

2018 South Carolina Baptist Convention
Gary Hollingsworth/Executive Director-Treasurer

God is at work in South Carolina! We celebrate all the good things He has done and is doing but there is still much Kingdom work to be done. Often one of the best indicator of God at work is the level of spiritual warfare the enemy brings, and it seems that everywhere we look, the void of spiritual and moral underpinnings abounds. That is why this year's convention theme of *Building Bridges* is so timely.

Throughout this *Book of Reports*, you will be able to catch a glimpse of the vast and varied ministries made possible by the faithful and generous financial giving through the Cooperative Program. Without that funding the Kingdom results you will see would not be possible. Thank you, South Carolina Baptists, for your support of and belief in our cooperative way of doing missions and ministry!

I have asked our Executive Board team reports this year to do at least three things. One is to share a powerful story of God at work; two, share some of the significant statistics related to their area of ministry; and three, share at least one prayer request so we might all better raise our collective intercessory voices to the Heavenly Father on behalf of some ministry need or opportunity. My portion of the report will follow that same pattern. First, a story of God at work.

Each of our 2,100 South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) churches have a story to tell. One church's story is not more valuable than any other. In selecting just one, I wanted to share a local church story that touches as many of our convention's four priorities of evangelism, missions mobilization, church strengthening/discipleship and church planting as possible. The story of First Baptist, Mount Pleasant does just that.

Ron Dillion recently retired after nearly 19 years as pastor of FBC Mount Pleasant (FBCMP). His predecessor, Bill Conner, lead the church to purchase land north of town in 1978. The primary opposition in those days was "no one will ever live out that far." If you've driven up Highway 17 North lately, you will know how wrong that was! Fast forward several years and FBCMP was considering a building program to meet their growing needs. After an intense time of prayer, instead of building, the leadership decided it was time to do something on the property. Ultimately, they sent one of their best staff members, Chad Moore, and 300 of their best people to start a new campus. It was to be "one church in two locations" and they functioned like that until July 1, 2014 when The Church at Life Park (TCALP) was constituted as a church. TCALP now averages more than 1,000 in attendance and they saw over 100 people baptized last year. The also contributed \$112,162.82 to the Cooperative Program last year. Since that time, FBCMP has grown back to about the size it was when they started the new campus and under the leadership of their new pastor, Matt Tyler, (who also was once a staff member at FBCMP) they continue to be a strong, missional church. Additionally, TCALP and FBCMP are partnering in two other church plants, King's Crossing and Deep River, both in the Low Country. King's Crossing's pastor is Chip Robinson and Deep River's is Paul Coleman, both who have been mentored by both Ron and Chad and came out of the ministry of FBCMP!

When I heard the details of what God has been doing, going all the way back to 1978, here are the words that came to mind: Prayer, Vision, Unselfish Generosity, Kingdom Growth, Leadership, Mentoring/Coaching, Evangelism, Discipleship, Serving, Sending and Multiplication. That pretty much sums up the desired results of our priorities as a convention! This is just one of many other "God stories"

from around our state, but our prayer is we will continue to see more and more of these kinds of things happening all over South Carolina.

Numbers don't always tell the whole story, here are some statistics reflective of the work of your Executive Board ministries over the past year:

- 17,002 baptisms
- 10,000 lost people prayed for by name
- 457 volunteers served at One Day missions project
- Record 3,613 students experienced SummerSalt & KidSalt with more than 400 total decisions
- 24,806 prisoner packets distributed
- 1,863 professions of faith through Baptist Colligate Christian Ministries (BCM) & Missions
- 271 SCBC churches supported church plants in South Carolina (SC) & North America
- 2,186 attended Camp McCall with 241 salvations & 34 responses to Vocational Ministry call
- 51 new church planter candidates trained
- 235 houses completed through SC Rebuild
- 500 Bi-vocational Pastors serving in SCBC Churches
- Sent out 60 BCM Summer Missionaries that shared the gospel with 10,738 people
- 100 church/school partnerships begun

Finally, as a matter of prayer, please continue to pray for all the churches and ministries of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Pray that every pastor and leader will have a heart to see lost people saved, to see every saved person be disciplined and deployed. Pray for our new churches that they will be effective in reaching the community in which they are being planted. Pray for all our churches that have already been planted that they will be tenaciously focused on fulfilling the Great Commission. Pray for me and all our Executive Board team that we will have hearts hot after God and that we will be wise in our stewardship of time and financial resources in order to get the Gospel to the 3.6 million lost in our state and the 2 billion lost around the world who have little or no access to the Gospel!

Thank you for the JOY of serving our South Carolina Baptist Convention family!

2018 Chief Financial Officer and Accounting
Bryan Holley/CFO

The Chief Financial Officer assists the Executive Director-Treasurer in the operation of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC), Executive Board, and Convention staff. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for all financial and legal matters of the Executive Board and SCBC. The Chief Financial Officer aims to support and foster ministries of the SCBC through financial expertise provided with integrity and accountability that inspires a culture of excellence which will strengthen the bond of trust and confidence in the value of cooperative work.

Ministry Highlights:

- Started in this position September 1, 2017. I inherited a dedicated and knowledgeable staff. I am still learning how Southern Baptist operate at the convention level.
- Identified areas to improve financial reporting and operations.
- Obtained an unqualified audit for 2017.
- Planned Operating Budget for 2019.
- Monitored Operating Budget for 2018.
- Started process to convert expense reports to an app-based system.
- Filed all government reporting requirements and tax returns in a timely manner.
- Served as a resource for the Convention and its churches regarding financial matters.
- During 2017, Cooperative Program receipts decreased 3.0% or \$837,000 from 2016 receipts.
- Total Budget was \$28,500,000 and receipts were \$26,727,000.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom in being good stewards of the resources God provides us.
- Pray for workers to collect the harvest.
- Pray that churches will catch the vision of reaching the world through the Cooperative Program.

Chief Human Resource Officer/Leadership Development
Bert Ross, Chief Human Resource Officer

The Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO) assists the Executive Director-Treasurer in the operation of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC), Executive Board, and Convention staff. The CHRO is responsible for all human resource, staff development and personnel legal matters of the Executive Board and South Carolina Baptist Convention. The Chief Human Resource Officer aims to support and foster the development of the skills and talents of the SCBC staff through Human Resource Development practices and expertise provided with integrity and accountability that inspires a culture of excellence which will strengthen the bond of trust and confidence in the value of cooperative work.

Human Resources:

- We finalized the new HR Personal Policy Handbook.
- We have conducted a Compensation evaluation to set bench marks for future compensation evaluations.
- We are entering the third year working with our new medical and health care provider. Thanks to the work of our staff we have kept cost and increases to the lowest levels in years.
- We have provided education and facilities for our staff to develop healthier lifestyles.
- We have updated all our Job Descriptions.
- We conducted two days of training in employment law (including sexual harassment) for all our staff.
- We have revised our Performance Review to reinforce our core values.

Leadership:

- We are partnering with the Church Strategies team to train and certify Church Strategies Catalyst's as facilitators in DISC Personality Assessment and Conflict management.
- We are providing 360 feedbacks for pastors who request them for personal and professional growth.
- We are offering training in Employment Law and Sexual Harassment training.
- We are training our staff in coaching skills to develop a culture of coaching within our staff and with church leaders.
- We provided DISC Personality Assessment training for weekday and child development centers in South Carolina Baptist Churches.

Prayer Request:

- Pray as we serve alongside Directors of Missions to serve church leaders and for their churches to become healthy.
- Pray for our staff to stay spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically healthy.

2018 Church Strengthening & Discipleship Team
Steve Rohrlack/Team Leader

After much prayer and hours of preparation, everything was a go! *Every* camper and *Every* adult would make pillows for children in the SC Foster Care system. This is in addition to *Every* camper and *Every* adult making teacher bags for schools in their community. (More than 1400 teacher bags came from this effort but that story will be saved for another time.) Lives would be changed long after camp! Changing lives before camp was not part of the plan...but it happened anyway.

Buying countless yards of fleece fabric in the middle of summer is a great conversation starter. One of these exchanges was with a young lady named Susan. She wondered (out loud) why anyone would need so much fleece, in July. The explanation of making pillows for Foster Children hit home. With tears in her eyes, as she continued to cut fabric, came her story of life in the foster care system. Sadly, her story was one of hardship and brokenness. She talked for a very long time.

