

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



FEBRUARY 2002

"A nice looking man with a heavy accent came in with two young children. I was talking to them, trying to make them feel more comfortable. The man said 'They don't have a mother anymore. I don't know what happened to her.' It was like a knife in my heart. If you can do one thing to make their lives a little better for just a few minutes, that's missions."

– Ginger Barfield

Ground Zero: It's not just a TV picture anymore . . .

For volunteers from Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, the week in December they spent working in New York City was not enough. They're going back in February.

Led by Associate Pastor Ginger Barfield, a group of seven from the church quickly organized a trip Dec. 13-17 when they heard of the need for people to distribute toys to children at Christmas. "It was incredible," Ginger said. "Like everywhere, people had been asking me what could we do to help. On the Wednesday before we left, I got an e-mail from CBF asking for volunteers. That night I made an announcement that I was going and six others joined me."

They worked in the Salvation Army Toy Shop, greeting people and helping families make selections from thousands of donated toys and other items that were available.

"This was amazing to me," Ginger said. "We worked with people who could not speak English and we could not speak their language. But it worked. I took four Chinese women through and we figured it out."

"It was amazing to take around children to select gifts for themselves and all they wanted to do was select for other

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"There was Jose. He has three teenage daughters whose mother was gone. I do not know details but as he tried to thank me for the help, in tears he said, 'They have no mother.' After helping him secure gift certificates to J. Crew and Barnes and Noble, I ran upstairs to spend a quiet moment with a Kleenex." – Grace Sloan, pictured above.

. . . It was in the faces of the children

Tiffany Hamilton had not realized the effect Sept. 11 would have had on the children living in the neighborhood of the World Trade Center. In her mind it was just a financial district, not a community.. After a week of working in New York City with displaced families, for Tiffany, the faces of the children are the leftover rubble of the attacks.

Tiffany, the minister of youth and education at First Baptist

(continued on the back)

Tiffany
and
Michael
Hamilton
from
First
Baptist
Church
in
Clemson.



Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg has burned its mortgage, completed its master plan for building, and filled its staff – all in an effort to further the work that it is able to do in its community.

On Jan. 13, the church burned the mortgage on the sanctuary it dedicated in 1995. That construction was a \$2.3 million project funded with \$150,000 of cash on hand, \$900,000 of pledges paid over a three-year period, and the bank note, said Randy Wright, pastor of the church for 18 years.

The church is also about ready to dedicate a new Family Life Center “ahead of its time.” “Due to the benevolence of one man in our church who gave \$1.1 million toward its construction, we have been able to build this center earlier than we had anticipated and complete our master plan,” Randy said.

Along with the completed master plan, Fernwood is also looking at a completed staff with the addition recently of Kelly Belcher as Minister for Children and Family Life, and Stuart Jones as Minister to Students.

Kelly, her husband Phillip, and their children Kera and Owen were already members at Fernwood when she decided to apply for the open position. “I resisted applying for a long time but finally decided to,” she said. “I had done a lot of volunteer work since we moved to Spartanburg, but I felt called to be a minister. This feels right to me.”

With a burned mortgage, a completed master plan, and a full staff, Fernwood is Poised for the future

Kelly hopes to take advantage of the new Family Life Center to expand the ministries of the church. “I’m hoping we can do a lot of community ministry in that building by offering something to the children and youth who want to play basketball there. Our ministry from that building will be for our whole community, not just this church.”

Kelly has served churches in Charlotte, NC, and Raleigh, NC. She also served as a Chaplain Intern at the Durham County General Hospital, Durham, NC. Her denominational service includes work on the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, the CBF National Coordinating Council, and the Coordinating Council of North Carolina. She is currently a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council. Kelly has also served with Women in Ministry of NC and is on the Board of Visitors for Wake Forest University Divinity School. She writes regularly for *Baptists Today*.

Kelly received a Bachelor of Arts from Meredith College and a Master of Divinity (with languages) from Southeastern Seminary. She was ordained in 1986 by Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

“Kelly brings a good balance to our staff,” Randy said. “It’s good to have a female who can relate in pastoral care in ways that I can’t. She brings a feminine touch to our staff in the best sense of that word.”

Stuart Jones, who grew up in Carlisle in Union County, began his ministry to youth and their families in 1990 when he was called to Oakwood Baptist Church in Lexington. Since then he has served churches in Greenville, NC, and Oak Ridge, TN. He came to Fernwood from First Baptist Church of Sanford, NC, where he was Minister of Youth and Families.

