



Screven Baptist Association  
*many churches, one mission.*



# THE DIGEST

Volume LIII Issue 8

October 2015

## *Celebrating our Partnership in the Gospel*

Philippians 1: 3,5 I thank my God ... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

***66th Annual Meeting***

***Screven Baptist Association***

***3:30PM October 27, 2015***

***Cordesville First Baptist Church***

**I AM NOT ASHAMED**

**OF THE GOSPEL FOR IT**

**IS THE POWER OF**

**GOD FOR**

**SALVATION!**

**ROMANS 1:16**

# From the Director of Church and Community Ministries

Susan Harris [sharris@screvenbaptist.org](mailto:sharris@screvenbaptist.org)

I had the privilege to take part in an informative round table discussion on how we can make a difference in our local schools. This workshop took place at the South Carolina Baptist Convention with the focus being “Loving Our Local Schools” ; really serving them with their individual needs. Some of the statistics were alarming! For example, 1 in 6 early child development age children do NOT know their full names, only a nickname. The percentage of children born to single parents is 73% for African-American and 52% for combined overall children. Most are nutritionally challenged and have a vocabulary deficit. If children are not reading at grade level by third grade, the chance of incarceration increases to 50%! This is why back-pack buddies, book drives and reading to the children can make a difference in their overall education. I was asked the question, “How does just reading to the children make a difference?” The answer is simple. By reading to them it introduces words they may not normally hear and therefore builds their vocabulary. Have you ever listened to the common words spoken to preschoolers in local dollar stores? Sit down! Don’t touch that! Shut-up! Be quiet! Stop! Most of these words are not spoken in a loving positive manner nor are they words to build a vocabulary. So....you can show the love of Christ just by reading to a child! Wow! Who knew you could make such a difference.

During prior conversations with our state education leaders, a great need for volunteers has been expressed. One statement was “I don’t care if volunteers have a turban on their head, a jewel in their forehead or a cross around their neck, we need help in our classrooms and with after school programs!” So what is your response? Wouldn’t you rather it be US with the cross around our neck? Now don’t be confused of what I am saying or asking you to do. We need to find out from our local principals what the needs are that we could help them fulfill; NOT going into the schools with an agenda to pass out bibles and recruit church members. Once a relationship is built, it forms a respect and trust for one another. Yes, serving in your local school is kingdom work. You will have the opportunity to hear Emery Hiott, Children’s Ministry Director at First Baptist Charleston, at Screven’s annual meeting. I hope you will plan to attend. She and the congregation have worked with a local school for 3 years and have improved overall test scores and increased grade level reading at Meminger Elementary School. Out of this partnership so much more has blossomed. A missional community ministry has been started to serve the parents and families of the students they have been reading with and mentoring for the last several years. Now they are actually sharing the gospel and have started a missional church in that local community. So you see we CAN impact God’s kingdom by serving others in some very simple ways.

There will be a meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015, from 9am to 3pm at River Springs Baptist Church in Columbia. The South Carolina Baptist Convention will host the meeting and will have more information on how you and your church can be involved in this statewide effort to have every school adopted by a Southern Baptist church in our state. What do you see in the future? We have an invitation, will we take it? If you would like to attend this training or get more information, please contact me 843-870-4550 or at [sharris@screvenbaptist.org](mailto:sharris@screvenbaptist.org). I am so excited about the possibili-

ties of what God will do through our service in the local schools and our obedience to Him!

---

**REMEMBER!!** toys are needed for birth to age 15 for the MacDougall Toy Shop. You can drop off the new unwrapped gifts to Screven by November 23. Thank you for your participation in this ministry for so many years!

Blessings!

