

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



FEBRUARY 2003

Among the SC/CBF churches that helped renovate the building were First Baptist churches of Aiken, Allendale and York; as well as Shaw's Fork in Aiken, Kathwood in Columbia, and Brunson Baptist Church.

"The work in Allendale continues to be challenging and successful," Jay said. "We regularly have eight to 10 people, including children at times, staying in the house. Food is distributed twice a week to at least 20 families each day, and each family can come only once a month.

"The weekly kids' club is attended by about 30 children a week," Jay said. "Clothes and other donated items are routinely given away to people who have needs in the community."

Allendale Focus: Renovated building provides the ministry space — But how to pay the power bill?

The building has been renovated inside and out and properly dedicated. Children and families are being helped. Clothes are available for those in need. Hungry people are being fed.

But the work of the Allendale Mission Station, a joint venture between SC/CBF and Christ Central Ministries, still needs help.

"The largest obstacle to ministry is the scarcity of operating funds," said Jay Kieve, pastor of First Baptist Church in Allendale. "Local churches and other groups contribute cash on a regular basis but the limited resources of the community keep the ministry perched on the financial edge of debt. With such a large house and a growing ministry,

the power bill alone is often more than \$500 per month."

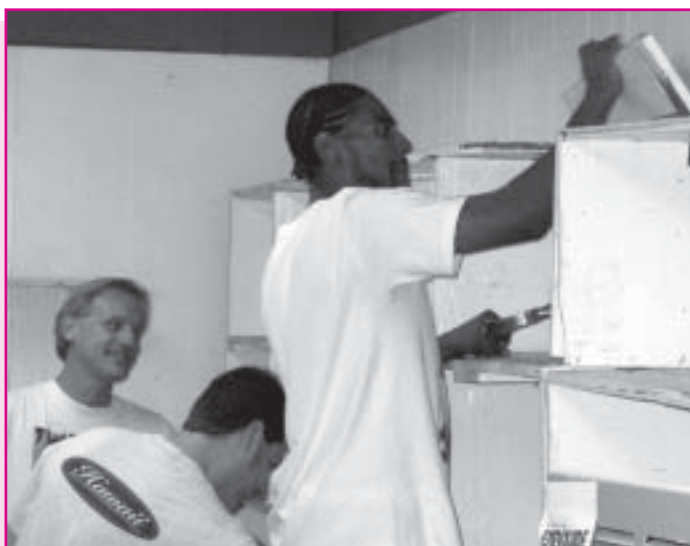
The old house that now is home to the ministry was renovated by volunteers over the course of the past two years. These and other volunteers were on hand for the dedication of the facility at the end of November.

A highlight of the dedication service was the announcement and delivery of a \$1,000 check from SC/CBF for use in fighting hunger in Allendale. The grant came from the hunger relief fund administered by the Missions Committee and will be used solely to purchase food.



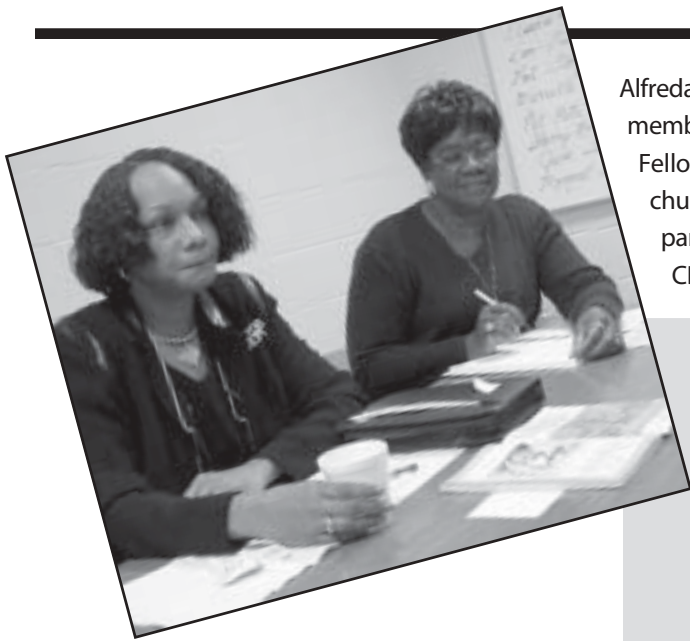
"With prayer and frugality we have managed so far," Jay said, "and we fully expect to last much longer."

Want to help? Contact Jay Kieve at meljay@mindspring.com.



Charleston Initiative moves out of the house — and into an office

Our CBF urban ministers in Charleston — Bill Stanfield and Evelyn Oliveira — have gotten the Charleston Initiative out of their house and into its own office space in the Chicora/Cherokee community of North Charleston. Once a hardware store, later a thrift store, 1932 Reynolds Street is being transformed into a hub of community-based ministry. Needing a lot of work to become this community center, the old building got a new look from volunteers in the neighborhood who worked with members from Providence Baptist Church in Charleston on demolition, cleaning, and painting. A wish list of remaining needs is on page 3.



