

MINISTERS' UPDATES

October 5, 2009

Janice Johnson (Administration)

Engage ... "Whatever it is in your power to do, do with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10

- Third Contributions statements will be going out by mid October. – Please review your gifts and contact Gail House with any questions. This is a great time of year to catch up on contributions. Our gifts for the last three months have come remarkably close to last year's contributions and as always, your leadership is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your commitment.
- IRA Distributions deadline extension - Legislation was passed that would extend tax incentives for charitable giving for 2008 and 2009. The measure allows, as was the case in the Pension Protection Act for 2006 and 2007, for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a donation to charity directly from individual retirement accounts. If you wish to take advantage of this, the transfer must be made directly to FBC on or before December 31, 2009. Withdrawals will count against required minimum distributions for the year and therefore are excluded from income with no tax implications on the amount donated. Due to this you cannot at the same time claim a charitable deduction. However, this gift will show on your FBC contribution record as a "non-deductible" gift and will be credited against any pledge balances. Please contact Gail House with information. Individuals should also contact your financial advisor for further information and instructions.
- Engage First: Contributions – Check out your membership contributions information on your member access and give feedback to Gail House if you have questions. We would hope that the future would allow an expense savings for mailing quarterly contribution statements by using this feature. We need everyone to sign up! Please take the time to check out this new and exciting way for FBC members to engage through our website. "Engage First" is a new area on the site allowing a number of online opportunities for staff and members. Members are able to securely access their own records and update their contact information and photos, view the church calendar online, view the current membership directory, and even pledge online. We have received good responses from members who have already signed up which is very easy. Please visit www.firstbaptist-greenville/engage and open the user's guide to sign up. Contact Bootie Cothran at bootie.cothran@firstbaptist-greenville.com with any questions.
- Stewardship Committee – Plans are underway for 2010. Deacons are request to please protect early January for assisting with member delivery packets.
- AYMC Punch list - a few items remain to be addressed. Work continues with Triangle Construction, Neal Prince Architects and FBC to complete these items.
- Committee on Engagement – Go to Engage First on the website to volunteer and see form to sign up and "Engage" in church missions and ministries. Joy Rohrbaugh will chair this year's committee (former Committee on Committees).
- Safety Committee volunteers needed – Contact JR Christy or Brian Marshall for more information for assistance on Wednesday and Sundays.
- Sunday morning Shuttle Service continues. Contact John Jones at 609-1859 to volunteer and more information.
- Global Missions – Note cards are still available at the Reception Desk for a set of 12 images from the FBC campus! The \$20 benefits Global Missions and make nice gifts!

Michelle McClendon (Christian Education)

- Bible Studies in September:
 - Sunday Evening: Trevor and Robin Barton teaching the book of Acts. Begins September 13 at 5 in room 308. Call Sandra to register for childcare and for the study. Approximately 15 registered.
 - Friday Morning Bible Study: Michelle McClendon teaches the letters of Paul—Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and 2 Timothy. Friday mornings from 10-11:30 in the Parlor beginning September 18. Approximately 45 registered

Men's Wednesday morning study: Led by Dr. Bert Strange focusing on the passages for the upcoming Sunday in the revised common lectionary. Meets at 6:30 on Wed. morning in the staff room. All interested men welcome.

- A new KLESIS group will form beginning October 25 and running four Sunday evenings through Nov. 15 from 5-6:30. KLESIS groups assist individuals in determining his or her gifts, passions, interests and calling for ministry. Tedd Garner and Michelle McClendon will facilitate this session of KLESIS. A group is being chosen to serve as an initial pilot group to experience and evaluate a revised way of doing KLESIS. At the end of the fourth group session, individual sessions will be scheduled to discuss the information each person has received. Please call Michelle McClendon if you wish to participate. Cost is \$10 per person.
- The Adult Education Committee is shifting its focus from Wednesday programming to other types of adult education opportunities: small groups, additional Bible study class on Sunday mornings, etc. Pass on ideas to any of the Adult Ed committee members. Beverly Greer chairs this committee.
- The Christian Education team has worked since May on an initiative assigned by Long Range Planning Forum to formalize our congregational emphasis on Spiritual Gifts. That group is completing its work and will be sending a report to the LRPF soon.
- This fall, the Spiritual Formation Committee will be providing a monthly contemplative worship experience focused on walking the labyrinth. If your group or class is interested in having a short introduction to labyrinth history and practice, please contact Michelle to schedule.
- Diana McKendree will lead this year's Dream Workshop on November 20-21 in the Parlor. The theme of this year's workshop is "Exploring Life's Journey Through Story, Image, and Dreams." Diana is on the faculty of the Haden Institute. CEU credits are available for therapists, pastoral counselors and social workers. A flyer is on the back table if you are interested or know someone who might be. Contact Michelle McClendon for more details or Sandra Davis to register.
- Professional Activities:
 - Attending the board meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty, October 3-6, 2009 in Washington, DC. Currently serving as secretary of the board. The board will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Executive Director Brent Walker and attend a briefing at the White House during this fall meeting.
 - Preach on Sunday morning and teach a four-night Bible study at New Heights Baptist Church in Gaffney, SC. Sid Norton is the pastor of this church affiliated with CBF of SC and with the AOB.
 - Conduct a Golden Rule Workshop for Greenville Tech International Students on Sunday, October 11, from 7-9 p.m.
 - Helped to organize a dinner dialogue for leaders from almost every Greenville faith group, October 15, at FU, sponsored by Interfaith Forum.