As the final bolts of fabric were being cut, it was clear Susan had never experienced the love of Jesus. In the sewing department of a Columbia Wal-Mart Susan heard of the hope that comes from the love of Christ. This was the first of many conversations with Susan. Please join us in praying for Susan to receive Jesus' gift of Salvation.

Every camper and *Every* adult did make pillows. *Every* one contains a special verse, placed inside before being closed. One can't help but think about Susan and the little girl she once was, and still is. Someone who needs Jesus. Someone who was prayed for, someone who was cared for. It's in the smallest of moments God does the greatest things.

Kathy Miles, Associate Director-Preschool & Children.

Church Life:

- Resume services, offered to both churches and ministers, has been refreshed and simplified.
- Deacon Training was offered in August to a sold-out crowd. Regional trainings are now being offered to meet increased demand.
- Transitional Pastor training continues to be a key area of instruction and resourcing. Training is offered in October of each year.
- "RESTORE" conference for ministers and spouses grew to 150 couples. Hosted as a weekend of refreshment and restoration at the Sonesta Resort on Hilton Head Island. The conference has proven to be a great time of fellowship and renewal for pastors who attend.
- Cooperative Program promotion continues with materials and resources being made available for churches; "52 Sundays" is available for download weekly from our website front page.
- Bylaw consultations continue to be a strong need for SC churches with an average of 11 churches per week being assisted.

Church Strategies:

- Donald King joined the Church Strategies Group in January of 2018. Donald brings an extensive background in leadership development and local church experience to the Convention.
- Five Regional Catalysts continue providing staff and lay-leadership development.
- Facilitated multiple church visioning workshops.
- Writing and design of a brand new "NextStep" leadership development process and network is nearing completion. Associations are partnering with the Convention to offer and lead this new

process.

- Church revitalization is the second area of emphasis for the Church Strategies Group. A Church Revitalization Network will be introduced in 2019.

Generations Group:

- 4 Regional VBS Expos resourced 900+ church staff & volunteer leaders.
- 90 Weekday Education Directors & 400+ Weekday Education Teachers received state approved career development by attending the Church Weekday Education Workshop. (CWE)
- SummerSalt & KidSalt continues to experience strong attendance numbers, with more than 300 total decisions.
- To accommodate the demand, a second week of KidSalt was added to the 2019 calendar.
- 14 networking lunches targeting SC youth & children's ministers are scheduled for September – October; The first person responding to this offer at the 2018 annual meeting will receive a free resource kit.
- Multiple regional Discipleship Roundtables were sponsored throughout the state.

Worship & Discipleship:

- Mark Powers announced his retirement in March of this year. Mark's 10 years of leadership was celebrated in May with a Singing Churchmen Concert, held at Simpsonville First Baptist Church.
- Training was provided for future worship leaders at Baptist AllState Weekend (Honors Chorus/ YouthSingers/AllState Chorus, Orchestra, and Worship Band), Youth Music Arts Camp at SummerSalt and KidSalt Camp music classes and choir.
- Singing Churchmen and SeraphSong modeled authentic Biblical worship by presenting 16 worship concerts in local SCBC churches and mission locales. Singing Churchmen did Spring Tour in the Upstate in April.
- Regional Catalysts continued M3 Leadership-Discipleship support groups and numerous TRIO discipleship groups for SCBC Worship Leaders this year and are moving to embrace the new NextStep program this coming year.
- Matt Freeman joined us as leader of the Worship & Discipleship Office on September 1, 2018.

Team Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the churches without pastors and the committees working to fill these vacancies.
- Pray for the Transitional Pastors as they work with churches, preparing for new leadership.
- Pray for the launch of the NextStep leadership development process.
- Pray for the launch of the Church Revitalization Network.
- Pray specifically for the families of those serving in our South Carolina churches.
- Pray for the age-group specialists that are part of Advance Training Network of the Generations Group
- Pray for Matt Freeman as he begins his duties as leader of the Worship & Discipleship Office.

2018 Evangelism Team Executive Board Report Lee Clamp/Evangelism

SHARE HOPE

Terra was a waitress whose life was a wreck. Clyde was a man dying of cancer who showed her the love of Jesus each time she served him. She watched a video of his baptism just before, he died and was so touched that she attended his funeral at Hillcrest Baptist Church in York. Just a few years before Hillcrest was a dying congregation with no baptisms and less than 50 in attendance. God answered the desperate prayers of a few and called Brad Vassey to be their pastor. He led the church to begin caring for people far from God like Terra. She began to attend with her husband and children. Each Sunday she was broken because of her sin, and finally gave her life to Jesus. Her husband, Brian, saw the change in her and came to know Christ a month later. Since that time her children have crossed over from death to life, and some of their friends. They now host small group community to reach out to those who were once broken like them. Today, over 350 attend every Sunday and they have averaged 34 baptisms/year for 5 years. Vassey serves as an Immersion facilitator helping other churches in relational disciple making. Terra was one of those whose life was changed because of a church that turned inside out.

The Evangelism Team exists to help the church create a culture of disciple makers who share hope through: praying for the lost, caring for the broken, and sharing hope with every life.

Pray for the Lost

- 10,481 homes adopted by prayer warriors with active prayer engagement of 3884 of these homes using the www.blesseveryhome.com neighborhood mapping tool for praying.
- 3286 Summersalt/Kidsalt and 2001 McCall campers were encouraged to pray for their lost friends and tell their story to them.
- 321 cards were distributed to 13,750 individuals to pray for 3 people far from God.

Care for the Broken

- Birthed 162 known church/school partnerships to date through Heart4Schools (H4S) with over 1000 volunteers reading mentors, teacher encouragers, and feeding children.
- Accelerated efforts of 46 leaders in a H4S Next Level Leadership Hub.
- Connected with 169 pastor's wives for encouragement and connection with evangelism.

Share Hope with every Life

- 11,782 reported baptisms from Annual Church Profile for 2017. (This includes a reduction of 3517 from one church this past year 74% of churches reported)
- 572 of the 1515 churches reporting showed an increase in baptisms
- Equipped 175 church leaders through Fall of 2017 to August of 2018 in relational disciple making of the lost through Immersion.
- Connected 25 pastors and leaders into Immersion Cells, small cohorts of 3 leaders who are implementing relational disciple making with the lost to their church.
- Hosted 6 regional Racial Reconciliation gatherings of pastors including 2 days experience, Come and See, where 41 pastors and leaders attended.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Prayer Warriors to pray for 100,000 lost people by name by 2021.
2. Pray for every public school to have a church that is caring for them by 2021.
3. Pray for every SC Baptist to have at least 1 on-going Gospel Conversation this year.
4. Pray for pastors and leaders to develop relationships with someone from the opposite ethnic background to better engage every life with the hope of the Gospel.

SHARE HOPE 2018 Collegiate Ministries

Andrew entered the Citadel far from God. Joshua Austin, Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) minister for Charleston schools invited him to the first BCM gathering when he was freshman. Bryant Wilson, one of the BCM campus missionaries, met with him that next week and had a Gospel Conversation with him. Andrew trusted in Christ for the first time and was baptized at Citadel Square Baptist Church who is experiencing a rebirth after merging with a new church plant. He grew as a disciple through a relationship with Bryant and Joshua and now serves as a BCM leader and is helping in a church plant.

- Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) groups were active on 28 college and university campuses, involved 3,737 students weekly, and connected an additional 19,958 college students.
- BCMs reported 406 professions of faith ranking them second in the nation and were instrumental in an additional 1,408 professions of faith off campus through student missions.
- BCM leaders and student missionaries raised over \$340,719 for student missions.
- 167 students were awarded scholarship to pursue vocational ministry totaling \$152,150.

2018 Camp McCall Executive Board Report

“Sam” is a 10-year-old shy and reserved boy. His home is dysfunctional and filled with alcohol and substance abuse. Sam’s cousin was on staff at Camp McCall and recommended him for a scholarship. Sam showed up to camp quiet and apprehensive. As the week progressed, he slowly came out of his shell and during our Thursday night decision service, he accepted Christ. When his cousin took him home on Friday, the camper jumped out of the car and immediately told his parents what had happened to him during the week. His Dad smiled and told him “Well, I’m happy for you buddy, that’s something I need to do too”. Camp McCall not only changed his life but opened up conversations for the extended family about the Gospel.