Alfreda Crum and Lorine Boykin are members of New Beginnings Fellowship in West Columbia, a new church that is considering participating in ministry with SC/CBF.

The need for Black History Month

Question: Why is there a "Black History Month" in America?

Answer: Because every other month is "White History Month." More specifically, every other month is "White Male History Month." Memorize the names of the 43 Presidents of the United States, and you will memorize the names of 43 white men. Memorize the names of South Carolina's Governors and Senators, the names of the mayors of Charleston, Columbia and Greenville and you will not memorize the name of a single African-American or the name of a single female.

Or, go a different route. Research the Presidents and/or Chief Executive Officers of Wal-Mart, Exxon, General Motors, IBM, AT&T, First Union Bank, Dupont, NBC and American Express and see if you discover a single African-

American. Or, try the Presidents of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Furman, Clemson and the University of South Carolina. Did you find any African-Americans in that list? Do you think there have been African-American commissioners of professional baseball, football or basketball? There have been none. Zero.

There has never been a black Pope!

In South Carolina, a black baby is more than twice as likely to die before his or her first birthday as a white baby. That is a terrible statistic. An African-American woman is four times more likely to die than a white woman from complications in pregnancy.

An African-American is more than twice as likely to have diabetes as his or her Caucasian counterpart. African-Americans with diabetes



Coordinator's Column

By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator of SC/CBF

experience kidney failure about four times more often than diabetic whites.

This kind of hard data can hardly be ignored by loving Christians who care about all of God's people. The overall death rate from cardiovascular disease is 354 per 100,000 population, but rises to 402 for African-American women and 526 for African-American men. That is a dreadful discrepancy.

You may think that the end to Civil War and the beginning of Civil Rights did all that needed to be done to

create equality between the races in our nation, but it is not so. Change comes slowly and only with a struggle.

Less than 50 years ago, it was illegal for blacks even to sit at a public lunch table with whites. Let's not begrudge our black brothers and sisters some scraps off our cultural cornucopia when there is a Minority Health Week or when someone hosts a Miss Black South Carolina Beauty Pageant or when a prize is awarded to the Minority Business of the Month. I am grateful for magazines such as *Ebony* and *Jet* which remind those who read them of the accomplishments of African-Americans.

There will come a time when it is inappropriate to have a "Black History Month." That will be when the next member of the country club in your community is as likely to be black as white. That will be when the next student accepted at our state's medical colleges is as likely to be black as white. That will be when the next president of a Fortune 500 company is as likely to be African-American as Caucasian. That will be when the next Coordinator called by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is as likely to be black as white. Then, the Kingdom of God on earth will have some resemblance to the Kingdom of God in heaven.

Festival by the Sea
March 28 - 30
Myrtle Beach

For Junior High, Middle School, and High School choirs from any interested church. Contact Shelden Timmerman, Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, 803.328.3864, hstimmerman@comporium.net OR Burt Pardue, Greenlawn Baptist Church, Columbia, 803.776.4074, burtpardue@greenlawnchurch.org Sponsored in part by the Cooperative Fellowship of South Carolina. www.greenlawnchurch.org/festival/index.htm.

Justice
Committee
member
Nancy Brown,
Kathwood
Baptist
Church in
Columbia.



JUSTICE ISSUES in CBF

One of the new committees organized by SC/CBF this year is the Justice Committee, co-chaired by Bob Taylor of Myrtle Beach and Brenda Kneece of Columbia. The committee recommends the following websites for those interested in learning more about justice issues. You may link to each site from our SC/CBF site, www.cbfofsc.org, where you can also read a fuller description for each link.

- www.JusticeMercy.org to bring together people and organizations in Pennsylvania to help reduce crime and increase prisoner rehabilitation.
- www.vipmentoring.org

Volunteers in Prevention, Probation, and Prisons works to decrease the numbers of adult and youth repeat offenders.

- www.sojo.net from the publishers of *Sojourners* magazine.
- www.nicwj.org educates, organizes, mobilizes people of faith regarding wages, benefits, and working conditions.
- www.vorp.com focuses on court-ordered restitution.
- www.realjustice.org offers a structured method for solving problems in schools, courts, treatment and correctional facilities, colleges, and workplaces.

CALL TO RENEWAL

The Justice Committee is sponsoring a trip to Washington, DC, June 9-11 for a conference sponsored by Call to Renewal, an organization focusing on overcoming poverty, dismantling racism, affirming life, and rebuilding family and community. If you are interested in participating in this trip, contact the SC/CBF office.

