

Fellowship

FOURTH ISSUE | 2022

FORMING TOGETHER:
Growing as a community
of grace on a shared
spiritual journey that
connects people to Christ
and one another.

From CBFSC Coordinator Elizabeth Nance-Coker

O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

ADVENT IS AN EXCITING TIME IN OUR CONGREGATIONS AS WE SHARE IN MEANINGFUL TRADITIONS CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF JESUS. At the beginning of the new liturgical year, the Advent season is filled with waiting for the coming of Emmanuel, *God With Us*. For many, this is a cherished season of reflective thinking about the many ways God has been present in our lives, and of anticipating the coming year with hope, peace, joy and love. For those who are grieving in these days of short days and long nights, our churches become a beacon of love via the ministry of presence. Hope, peace, joy and love are not merely words of focus during the Advent season, for they describe the ways God is made manifest to all people. We are the bearers of these life-giving words as we are living and moving in the world God so loves.

How can we share the good news that God is with us? Our CBFSC congregations are finding ways to share the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ in our churches through spiritual formation, by telling God's Story in worship, and through missional involvement. What an inspiration! Through faithful giving to the Beverly Greer Offering for State

Missions and the CBF Offering for Global Missions, you are helping hundreds of people in our state and around the world.

Our CBF South Carolina vision statement says, "We are growing as a community of grace on a shared spiritual journey that connects people to Christ and one another." After my first five months on the job as coordinator, I can testify to the truth of our people living into this statement. I've had the opportunity to visit many of your churches, preaching, meeting with staff, working with search committees, attending Sunday school classes and sharing table fellowship. I've watched our Covenant Mission Partners in action as they serve. It is exciting to see what God is doing through CBFSC through this amazing blend of believers! The CBFSC Facebook page helps us stay aware and informed about our congregations. Please like and follow the page for inspiring stories about our congregations and mission partners.

Remember the words of John 1, "*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.*" O come, let us adore him. Amen. •cbf•



2023 Events & Announcements

CBFSC General Assembly

Saturday, April 21

First Baptist Church in Anderson, SC

REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY!

Visit our website for hotel information.

CBF General Assembly

June 25 – July 1 | Atlanta, GA

Clergy Renewal Retreat

April 12–14 | Kanuga in Hendersonville, NC

Work at Passport Camps!

PASSPORTcamps.org/apply

Apply for a Scholarship!

PASSPORTcamps.org/camp-scholarships

CBFSC Hosts Regional Church Finance Seminar



On November 8, CBFSC hosted a regional church finance seminar, Beyond the Offering Plate, at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia. Leading the seminar were Shauw Chin Capps, CBF Foundation president & chief development officer, and Rickey Letson, CBF congregational stewardship officer.

You can use this link (<https://cbf.net/church-finance-resources>) to access church finance resources from the seminar. Additionally, Shauw Chin recommends that churches begin to pay attention to financial health by having their finance committee/leadership complete the Congregational Financial Health Assessment, accessed via the link above. Rickey Letson (rletson@cbff.org) and Shauw Chin Capps (scapps@cbff.org) are available to discuss congregational support services with your congregation. •cbf•

Pan African Koinonia Meet with South Carolina Pastors



Pan African Koinonia (PAK) is a member of CBF from the African diaspora including African Americans, Caribbean, Africans, and more. Their purpose is to cultivate an increased presence of Black individuals and churches throughout CBF life. On November 4, Rev. Kasey Jones, CBF associate coordinator for outreach and growth, and Rev. Miriam Phillips-Stephens, PAK ministry field coordinator, came to South Carolina to meet with pastors from across the state whose churches are interested in learning more about CBF and PAK. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Howard and Rev. Charles Moses were instrumental in planning this event where 19 pastors attended. We are thankful for all the pastors that attended, and pray with them as they discern if their churches would like to join CBF.

If you would like to learn more about PAK, you can visit their website at <https://cbf.net/pak>. If you know of any pastors or churches that would be interested in learning more about CBFSC, please contact our office. •cbf•

Flood Bucket Response

THERE IS STILL A NEED, AND THE OPPORTUNITY IS YOURS TO DONATE FLOOD BUCKETS. You can find the information on our website at <https://cbfsc.org/missions-disaster-response>.



**Download
State Missions
Offering Resources**
for your congregation at
www.cbfsc.org/missions

GIVE at www.cbfsc.org/giving

Covenant Partners Update

Our covenant mission partners have been doing so many amazing things, that we don't have enough room in our newsletter to share all the great things they have been doing in their communities! We encourage you to follow them on social media, and to sign up for their e-newsletters so you can regularly get updates about the work that YOU are supporting. As a reminder, our covenant partners are Carolina Immigrant Alliance, Koinonia, Metanoia, Palmetto Works, The Off Ramp, and Together for Hope. Thank you for supporting these amazing non-profits through giving to CBFSC and the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions.

BWIM Month of Advocacy–March

Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) has taken more steps to affirm, value, and elevate women in ministry. What has previously been known as BWIM Month of Preaching, is expanding to the BWIM Month of Advocacy in March. You are still encouraged to invite a woman to preach, but there are additional things that you and your church can do! Examples are advocating for ordination of women in ministry in your church; giving scholarships to women in seminary or college preparing for ministry; and evaluating the artwork in your church and adding pieces that include women.