## **COME CELEBRATE OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTRY**

**SAINT MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH  
2593 WIRE RD, ST GEORGE 843-563-4591**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015**

**SERVICE AT 10:30 AM**

**MEAL PROVIDED AFTER THE SERVICE**

**ALSO: WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR, REV. DUANE WOOSLEY**

## ***Givhans Baptist Church is hosting their annual Hallelujah Festival***

**Join us for an afternoon of Fun, Fellowship & Food !  
Saturday October 31, 2:00 pm until 8:00 pm  
Givhans Baptist Church, 2140 Old Beech Hill Rd., Givhans, SC**



**See our Web site for more  
information  
[www.givhansbaptistchurch.com](http://www.givhansbaptistchurch.com)**

Last year, during this Festival outreach, we gave out over 100 mission bags with tracks, bibles and Christian education information. Donated bibles: They can be used, as long as there are no names in them and in good shape. The Gideon bibles, paper back or pocket bibles, any bibles that are of our faith and belief.

*You are invited to*

## **Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer**



Monday, November 2, 2015

9:45 AM

Summerville Baptist Church

417 Central Ave

Summerville, SC 29483

Lunch will be served  
(offering for BWA Women's  
Department will be collected)

*When we rise up He shines through*



## **2016 VBS Preview**

January 8-9, 2016 (Friday - Saturday)

Ridgecrest, NC: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center

Nothing beats the experience! Come to a VBS 2016 Preview Event

Light on lecture. Heavy on fun. What you'll experience at a preview event.

Explore breakout sessions that will help you take your VBS off the map

Network with other VBS fans     Get Preview-only discounts on VBS shirts

Attend conferences about Preschool VBS, decorating, and everything in between

Work side-by-side with our VBS designers to learn decorating techniques

\$70 per person by Oct 15, \$60 for 3 or more from same group

register at: <http://www.lifeway.com/Event/Leadership-Event-VBS-2016-Preview-Ridgecrest-NC-1>

(If you would like to serve on the Association VBS Team, please contact Susan Harris ASAP 843-871-2410 so we can get registered to attend, deadline is Oct. 15!!)

### **Ministers Conference**

**October 6. 11AM**

**Wassamassaw**

**November 3, 11 AM**

**Mickey White's Home**

**601 Fellowship Ln, Pinopolis**

### **Men's Ministry Meeting**

**October 19, 7PM**

**Berkeley**

**November 16, 7PM**

**Memorial**

## Making Disciples or Filling Heads and Motivating Flesh?

When most Baptists think of the primary work of the church, I believe the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 would be at the top of the list.

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

There are some key words in those two verses that are often the focus of this commission of Jesus to His disciples. I believe if you asked most Baptists to list the key words in this passage they would be Go, Make Disciples, Baptize and Teach. These are all very important aspects of the Commission from Jesus to us, His disciples. We are all called to be going forth with the Gospel, leading people to a relationship with Jesus as Disciples, encouraging them to follow Jesus through Baptism, and teaching them the Word of God.

As Baptists, for many years, we have championed the great commission. We have emphasized the importance of evangelism. We have had our leaders challenge us to do it and have produced programs to try and make it happen. We have also been very intentional and methodical in producing programs that focus on content and teaching. We have of course held high the importance of new believers following the Lord in baptism. However, there is another essential key word in these verses. The word is OBEY, or in other translations it is Observe.

I fear that by neglecting the essential principle of obedience, we have only filled heads with knowledge and motivated the flesh. Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of obedience. He said in John 14:15 (NLT) “If you love me, obey my commandments.” The hallmark of the Christian’s life should not be just how much we know, but, how obedient we are to what we know!

Jesus also linked the nature and quality of our relationship with Him to obedience. John 14:21, 23 (NLT) <sup>21</sup> Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” . . . <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. John 15:10 (NLT) When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

All we are and any spiritual fruit produced in our lives is the result of our relationship with Jesus. (John 15) The essential element for a healthy, growing relationship with Jesus is obedience. In the Great Commission we are NOT instructed to simply teach God’s word to new believers, but to “teach them to OBEY all of God’s Word.” The primary motivation for our obedience to the Lord is love and our love for Him is demonstrated through obedience. Even in the Old Testament the prophet Samuel declared in 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT) “. . . “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

It is vitally important that leaders exemplify obedience in their walk with Jesus and then teach others to know God’s word and to be obedient followers of Christ. As James says in 1:22 (HCSB) “. . . be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” I believe we have been deceiving ourselves far too long. We need to stop thinking that imparting information is enough. We need to cultivate a church culture of loving obedience. It needs to be modeled and heralded from the top down throughout our Convention and the church at-large. For our churches to be effective and once again thrive, we must make it a priority to teach all disciples to “obey all the commands” Jesus has given us. 1 John 2:3-5 (NLT) <sup>3</sup> And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup> If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. <sup>5</sup> But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. It is only through loving obedience that one proves to be a true follower of Christ and can fulfill the Great Commission.