- Increased number of campers to 2201 campers and increased the number of participating churches by 50 to 343.
- 241 decisions (48 salvations, 157 re-dedications, 36 commitments to full-time Christian service).
- Awarded 116 camper scholarships (an increase of 20) to campers including 21 Connie Maxwell students.
- Mobilized 9 mission trips to Alaska, Cuba, South Dakota, New Orleans, China, Egypt, Puerto Rico (twice), Dominica and the Dominican Republic.
- Invested in the mentoring, spiritual maturity, character formation and leadership development of the next generation of leaders in South Carolina—the 36 summer Staffers.
- 37 different groups utilized Camp McCall for their fall and spring retreats.

Prayer Request

1. Pray for 1,000 college students having a gospel conversation with a lost person.
2. Pray for 350 students to be mobilized for global mission service.
3. Pray for the dads who came to Camp McCall to disciple and lead their sons to be on mission.
4. Pray for the new believers from Camp McCall to become disciple makers themselves.

2018 Missions Mobilization Team
Tim Rice/Team Leader

Sending Churches to Reach the Lost.

“Please understand that most wives of Muslim refugees and immigrants do not drive, and most do not speak English. Their husbands are reluctant to let them go outside their apartment area, but they are starving for interaction and would love to learn English. Anything you can do along these lines, I will be glad to help you,” said an Iraqi businessman in Columbia who is a leader in the Middle Eastern community in the midlands of SC. The South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) Mission Team is committed to helping find where the diaspora (people dispersed from their homeland) live and to partner churches with them to love them, help them assimilate, and ultimately share the love of Christ with them.

- 1500 refugees and immigrants settled in the midlands of SC over the past decade with hundreds if not thousands more in other parts of the state.
- SCBC is working with 23 multi-ethnic churches to develop leaders, strengthen their churches, and make disciples among their people groups in SC and beyond.
- The Deaf in South Carolina are unreached with less than 1% participating in weekly worship. We partnered with the SC Baptist Conference for the Deaf to sponsor a Men’s retreat for 35 men.
- Teams were sent through SC Go Partnership to Boston, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Detroit, Taiwan, Greece, and Southeast Asia. Teams assisted North America Mission Board (NAMB) church planters and worked alongside the International Mission Board (IMB) field personnel.
- Missions Mobilization assisted associations and churches with sending churches to Atlanta, Cleveland, Toronto, Central Asia, Mexico, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and the Middle East.
- Send Me Conferences equipped 95 leaders to create a Sending Culture in their congregations.
- 10 Mission Leaders participated in a six-month Sending Church Cohort.

Helping Churches Serve Needs among the Lost

The leadership at Berea First Baptist Church, near Greenville, noticed the community that surrounded them was quite different than it had been in the past. In fact, the surrounding community wasn’t really represented in the church’s membership at all. Rather than lamenting this shift, intentional steps were made to engage this unreached population around the church.

A “Summer of Fun” was started at a nearby apartment community. Utilizing church members and mission teams, FBC Berea began making friends and sharing hope with this new community. Lunch and games were provided throughout the summer, as was an opportunity to share scripture with kids. It was soon recognized that most of the children had no foundation of scripture. In fact, Associate Pastor Michael Hodge states, “We realized that if our church wasn’t here, there wouldn’t be an understanding of ‘Who is Jesus and what did He do for me?’”

Now, after a summer of ministry, the church is asking, “What’s Next?” Opportunities for ongoing after-school ministries or integrating this apartment community into the discipleship efforts at the church abound.

Where did this start? This started with a church seeing their community for what it was and allowing God to fill them with compassion. It also started with a willingness to SERVE in whatever way was possible. As we intentionally engage our community and SERVE them in the name of Jesus, not only are new friendships formed, but God is glorified as people hear and respond to His love.

Compassion Ministry

- Approximately 115 churches were trained in SERVE ministry areas, including: Understanding Poverty Culture, Community Insight, ESL Teacher Training, Hunger Ministry Training, and Multi-Housing Ministry.
- Led 10 SCBC churches, through training and resourcing, to launch new SERVE ministries to begin effectively serving their communities.
- The One Day Mission Project, in conjunction with the 2017 SCBC Annual Meeting, led 457 volunteers to serve on 24 Project Sites across Columbia. In addition to a multitude of ministry contacts and opportunities to SERVE, 10 individuals made Professions of Faith!
- Additionally, nearly 20 congregations participated in One Day Mission projects in their own communities this year.
- SCBC annual Christmas Prisoner Packet Ministry took place on December 4, 2017. This effort led to 25,266 packets being processed by 140 on site volunteers. The bulk of the work came from all the packets being collected by 40 SCBC Associations. These packets were delivered to 23 facilities across the state.

Disaster Relief

This office strives to train leaders, develop new teams, and lead in Christian discipleship and evangelism in the areas of Disaster Relief and Men's Ministry, leading SC Baptists to respond to local, state, national, and international disasters – bringing help, healing, and hope to those impacted.

REFLECTIONS SINCE OCTOBER 2017

- Mobilized South Carolina Disaster Relief (DR) volunteers and coordinated teams responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Marie in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, respectively. Responded to localized SC storms during Spring 2018. Continued to respond to requests for assistance with Connecticut tornados, Pittsburgh flooding, and widespread flooding in Pennsylvania (separate events). Response has included financial assistance to both Texas conventions as well as Florida Baptists and the Baptist Convention of New England.
- *RebuildSC* has continued but will conclude in Fall 2018 – creation of a three year summary document/report is underway. On-going work will continue as needed and as resources allow in areas of the Pee Dee.
- 408 persons have attended major training events in Walterboro and Easley with a final event planned in October 2018. An additional associational/area-wide training event is scheduled in September 2018.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray that God will continue calling workers to make disciples among unreached peoples.
- Pray that churches will utilize healthy, reproducible practices when ministering in their communities.
- Pray that all peoples living in SC will be able to hear the Gospel in their heart language.

2018 Church Planting Team Executive Board Report
Jay Hardwick/Team Leader

START CHURCHES

In 2015, Boiling Springs FBC and Pastor Hank Williams had a vision to plant a church by 2018. The church prayed, gave, and prepared to see this vision realized. God called Pastor Hank's son, Mitch and his wife Lauren, to plant a new church. Mitch and Lauren's initial plan was to plant in a NAMB Send City. After a season of prayer and several vision meetings with SCBC and Greenville Baptist Association leaders, Mitch and Lauren sensed the Lord calling them to stay in South Carolina to plant in Greenville.

Boiling Springs FBC is serving as the primary sending church, but they are not alone. They have partnered with Origins Church in Greenville to prepare Mitch through a shared residency and to walk with Mitch through our new assessment and training process. As a result of this partnership, The Fold will launch in Greenville in 2018.

Our desire for the START Network is to see this story repeat itself over and over – local churches partnering together with local associations and state leaders to discover, assess, train, and multiply the next generation of church planters and new churches.

MULTIPLYING Churches

- 41 South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) churches have directly sponsored SCBC church plants.
- 286 SCBC churches are engaged in and supporting church planting efforts in SEND cities through the North American Mission Board.
- Over 120 leaders, including pastors, church planters, Directors of Mission, and SCBC staff, attended the launch event for the START Network in April.
- 8 SCBC church planters are completing residencies in SCBC churches that will serve as their primary sending churches.
- Multiplying Church Labs to train and equip existing churches to be church planting churches launched in Fall 2018.

START New Churches

- 45 new churches received funding assistance over the last 12 months.
- Over the last 12 months, SCBC church plants have:
 - Averaged over 2500 people in weekly worship gatherings.
 - Mobilized over 1500 people to serve in their communities.
 - Baptized over 300 people
 - Connected over 1500 people in disciple-making small groups.
 - Given over \$180,000 to missions and church planting.
- Churches planted through our new Planting Pathway of discovery, assessment, training, and coaching have a 100% survivability rate through their first year.
- 29 church planting candidates are currently in the Discovery & Assessment phase of our Planting Pathway.
- Hosted 3 assessment retreats (3-5 church planter couples & 10-12 assessors) & 6 church planter training cohorts (3-5 planters & 1-2 facilitators) to assess and train church planting candidates.

reSTART “At-Risk” Churches

- Consulted and coached 18 churches considering reSTARTing or revitalization.
- 14 Directors of Mission trained and certified at NAMB’s Replant Certification training in March.
- 32 Directors of Mission attended Replant Labs.