Stuart earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion at Mars Hill College, and an M. Div. from Southeastern Seminary. He has also participated in continuing education opportunities with the Alban Institute and the Center for Congregational Health Young Leaders’ Program.



Kelly Belcher



Stuart Jones

Stuart’s hobbies include basketball, softball, snow skiing, weight lifting, hiking, reading, gardening, and reptiles. Visit his office and you might see a snake. He and his wife Laura have three sons: Nathan (10), Aaron (7), and Thaddeus (infant).

Laura is a graduate of Mary Washington College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is the interim chaplain at Converse College.

“Stuart brings a lot of maturity and wisdom yet youthfulness and energy to the staff along with a commitment to CBF,” Randy said.

Fernwood’s other staff member is Mark Burcham, the Minister of Music and Adult Ministries since January 1995.

“I think we have a good group of people, on our staff and in our congregation,” Randy said.

Fernwood, Randy said, is a good example of a church “filled with diversity that can work together to advance the cause of Christ. There’s a broad spectrum of understanding among our members about their faith and how we are to live it. But we have been able to accomplish a lot here because of a strong commitment to Baptist principles. From the church’s beginning, there has been that commitment to Baptist congregational life and the understanding of Baptist polity of freedom. “We are unapologetically and enthusiastically supportive of the CBF but also accepting of those that still have ties to the SBC.”

MORE

Hammett's leadership

message: **Get
out of
your
holy
huddle**

The mechanics of reaching people in our world today doesn't come in a resource kit anymore and the church culture ingrained in most of us isn't important, or even understood, by unbelievers around us.

That was the message – and wake-up call – that about 150 people heard at a leadership training conference Jan. 20 at First Baptist Church in Pendleton. Eddie Hammett, leadership consultant with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was charged with helping church leaders from Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee counties figure out a strategy for reaching “our kind of world.”

For too many of us, Hammett said, our faith is separated from the rest of our lives and that needs to change. After all, he said, Jesus met the woman at the



Above, Beverly Greer, second from right, Minister of Education at Clearview Baptist Church in Anderson, with three Clearview members who attended the leadership training: Gail Long, co-chair of the missions committee, David Long, a deacon; and John Thomason, chair of the deacons and co-chair of the Missions Committee. At right, Gertie Corder, Steve Goldie and Patti Goldie, members of First Baptist Church, Pendleton.



well *at the well*, not in church. The church needs to give its members permission to be ministers in their workplace and in all parts of their lives. “Don’t let your structures trap you,” he said.

“We grew up in a church culture, but people aren’t reading that book anymore,” Hammett said. “We need to retool our organization and our values to fulfill the Great Commission and the great commandment. We have got to evaluate ourselves to see if we are gathering in a holy huddle or scattering so that we can reach the unbelievers.”

Scattering will require a new way of looking at doing church, Hammett said. It means more lay leadership will be required, because no longer will churches get a box of resources from a convention office with step-by-step instruc-



Eddie Hammett

tions on what to do next. Scattering may mean commissioning a high school teacher to mentor the students in his class, or a little league coach to spend extra time with her players. It may not mean serving on more committees, or making more commitments inside the church walls.

“The church should always ask,” he said, “is this an inward-focused activity that we’re engaged in, or is it outward focused?”

Among Fernwood’s most recent ministries:

- A group of Ukrainian Christians worships in the chapel.
- The church provides a meeting place for: a satellite clinic

of the Westgate Training and Consultation Network that provides marriage and family pastoral counseling ministry to low income families; a number of narcotics anonymous groups; and Weight Watchers.

• Church members have built one Habitat House, and plan to build more.

• Members regularly participate in a myriad of local ministries like staffing the soup kitchen.

Fernwood was organized in January 1959. It has 575 resident members with average attendance around 225.

As I was writing notes to individuals and churches who made contributions to SC/CBF during 2001, I was reminded again of how much we have been able to accomplish because of your generosity.

In 2001, 175 Baptist Christians in South Carolina and 75 churches determined to trust CBF to be stewards of some of their tithes and/or offerings. From every part of the state, city and rural, young and old, black and white, male and female, clergy and laity, rich and poor, the list of participants in this ministry reads like a Who's Who of South Carolina saints.

Gifts to CBF range from the pennies, nickels and dimes collected in Vacation Bible Schools, to contributions of several thousand dollars. We received almost \$70,000 from individuals, many of whom were not allowed to contribute to CBF through their churches.