# WE LOCAL SCHOOLS

CONNECTING CHURCH TO SCHOOL TRAINING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015, 9AM-3PM  
RIVER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA, SC

**Guest Speaker: Reggie McNeal,**  
**Missional Leadership Specialist with Leadership Network**

Our desire is to connect every local school in SC  
with a SC Baptist church that loves them.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT? REGISTRATION INFORMATION

-Connect you to other churches that  
are engaging local schools

-Give practical tools to get started in  
serving your local school

-Help bridge school service to future  
disciple making opportunities

Registration starts at 9am.  
Registration before Sept. 25th only \$10,  
after \$20.

Register at: [www.scengage.org](http://www.scengage.org)

Contact Allison in the Evangelism Group at  
800-723-7242 for further information.

## A Life of Ministry in the Lowcountry

The memoir of Rev. Harold W. Syfrett, "The Life Story of a Country Boy from Orangeburg, South Carolina," follows one minister's journey of faith from service in the US Navy to ministering to South Carolina Baptists for more than 50 years. From the USS Yorktown to campus ministry and positions as a supply and interim pastor, Syfrett served God and raised up five children along the way with his wife Evelyn. Book is now on sale from Amazon or by calling 843-797-6674."

## Hospice of Charleston Area-wide Memorial Service

Sunday, November 22nd at 300pm

Mt Pleasant Park under the Ravenel Bridge

Contact Info: Melvina 843-514-8779 or  
Marshall 843-514-8836

## Pastor/Staff Anniversaries October

Randy Sorrow—Old Fort

Jim Palmer—Miles Road

Will Browning—Journey

Legrande Dupree—Flowertown

Chris Mims—Church at Cane Bay

## Pastor/Staff Birthdays October

Mark Stump—Calvary MC

Roger Teeslink—Jedburg

Woody Busch—Sandridge

# From the Director of Missions

Robert Bailey [bbailey@screvenbaptist.org](mailto:bbailey@screvenbaptist.org)

**Pastor Appreciation Month.** “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17). During my 17 years in pastoral ministry, I have been blessed to serve in churches where deacons and individual believers have honored my family and me as their pastor. There is no way to minimize the value of appreciation on the life of a leader. In fact, God’s will is that the church practice “double honor” for the pastors he gives to your church.



Church conflicts are as old as the earliest days of the church and as contemporary as today’s news. Most churches love their pastors, and God has blessed the ministries of those churches. Other churches have not been as fortunate. Most conflicts are over power—who is in control. Conflict between pastors and churches dishonors God’s churches. Pastors’ families are hurt. Lifelong scars remain for those caught in these tragic circumstances. And most of all, God is dishonored. Jesus’ prayer for the church today is that it will demonstrate the glory of God by unity of purpose and spirit. Church conflicts don’t honor God. When we don’t treat the pastors God has given his church with honor, how can we say we honor God?

Honor for your pastors is demonstrated through submission and obedience to those who are called to places of authority and responsibility. Your pastor is called by God to your church not to give you what you want. He is called to give you what you need. “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account” (Heb. 13:17).

Show honor and appreciation for your pastor in October. Tell him and show him you love him in practical ways. Send him cards and letters of appreciation. Do the same for his wife. Pray for them daily. Their ministry can be demanding and lonely. Give them a salary raise in next year’s budget. Follow their leadership even when you don’t agree. When our churches honor their pastors, we honor God, and He is glorified among the nations.