For more ideas about how your church can participate in BWIM Month of Advocacy, visit <https://bwim.info/month-of-advocacy>. If you need a list of women who would be interested in preaching at your church, please reach out to the CBFSC office, or to the BWIM SC leaders, Rev. Cara Morgan (cara.morgan@andersonfbc.org) or Rev. Kelli Kirksey (kellkirksey@gmail.com).



BWIM | MONTH OF
ADVOCACY

SAVE THE DATE | BWIM SC retreat Feb. 5–8, 2023 at Devils Fork State Park!

Kelli Kirksey has joined Cara Morgan as BWIM SC co-coordinator!

Kelli is minister of family life at Inman First Baptist Church and has four children: Will (6), Ella (10), George (12), and Layla (14). Kelli knows the joys and struggles of being a woman, minister, wife, and mother. She believes that BWIM plays an important role in encouraging, affirming, and empowering women to become ministers. Kelli is excited to be a part of BWIM SC and to see how God will be working through BWIM SC in the years to come. *Reach out and send a welcome email to Kelli (kellkirksey@gmail.com)!*



Thanks from Rev. Lane Riley

I was ordained at First Baptist Church in Greenwood on October 23. Many of you reached out to me giving me encouragement, congratulations, and sharing your prayers. I truly felt the love from my CBFSC family during the worship service and afterwards as I reflected upon what my ordination means for me and my ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support of me and my ministry, and for your trust in me to do this great work in South Carolina. I feel truly blessed to have so many people that support the entire staff of CBFSC, our leaders in Coordinating Council, our pastors, and lay leaders. Thank you.

Missions Grants Awarded:

- Allendale County Alive was awarded a \$3,000 partnership grant for a revolving loan fund to certify contractors in order to do more housing home repairs in Allendale County.
- Our ministry partner, Aki Shigemi, was awarded a \$3,000 partnership grant to continue ministry among the Japanese population in the upstate.
- Second Mt. Beulah Baptist Church was awarded a \$1,500 project grant to do a community holiday dinner.
- Fernwood Baptist Church was awarded a \$1,500 project grant to create an outdoor space at a neighboring school garden.
- Kathwood Baptist Church was awarded a \$1,500 project grant for their choral music scholar program.

Spaces and Places: Keeping Up with Our Coordinators

Would you like for one of our coordinators to preach at your church?
Would you like to host a CBFSC event? *Contact a coordinator now!*

Lane Riley...

- Ordained on October 23 at First Baptist Church, Greenwood.
- Attended the Together for Hope regional meeting in Americus, GA, along with four other nonprofit leaders from South Carolina.
- Helped plan and attended five data walks (focus groups) in Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Jasper, and Hampton counties as part of the Lowcountry Housing Taskforce.
- Took 300 flood buckets (200 from SC and 100 from NC) to Kentucky to assist in their disaster response efforts.

Elizabeth Nance-Coker...

- Began Lake Institute program of study toward Executive Certificate in religious fundraising
- Visited 8 churches to meet with pastors and/or staff
- Preached, taught or spoke at 12 churches, including Belmont Baptist*
- CBFSC staff retreat in October
- Participated in Lane Riley's ordination service
- Participating in Pan African Koinonia (PAK) SC inaugural events with Kasey Jones + Miriam Phillips-Stevens (CBF Global)
- Coordinated "Beyond the Offering Plate"—a regional finance seminar with Shauw Chin Capps (CBF Foundation) and Rickey Letson (CBF Global)
- Met with CBF military chaplain endorser Charlie Reynolds and other chaplains
- BWIM SC retreat planning



*Frankie Scott and Carolyn Webb are part of the missional sewing group at Belmont Baptist Church in Columbia. Meeting twice monthly at Belmont, they have sewn thousands of shorts, dresses, and blankets which they donated to partnering mission organizations.

CBFSC Churches Welcome New Staff

Welcome

TONY HOPKINS, Interim Pastor
First Baptist Church, Greenville

BRIDGET KOKOLIS, Children's Minister
First Baptist Church, Greenville

FRANKLIN LOWE
Associate Minister for Youth & College
First Baptist Church, Greenville

TIM MARSH, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church, Laurens

SHAYNA JO WIBLE, Associate Pastor
Augusta Heights Baptist Church, Greenville

CAMILLE LOOMIS REHNBORG
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach
First Baptist Church, Greenville

WESTON HENDERSON, Minister to Families, Youth & Children
Pelham Road Baptist Church, Greenville

Garren Titus
MODERATOR
garrent2@gmail.com

Amy C. Cook
EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER
editor@cbfsc.org

Elizabeth Nance-Coker
COORDINATOR
803.348.8692
elizabeth@cbfsc.org

Lane Riley
ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR
864-992-6445
lane@cbfsc.org

Wayne Patterson
DISASTER RESPONSE
864.710.8239 | jwptt@clermson.edu

Debbie Haag
OFFICE MANAGER
803.779.1888 | debbie@cbfsc.org

E-NEWS

In addition to this printed newsletter, we also send an e-newsletter bi-weekly. If you would like to subscribe, send your email address to office@cbfsc.org with 'E-News' in the subject line.