- 3 pilot reSTART & Revitalization residencies have been launched to train and deploy the next generation of reSTART and Revitalization Pastors.
- 5 at-risk churches have reSTARTed via mergers with church plants in the last 12 months.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for more SCBC churches to take steps to become multiplying churches.
- Pray for more church planters and more reSTART pastors to be called, identified, and developed, especially in our key growth regions of Myrtle Beach, Charleston, the Lowcountry, the Midlands, Rock Hill/Fort Mill, and the Upstate.

2018 Office of Prayer
Katie Whitaker/ Prayer Strategist

From Johnny Rumbaugh, DOM, Lexington Association: "In June of this year, I received a call from Pastor Kurt Geib informing me he had resigned the previous day after serving River Bluff Baptist Church (Cayce) for 17 years. A couple days later, the deacon chairman contacted me and scheduled a meeting with church leaders. I was fully aware of this church's unhealthiness and decline in membership to 6 people. I knew much prayer was needed.

I currently serve as interim pastor at Pelion Baptist (21 miles away) and immediately contacted our prayer ministry leader and asked her thoughts about prayer walking River Bluff Church. She was initially reluctant because the Pelion BC prayer team just launched in February of this year and had never prayer walked off campus. However, she promptly called back after talking and praying with the prayer team and asked if they could pray at River Bluff prior to my meeting with the members.

The following week, the prayer team met at River Bluff and one of the team members realized this is the church her aunt once attended and was baptized there. Prayer for this church to remain a light in the community became personal and bold. Over the next six weeks many prayers and conversations took place asking for God's plans and purposes for River Bluff to continue to bless this community.

*On August 5, River Bluff members voted unanimously to replant via merger with a new church plant. The first Sunday's attendance following the merger was 59. **PRAYER BRINGS POWER TO OUR WORK.**"*

The Office of Prayer was launched in September 2017 to focus intentional prayer on the work of the SC Baptist Convention (SCBC) staff and to assist churches in strengthening the prayer life of their congregations.

Initiatives:

- The 310 Prayer Time began in January 2018. Every day at 3:00 pm, the SCBC staff gathers together on each floor in the building to pray for our work, our ministry partners, unreached people, SCBC churches by name, associations, government, world leaders and special requests.
- The Prayer Strategist meets with church leaders and prayer teams to discuss ways to saturate every aspect of church life with prayer. Katie has led several conferences and breakout sessions related to prayer ministry. Fall prayer events are scheduled at Broad River Association and Moriah Association.
- In partnership with local churches, the Prayer Office facilitated three Prayer Boot Camps in March 2018, led by Dr. Claude King. There were 116 participants. Here is a quote from a church who attended the Boot Camp and then hosted one at their church: *"God is good! And, He was at work at Prayer Boot Camp, Session 1 and 2. We had 50 people register; 44 came to one or both sessions and of the 44, 30 attended both sessions. We are using the UNITE booklets for the next 21 days and the BLESS EVERY HOME cards. I plan on teaching THE BATTLE PLAN using the study guide as a workbook soon. Our Mission Team will be meeting to plan on follow up for whole church... Who Knows Boot Camp 2. Isn't God fun and good? I would gladly share some of our strategies with other churches."*

- The Office of Prayer invited several pastors and church leaders to participate in the SC Prayer Fellowship Breakfast – an event similar to the annual National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington DC. We plan to expand our participation in the National Day of Prayer Events in 2019.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that God will refine our vision for helping churches/members to become true ‘houses of prayer.’ (James 1:5 & Isaiah 56:7)
- Ask God to help us identify prayer leaders across our state who can mentor others and help build affinity networks of prayer warriors. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- Pray that SC Baptists will “devote ourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.” (Colossians 4: 2)

2018 Associational Liaison Scott Shields/Liaison

The office of associational liaison exists to Create a Kingdom Movement among our 42 SC Baptist Associations impacting SC and Beyond...So that Every Life is Saturated and Transformed by the Hope of the Gospel beginning in South Carolina...

Associations celebrations

- Four Associations have called new Director of Missions (DOM) in South Carolina. This puts us at 37 associations with DOM leadership and 4 who are in the process.
 - a. Savannah River – Woody Oliver
 - b. Ridge - Keith Lancaster
 - c. Welch Neck – Joe Willard
 - d. Broad River – Daniel Godfrey
- The Fall DOM Summit was had a great turn out with 27 DOM's in attendance and the theme was an overview of the restart, reinvest, or revitalize.
- Begin a cohort that will work on a process to Discover-Develop-Deploy for potential Director of Missions who will have developed skill sets of strategy development/implementation and can implement the ADVANCE processes within their associations. Our first gathering is scheduled for October 2018.
- The development of a cohort that will work on a clear revitalization process to help all 42 associations in South Carolina evaluate their NEXT STEPS of vision/mission clarity, values, and ADVANCE priorities.
- Each month our office is in the shepherding process to CARE and CONNECT with all Director of Missions in SC for the purpose of building support, encouragement, and leadership development.
- Our office continues to work with Prayers Strategies office of SC Baptist to develop and coordinate an effort of constant prayer like "Bless Every Home" through our associational partnership across the State.
- Our office is building intentional relationships between the SC Baptist Convention and Associations so that assistance can be given at the highest level so that *"every life in South Carolina has the opportunity to be saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel"*. This is accomplished through financial resources and intentional training opportunities around the state in alignment with the ADVANCE priorities.
- Continue to work to connect and communicate all training and resources available to your associations from the SC Baptist Staff and collective trainings in 2018-2019 like Immersion, IMPACT Conference, Restore, Next Leaders and Next Churches.

Here is some upcoming DOM Priorities emphasis

- **Serve-Share-Send-Start** -In order to see the opportunity of the **ADVANCE** priorities we will conduct the Second of two DOM summit sessions on September 6th with the emphasis of Revitalization/restart/reINVEST.
- **NEXT Leadership** - Jan DOM retreat – January 11-12 in Myrtle Beach, SC Guest Speaker: Bill Ellif. The emphasis of the weekend will be Personal Holiness (focus on personal and Kingdom prayer strategy)
- **SEND and START** - To assist in the leadership catalysts we will have regional collaboration in the state of SC around the implementation of NEXTSTEPS.

Prayer Request

- For a great start to the NEXT STEPS processes for strengthening leaders and churches offered through the associations by connecting with the DOM's in your region of the state.
- DOM gatherings or trainings to offered for support, encouragement, and prayer.
- Clarity and insight on how SC Baptist can best assist the associations to fulfill the great commission through the processes offered in ADVANCE movement.

2018 Operations Group
John Watkins/Director of Operations

The Operations Group serves to Advance kingdom priorities through the work of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC). Our goal is to provide necessary tools and support to the staff of the convention, Executive Board, Convention Officers and Committees that will keep their work smooth and effective. For 2018 the Executive Board report for the Operations Group consists of Technology Services, Data Processing, Support Services, Print and Mail Services, Historical Services, and White Oak Conference Center.