I am deeply appreciative of your generosity. Your gifts make you a part of a multitude of ministries.

Here is a sample of what **you** did this past year:

- During 2001, SC/CBF commissioned our first intentional church planters in the state, David and Margie Holland, on Ladys Island in Beaufort County.
- We held our first Fall Convocation and our 10th state General Assembly.
- We intensified our assistance to churches and clergy in a "ministry of introduction," by calling Terry Brooks to help churches, pastors and staff to find one another. I can't begin to guess how many hundreds (or, possibly, thousands) of resumes have been sent from this office to pastor search committees around South Carolina and around the Southeast. In addition, Terry's skills as a pastoral counselor have made him a wonderful friend to pastors, staff and churches needing guidance.
- CBF of SC invested a considerable amount of time and money in developing an Intentional Interim Network for churches desiring to do some self-evaluation between pastors.
- We participated in the Rural Poverty Initiative of CBF's Global Missions Office by designating Allendale, South



Coordinator's
Column

2001 in review

By **Marion
Aldridge,
Coordinator
of SC/CBF**

Carolina's poorest county, as a site for mission effort in our state. Then, we partnered with Christ Central Ministries to begin a ministry in Allendale.

- We provided theological scholarships to numerous seminarians from South Carolina, including students at Yale, Duke, Gardner-Webb, Campbell, Erskine and Mercer.
- CBF of SC continues its collegial relationship with Furman University.
- We continue to promote and celebrate, whenever we have the opportunity, the traditional Baptist principles of 1) Priesthood of the believer, 2) the Autonomy of the local church, and 3) Separation of church and state.
- The CBF of SC newsletter is a source of news, information and inspiration to thousands of SC Baptists, and it is distributed at no charge to subscribers!
- We maintain the over-half-century-old financial relationship between South Carolina Baptists and the SC Christian Action Council, our state's ecumenical and social justice agency.

• CBF of SC continues to be guided and administrated almost totally by volunteers. There is no top-heavy bureaucracy in this organization. Dozens of men and women, clergy and laity, young and old, pay their own way to Coordinating Council and other meetings. A "grass roots" organization from the beginning, CBF is a conscientious steward of the resources entrusted to it.

The big news for 2002 is that we have interviewed and are in the process of calling a young couple to be our first SC/CBF missionaries, working with the poor between Charleston and North Charleston. The budget for that part of our ministry will be \$110,000 during the first year. This ministry is up to us! There is no back-up plan. There is no "big brother" or "big sister" to bail us out. To succeed, this ministry must be valued and supported, financially and prayerfully, by people like you. Please consider making a substantial gift to this mission effort. We have so much, and some of our neighbors have so little!

Tell others about CBF. We will be glad to put your friends, neighbors and other members of your church family on our mailing list to receive our newsletter.

OAKLAND HAS OFFERED ITS HOUSE TO THE GREENS

Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill has offered SC/CBF the use of its missionary house for CBF missionaries Butch and Nell Green for the summer of 2003. SC/CBF has begun a partnership with Belgian Baptists and the ministry of the Greens among internationals in Brussels. They will be on home assignment in July-August 2003 and will spend the summer in South Carolina, getting to know our churches and CBF supporters. While housing for the Greens has been secured, the SC/CBF office is interested in learning of other churches with available housing that could possibly be used temporarily by missionaries. Contact the SC/CBF office at 803.776.1888.

Kathwood —

(continued on page 1)

famiy members," said Jane Taylor. "They had a hard time selecting their quota not because of limited choices but because they were so self-less in wanting to leave some for others."

"We were amazed at the number of people affected." Ginger said. "I grew up in Kershaw, a town of 1200, which doesn't even begin to tally up the number of lives affected by this thing. Some may have worked at a deli six blocks away, or a mother or father may have died, or a firefighter's children may be left. Overwhelming numbers were involved. Kershaw would have had to be wiped out five times over to even begin to touch it."

"When we saw people, the numbers meant something because we could multiply it by that face or this face," she said.

Another group from Kathwood will



Ginger Barfield, left, with Hamilton James, Lou Ann Love, Helen Daeger, Jane Taylor, Grace Sloan, and Lynne Barfield, a member of First Baptist Church in Kershaw.

leave on Feb. 13, this time to work at intake stations helping people with paperwork and at feeding stations at Ground Zero.

"I don't think I'll ever be able to express clearly what a profound

experience it was," Ginger said. "We say our world changed after Sept. 11. Going there our world changed again. Those of us who went will never see the world the same way again. Ground Zero is not a TV picture anymore."