Juli Morrow (Preschool)

- We had twenty parents join us at the New Parents Breakfast on September 27. This is an annual event sponsored by the Preschool Committee to celebrate births/adoptions within the last year.

Bev Rogers (Children)

- Acolytes – Eleven new acolytes attended training on September 13 and will serve during the 2009-2010 church year. They will join the seven children who are already participating in the acolyte program from the previous year.
- Monthly Activity – Forty-three 1st-5th graders enjoyed "Dinner and a Movie" in the new AYMC on Friday evening, September 25. They also played pool, ping-pong, air hockey, etc. The children brought donations of canned soup (90 cans!) for "Monday Soup Night" at Frazee Dream Center's after-school program.
- Looking Ahead –
 - Children's Sabbath is scheduled for Sunday, October 11.
 - Fall activities for children will include a pumpkin-carving and costume contest on October 30, a

hayride and horseback riding at Grove Station Farms on November 13, and Christmas caroling to FBC home-bound members on December 6. A missions project will be a part of each of these activities.

Jeff Rogers (Music & Worship)

- Upcoming worship emphases:
 - October 11, 9 and 11:00 a.m., Children's Sabbath, Jeff Rogers preaching
 - October 18, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Gina Brock preaching
 - October 25, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Founding Sunday, Jeff Rogers preaching
 - October 25, 6:30 p.m., 25th Anniversary Organ Recital, Charles Tompkins and the Sanctuary Choir performing

Laura Shelley (Missions)

- October churchwide mission project is providing these items for The Salvation Army of Greenville: toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths, soap and small roll-on deodorants. The children in Mission Friends who are studying about disaster relief will package the donated items in plastic bags to be given to local families experiencing fire or other disasters. September project was collecting items for Triune Mercy Center.
- CBF of SC Workday was September 12 at Frazee Dream Center in Greenville. The following FBC members participated: Michael Brennan, Maggie Brown, Ethel Childress, Jim Childress, Kevin Crisp, Andrea Devon, Jo Devon, Mark Devon, Beverly Greer, Questria Meyer, Jennifer Murphy, Jeremy Murphy and Laura Shelley.
- 20th Annual Walk for the Homeless to benefit United Ministries' Place of Hope is October 18. The Walk will begin at the Greenville Drive Stadium at 2:00 p.m. The 3.5-mile route (with a shorter option available) will take you past human service agencies where homeless people in Greenville seek assistance each day. Register now from the church Web site. List "First Baptist Greenville" as the group with whom you are walking and "Chesnee Marshall" as the group leader. Deadline to register online and receive a free t-shirt is October 9. If you are unable to register online, you can pick up a registration form at the AYMC Welcome Desk. The suggested donation for the Walk is \$25 per person or \$50 per family. All checks must be given to Chesnee Marshall or left at the Reception Desk by October 9. For questions, contact Chesnee Marshall at 630-6776.
- FBC will again serve as the Operation Christmas Child Collection Center for the upstate the week of November 16-23. Elaine Barnhill and members of Women on Mission Circle 7 are leading the project. A trip to OCC Charlotte Processing Center is scheduled for November 24. Coordinator is Herlane Edwards.
- Recent and upcoming Project Host servers: Koinonia Class- August 23, Adkins-Bouton Class- October 25. Contact Chesnee Marshall at 630-6776 to learn more about opportunities to serve in 2010.
- Next GAIHN host week is November 8-15. It's not too early to volunteer to host, set up, or provide a meal. For more information or to volunteer, contact Becky Ramsey at 627-6691 or fiveramseys@yahoo.com.
- FBC will serve as a preparation site for Loaves and Fishes Feed the Thousands on November 25-26. For more information, contact Jon Good.
- A mission team will be in Hungary serving at the Gandhi School February 4-14, 2010- rescheduled from October 2009. Team members include Becky Bouton (leader), Elaine Sarratt, Duke McCall, Connie Glass, Ben Waldrop, and Ethel and Jim Childress.
- A Cuba Partnership interest meeting was held September 13. Participants discussed future plans of involvement with our partner church, including the possibility of hosting the Cuban pastors in Greenville in 2010 and sending another team to Cuba in 2011.
- Missions Now was mailed September 28 with the NEWS.
- October 1 was the deadline for organizations to apply to the FBC Missions Committee for funding for this year. Funding decisions will be made by December 1.
- Save the date: Operation Inasmuch April 17, 2010. Chair is Christa Brackin, and Chair-Elect is Robin Barton.