Ministry Highlights:

- Technology Services replaced 10 desktops and 8 laptops.
- Upgraded Firewall to include new VPN capabilities.
- Started process to upgrade the off-Site Backup system
- Started process to upgrade to Office 365 and move Exchange to the cloud.
- Increased internet bandwidth at Columbia and White Oak locations.
- Virtualized two new servers in server group.
- Installed new San Solution in Server Farm.
- Trained on a new banner machine, that is used to provide banners for our churches, annual meeting and inside the SCBC.
- Installed and trained on a new digital color press that provides color brochures, post cards and books
- Had a 74% return rate on the 2017 Annual Church Profile (ACP).
- Offered 4 trainings to the associations to train them on the new ACP collection process.
- Offered off-site trainings to the associations for ACP training for their churches.
- In June 2018, we began the process of converting our Customer Relationship Management database (CRM) to the Southern Baptist national database system known as Workspace. Southern Baptist congregations and associations provide statistical information and leader information to congregations, associations, state conventions, and national SBC entities through Workspace.
- SCBC will refer to Workspace software as South Carolina Information Database (SCID).
- Trained the majority of the SCBC staff on the usage of SCID.
- Historical Services has been working on the following:
 - Progress continues in the development of the 200th anniversary history of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Rev. Josh Powell, author, says that the book will include new stories of people who shaped our history and heritage.
 - Ongoing work continues in the preservation and cataloguing of material related to the South Carolina Baptist Convention. This year's focus on associations has included the acquisition of additional association minutes and newsletters. Association records are the basic building block for church history and information.
 - Historical Services continues to work with churches on their histories. This year, they have assisted several churches whose records were destroyed in fires. Overall, more than fifty churches, associations, Convention staff and individuals have been helped with research.
 - The History Committee continues to work with the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection housed at Furman University and are very appreciative of the work of the Furman archivists to protect and preserve church, association and manuscripts related to Convention history.

Projects for BCM centers:

- Columbia – replaced roof.
- Columbia – repaired and repaved parking lot, the parking spaces increased from 30 to 40.

Highlights at White Oak Conference Center:

- There are 3 scheduled tree thinning (approximately 300 acres) scheduled for the summer of 2018 (stands 1, 2, and 3).
- The Stems School continues to move forward in the purchase of WOCC and 200 acres.

Highlights at Camp McCall:

- Repair and recoat open-air gym.
- Repair and replace gutter systems on multiple buildings.
- Renovate and expand McCall Manor.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for continued work on capital renewal and replacement plan for all SCBC properties.
- Pray for all the incredible opportunities to utilize our properties and facilities for God's glory and Kingdom Advancement.
- Pray for wisdom in determining current and future needs with our facilities and infrastructure.

2018 Communications Lara Gopp/Director

The Communications Team serves under the leadership of ministry priorities. We are committed to create innovative resources and share advance stories with the purpose of helping mobilize Jesus-followers and churches across the state in moving from healthy cultures inside the building, to Great Commission cultures outside the walls.

In the spring of 2018, Communications shared a story about how employees at Southeastern Freight Lines, a Lexington-based freight trucking company, began intentionally engaging in faith-based discussions within the workplace. This led to leadership coordinating lunchtime Bible studies and quarterly worship experiences on campus. These employees embraced the call to be sent out into their workplace and lives are being transformed with the hope of the gospel.

After publishing the article throughout various media platforms, one of the leaders at Southeastern Freight Lines contacted us with an exciting update:

I thought I would let you know that I received a call from someone today in Little Rock, AR that read the article about the Bible studies through Facebook that are taking place at Southeastern. They called to inquire on how to get something like that going for them. Thank you for your work that you put into this. It is exciting to think our story can help lead others.

Media is a powerful platform that can be leveraged throughout various media platforms to reach the nations with the hope of the gospel. Here are some highlights for the year:

Kingdom ADVANCE Strategy - January 2018 - August 2018

- ADVANCE strategy brand launched at Impact conference (February 2018)
Included www.scbcadvance.org website, video and print collateral
- ADVANCE Newsletter launched (April 2018)
3,325 Total Audience with a 40% open rate (industry standard is 23.8%)

Video & Social Media Production - January 2018 - September 2018

- Produced over 35 video resources with 53 variations to be used on multiple formats including:
 - Facebook - Increased to 547 more followers with a total of 12 K engaged.
 - Viewers viewed over 11.1K minutes with 24.7K 3 second views.
 - Viewership peak was for the Janie Chapman videos, Berea First Baptist story and Salvation story at Langston.
 - Twitter - Increased followers by 155 and engagement by 309
 - Instagram- Increased to 96 more followers and 1.1K engagement

Web site statistics – September 2017 – August 2018

- 367,021 Page Views
- 158,834 Visitors
- 130,254 Unique Visitors

- Single most viewed page: scbaptist.org home page – 35,612 visitors
SCBC Web sites visited by individuals from 186 countries, all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Armed Forces Europe, Middle East, Canada, United States, and Pacific, and 185 countries outside the United States.
- Consulted with over 55 churches and associations related to website development, media production and other communication needs.

Prayer Requests:

Pray that God will continue to build and unify us as a team around our vision to see every life saturated and transformed by the hope of the gospel, beginning in South Carolina.

Pray that we will continue to engage those far from God through our work with churches, the media industry and commercial vendors.

Pray that God will continue to give us innovative ideas as we leverage technology throughout various media platforms to reach the nations with the hope of the gospel.

**2018 Report of
Woman's Missionary Union
Auxiliary to South Carolina Baptist Convention
Laurie Register, Executive Director-Treasurer
September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018**

Through Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU®), age-level organizations and churchwide participation, South Carolina Baptists are equipped to understand God's purpose for their lives and are challenged to live out that purpose – to be radically involved in the mission of God. Through missions praying, missions giving (including giving through the Cooperative Program and our missions offerings) and direct participation in missions, WMU members and participants develop a lifestyle of missions.

Support of Missions Emphases:

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering – South Carolina WMU distributed posters, offering envelopes and prayer guides in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean.
- Janie Chapman Offering (JCO) for State Missions, Missions Education, and Great Commission Living – South Carolina WMU planned, produced and provided materials to promote and share about South Carolina state missions. DVDs (which included 4 videos), posters, prayer guides, envelopes, and family missions pages were distributed. Spanish translations of the Leader Guide were sent to Hispanic congregations. This year three checks were sent to the South Carolina Baptist Convention for missions causes: \$1,060,694.48 and \$799.40 for allocations. The third check was for \$138,944.24 from recovered JCO funds – unused and returned to us from 2017.

Missionary Support:

- Fourteen persons participated in the Fall and Spring Missionary Parents Fellowship meetings in October and March.
- Two checks were sent to South Carolina related missionary kids (MKs). \$1,750 was given to 35 MKs during Fall 2017. In the spring of 2018, \$1,000 was sent to 20 MKs.
- In September, Missionary Day was held at Camp La Vida for active and retired international and North American missionaries and chaplains serving in or from South Carolina. Thirty-eight attended.

Missions Opportunities:

- Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) helped the South Carolina Adjutant General's Chief Medical Officer with the Hurricane Maria Response by providing medical personnel. BNF is involved in ministry through Martha Franks Retirement Community, the Myrtle Beach Sunburn Unit, the South Carolina State Fair, Charleston Southern University Blessing of the Hands, and mission trips.
- Duffel bags and Bibles donations during 2017 totaled \$11,040.99 which was used to purchase 1000 duffel bags for the South Carolina Foster Parents Association for distribution in 2018.
- Ministry Health Kits were distributed in associations throughout South Carolina.
- Partnered with SCBC to promote, collect and distribute Prisoner Packets.
- The South Carolina Baptist Convention and South Carolina WMU partnered with Appalachian Mountain Ministry (formerly Appalachian Region Ministry) to provide Christmas Backpacks. There were 1,500 backpacks collected at the SCBC Annual Meeting. An additional 2,258 were collected from churches and associations, for a total of 3,758 backpacks collected in 2017. Backpacks were distributed through associations, churches, and ministry centers in Cleveland, OH at special events where the Gospel was shared.
- One Acteens group is active on the Willow Lane Campus of DJJ.
- There are currently two active Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps sites in South Carolina walking with men and women on their journey to self-sufficiency. The newest site is called The EDGE and is in Clover.

- Churches have continued to educate members of their congregations about the issue of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Refugees - WMU trains individuals on how to serve and engage refugees and helps connect churches and individuals with refugees with whom to work.

Missions Camping

- This summer, 1,262 campers attended Camp La Vida. An offering of \$3,666.51 was given through the Cooperative Program. A total of 180 significant decisions were made.

