

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA SEPTEMBER 2004

Tim Willis has been doing campus student ministry in Clemson for more than 18 years. Starting this semester, he's now doing it

## From a different place

Tim Willis has a new job. Well, not really a new job, more like a new employer.

For the past 18 years, Tim has been the Baptist Campus Minister in the Clemson area, working with young people to help them spiritually through some of their more difficult years. As of Aug. 15, he took on a very similar role as Minister to Students and Singles at First Baptist Church in Clemson.

"It's a good move for me and my family," Tim said. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the church that birthed campus ministry, expand on what I've been doing, and to provide an option for students to be plugged in with our church and its history."

Tim, a member at FBC Clemson already, looks forward to working more closely with CBF. "So many of my former students are at CBF seminaries. Many of my colleagues are with CBF. This church's relationship with CBF has always been a positive thing with me. I look forward to a strong partnership with CBF churches

and missionaries. I want to explore the possibility of taking spring break mission trips to where CBF work is being done."

"I also want us to do some things ecumenically. I want our students be a part of the church's annual Honduras Habitat trip every summer. I want to develop a lot of opportunities to develop our future leaders."

"I would like to see a summer program developed so that our students work alongside CBF missionaries."

—Tim Willis



"We're excited to have him as part of our staff and I think he's going to be a valuable contribution," said senior pastor Todd Wilson. "We have an alternative vision of what Baptist student life

The college group at FBC Clemson will be called COOPERATIVE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP. The weekly gathering, including dinner, will be each Thursday night at 7 p.m.

If you know of a student studying in the Clemson area, please let Tim know so that he can contact her/him. He can be reached at 864.654.2347 ext. 23 or emailed at curabbi@bellsouth.net.

should be. We want Tim to work with our students and teach them what it means to be Baptist. We want to reclaim the church's heritage of having a ministry to college students."

"We want a full-fledged student ministry under the auspices of church," Todd said. "This seems to be a unique time to reclaim the church's commitment to university students. We would like to see a really authentic witness to college students through a combination of content, fellowship and missions. We hope what we develop here will be a model for other CBF congregations.

As campus minister, Tim has worked with students at Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan and Tri-County Technical School. Before he came to South Carolina, he worked in his home state of Texas with campus ministries at several colleges, including the University of Texas Medical School on Galveston Island.

Among some of the students Tim has worked with are Kelly Dickerson, who was the first student to enroll in the new Baptist Studies Program that began this fall at Lutheran Seminary in Columbia; and Tiffany Hamilton and Theresa Smith, both now staff members at FBC Clemson. Many of his former students are studying or have studied at B TSR, Wake Forest, and McAfee.

"I don't know yet how many I'll be working with here as schools are just starting back," he said. "I know our ministry will be focused in the context of the church."

A new twist for Tim will be working with single adults of all ages. "One of the things I want to do with singles is partner  
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**Celebrating the Past: Faith**

**Sharing the Present: Love**

**Anticipating the Future: Hope**

## Fall Convocation:

**Nov. 8 • First Baptist Church Greenville**

Registration begins at 2 p.m. The program starts at 2:30, continues through dinner and will be over at 8 p.m.

Love Feast: \$20

**Foy Valentine • Duke McCall • Jimmy Allen  
Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler**

# THE ORACLE AT DELPHI

My wife Sally won a trip to Greece! I tagged along. Pure vacation. Great Greek food. But, even in the land of Zeus and Athena, God kept popping up. I read the Acts of the Apostles and followed Paul's travels. We visited the Isle of Patmos and saw the grotto where John penned his Revelation.

