

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA MAY-JUNE 2004



2004 General Assembly: Worship, Belgium agreement highlight this year's meeting

More than 350 people were at Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson for this year's SC/CBF General Assembly April 23-24 that marked the official start of a partnership with the Union of Baptists in Belgium (UBB).

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal was the keynote speaker for two worship services, and urban minister Ronnie Adams from New York City spoke at the Missions Banquet on Friday night.

Johnny McKinney, pastor of the host church, was installed as moderator while Kelly Belcher, associate pastor at Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, was elected moderator-elect.

Finances were among the items discussed in the business session on Friday afternoon. Outgoing treasurer Bill Thomason of Anderson and finance committee chair Wayne Patterson of Pendleton reported that receipts have not been keeping pace with expenses this fiscal year and consequently most of our reserves have now been spent.

Receipts for the first nine months of the year were \$239,342 while expenditures were \$324,308, leaving an operating deficit of nearly \$85,000 and a budget deficit of more than \$95,600.

To help improve the financial situation
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Belgium partnership

Patrick Deneut, Director of Evangelism for the Union of Baptists in Belgium, signs the agreement that officially established a partnership with the UBB and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Coordinator Marion Aldridge signed for SC/CBF. Earlier in the spring, Jack Couch, pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Anderson, went to Belgium to sign the agreement on our behalf at the UBB annual meeting. More on page 3.



Sarahann Callaway with her favorite Baptist, Ray Batson. Sarahann's essay can be read at www.cbfofsc.org.

Retired DOM Ray Batson is "favorite Baptist" for essay contest winner

Ray Batson was long retired from the pastorate when Sarahann Callaway, now 17, first crossed his path as a third grader. But still the high school senior remembers all the kind, encouraging words he had for her as a child and teenager, and the pound cake that he and his wife Nancy baked and delivered to the Callaway house.

For those kindnesses, Batson became Sarahann's "Favorite Baptist" and was the subject of an essay that won her a \$1,000 college scholarship through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina.

Sarahann, a member of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg won the "My Favorite Baptist" essay contest in her age group. She read her winning essay at the state General Assembly April 23 and was honored to see that Ray and Nancy Batson had made the trip from their retirement home in Alpharetta, GA, to be present for her presentation.

The Assembly recognized Batson with a standing ovation. "I think one reason the audience was so moved was that at least a part of the reason for Batson's
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My Favorite Baptist

With plenty of role models, Josh Mynatt chose his parents

Josh Mynatt, 10, a fifth grader, won the "My Favorite Baptist" essay contest for elementary age students. His favorite Baptists were his parents, mother, Marcy Mynatt, minister of Minister of Education/Administration at Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson, and father Danny.

"We were surprised when we read his essay," Marcy said. "As a minister's child he basically is a child of the church and has many positive Baptist leaders and role models he could have written about."

"Choosing us is a testimony to the

affirming influence of the entire church because our family is so enmeshed in our church family," Marcy said.

Forrest Nettles, an 8th grader from First Baptist Church in York, won the Middle School contest. His favorite Baptist was Eric Crowley, a member of Forrest's church who died Jan. 10. Eric was a young adult who went to Gordon-Conwell Seminary, had ministered in York and participated in a missions trip to Miami.

Forrest was not able to attend the General Assembly to read his essay.



Josh Mynatt with his favorite Baptist, mother, Marcy Mynatt.

Sarahann Callaway writes about Batson

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retirement was to stand by his wife when she was ordained as a deacon," said SC/CBF Coordinator Marion Aldridge, "and we wanted to stand and affirm him for that."

"It was quite an honor to have Sarahann write about me and know that she won the scholarship with it," said Batson, 77. "It shocked me that she would pick me as her favorite Baptist."

Batson was a pastor at four South Carolina Baptist churches and served as Director of Missions in two local associations before retiring in 1991. He had been a member at Fernwood, Sarahann's church, since 1962.

Sarahann said that Batson was "always sweet to everybody. I just loved him to death. He wrote me handwritten letters all the time when I did something in church."

Sarahann will use her \$1,000 scholarship to defray cost of tuition at Clemson University where she plans to study pediatric physical therapy while also preparing to teach science to middle schoolers. "I want to help children," she said.

Sarahann's mother Barbara Jean is a four year old preschool teacher at United

Methodist Church of the Covenant Child Development Center in Spartanburg. Her father Lloyd is head of finance at Span Packaging Services in Greenville. Her brother John is a Clemson student.

