

Celebrating 2023 Annual Meeting

The 272nd Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, October 5th with over 150 messengers and attendees representing 45% of member churches. We celebrate this gathering as the largest since our reorganization in 2017. We conducted a daytime gathering beginning at 9:30 a.m. and finished over a lunch by Pastor Jerry Zapata. Our guest speaker was our newly elected SCBC Executive Director, Dr. Tony Wolfe who spoke on missional cooperation. We celebrated our vision pathways through testimonies of leaders strengthened, presentation of three new church plants and cast vision for a new strategic initiative for diversity through church plant expressions called Mosaic. Our association affirmed 3 new Administrative Team members for the next 3 year term and we adopted a robust new budget to press into more of our vision of Connecting Churches for Kingdom Potential. To read the 2023 Annual Meeting Book please visit our website: charlestonbaptist.net

Reaching The Nations Locally

On Wednesday, November 8, Pastor Jonathan Edney and Hannah Brown of Nations to Neighbors offered practical and strategic orientation on connecting with the nations next door, across the street or who cross your path. Learning how to neighbor and become a friend with someone from another country opens to the door to sharing the Good News of the Gospel. Resources and tools were shared as well as grant money funding was offered for strategic events or gatherings for churches engaging with the nations. Over 50 leaders attended representing 16 churches. To learn more about available resources: clay@charlestonbaptist.net

STRENGTHENING LEADERS Replenish 2024

Replenish in its simplest definition means to fill something up again. For the CBA, it is more than a word as it is a pathway to connect and encourage church leaders for the sake of strengthening. As we look ahead in the new year, there are opportunities and created environments for those who lead the church to experience personal renewal and community connection. We believe it is mission critical for pastors to not be or feel alone as they serve and lead their congregations. It is our prayer that a shoulder to shoulder relationship and heart to heart connection would be fostered among church leaders in and through our associational family.

Pastors Connect Event: Lowcountry Boil

Wednesday, January 24 at 11:00 AM - The Retreat at Church Creek (John's Island)

Join us on John's Island for a time of connection with other CBA Pastors and an introduction to 2024's pathway of strengthening and serving you as a leader. We will enjoy a low-country favorite feast in an amazing setting. Our team listened to your input from our first connect gathering in January of this year at the Folly Beach House. We will share and discover ways that you can personally experience retreats to replenish your heart, soul, mind and strength.

The Retreat at Church Creek hosts church leaders for a time of personal reflection and renewal. Together we will learn more about these resources and opportunities for strengthening your vitality as a follower of Christ and leader of His church. Register on our website!



Retreat for Couples in Ministry

February 15-17, 2024

Spaces are filling up for this life-giving time of gathering! The vitality of your relationship is mission critical to your leadership. We want you to experience encouragement and receive insights in personal and relational wholeness.

Scripture remind us, *"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore"* (Psalm 16:11). Pastor and author, Mark Hallock and his wife Jenna will guide us in a time of discovery through biblical principles and practical wisdom that will be engaging and life giving toward growing and experiencing joy in your relationship as you lead and serve others in His Church.

The mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness of pastors and their families is mission critical for a healthy marriage and a healthy church. The CBA wants to invest resources and infuse hope into your life and marriage through a brief getaway allotting time for encouragement, equipping and connection. Couples will enjoy lodging on the beach, date night on us, teaching that nourishes the heart and an opportunity to connect with other pastors and wives. This shared experience will begin on Thursday evening and will end with check out on Saturday morning. February in Myrtle Beach is less crowded and provides a variety of amenities to enjoy.

For more information & to register: www.charlestonbaptist.net

STRENGTHENING CHURCHES



Cypress Workshop

Mid-January - Exact Date & Location TBD

The Cypress Project is rooted in the belief that God is on mission to redeem every man, woman and child through relationship with Himself and that the local church is essential to carrying out this mission. The local church isn't only pastors or ministry leaders; it's business owners, stay-at-home parents, community helpers, students, nine-to-five employees. The local church is every believer, and Cypress exists to equip every believer to be on mission where they live, learn, work and play. It starts with Kingdom-minded culture, which can help to create within your sphere of influence right where you are. Join with other leaders for this 2 half-day learning lab hosted by one of our CBA Churches. To learn more and register: www.charlestonbaptist.net

Welcome Pastor Jeremy Simmons – Sauldam Baptist Church



We welcome Pastor Simmons into our leadership family of Pastors among our association of churches. Jeremy grew up in a family that prioritized going to church, however his life was truly transformed at 15 when a friend proclaimed the good news of God's grace to him. At that moment, his goals and purposes were totally reoriented around making Jesus famous and helping people know Him.

After graduating from Charleston Southern University, Jesus sent he and his wife Beka as newlyweds (married in 2015) to North Carolina for formal graduate training at Southeastern Seminary and then off to Southeast Asia for missionary work (2018). The Lord's direction brought them back to America (2020) with a deeper love for God, a fine appreciation of craft coffee, a conviction that the local church is always tied to God's mission. The Simmons have a daughter named Annie and son named Luke.