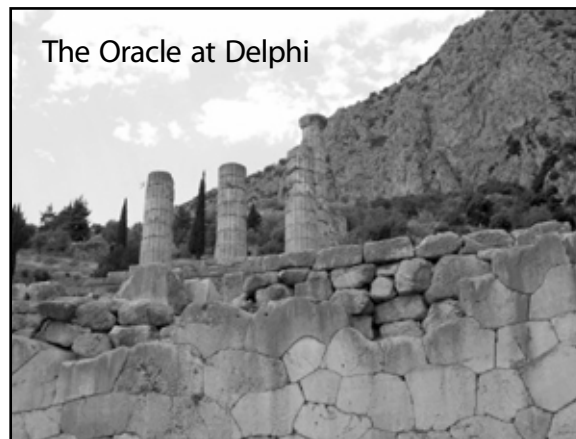
But my most "spiritual" experience came at Delphi, site of the famous Oracle. It was obvious to me that this beautiful site holds a special place in God's world. Once upon a time, over a thousand years before the birth of Jesus, something special happened on this sacred mountain. Someone had a mystical experience. They met God, as best they could understand God. They were humbled in the presence of a Power that was larger than they were. They valued the experience that happened there.

Then, typical of human beings, they wanted to repeat that experience. If you want to meet God, they said, you need to go to Delphi. They claimed that this place was the navel of the universe, the place where God connects to humans. Jews say the same thing of the Temple in Jerusalem. Then the Greeks began organizing and institutionalizing the Delphi experience. In order to get in to see the Oracle who was now thought to be located at Delphi permanently and exclusively, you had to spend seven days of training and purifying yourself in the gymnasium down the hill from the Oracle. You had to take a ritual bath. You were required to offer sacrificial gifts that would make you worthy to go into the presence of the Almighty to seek divine guidance.

Does any of this sound familiar? Isn't

it human nature that when we have a spiritual experience, we want to repeat it. What can we do to make it happen again? Like the old football cheer after a touchdown, "We want another one, just like the other one." We want another revival just like the revival at which we were converted. We want other people to have the same experience we had. Peter, on the Mount of Transfiguration, said, "Let's build some tents and stay here!" Who doesn't want to retain that holy feeling of worship? We take pictures on vacation because we want to recapture the experience later. In 2004, you can get rich by marketing Nostalgia!

But, then we go too far and say that if



The Oracle at Delphi

you don't have an experience just like the one I had, you really haven't met God. We name the experience and then we want to control it. Jump through these hoops and you will meet God. People want absolute certainty in a world of mystery and wonder. That is why some people still go to fortune tellers and others still go to fortune preachers. They want absolute confidence that they can

capture God at this place, at this time, in this way. Paul had to remind the Greeks in Acts 17: 24

that God "does not live in shrines made by human hands." Many Christians today also need that reminder.

The desire to share your experience is a good thing. We call that evangelism. The desire to control the experience of others is not a good thing. We call that blasphemy, putting ourselves in the place of God.

I had forgotten the word "hubris," but in Greece, I remembered that this was The Great Sin. Hubris is to forget your place before the gods. Icharis was given wings of wax so he could fly, but was warned not to fly too high, too close to the sun, because his wings would melt. Even if you don't know the story, you can guess how it turns out. Icharis, filled with hubris, believes that

the rules don't apply to him. He gets too close to the sun, his wings melt, and he crashes to his death. It seems to me that blasphemy and hubris are the same thing. Beware. You are not God. I was reminded at Delphi that God is God, and I am not God, and you are not God. That insight was worth the trip.



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator of SC/CBF

## FBC Clemson begins its own campus ministry program

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with other churches in the Upstate, pool our resources, bring in some speakers, and do some joint singles ministries," he said. "That will help all of our ministries."

As part of the church staff, Tim will be doing hospital visits and occasional preaching.

"Working in the church context on this staff in this church is a real privilege," he said. "FBC Clemson has been a flagship church in a lot of ways."

Tim's wife Lynda is a financial planner in Clemson. They have two children, John, 21, and David, 17.