Sarahann graduates this spring from Boiling Springs High School where she is a member of the Student Council and was on the tennis team. Before starting to work after school five days a week at a physical therapy center, Sarahann volunteered at the Spartanburg Children's Shelter. Her church staffs the local Soup Kitchen once every two months and her job is always to make the coleslaw. At church she is chair of the Youth Ministry Council and is

part of the All-State Chorus.

On the Sunday after she read her essay to more than 350 in attendance the SC/CBF meeting in Anderson, SC, she preached at her own church. She used her essay as the basis of her sermon. "I talked about Mr. Batson and his recipe for ministry," she said. "Then I talked about going out and finding your own recipe for ministry, sharing God's love."

Batson is from a family of preachers that included his father Paul Sr. and brothers Paul, Lloyd, and Francis.

"It was a great honor to know that she picked me from all the other Baptists she has known but I felt unworthy," Batson said.

General Assembly

(continued from page 1)

in the state, the Coordinating Council recommended the percentage of receipts held in South Carolina versus those sent to CBF in Atlanta be increased from 25 percent to 35 percent. The recommendation was passed without objection.

A general operating budget for 2004-05 of \$449,995 was adopted, up slightly from the current budget of \$446,636. An additional amount of \$117,620 was approved for Metanoia, SC/CBF's urban

ministry project in North Charleston. That is an increase of 5.4 percent over this year's budget of \$111,596.

Sam Coates, associate pastor at Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville, was chair of the assembly planning committee. Next year's General Assembly will be held at Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach. Marc Burcham from Spartanburg will chair the committee.

Churches or individuals who want to work with the UBB are urged to contact the Missions Committee before you make plans. The primary contact person for information is Jack Couch. His e-mail address is jcouch@nuvox.net.

BELGIUM

Plan for work being coordinated by Missions Committee

Jack Couch, pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Anderson and a member of the SC/CBF Missions Committee, was in Belgium in March to attend the annual meeting of the Union of Baptists in Belgium and to sign the partnership agreement on behalf of SC/CBF. It was his second trip to the country.

"This visit allowed me a greater understanding of the UBB and a positive impression of the churches," he said. "During my stay I visited five churches I had not seen on my previous trip, and I was able to talk with at least seven pastors I had not met previously."

"I visited two churches that have outgrown their facilities and need to relocate in order to grow. I saw two church buildings that are in first-class shape from

a facilities standpoint," he said. "I heard about ministries that are making a difference in people's lives."

"On this trip I saw success and effectiveness in several different manifestations whereas in the first trip I saw great need for bringing old buildings up to code. I am optimistic and enthusiastic about the opportunities that we have in Belgium and for the various ways that South Carolinians can get involved."

Several churches have already expressed interest in getting involved in the Belgium partnership. The Missions Committee would like to coordinate this effort.

"The missions committee has brought a very attractive new ministry to the attention of SC/CBF, and wants churches

to work with the committee to ensure that the partnership will be a good experience for both partners," Couch said. "The three administrators and the 31 Belgian churches will be overwhelmed if our churches approach them directly about opportunities in 2005 and 2006. The executive body of the UBB has a list of priorities which our churches need to honor."



Jack Couch, seated, signs the partnership agreement in Belgium.



Larry and Lorine Boykin from New Beginnings Christian Fellowship were among the 350 people in attendance for the General Assembly.

Meet our MODERATOR

Johnny McKinney



Johnny McKinney has been pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church in Anderson for more than 11 years. A native of Tennessee, he has served as pastor of Baptist churches for 32 years. Before moving to South Carolina, Johnny was a pastor in Kentucky and Tennessee. Just prior to moving to Anderson, he was for seven years pastor of First Baptist Church in Gaffney. He also served as Adjunct Professor of Religion at Gardner-Webb University for three years.

Johnny graduated from Milligan College (B.A.) in Tennessee and Southern Seminary (M.Div./ D.Min.) in Louisville, KY. He has been married for 32 years to Sandy, who is employed at Clemson University as the Assistant to the President/Coordinator of the President's Office. They have two children, Amy, who is married and lives in Charleston, and Mark who is married and lives and works in Chicago.

Johnny has been active in denominational and community life. He is a member of the Anderson Rotary Club, is a mentor at Nevitt Forest Elementary School, and serves on the board of directors of the YMCA and Crisis Ministries in Anderson. He previously served on the General Board of The South Carolina Baptist Convention.

He has served on the National Coordinating Council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and has been on mission trips to Venezuela, Romania and Honduras.