Frank Smith (College and Youth)

- The sexting and internet safety Sunday School lessons for parents and youth held in September were very successful. Over 50 parents attended each session along with their teenager.
- College lunch has resumed for the school year. It will be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month following worship. Ten Furman students attended in September.
- The high school and college ski trips for 2010 have been combined. They will go to Boone, NC the weekend of January 22-24.
- The Middle School Ski Retreat will be January 29-30.
- The annual yard sale for youth missions is April 24.
- The High School Graduates Mission Trip to the Bahamas is June 11-18.
- Unidiversity, Youth Camp, is July 5-10.
- The youth will attend a CBF meeting at First Baptist Anderson on November 5. They will have a pizza supper followed by speaker Tony Campolo.
- Youth have been asked to participate in Walk for the Homeless on October 18.
- The Youth Choir will sing at the church picnic on October 11.
- The Wednesday and Sunday evening schedule for youth was changed this school year.

All youth are participating in a study called iGod on Wednesday evenings followed by MidWeek worship. It has been well attended with over 30 each week.

High School choir meets at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays followed by snack supper and then Bible study. The average attendance has been 20.

Middle School InnerMission meets at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays followed by snack supper and then choir. The average attendance has been 30.

Baxter Wynn (Pastoral Care and Community Relations)

Neighborhood Partnership—Herlane Edwards—Coordinator

- Haynie-Sirriner residents enjoyed exercise, games and lunch at the FBC Second Tuesday Program. On September 22nd, twenty-eight residents and Neighborhood Partnership members enjoyed a visit to the Happy Cow Dairy Farm in Pelzer. In October, Haynie-Sirriner residents will make their annual pilgrimage to Sky Top Apple Orchard in Hendersonville. The Greenville Tech Foundation Student Housing basketball league and tournament will be held at FBC from January through March.

Senior Adults

- Upcoming First Friday Luncheons: The Anderson Senior Follies presented the program in October. On November 13th, Dr. Courtney Tollison, assistant professor at Furman and Historian for the Upstate History Museum, will speak on the new History Museum exhibit, "Weaving Our Survival: Upcountry Stories of World War II."

Karen Childers and Amy Joye Bailey will present a program of Christmas music in December.

- Upcoming Day Trip: On October 1st, Senior Adults enjoyed a trip to historic Dahlonega, Georgia. The group visited the Gold Museum, had a delicious lunch at the famous Smith House. On December 12th, seniors will attend the Madrigal Feast at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$26.

Community Relations

- Member of United Way Palmetto Society Board and Poinsett Society Board.
- Furman's Board of Trustees. Chair of Student Life Committee.
- Member of Search Committee for new Furman President.
- Assisting United Way in developing relationships with faith-based organizations, making appropriate linkage between local mission activities and United Way's community impact agenda.
- Speaker at Greenville Sertoma Club on 9/18
- Attended the Greenville Forward Advisory Council meeting on 9/30.
- Attended the Urban League of Upstate Annual Meeting.

Pastoral Care and Community Relations (cont)

Ministry to Families

- Janet Huskey and Jeanette Cothran are co-chairing the Ministry to Families Committee. The committee continues to work on securing special visitors for each of our shut-in members, as well as additional volunteers for the flower ministry.
- The Healthcare Advocacy Committee recently met with a representative from the Greenville County Health Department to discuss the church's response to Pandemic (H1N1) and seasonal flu. Information on how to limit the spread of disease is being communicated through the Church News, and with flyers and posters located throughout the church.
- A flu-shot clinic—for seasonal flu vaccination—will be held on October 28th.