New CBA Administrative Team

We give thanks to our previous Admin Team (2020-2023) who have served our association for the past three years. These elected CBA pastors have been empowered by the Executive Committee to give oversight to the work of our association in between our Annual Meetings. **Our association unanimously affirmed a new administrative team (2023-2026):**



Strengthening Leaders point leader, **Pastor Mike Seaver**, Risen Hope Church has served the spiritual well being of others in church leadership as well as coaching church planter couples with his wife Kristen. They have six daughters and three sons, four of their children were adopted into their family from Colombia, South America in 2021. mike.seaver@risenhope.church



Strengthening Churches point leader is **Pastor Marty Middleton**, Fort Johnson Baptist Church. Pastor Marty has modeled well the value of collaborating churches and pastoral relationships and is partnering with our Baptist Collegiate Ministry. He and his wife Amy have three daughters. marty@fjbc.net



Multiplying Churches point leader is **Pastor RaShan Frost**, The Bridge Church. RaShan is a graduate at Auburn University where he played football and has PhD in Public Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, DeAnna is a rheumatologist at MUSC. They have two sons, Kaleb and Joshua. rashan@thebridgecharleston.org

Moderator: Pastor Joe Traynham, Interim Pastor at FBC Goose Creek (jtraynham@centerpointremount.church), Vice-Moderator: Pastor Josh Driscoll, Highland Park Baptist Church (joshhpbpc@gmail.com) and Treasurer: Stan Ashburne of Crowfield Baptist Church (stan@charlestonbaptist.net). We rejoice to invite these new leaders at the CBA table!



Does your church have a clear target for making disciples?

Does your disciple making strategy need greater Gospel emphasis? Do you need more clarity on how to reach people in your specific context? Do the members in your church see themselves as everyday missionary disciples? Mission Charleston is inviting Greater Charleston churches in a collaborative learning experience in strengthening your church's discipleship strategy. Pastor Jeff Vanderstelt who authored the books, *Gospel Fluency* and *Saturate* will be teaching, coaching and consulting with church staff teams through in person intensives and online cohorts. Your church's discipleship effectiveness will be strengthened and your leadership will be better equipped in reaching and growing disciples within your church. This disciple-



making lab and cohort will be launched in January 2024. We currently have 5 church teams registered!

To learn more: www.charlestonbaptist.net/events

CHURCHES COLLABORATING

Greater Charleston Prayer Movement

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer" A.T. Pierson, 20th century American pastor. Each month, a denominationally diverse group comes together at a collaborative table at the CBA office with regional prayer leaders. As there are various interdenominational prayer circles functioning in Greater Charleston, these leaders come together on the first Wednesday of the month to connect and prayerfully discuss ways to foster and fuel a collective prayer movement in Greater Charleston. We are grateful for the way that CBA Church: The Church at Lifepark facilitates this time as they model prayer ministry as well as a regional movement called *Charleston Prays*. To learn more about how you and your church can engage in this growing movement, please reach out to: <https://www.charlestonpraystogether.org>

Send Relief Ministry Center

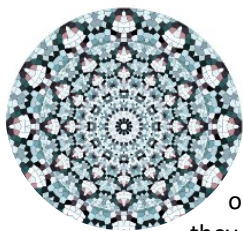
Our national convention (North American Mission Board) provides life giving and resource assisting relief to serve others in crisis in Jesus' name. Send Relief exists to respond to life-altering moments with the hope of the Gospel. Serving the needs of vulnerable families, refugee care and strengthening communities, these ministry centers serve as a hub for NAMB Send Relief initiatives to engage regional churches together for community impact. Centerpoint Church at Remount is a collaborative non-profit hub that connects resources and relationships for the good of the city in Greater Charleston. CBA Pastor David Johnson serves as the ministry director and will be the liaison between NAMB and the Greater Charleston region. This new center provides accessibility to the resource relationship with our national convention for all SBC churches in Greater Charleston. To learn more about Send Relief:

www.sendrelief.org / Pastor David Johnson: djohnson@centerpointremount.church

Nations 2 Neighbors

Since 2001, the United States has received an average of 50,000 refugees every year and is making provisions of 125,000 in 2024. An average of 60% of refugees arrive in the USA knowing little to no English. Refugees have 1 year to apply for permanent visas once coming to North America. Nations to Neighbors is a Gospel centered non-profit working with churches, community organizations and non-profits to demonstrate the love of Jesus through hospitality and care for the sojourner in Greater Charleston. Nations to Neighbors provides educational opportunities for non-native English speakers and their families as well as skills training, workplace coaching and driving lessons. Additionally, there are programs for personal development through spiritual formation, recreation and counseling. Nations to Neighbors is in partnership with Send Relief Charleston and is led by CBA Pastor Jonathan Edney. For more information and ways to serve and support:

www.nations2neighbors.org or nations2neighbors@gmail.com



Mosaic: Church Planting

Planting the Gospel in the lives of others is an everyday calling for followers of Christ. Scripture reminds us that we all are called to plant seeds of the Gospel because we are "co-workers" with God and He is the one who makes it grow: "The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:8-9). When a group of Christ followers seek this calling out together, the Kingdom will advance through leaders and like the sprouting of growth from seeds planted, the formation of a church takes root. Mosaic is defined as a combination of diverse elements forming a more coherent whole. Because of the diversity of Greater Charleston, our association is seeking to embrace and value both front door church planting (Core Group & Pastor Leader) as well as back door church planting (Focus Group & Lead Missionary) to reach every man, woman & child. Mosaic is a strategic and innovative pathway that partners with sending churches to plant the Gospel in communities and the marketplace through diverse expressions of the church.