## Coordinator's Preaching Schedule

September 17-19: Parklane Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL

October 1-3: Shaws Fork Baptist Church, Weekend Revival, Aiken

October 8-10: Timberlake Baptist Church, Men's Retreat, Myrtle Beach

Nov. 14: Nixonville Chapel

Nov. 28: First Baptist Church, Greenwood



## A milestone not many reach: Randy Wright celebrates 20 years at Fernwood

Randy Wright has reached a milestone not many pastors get to these

days. He celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

The celebration weekend was Aug. 7-8. A barbecue outing on Saturday he had anticipated. But the special events of Sunday morning were a surprise. Three of his closest friends – Roger Lovette of Birmingham, Marion Aldridge of Columbia and Bob Shrum of Rock Hill – showed up to participate in the worship service.

“They had been at the Saturday din-

ner but I thought they all went home,” Randy said. “I had no idea they would be there on Sunday. These are friends I have known for a quarter of a century. I was completely surprised. I felt emotions I had never felt before.”

Randy came to Fernwood the second Sunday in August 1984 from Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca where he served for seven years. During the 20 years at Fernwood, the church has built and nearly paid for a \$4 million sanctuary and family life center. The clergy staff has doubled from two to four. The church has started four mission churches within its walls – Japanese, Ukrainian, Hispanic and German.

Randy is a member of the national CBF Coordinating Council, serves on its

Council for Endorsement and its Ecumenical Task Force. He and his wife Diana are parents of Kristi Whitaker, Traci Wright, and Ryan Wright. They have one grandson, Grayson Whitaker.

Randy was born in Honolulu but considers North Charleston his home. He is a Clemson University graduate and earned D. Min. and M. Div. degrees from Southern Seminary. He was ordained in December 1971.

“The weekend we celebrated was not about me,” he said. “It was about all the people at Fernwood, the supportive family that has made it possible for me to be here for 20 years. It was a celebration of a good match. For me the weekend was exciting and fun and humbling.”

## Emmanuel already acting like a grown-up

Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship in Lexington turns a year old this September. But it’s already acting like a grown-up. The church on Aug. 8 moved into a new facility, it gives five percent of its undesignated offerings to CBF and gave more than \$1300 during the first six months of 2004.

Pretty good for a fledgling group from the Columbia area that first met last September to talk about starting a CBF church.

“There was considerable discussion about the name, the vision statement, core values, and membership policy, but finally all were resolved,” said Terry Brooks, CBF’s Reference and Referral Associate and a member of the church. “The most difficult issue was the

membership policy, and the decision was to affirm the prior baptism of any person that came for membership that did not wish to be baptized again. Persons who have not been previously baptized will be baptized by immersion.”

Carson Rogerson, a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor at Palmetto Richland Hospital, was called as the interim Pastor. Anna Beth Simmons

was called as the Minister of Worship. The church has about 25 members, and attendance during the summer averaged about 30. The church has a full age-graded program with classes for babies, toddlers, elementary children, youth, and two adult groups.

The group met in Irmo until May when it moved to a 4,000-square-foot office building on

highway 378 in Lexington. “We tore out the carpet and most of the existing walls and completely renovated the space to meet our needs,” Terry said. “We now have 7 classrooms, and a worship room. We can probably handle more than 100 in worship.”

Most of the work was done by the members.

The fellowship met in an adjoining office suite while completing the renovations. The first Sunday in the new building was on August 8, with 34 present. “Since we did most of the work ourselves, we are glad to see the fruit of our efforts,” Terry said. “However, our hope is to outgrow the space quickly and need to make other arrangements.”

**I**f you want more information about Emmanuel or about starting a new church, contact Terry at the SC/CBF office, 803.779.1888 or email [terry@cbfosc.org](mailto:terry@cbfosc.org). Emmanuel’s new building is at 4766 Sunset Blvd., Suite B, in Lexington (on US 378 about one mile from I-20).



Christy McMillin-Goodwin

## Oakland associate gets new role

Christy McMillin-Goodwin is now the Associate Minister for Education and Missions at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. In that role, she will be in charge of adult education and all mission activities.

On the staff at Oakland for nine years, Christy previously was Associate Minister for Students. She is a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council.