Missions Discipleship

- New start materials were provided for 31 new groups in 15 churches.
- Philip Initiative – Cast the vision in churches in South Carolina for the need to integrate work and faith and mobilize professionals to the nations. Researched how to do a better job at mobilizing marketplace missionaries who are connected to healthy disciple making teams in the least reached areas of the world.
- WMU continues to work with Missions Mobilization in their partnership with all South Carolina missionaries. WMU is specifically working in the area of prayer partnerships.
- Partnership Vision Trips: A team of four traveled to Detroit in September to provide leadership training during the Michigan WMU Annual Meeting. They were also involved in prayer walking an area of Michigan where there is volume of human trafficking. They learned about a ministry that is reaching out to victims of human trafficking and spent time praying with those involved in the ministry. One of the team members is making future plans to start a similar ministry in her area.
- Prayer partnerships include a partnership with Global Gates West and Boston Church Planters' Wives. We currently have 40 women in South Carolina who are specifically praying each month for needs and requests sent to us by members of the Global Gates West Team and 40 women who have agreed to partner with a wife of a church planter currently serving in Boston.
- In September, 211 participated in a Youth Event at Connie Maxwell Children's Home, where teens, teen leaders, and Connie Maxwell youth worked alongside one another completing ministry projects on campus. Teens were encouraged to share their testimony, have a Gospel conversation, or share a Biblical story while working alongside one another.
- In October, 442 participated in Carolina Women, the event for Women on Mission of North and South Carolina, which was held at Fort Caswell, NC.
- In March, WMU Missions Encounter and Annual Meeting was held at North Augusta First Baptist Church. The theme was "embrace." Ministry projects and an emphasis on refugees were highlights.
- Assisted with 38 Associational WMU Spring Meetings and partnered with 39 associations to provide associational training in five regions of the state.

Prayer Requests

- Christmas Backpacks Project: Pray that South Carolina Baptist Convention and South Carolina WMU will reach its goal of 4,500 for 2018. Pray also for those churches who are partnering with a church that is a part of the Appalachian Mountain Ministry and will be traveling to host and participate in Birthday Parties for Jesus and will assist with the distribution of the Christmas Backpacks.
- Associational Leadership Development: Pray that leaders will attend this important associational leadership development event and bring potential leaders with them. Training and equipping leaders is so critical for WMU and it is through capable leadership that we make our greatest connections to our future work.



For God and humanity, Anderson University seeks to be an innovative, entrepreneurial, premier comprehensive university where liberal arts, professional studies, and graduate studies thrive within an uplifting, welcoming, and distinctively Christian community of diverse faculty, staff and students dedicated to intellectually rigorous learning, a caring and hospitable campus culture, and personal transformation.

Highlights 2018

- One of the largest incoming groups of new students, more than 750, are joining the Anderson University family for the 2018-19 year. A total of 664 first-time college students, along with 96 transfer students, started classes on August 22. This incoming class is a well prepared class with an average SAT score of approximately 1140.
- Anderson University maintains a high position in the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking, as a “Top Tier” Regional University in the South. *U.S. News & World Report* also lists AU as #7 in the “Most Innovative School” rankings.
- *The Princeton Review* included Anderson on a list of best colleges and universities as one of the “Best in the Southeast.”
- Anderson University hosted a record 5,500 guests for Palmetto Boys State and Crossroads Summer Camps. More than 800 high school and junior high students made professions of faith and an additional 518 students made decisions to pursue leadership in ministry during Clayton King’s Crossroads Summer camps.
- The College of Health Professions is seeking accreditation of our three-year doctoral program in our School of Physical Therapy, which is poised to be the first Physical Therapy program in the upstate of South Carolina. The development of 9,000 square feet of space for our School of Physical Therapy and our School of Nursing’s graduate programs has been completed. The renovated space is equipped with the following: nursing lab, office space, meeting facility, student lounge, two physical therapy labs, research labs and a locker room.
- The Master of Science in Instructional Design and Learning Technology, a new master’s degree program, will help educators and professionals from healthcare and corporations better integrate technology into their instruction and training programs.
- Anderson University was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the second consecutive time for the excellence of its Mobile Learning Initiative, which features the use of iPads in specially designed classes on campus. Only 400 schools (K-12 through graduate schools) in the world have been selected for this distinction.
- Anderson was named one of “America’s 100 Best College Buys” for the 12th consecutive year as well as one of “America’s Best Christian Colleges.”
- Scripture Verse for 2018-2019: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 NIV

Prayer Requests

Please join us in praying for the health and safety of our students during this academic year.

We ask that you pray that we will continue to have the freedom to be faithful to our mission of being a truly Christian academic community in the face of governmental pressure on us, and all Christian colleges, to bend to the increasingly secular culture.

Join us in praying that our students’ lives will be changed and that they will change the world they touch when they leave us.

2018 Charleston Southern Dondie Costin/President

Charleston Southern University recognizes the important “partnership in the gospel” it shares with the churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (Philippians 1:5, HCSB). Our vision statement articulates our role in this partnership: to be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading and serving. Below we list some of our key ministries in 2018 to faculty, staff, students, the surrounding community and the world:

Key Stats

- 2,000 students exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 102 students received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- 34 students served on a short-term mission trip
- 55 collegians were involved in intentional evangelism

Learning

- A high attendance of 200 Charleston Southern University students participated in 15 discipleship groups.
- Charleston Southern University faculty and staff received monthly faith integration training to strengthen their biblical worldview and enhance their communication of the gospel.
- 82 Collegians preparing for church–related vocations.
- 250 collegians were educated about the cooperative program.

Leading

- The Movement 2017, a series of gospel-centered, spiritual awakening worship services, resulted in 40 students committing their life to Christ.
- Over 2,000 collegians received exposure to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the classroom and chapel.
- 15 students participated in the 2018 Student Leadership Academy that focused on leadership training and building connections.
- CSU Gospel Choir sponsored the Collegiate Gathering which hosted gospel choirs from 11 different schools (e.g., NC A&T, USC Upstate, Columbia College, SC State University, etc.). 57 salvations were recorded over a two-day period. Over 500 collegians participated. The North Charleston Mayor’s Office issued a proclamation that the first Saturday in November is Collegiate Gathering Weekend at CSU.

Serving

- Urban Ministry, a student-led ministry, ministered every Friday night in downtown Charleston engaging homeless, people in need, etc., by handing out water and creating gospel conversations. Over 30 students were involved in Urban.
- Charleston Southern University partnered with Operation Christmas Child and packed a record 1,721 shoeboxes. Student clubs, organizations and athletic teams participated in this annual event.
- Over 300 collegians attended Campus Ministry programs. Mid-week campus worship had over 400 students for a high attendance.
- Campus Ministries took a 23-member team to Puerto Rico over spring break (in partnership with NAMB). An additional 11-member team went to Tennessee for stateside mission work over spring break.
- Engage Monthly Partners included Habitat for Humanity, Doors to Freedom, Operation Christmas Child, Lowcountry Pregnancy Center, Tri-County Family Ministries, Water Missions International.

Prayer Requests: Pray for the faculty, staff and students who seek to integrate their faith in North America and internationally.

**2018 North Greenville University
Gene C. Fant Jr., Ph. D/President
Report for 2017-2018**

This past year, North Greenville University celebrated its 125th anniversary as an institution. Begun in 1892 as a boarding school for poor mountain children, with a goal of offering Gospel-based education as a means for transforming students' lives, NGU has continued that founding vision throughout its historical phases. From the North Greenville Baptist Academy days, to North Greenville Junior College to North Greenville College to North Greenville University, the institution has always sought to be a place where "Christ Makes the Difference."

As a part of this celebration, the university installed its eighth president, Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr. on April 13. President Fant holds five earned academic degrees, including the Master of Divinity in Biblical Languages from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (he was the third generation of his family to graduate from NOBTS), a doctorate in literature, and a post-doctoral certificate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. He is active in pulpit supply across the region and is a widely published author and speaker and has preached in about two dozen pulpits in the Carolinas since he joined the university. He and his wife Lisa have been married for 29 years and have adult twin children. Also, as a part of this celebration, the university held a reunion concert to mark the 40th anniversary of Joyful Sound, the touring musical group that serves local churches, community organizations, and youth groups. At the conclusion of the concert, a mass choir of well over 100 voices sang praises to God. The university gave thanks to God for the vision of the founders as it looked forward in anticipation to the future.