**International Mission Board.** IMB trustees heard and approved a plan by President David Platt to reduce the number of missionaries and staff by 600-800 in 2015. The urgency of this plan is based on the reality that over the past six years, IMB expenditures have totaled \$210 million more than has been given to it each year. The IMB has decided that the best way to reduce staff is to begin with a voluntary retirement incentive (VRI) that will be offered to all missionaries and staff 50 years old with five years or more experience. IMB is sending approximately 300 missionaries in 2015 and expects to send more in 2016. Let us pray for our missionaries as they make these difficult decisions. If they choose to accept the VRI, they will be returning to the United States, looking for houses to live in, cars to drive, and places of ministry to serve. We can help them through prayer and assistance in this time of transition. They have given their lives and careers to serving God around the world. Now it is time for us to help them.

## Screven Baptist Association

1851 Dawson Branch Road

Summerville, SC 29483

843-871-2410 Toll Free: 1-800-868-2410

Fax 843-821-7050

[Screven@screvenbaptist.org](mailto:Screven@screvenbaptist.org)

[www.screvenbaptist.org](http://www.screvenbaptist.org)

### Covenant Counseling Center of South Carolina

843-851-1806 Toll Free: 1.844.869.0905

[CCCSC@screvenbaptist.org](mailto:CCCSC@screvenbaptist.org)

[www.covenantcounselingsc.org](http://www.covenantcounselingsc.org)

## Thank You for Your Faithful Financial Support!

	AUGUST	YTD		AUGUST	YTD
Berkeley	720.70	7,482.20	North Trident	553.97	4,849.77
Bethel	271.03	2,442.85	Oakbrook, The Fellowship of	200.00	1,600.00
Beulah	0.00	500.00	Old Fort	3,370.39	30,534.27
Bonneau First	0.00	1,619.49	Old St. George	0.00	1,500.00
Brookhaven	0.00	0.00	Pleasant Grove	137.77	1,211.82
Calvary, Moncks Corner	901.00	7,272.00	Providence	235.32	1,866.51
Calvary Pregnall	0.00	0.00	Reevesville	175.00	1,225.00
Chaparral	30.00	240.00	Ridge	0.00	1,140.20
College Park	0.00	1,521.08	Ridgeville	366.83	3,201.54
Cordesville, First	593.18	4,660.44	St. John's Bethel	0.00	2,566.53
Corinth	200.00	1,600.00	St. Matthews	329.76	2,109.68
Crossroads	333.00	2,664.00	St. Stephen, First	0.00	1,975.00
Eutawville, First	0.00	700.00	Salem	0.00	3,615.16
Faith	115.09	981.33	Sandridge	1,098.00	2,521.13
Flowertown	0.00	300.00	Sangaree Baptist Church	0.00	1,610.48
Gethsemane	174.24	1,353.43	Santee Circle	0.00	1,089.15
Givhans	0.00	600.00	Summerville	2,252.38	19,747.93
Harleyville, First	319.77	2,931.75	Tall Pines	0.00	1,174.00
Harristown Road	0.00	952.00	Wassamassaw	0.00	6,416.64
Holly Hill, First	1,500.00	4,500.00	SCBC Contributions	0.00	0.00
Hopewell	0.00	0.00	Other	0.00	0.00
Iglesia Nueva Vision	0.00	0.00	Covenant Counseling/Rent	0.00	0.00
Jamestown	175.00	700.00	Endowment Funds Interest	0.00	795.95
Jedburg, First	2,074.19	9,987.91	The Journey Church	0.00	2,500.00
Knightsville	166.83	2,162.27	The Pines Church	20.14	453.80
Lighthouse Community	225.00	395.00	Solid Rock (Gilead Prop.)	800.00	6,400.00
Limestone	260.00	2,085.00	Cornerstone	100.00	800.00
Lydia	248.55	2,191.00	The Church at Cane Bay	350.00	2,800.00
Memorial	0.00	2,500.02	Ministerio Hispano de la Ridge	0.00	0.00
Midway	176.12	1,529.34	Trueway Missionary	0.00	0.00
Miles Road	0.00	0.00	The Hive Church	0.00	620.00
Moncks Corner, First	665.58	5,137.04	<b>Total Revenues</b>	20,197.91	175,977.06
Mt. Olivet	976.07	1,829.35	<b>Total Expenses</b>	20,109.72	173,678.89
Mt. Zion	83.00	815.00	Aaron Tyner Offering	2,131.84	6,661.06