While the new office for the Charleston Initiative, South Carolina CBF's ministry in North Charleston, is now fully functional, there remain some items on a list of needs that will help to improve the ministry but are not within the Charleston Initiative budget.

If you are interested in providing any of the following please contact Evelyn Oliveira or Bill Stanfield, 843.529.3014 or billandevelyn@cbfofsc.org. Bill and Evelyn do not have the capability to transport items to Charleston.

W I S H L I S T C H A R L E S T O N

- Kitchen sink and hot water heater
- A small microwave
- A refrigerator
- Carpeting (the space is about 30 by 60 feet)
- 30 folding chairs
- 3 eight-foot folding tables
- An alarm system for the building

Council hears about Fair Share

Anton Gunn, Executive Director of South Carolina Fair Share, spoke to the SC/CBF Coordinating Council at its Jan. 11 meeting. Fair Share is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, statewide organization that investigates problems, educates the public about solutions and works for reforms that focus on everyday people in the state. "Our goal is to build the infrastructure for social change," he said. Gunn said his organization monitors legislative issues that affect ordinary citizens such as public education, law enforcement, and social concerns.



2003 South Carolina CBF
General Assembly:

Hurry up — and slow down

April 25-26 in Beaufort

Hotels/Motels

Deadline for reservations is **March 25.**

Headquarters hotel:

Country Inn and Suites

2448 Boundary Street (Hwy 21). 843.379.4000. \$79 + tax for a room; \$99 + tax for a 2-room suite. Complimentary continental plus breakfast.

Best Inn

2448 Boundary Street (Hwy 21). 843.524.3322. \$59 + tax Complimentary continental breakfast.

Ramada Limited

2001 Boundary Street (Hwy 21). 843.524.2144. \$65 + tax. Full hot breakfast.

Hampton Inn

2342 Boundary Street (Hwy 21). 843.986.0600. Group # 87869513. \$79 + tax.

Make your plans now to join other CBFer's for worship and fellowship.

\$\$\$

SC/CBF Financials

July 1-Dec. 31, 2002

Receipts	\$197,459
Expenses	\$163,357
	<u>\$34,102</u>

Budgeted Receipts

\$193,750

Actual Receipts over Budget

\$3,709

Pass through to CBF Atlanta

\$352,481



Mack Jones, Moderator
mackbabes@lowcountry.com
(843) 538-5756

Marion Aldridge, Coordinator
(803) 779-1888

Fax: (803) 779-2242

E-Mail: Marion@cbfosc.org

Sue Poss, Editor
editor@cbfosc.org

SC/CBF Website: www.cbfosc.org

National CBF: www.cbfonline.org

A second principle that free Baptists hold dear is that of church autonomy. Local church autonomy is the belief that each particular congregation is called, gifted, and freed by Christ to govern its own destiny under God. The theological basis for this principle originates in our belief that Jesus Christ alone is Lord – even of His church.

Today several models of church polity are in the forefront. Episcopal polity states that the authority for the life of the church began with Jesus and the apostles and is passed on from church leader to church leader. Under this model each church is to conform to the teachings of the bishop, pope, etc.

Presbyterian polity allows the local church to elect presbyters or elders who serve on a synod as the local church representatives. These congregations are not totally self-governing, but they do have a voice.

Local church autonomy, the model to which most Baptists adhere, is the belief that churches should be self-governing. In its purer sense, local church autonomy is a partnership between God's people and the Holy Spirit.

It is when our methods become our theology that local church autonomy is lost.

Baptist Principles:

Church Autonomy

By Harry Rowland (rowland@islc.net)
Pastor, The Baptist Church at Beaufort

One of SC/CBF's newest committees, the Baptist Principles Committee, offers you this second article addressing Baptists principles. Again, we desire to educate, not indoctrinate. We are happy to assist you or your church in obtaining resources related to Baptist distinctives.



Church autonomy is based on the beliefs that God is at work in the world today, that each Christian is called to partner with God and His mission, and that God created and lives within the local church.

Today the principle of church autonomy is being threatened. The primary reason is that over the years many have failed to recognize the differentiation between what is methodology and what is theology.

Denominations, synods, fellowships and the like are all methodologies. These are methods by which God in times past or present has chosen to work within a grouping of the

body of believers to do His purposes.

Whereas our theology does not change, our methodology can and must change as we follow the will of God. Therefore to be a truly autonomous church one must differentiate between the theology of cooperating, loving, and relating to others and methodology, such as denominationalism. It is when our methods become our theology that local church autonomy is lost. In the days in which we live, it is good to remember that local church autonomy cannot be taken away, but it can be lost or surrendered.

May that not be the case. We need never forget that Jesus Christ has something for each church, and it is those within the local church who must discern what this is.