President Fant has led his executive council to study and reinforce the university's unique foundational mission, "cultivating transformational leaders for church and society," seeking to prevent the mission drift that easily besets institutions. To this end, the executive council generated these four core values of the university, which will guide future emphases on campus:

- Christ-Centered
- Biblically Faithful
- Academically Excellent
- Mission-Focused

Additionally, the university has launched an effort to read through the Bible each year; faculty, staff, and students take turns reading the Scriptures out loud, signing where they begin reading and end reading; once complete, the signed Bible will be deposited in the university's archives, to document the university's commitment to God's Word. Additionally, the university has restructured the Campus Ministries team to allow for maximum discipleship cultivation, including a new Baptist Collegiate Ministries Director, Joshua Gilmore, and a new Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Justin Brown. Jody Jennings has been promoted to Associate Campus Pastor and Associate Vice President for Campus Ministries.

New leadership joined the executive team:

- Dr. Nathan Finn, Provost and Dean of the University Faculty (former dean at Union University in TN and former professor of history and spiritual formation at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Dr. Finn was converted by the Gospel on NGU's campus his senior year of high school while attending a Fuge camp); Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Richard Grimm, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer (former vice president at Trinity International University and at Union University alongside Pres. Fant); M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

- Martin O’Gwynn, Vice President for Advancement and University Engagement (former leader at Oklahoma Baptist and Oklahoma City Universities); M.A., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

In 2017, NGU consolidated all its non-traditional programs under one roof, at the Tim Brashier Campus in Greer, in the former headquarters of a corporation. The university launched its first graduate program in healthcare, the Master of Science in Healthcare / Physician’s Assistant, which joins other graduate and doctoral programs in business, education, and ministry, along with a number of online degree options. Enrollment at this location passed 480 students in Fall 2018, and the university and the City of Greer are partnering on a number of strategic projects that should yield significant enrollment growth in this location. Additionally, the university recently announced a new partnership with the Hispanic Bible Institute to provide Spanish-language training for pastors and lay leaders in the Upstate.

The university’s academic programs continue to grow in quality and number, with several new faculty joining the roster this year and new programs preparing for roll-out. Significantly, the university announced a new partnership with the Mary Black School of Nursing in Spartanburg, which will allow NGU students priority admission and advanced standing in that program.

The university is pleased to report that it continues to hold no long-term interest-bearing debt and has balanced budgets. Not a penny of student tuition goes to debt service, allowing the university to offer some of the lowest private university tuition in the region.

A few of the honors the university has received include:

- #2 on “10 Colleges with the Best Professors” (2016) by BestColleges.com
- #3 on "10 Best Online Colleges in South Carolina" (2017) by BestColleges.com
- #3 on “Top 50 Christian Colleges and Universities with the Lowest Debt Burden” (2016) by Christian Universities Online
- #3 on "45 Best Colleges in South Carolina" (2018) by BestColleges.com
- #5 on "Best Online Schools in South Carolina" (2018) by BestColleges.com
- #5 on "Best 4-Year Colleges in South Carolina" (2018) by Schools.com
- #5 on “25 Best Christian Colleges and Universities in the South” (2017) by Christian Universities Online
- #5 on “50 Best Value Christian Colleges and Universities” (2017) by Christian Universities Online
- #6 on “Best Online Colleges in South Carolina” (2018) by The Best Schools
- #6 on “60 Most Affordable Accredited Online Christian Colleges and Universities” (2016) by Great Value Colleges
- #7 on “10 Best Online Education Studies Degrees" (2017) by Best Education Degrees
- #8 on "Top 20 Best Online Colleges in South Carolina" (2017) by Online College Plan
- #9 on “50 Most Affordable Christian Colleges and Universities” (2017) by Christian Universities Online
- #10 on “25 Best Christian Colleges and Universities in the South” (2018) by Online Christian Colleges
- #13 on "25 Best Colleges in South Carolina" (2017) by College Choice
- #15 on "Best Christian Colleges and Universities - Online" (2018) by CollegeAtlas.org
- #17 on "Top 25 Low-Debt Private Colleges" (2017) by Forbes
- #19 on “20 Best College Deals for Conservative Christians” (2016) by Great College Deals
- #21 on "50 Best Christian Graduate Schools" (2017) by Christian Universities Online
- #22 on “25 Most Beautiful Christian Colleges and Universities in the South” (2017) by Christian Universities Online

- #25 on "Top 25 Online Christian Colleges and Universities" (2017) by Christian Universities Online
- #25 on "25 Best Rural Colleges" (2016) by College Raptor
- #33 on "Newsmax's 40 Best Colleges for Conservative Values" (2016) by Newsmax
- #35 on "Top 50 Christian Colleges and Universities" (2017) by Theology Degrees

In the arts, the university's programs enjoyed great success, including shared performances with local churches and community groups. In athletics, the university had a number of student-athletes who made professions of faith, but teams were successful as well. The university had its first #1 national ranking in the NCAA in any sport, in baseball; baseball was selected to play in the NCAA regional playoffs.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of friends and donors, the university made a number of improvements to its physical plant this year, including: installed an artificial playing surface for baseball; construction and opening of Chick-fil-A on campus; improved lighting; launched a residence hall renovation project; refreshed the student grill area; improved outdoor dining and gathering space; and replacement of main entrance signs.

NGU's historic commitment to missions and evangelism continues unabated, with the academic year starting with campus-wide revival services (led this year by Chad Poe) and 200+ students participating in summer missions and church internships. Alumnus Jose Rondon, U. S. Army Chaplain, has been leading a revival at Fort Leonard Wood in MO that has had well over two thousand(2,000) professions of faith between March and August (and was continuing at the time of this report's submission); Associate Vice President for Campus Ministries Jody Jennings led a mission trip to Cuba that resulted in over five hundred (500) documented professions of faith. The annual Global Engagement Conference was held September 10-12, focusing on calling and ministry opportunities around the world.

- We know of 232 people who received Christ on our campus between June 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018. In addition, we are aware of 1,021 people receiving Christ through NGU students, faculty, and staff involvement in mission teams and summer camps.
- Over 700 students were involved in our campus ministry program this past year.
- 206 students were majoring in church-related vocations degree tracks.
- Student ministry teams served over 200 churches in the Carolinas, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia, as well as eight foreign countries. Joyful Sound led worship for the South Carolina Baptist Pastors Conference. Approximately 150 students serve weekly on these ministry teams.
- Over 300 students averaged attendance at the weekly Baptist Collegiate Ministry worship / Bible study events.
- Community Impact Teams served local churches and parachurch ministries in multiple locations through the year.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our faculty and staff as we dedicate ourselves to serving God's Kingdom through our shared work in the university setting.
- Pray for our students as they discover God's calling on their lives, God's design for their life's work, and God's place of service in their futures.
- Pray for unusual unity as we seek to be a spiritually dynamic place where Christ Makes the Difference.

In Christ,

Gene C. Fant, Jr., Ph.D.
President

2018 MINISTRY REPORT

NATHAN MCCARTHY/PRESIDENT & CEO

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina has a rich history of serving South Carolina Baptist churches and individuals through investment, endowment, and legacy giving services. But, why does the Foundation exist? How does the Foundation help build God's Kingdom? Although the Foundation has been in existence since 1950, most South Carolina Baptists could not answer those questions.

As we entered a season of new leadership in August 2017, our Foundation staff was challenged with the basic question – *What's our Kingdom purpose?* Our stated purpose defines how and why we do our work; it's the Foundation's calling. Our purpose reflects how we relate to others and helps us develop our mission strategy and future focus. Earlier this year, our staff and board set out to define our Kingdom purpose. Through prayerful discussion and challenging questions, we established a Purpose statement that has further focused our Mission and Vision. This is our calling:

Our Purpose: *We help God's people fund the Great Commission.*

Our Mission: *Our mission is to serve the Church in South Carolina through the development, investment and management of the resources God has given His people. We exist to impact Kingdom work for all generations.*

Our Vision: *Every Christian prayerfully stewards their resources as an act of worship, beginning in South Carolina.*

We live in a time and generation in which Christians have accumulated more lifetime blessings than in any time in history. Christians today have the capacity, through the blessings provided by God, to fulfill the Great Commission by taking the Gospel message to every corner of our world! We believe that God is offering our generation the opportunity to partner with Him in doing just that!