Ministry in the 21st Century

I am helping a church—not my own—during its time between pastors. Like true Baptists, members want their church to grow. They look at all the subdivisions being built within two miles of the church and lament that too few of those home owners are joining their church.

Maybe they are asking the wrong questions. One of the opportunities provided by an interim situation is to think differently, to get out of some of our old ruts and habits. New subdivisions lead to dead ends for most of the churches I see. There are no new subdivisions being built nearby.

However, if we shift our focus from where people **sleep** to where they **live**, Kathwood, NewKirk, Greenlawn, St. Andrews and a host of other churches are in the middle of boom towns that we pay absolutely no attention to as places to do ministry and be the church. Within a couple hundred yards of each of these good churches are restaurants, shopping and office areas where thousands of people spend time daily. Within hundreds of yards, literally, of the church where I am a member, I drink coffee (Starbucks), eat donuts (Dunkin Donuts), eat breakfast (Original Pancake House), eat lunch (Fran's), buy groceries (Publix and Fresh Market), buy books (Happy Bookseller and Books a Million), shop (Tuesday Morning and Radio Shack), buy stamps, buy gas, get my car

washed, go to the library and to the movies. When have any of us ever thought about doing ministry at any of these locations?

Admittedly, "doing ministry" (actually loving our neighbor!) is a different concept than "getting them to join our church" (which is about meeting our need, not theirs), but I suspect the former will lead to the latter. Businesses (and who can blame them?) won't let you come on their property to pass out tracts about the Rapture. But I know a book store will let you have a book study in their coffee shop. I bet, if we get creative, we can figure out a way to serve people in these settings in the name of Jesus. Let Jesus get the credit. If we act like Christians, it will eventually lead to conversations that will benefit our congregation.

Many churches have a huge parking area on a very public thoroughfare. Why not have a free car wash—no donations even for a youth mission trip—one Saturday (or more) as a service to the community? It might put our congregations on the map, literally, in a way that traditional means of advertising and self-promoting never have. "These people really care about me and about our community," would be a nice response.

If we could combine the Great Commission (Go) with the Great Commandment (Love), our neighborhoods, our world, and our churches would never be the same.



By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator of SC/CBF



Officers for 2004-05 were installed at the General Assembly April 24 by Brenda Kneece, left, Executive Director of the South Carolina Christian Action Council and a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council. Johnny McKinney, pastor of Boulevard in Anderson, will be the moderator. Laurie Berry is past moderator; Martha Hammett, member of Trinity Church in Seneca is secretary; and Kelly Belcher, associate pastor at Fernwood in Spartanburg, is moderator-elect. Cal Griffin, a member of FBC Walterboro, will serve as treasurer.

General Assembly 2004

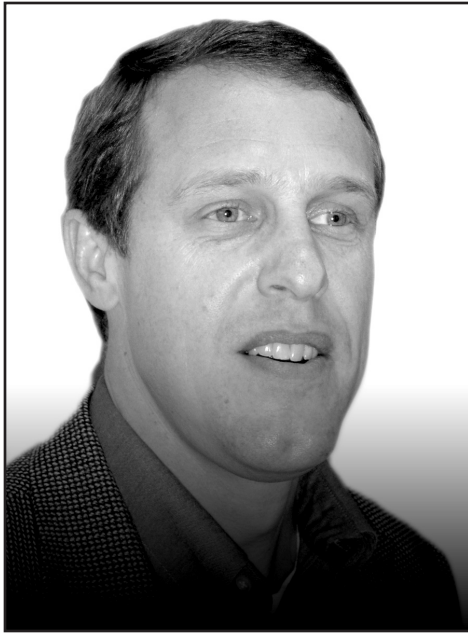
Ronnie Adams, CBF urban minister in New York City, spoke at the Missions Banquet.



A Boys Choir from Anderson sang on Saturday morning.



Outgoing moderator Laurie Berry, a member of Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, was presented with a globe as a token of appreciation for her year of service. Laurie teaches at Midlands Tech.



To contact Mark: 1-800-444-9334, 803-296-5879
or Mark.Tidsworth@PalmettoHealth.org

"Congregations and clergy are encouraged to call us about their specific needs. We will either provide the service they need or will work to connect them to appropriate resources," he said.

Ministry will look at healthy ministers, congregations to help those who are struggling, burned out

minister implement his or her calling in the particular context in which he or she serves.