PARTNER MINISTRIES



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer with The Citadel BCM

The World Day of Prayer offers us the opportunity to pray in unity with and for our Baptist sisters across the globe. This year we gathered on the campus of The Citadel to Prayerwalk the World. The event was planned in partnership with our BCM director, Bronson Baker. 16 prayer-walkers from 7 churches and one cadet gathered. God provided a display of His power by giving spectacular prayerwalking weather. Bronson familiarized the walkers with the places on campus which related to the prayer needs around the world. As army cadets conducted exercises on the parade grounds, the women walked around the campus stopping at key locations for prayer for various issues around the globe. In addition to praying, \$277 was given to support ministry projects through the continental women's departments.

Seafarer's Ministry Chaplain Christopher Dale

The Christmas season is upon us again, and we are giving away Christmas caps to the sailors. We've given out over 4100 of them so far, and they are always a big hit. What we love to see even more, however, are the sailors who are as interested (or even more interested) in the Bible study materials as in the caps. For some stories, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ISM.Charleston. To talk about opportunities to get involved, call me at 843-200-1903 or email me at petros555@hotmail.com.





CHARLESTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 71486, N. Charleston 29415

Electronic Service Requested

CBA PARTNER MINISTRIES

- Mission Charleston
- BCM Charleston
- NAMB - North American Mission Board
- South Carolina Baptist Convention
- South Carolina WMU
- IMB - International Mission Board
- International Seafarer's Ministry
- South Carolina Disaster Relief

Links to partner websites at:

<https://www.charlestonbaptist.net/ministry-partners/>

Office: 843-723-4571

General Email: office@charlestonbaptist.net

Website: www.charlestonbaptist.net

DATES

Dec 4	Prisoner Packet Drop-off (Pinecrest Baptist Church)
Dec 25 - Jan 2	Merry Christmas! <i>CBA Offices closed</i>
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - <i>CBA Offices closed</i>
Mid Jan	Cypress Workshop (Date & Location TBD)
Jan 24	Pastors' Lowcountry Boil (Retreat at Church Creek)
Feb 6 - 8	Disciple-Making Lab Begins
Feb 15 - 17	Ministry Couples Retreat (Myrtle Beach, SC)

CHECK OUR EVENTS PAGE FOR ONGOING UPDATES

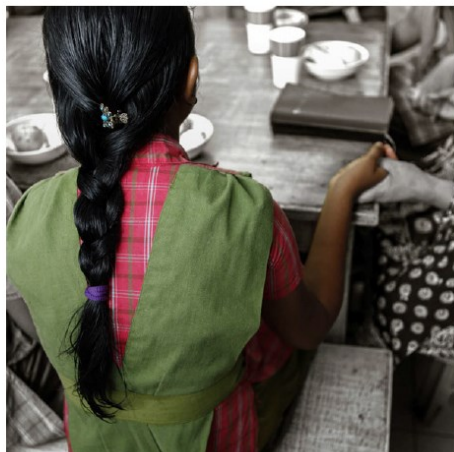
<https://www.charlestonbaptist.net/events>

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LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

IMPACTA LA PERDICIÓN A TRAVÉS DE TU GENEROSIDAD

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透過您的慷慨改變世界

IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY

Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel. Churches can find resources for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and week of prayer here: <https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/> Individuals can give through their local church!

Grants & Scholarships Available 2024



Vision Grants for Churches

Throughout the history of the CBA churches have given to vision initiatives to carry out the shared mission of sharing the Gospel and making disciples. While this mission remains, vision gets refocused based on what is strategic for the time and season of ministry. Upon the sale of our conference center and other properties a vision reserve fund was established to serve the renewed vision of strengthening leaders, strengthening churches and planting churches. These monies are leveraged in our annual budget by the direction of the CBA staff and administrative team. Because these funds were given by CBA churches, in 2024 we are providing access to strategic funding for church projects/needs that align with the three vision pathways through a grant application process. For more information and to apply for funds: office@charlestonbaptist.net

CBA Scholarships 2024-2025 - Applications Open

We are now accepting applications for our annual CBA scholarship to be awarded for the 2024-2025 school year. We award up to \$1,000 per semester to eligible students attending a Baptist university in South Carolina or one of our SBC seminaries and active in one of our CBA churches. Scholarship requirements and applications can be found at www.charlestonbaptist.net/cba-scholarship