josh Gribble at the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta at 770.220.1633 or email jgribble@thefellowship.info. We also hope to make the speeches available on our website.



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Johnny McKinney, Moderator
jmckinney@boulevardbaptist.com
(864) 225-8693

Marion Aldridge, Coordinator
(803) 779-1888
Fax: (803) 779-2242
E-Mail: Marion@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss, Editor
(864) 848-3346
editor@cbfosc.org

SC/CBF Website: www.cbfofsc.org
National CBF: www.thefellowship.info

Cuttino has helped start several new churches

Eclectic group makes up congregation of Indigo Pines

Bob Cuttino has already started several new churches in Beaufort County, and now he's working on another. It is Indigo Pines Fellowship, taking its name from the retirement center where it meets Sundays at 9:15 in the chapel.

"Unlike most new starts, Indigo Pines began a year ago with a strong core of 20 and never asked anyone for a penny or any other kind of help," Bob said. The nucleus of the new group came from North Island Baptist Church.

"Well along the way, we asked the Baptist Church of Beaufort to accept us as a mission but with no financial obligations," he said. "So, unlike most missions, we give to them. They don't put any money into us."

About 35 people worship with the fellowship every Sunday. Among them are 8-10 residents of the retirement center. "It's quite an eclectic group," Bob said. "It's people who like to be at peace with one another. We are not denominationally sensitive. If you were to ask them the difference between Methodists and Presbyterians,

CBF and the SBC they wouldn't know."

Several of the group are Presbyterians; some Lutherans, one is a Congregationalist, and another from the Disciples of

Beaufort to support CBF, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Savannah River Association and the House of Hope for recovering alcoholics. The majority of the money does go to CBF, Bob said.

Bob Cuttino has started or helped with several new churches during his career as a pastor in South Carolina. In Williston, he was first pastor of Winfield Heights (where the first to join on profession of faith was Mel Stottlemeyer of the New York Yankees). In Lake City, he started North Side Baptist. In Beaufort, he helped start Korean, Filipino, and Spanish congregations, Grays Hill, Shell Point, and North Island churches. Bob is also a former pastor in Lancaster and Fairfax, and retired as pastor of The Baptist Church of Beaufort.



Christ. "They are all at home with us," Bob said.

"Denominationalism is on a backburner in the minds of these folk," Bob said. "We try to be just plain and simple Christians helping each other worship and survive and they are happy with it that way in this Hilton Head culture."

Indigo Pines gives 13 percent of its offerings through the Baptist Church of

All income above expenses is being held for future needs. The church is averaging about \$1,000 in gifts with expenses of about \$350 a week.

Bob began working with Indigo Pines in July 2003 and began preaching regularly there at the beginning of 2004. The church's primary mission project has been to provide Bibles to all 24 fire and EMS stations in Beaufort County.