Six ministers of various denominations participated in the pilot program in which Mark met with them by telephone three times a month for 40 minutes per call. In June, the center will offer clergy coaching to ministers around the state. Starting in September, a clergy and church staff workshop series will begin and run monthly.

Mark is also working with congregations. "I am talking with a congregation about a conflict resolution intervention, have met with a church staff, and am providing counseling for several ministers who are struggling," he said.

Mark works from Palmetto Health in both Columbia and Easley. "We see the state of South Carolina as our field of work," he said. "We are able to come to groups and congregations around the state."

Mark has written a grant which, if approved, will enable him to make programs available at other sites in the state.

Member. "We are ecumenical in our approach, working with any denomination or faith-based organization who wants to partner, and we are glad that SC/CBF is a member of the Center," he said."

Mark is an ordained Baptist minister who has served as a pastor, interim pastor, church planter and chaplain. He grew up as a missionary kid (MK) in West Virginia. He holds a master of divinity degree and a master's degree in clinical counseling. He is licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist and as a Professional Counselor.

Just prior to opening the Center for Clergy & Congregations, he was Director of Lowcountry Pastoral Counseling Center in Charleston until the end of 2003.

"This new work is a natural extension of the pastoral counseling work I do – combining faith with clinical expertise to help people move forward in life," he said. "At our center in Charleston my caseload became increasingly made up of clergy and church staff. I did more and more consultation and training in congregations. The Pastoral Counseling Department of Palmetto Health became more interested in meeting needs in this area. They

called and we began a conversation that led to my move here."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to focus full-time on this kind of ministry," Mark said. "The need calls for multiple centers like this one, though this is the only one I know of in our state specifically focused on these needs."

To help ministers who have struggled, left the ministry, or burned out, and congregations who have lost sight of their mission, are declining in membership or have been torn by conflict, the Center for Clergy & Congregations has been established at Palmetto Health in Columbia.

"A major thrust of the Center is finding ministers and churches who are thriving, and learn from them," said Mark Tidsworth, who began work in January as director of the center. "We are very interested in learning what helps good ministry happen, while keeping ministers healthy. We are studying healthy congregations and learning what they are doing to nurture their vitality."

Mark works with "healthy and happy ministers and churches" who want to grow further as well as with hurting and struggling ministers and churches that need support to heal and move forward.

"There is research which confirms that American clergy are in crisis – and thus the American congregation," Mark said. "We are seeking to respond to this need in a proactive way."

Mark has just completed a pilot program in clergy coaching, an emerging form of personal and professional development focused on helping a

Workshops Already Scheduled

Sept. 23: Equipping pastors for brief counseling sessions with members

Oct. 20: Understanding the emotional system of your congregation

Palmetto Health is providing the major funding for the Center. "Because we want the Center's services to be accessible to as many as possible, we have set the fees very low," he said.

To keep fees low, churches and groups are invited to become Annual Members. SC/CBF has already become an Annual

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of South Carolina**

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May-June 2004

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY June 24-26 in BIRMINGHAM

Festival by the Sea 300 young singers spend weekend making, learning music

Fifteen youth choirs with more than 300 singers participated in this spring's Festival by the Sea at Myrtle Beach.

The choirs rehearsed Friday night, Saturday morning and night. They had a chance to show what they had learned at the worship service on Sunday morning. Teenagers designed and led the service that incorporated all the anthems learned over the weekend.

It wasn't all work, though. "On Saturday evening we had a dance to help our teenagers mix and mingle," said Sheldon Timmerman, minister of music at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill and organizer of the event. "It was a high energy time."

This was the 5th Festival by the Sea. Larry Schultz, minister of music at Pullen Memorial in Raleigh, was commissioned



Amy Allibon, a high school choral director from Fort Worth, Texas, was the clinician for this year's Festival by the Sea, an annual event for CBF young people.

to write an anthem for the occasion, "Sing a Festive Song!" It was the concluding anthem in the Sunday worship service attended by more than 400.

The service also included an offering to help Butch and Nell Green, CBF field personnel, fund a contemporary Christian group for a concert in Brussels, Belgium. "The singers gave almost \$800 and with the help of festival churches, we will

meet our goal of \$2,000 to fund this concert," Timmerman said.

Next year's festival is scheduled for March 11-13, 2005, at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach. Hugh Floyd, a native of South Carolina, will be the festival clinician.

Go to the Festival By the Sea website to register, www.festivalbythesea.net.

2004 State Mission Offering Goal: \$110,000