In addition to our refocused Purpose, other major accomplishments since last year are highlighted below:

- Revised our organizational structure and established Board committees to complement this structure.
- Managed over **\$138 million** in assets for the benefit of churches, associations, and Baptist institutions across our state and the world.
- Established new investment guidelines and restructured our investment fund offerings in line with our Biblical beliefs.
- Distributed **over \$3.5 million** to primarily Baptist ministries as of fiscal year end (3/31/2018) through endowment and investment income, the fifth consecutive year of distributions over \$3 million. Since inception, the Foundation has distributed over **\$77 million** to Kingdom ministries, from churches in South Carolina to missions projects around the world.
- Continued to tithe the Foundation's own resources to provide grants to help fund evangelistic projects. In 2017, grants totaling **\$74,700** were awarded. Since the program began in 2002, the Foundation's tithe and endowed gifts for grants have resulted in over **\$929,000** in ministry grants.
- Through Christian estate planning services, the Foundation provides customized estate planning for families/individuals who desire to leave a portion of their estates to Kingdom ministries. To date, anticipated future gifts of **over \$62 million** for primarily Baptist charities have been identified.
- Completed three capital campaign programs to help churches raise funds for capital projects to support their ministries.

The Foundation's major focus areas include teaching our churches to be wise stewards of the dollars God has given them to manage; helping our churches inspire their congregations to intentionally focus on stewarding *all* of God's blessings; and seeing every South Carolina Baptist be resolute and urgent in legacy planning as they prayerfully contemplate the impact that their plans can have in the fulfillment of the Great Commission!

Our future is focused on developing a purposeful strategy to engage our churches in a Great Commission funding mindset using resources today and tomorrow. We want to come alongside pastors and laypeople to help them foster and encourage a culture of generosity in their churches as we work together to support the church of the future and to fulfill the Great Commission. May this generation have a heart and passion for fulfilling God's Great Commission... "*Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD.*" Psalm 102:18 NIV

Connie Maxwell Children's Home

Annual Report 2018

- Beginning on September 1, President Nicholson conducted a "Listening Tour" for 3 months with every area of Connie Maxwell, including Greenwood and four off campus sites to gather information and analyze current status of personnel and operations.
- On November 9, The "New Beginnings" Celebration was held at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church featuring Ruth Graham and Connie Maxwell alumni, friends, churches, and supporters.
- "The Forgiveness Initiative" was the first step in beginning our strategic planning process. Randall O'Brien, President of Carson Newman University, facilitated a one day workshop for all staff members on the need to forgive and work together in unity. Currently, we have recruited chairs and committee members to launch a strategic planning effort to create "The Connie Maxwell Children's Home: A Future Plan."
- "The Dreams of Children" Tour was a comprehensive effort to communicate Connie Maxwell Children's Home across South Carolina. Alumni, staff, and children made presentations in Greenville, Florence, Charleston, Orangeburg, and Columbia. In Columbia, our children and alumni visited the State House and were introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives and Senate.
- Personally visited and recognized (with a plaque) the top 125 Lifetime Giving churches as a part of our 125th anniversary celebration.
- 2018 "Alumni Homecoming Celebration" featured a three day event welcoming over 500 alumni back home.
- Connie Maxwell has initiated the development of a Women of Compassion group that will feature women leaders across South Carolina to strengthen support our children. Ruth Graham will serve as Honorary Chair of this leadership group. Polly Davis and Debra Nicholson will serve as Co-Chairs and conduct meetings in the Fall and Spring of each year.
- Connie Maxwell provided services for 407 children and families in residential care last year at the Greenwood, Cooper Nixon, Orangeburg, Mauldin, Florence, and Chesterfield campuses.
- Family Care was provided to 15 families which consisted of 46 single parents and their children.
- Foster Care services has 16 homes licensed and has served 18 children this past year.
- Foster Care received a grant from the Duke endowment for \$350,000 to implement a new curriculum "ARC/ Trauma Academy" for foster parents.
- Connie Maxwell had seven students in the Higher Education/Independent Living program this year.
- Connie Maxwell Baptist Church baptized 8 students and received 5 new church members in the past year.
- Connie Maxwell continues to be blessed by an abundance of churches, groups and individuals serving as volunteers, providing services for campus projects and the needs of our children. Over 2000 volunteers served and saved a significant amount of money that would have otherwise burdened our operating budget.
- The 19th Annual Connie Maxwell Christmas brought over 15,500 visitors to campus to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- The First Lady, Debra Nicholson, initiated a "Backyard Reading Club" during the summer that taught reading recovery principles to over 20 students.
- This summer, 52 Connie Maxwell children and staff attended faith based camps, including Summersalt, Camp La Vida, and Camp McCall.

**South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging, Inc.
Tom Turner, President**

The word “abundant” means “exceedingly, beyond measure, more, considerably more than one would expect.”

As your Ministry Partner, South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging, Inc. (SCBMA) is dedicated to helping South Carolina seniors **LIVE ABUNDANTLY** by providing Christian retirement communities and connecting seniors and their families with the resources to meet their needs. Our Legacy is one of caring. Bethea and Martha Franks Retirement Communities faithfully serve hundreds of individuals each year providing Independent, Assisted, Memory Care and Skilled Nursing services.

God continues to enable the South Carolina Baptist Ministry of Aging (SCBMA) to achieve much **through our ministry and I am pleased to share several recent accomplishments:**

- Newly created bistro dining spaces at both communities for resident, family and employee use.
- Expanded statewide marketing to pastors, churches and potential residents by visiting with pastors, sponsoring lunches at conferences for pastors, and making presentations to churches.
- Martha Franks' residents and staff members continue to serve a call center following the Billy Graham televised crusades (twice monthly). Since May 2013, there have been 2,169 total calls with 647 salvations, 184 rededications, and 210 assurances.
- Since we launched our Bethea and Martha Franks' *Helping Seniors Thrive Giving Society* in 2016, we have raised over \$400,000, added 36 members to the society and have grown total donor support to 185 donors. Faithful supporters of this campaign enable us to continue to provide financial assistance to those who need it each month.
- So far this year, 66 new churches are participating in our annual Mother's Day Offering that provides financial scholarships for pastors, missionaries and their spouses.

Our Trustees recognize that there will be many issues to manage in the years ahead - a growing senior population, maintaining a capable and caring workforce, and assuring our communities are prepared to meet the challenges of a competitive and quickly growing retirement community industry.

SCBMA's Trustees and staff count it an honor to serve the cherished senior adults of our state. With an over 55- year heritage, our faith and confidence remains in the Lord and is the defining difference at SCBMA. With God's continued grace and in cooperation with SC Baptist churches, we will always strive to pursue improved avenues to serve seniors while staying true to our mission, vision and values.

Please pray for God's blessing upon this ministry and the future generations we will serve.

Courier Report
Rudy Gray/Editor

The Baptist Courier will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. We are planning several things throughout the year that will allow South Carolina Baptists to rejoice with us as the oldest SCBC partner.

Even though we have utilized additional delivery systems, our print magazine continues to be our number one priority. We believe we reach more people monthly than any other entity in our convention. Combining data from our website (which is updated on daily basis), Facebook and Twitter platforms, and our e-edition, we are averaging 45,000 to 47,000 impressions each month. With our print magazine, we have 31,500 household subscriptions which translates into approximately 78,750 individuals. Combining all these systems, we are averaging approximately 110,250 “touches” or impressions each month.

Print medium continues to be a challenge for almost all newspapers and magazines throughout the nation. The best advice from professionals in print is for an organization to keep one foot planted in the digital world and another in the print world. That is our strategy and we believe it has been successful.

We are thankful for all our subscribers, Friends of The Courier, churches who supply The Courier to its members, and our state convention.

Courier Publishing was started in 2013 but actually launched in earnest in 2014. Our goal was to help aspiring authors in South Carolina achieve their dream of publishing their work. Our mission statement from which all manuscripts are evaluated is the Baptist and Faith and Message 2000. Thus far, we have published 40 books with several others in some stage of development.

Our greatest sense of accomplishment comes from seeing people touched by the reality of God through the stories we publish in The Courier and the books we produce through Courier Publishing. Whether it is in the print magazine, online, or in a book, our goal is to glorify Jesus Christ. Our motto remains the same: Telling the stories of those who are telling THE story.