Barbara Joiner to speak at Aiken conference

Author, teacher and advisor Barbara Joiner will lead participants in the Fourth Annual Women's Conference at First Baptist Church in Aiken on Feb. 15-16.

With the theme "Beyond Belief," the conference will explore the miraculous works of God. The conference begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, with dinner. Joiner will speak on the subject "Eat and Be Satisfied."

The conference resumes on Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and Joiner speaking on the topics, "The Great Escape" and "God Sends Angels." A luncheon concludes the conference.

Cost is \$20, including the Friday evening dinner and Saturday continental breakfast and lunch.

Joiner's calling is in writing, teaching, and advising from her home in Columbiana, AL. Her numerous publications speak about serving joyfully and

acting on your beliefs. Her latest book, *Beyond Belief, Vol. 2*, explores the miraculous works of God, from the ancient stories to the New Testament miracles of Jesus, through unbelievable stories of missions heroes and incredible happenings of the present.

Joiner has influenced the lives of thousands through her ministries. She has been a teacher for WMU and a speaker for Acteens and WMU retreats. She is a member of the Board of Directors of The Alabama Baptist and writes frequently for *Dimension*, *Missions Mosaic*, and *Accent*. She has



Barbara Joiner

traveled to Bangladesh, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Yemen.

Joiner's books also include: *Count It All Joy, Gloria!*, *Not Simply With Words*, *The Dynamic Woman I Am*, *With a Servant Heart*, and *Yours for the Giving*.

The conference is open to women of all faiths and ages. Registration forms are available from the church office by calling 803.648.5476 or faxing your request to 803.648.4453. You may also register by e-mail to: info@fbcaiken.org. The registration deadline is Feb. 6 to assure seating for the meals.

All events will take place in first-floor rooms, but walking will be required. Please let First Baptist know if you have needs for special access, nursery or child care services, help for the hearing-impaired or other special services or accommodations.

SC/CBF Changes

Tonya and Jeffrey

Vickery have left River Hills Community Church in Lake Wylie to become co-pastors of Cullowhee Baptist Church in Cullowhee, NC. Their e-mail is jandtvickery@aol.com.

Tonya was a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council.

Robin Fort is the interim Music Minister at Sans Souci Baptist Church in Greenville. A Georgia native, she is a graduate of Samford University and Southern Seminary. Her husband Eddie is Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Belton. **Mandy Gentry** also joined the Sans Souci staff as Director of Children's Ministries. Mandy grew up in Sans Souci and is a senior at North Greenville College.

J. Floyd Parker, former pastor of Augusta Road Baptist Church in Greenville, is coordinating a new Mainstream Baptist organization in South Carolina that relates to the national Mainstream Baptist network. His e-mail is mscbaptist@yahoo.com. South Carolina is the 13th state to form a Mainstream group. For information on what this group does, visit its website, www.mainstreambaptists.org.

SC/CBF Calendar

February 8-9: Marriage Enrichment Seminar with Wade Rowatt at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. Led by Bo Prosser.

April 26-27: SC/CBF General Assembly

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

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"The people we helped survived, they had family that did not." — Jane W. Taylor, Kathwood Baptist Church

The Raleigh office of CBF is coordinating volunteers to go to New York City, (919)754-8649

Hamiltons—

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Church in Clemson, and her husband Michael, a teacher at Seneca Middle School, spent the week after Christmas working at Pier 94, the base of charity organizations working to help victims of the attacks.

"We've led youth groups on mission trips since 1993 but this was the first time that just the two of us went on our own to do missions," Tiffany said. "We spent the week helping people fill out paperwork to receive money and other help."

"It was different than we expected because we thought we knew the problem," she said. "Our lives have moved on since Sept. 11. The attacks were bad but we were recovering. But when we talked to people there, they were still in the middle of it. Some still didn't have jobs, still didn't have a place to live. It was an eye opener for us. Most who came to us for help wanted to tell us their stories before we could



even start on their paperwork."

"Many of them couldn't believe that we would come from South Carolina to help," she said. "We did more listening than anything else."

Tiffany also saw the children, some displaced from their homes, many being transferred from school to school as the city tries to find ways to deal with the ongoing crisis. "Everybody was affected, not just businesses," Tiffany said. "We saw the rubble of the World Trade Center but we also saw Ground Zero at Pier 94, two miles away – it was in the faces of the people."