Pam Light spent her second week at Koinonia at the community outreach center, where she worked at Children's Peace Camp, sponsored by the Atlanta Peace Mobile. She worked with 20-25 children each day, teaching them how to live at peace with one another. Pam hopes to find ways for SC/CBF to partner with Koinonia.

## Web surfing connects CBF volunteer Pam Light with Koinonia

**P**am Light, a middle school Spanish teacher in Columbia, found her opportunity for summer missions surfing the internet. She spent two weeks at Koinonia Partners in Americus (formerly known as Koinonia Farm). "It was a wonderful place to volunteer, work, worship, relax, and learn," she said.

A member of St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, Pam said she stumbled upon the Koinonia website one night while exploring volunteer opportunities, and knew that's where she wanted to work this summer. Here's what she learned:

"Koinonia is still a working farm, and much of its income comes from the pecans and other products it sells. The history of Koinonia is fascinating, too, and I was in awe thinking about the courage and commitment of Clarence Jordan and the others who stayed there through the violence, persecution, and threats they experienced during the 1950s.

"What I didn't know about Koinonia, and what interested me most, is that they also have a community outreach center with programs for children and senior adults. Most of the people served by these programs live in the two villages

around the farm. The houses were built by Koinonia in the 1960s and 1970s when Millard Fuller was there, just before he started Habitat for Humanity. So, in a way, they are the very first Habitat houses."

Pam already plans to go back next year to direct the summer day camp program in June. "This means that I will plan all the activities for the children," she said. "This will include bringing volunteers to lead activities each week, and I'm already lining up groups from South Carolina CBF churches to go to Americus to help."

### New Hope Christian Fellowship has a new pastor

## Brenda Kneece didn't want to be the interim again

Brenda Kneece, Executive Minister of the South Carolina Christian Action Council since 1999, is also now serving as pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship in West Columbia.

"My calling has always been with people," Brenda said. "I like to have contact with individuals, to see them grow, to stand by them as they are challenged by life and celebrate life. Those opportunities are few and far between in my job with the Christian Action Council."

New Hope is not a new congregation to Brenda, who on two previous occasions served as interim pastor there. "But I didn't want to be just an interim this time," she said. "I wanted to focus my own church-ship, my own personal involvement in this congregation. I want to be invested there and bring the gifts I have as a pastoral servant and an administrative leader."

New Hope was chartered in May 1994. It averages around 55 in worship with about 40 in Sunday school. A Bible school

held in June brought 45 children and youth to the church with 32 adult volunteers. About one-fourth of the children were unchurched. "So we've got some work to do to follow up with them," Brenda said.

New Hope had been without a pastor since December when Jeff Tobias left. Previously, James Goudelock, a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council, had been the long-time pastor of New Hope.

Brenda formerly was a member of Greenlawn Baptist Church in Columbia. She earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, and an undergraduate degree in Education at Winthrop University, Rock Hill. She worked for SC/WMU before joining the Christian Action Council.



Brenda Kneece

## Hadden didn't slip away in the night — Florida church 'steals' another SC pastor

Steve Hadden promises he didn't slip away in the middle of the night. He just found a new congregation that he wanted to take outside the walls. Steve was for five years pastor of First Baptist Church in Conway. On



Aug. 8, he preached his first sermon as pastor of Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa.

"My congregation in Conway was wonderful," he said. "They got outside the walls to do lots of things."

The church partnered with three African

American churches to finish a Habitat House. "That was one of the most thrilling parts of being there," he said. "We also began a contemporary service that averaged more than 200 each Sunday. I was tickled with that. We were involved in an organization that helped feed people. We had volunteers who helped in a medical clinic. And we had a 'Street Reach' program."

The church also completed under Steve's leadership a \$2 million renovation "from the steeple to the basement." Some of the work was needed because of damage caused by Hurricane Floyd.

At Bayshore, Steve, a registered pharmacist as well as a pastor, expects members to take a similar role in reaching out to the community. The church has 1300 members, and had 379 in Sunday School on Steve's first Sunday.

One of the goals he has already set is for Bayshore to establish a ministry similar to Metanoia. The church owns a building across the street that he hopes will become a tutoring center and offer other

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## SC/CBF's reference service helps Westbrook connect with FBC Anderson

Neil Westbrook has just one hobby right now: training for a Nov. 13 marathon. But he's also hard at work in his new job as minister of education and children at First Baptist Church in Anderson.

Neil began work July 12, joining a ministerial staff of five. "I want us to reach out into the community and be a missional church," he said. FBC Anderson is averaging about 475 in Sunday School, 260 in an early contemporary worship service, and 240 in the 11 a.m. traditional service.

Neil previously served in similar positions at First Baptist churches in North Wilkesboro and Mocksville, NC. He moved to Greenville, where he continues to live, without a job when his wife, Whitney, was named branch manager for Robert Half International. Neil worked with Terry Brooks, SC/CBF's Reference and Referral Associate, to find his new position. He is a 2002 graduate of Duke Divinity School, and is a native of Wadesboro, NC. He and Whitney have a 13-month old son, Parker. Neil will run in the Richmond Marathon on Nov. 13.



Neil Westbrook moved with his wife to Greenville and got connected to FBC Anderson through SC/CBF's Reference and Referral Associate Terry Brooks.

## Bennett leaves FBC Orangeburg to work on faith formation for CBF in Atlanta

Rick Bennett, the pastoral educator at First Baptist Church in Orangeburg for the past three-and-a-half years, is the new associate coordinator for faith formation for CBF. Rick will serve as part of the CBF congregational life team led by Bo Prosser.

"I can say that my new role is quite the challenge," Rick said. "It is new and relatively undefined. We are charting new territory for CBF in the development of a Spiritual Formation Network, the ownership of the Missional Church concept, and especially resource development."



Rick Bennett, left, joins Bo Prosser on the staff of Congregational Life for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Rick has several tasks in his new role, including the development of resources and events that support congregational ministry; coordination of partnerships that can help in resource development (such as Smyth and Helwys, Baptist Center for Ethics, Upper Room); consultant work in local churches and regional training events; and development of a consultant network.

"Rick brings the highest quality of Christian education leadership to this new position," Bo said. "He is a fine thinker and will lead these development processes with intentionality and integrity."

Ordained in 1995, Rick also served churches in North Carolina and Virginia. He has been married for nine years to Rebecca Eller and they have two children, Tyler Jacob, 3, and Samuel Ethan, 6 months.



## September 2004

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## Hadden at Bayshore

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services to the community.

Steve has always been active in CBF. He was state moderator in Kentucky before he moved to South Carolina. He was in his second year as a member of the SC/CBF Coordinating Council when he moved to Florida.

He succeeds Randy Ashcraft who had been pastor there for 13 years. Randy previously was pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca. "I told them they take pride in stealing from South Carolina," Steve said.

Hardy Clemons, retired pastor of First Baptist church in Greenville, had been interim pastor at Bayshore for the past 16 months.

Your gifts to the State Mission Offering support ministries such as Metanoia. The goal for the 2004 offering is \$110,000. If you need envelopes or promotional materials, please contact the SC/CBF Resource Center.



## Summer at Metanoia



Metanoia, SC/CBF's urban ministry in North Charleston, had an active summer. The Board held its first-ever weekend retreat at the Baptist Church of Beaufort planning how to make Metanoia healthy and successful in the years to come. Board members Ida Taylor and Macon Sheppard are pictured at the retreat.

Also, Metanoia opened its doors during July for "Young Leaders Summer Push," a day camp for Young Leaders in the community. Young Leaders enhanced their learning skills and had weekly field trips. Here young leaders pose with Magdalene Setia (in center of children), a Masai woman who came to speak about life in Kenya. Through it all, Metanoia was carrying out its mission statement of building new relationships with God and one another to create strong communities, said urban minister Bill Stanfield.

More next month about what Providence Baptist Church did with Metanoia at the end of the summer.