

“Chase”

When I was growing up, we used to play a game with all the guys from our neighborhood that we called “chase”. We would all get together after dark and would pick teams and work to capture all the members from the other team. Now I honestly don’t remember all the rules of the game, but being “fleet of foot” was a definite asset. In my family, my older brother Ray was the runner in our family. I got all the talent, looks, and personality, etc. while he was just able to run fast—think Forest Gump. (You are probably wondering how hideous my brother must be if I had all the looks in my family. Trust me, it was troubling. Mom used to tie a bone around his neck just to get the dog to play with him.) Anyway, the objective of our “chase” game was to hunt out the other team and tag them and then they had to become part of your team. The game worked well as long as each member of the team understood that the objective was to “chase” the people from the other team (hence the name, brilliant I know --- needless to say, none of us grew up to become rocket scientists). The problem was that there was always a few, hopefully not on the same team, who instead of engaging in the “chase” would hunker down and simply go into hiding. They made it their objective to not lose by getting themselves captured. Now there was a time to hide, but hiding alone could never win the game, only prolong it.

It’s interesting how a childhood game can in some ways mimic today’s church. Too often, in light of the staggering decline in our culture and the ongoing decline of many local churches, we as believers are tempted to hunker down hoping that we can endure the moral decay that is rapidly taking place everywhere around us. We forget that the church has access to the power of heaven and instead of getting involved in the “chase” (the Biblical terminology is “seek”) to make disciples, we endeavor instead to simply try and insulate ourselves from the world. It is a strategy that loses sight of whose we are, the power available to us, and it cripples our ability to win the world for Jesus.

There are a couple of verses of Scripture that tell us about the impact the Church is having against the powers of evil. First, when Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus responded by telling him that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it [the church]” (Matthew 16:1). Now the interesting thing about this verse is that we often read it with the understanding as if the forces of hell are on the offensive against the church, and God’s promise is that those forces will never be able to overcome the church. Yet, if you look at the verse a little closer it is sharing a much more significant truth than that. Notice that it mentions the “gates of hell.” Are gates something that you use as an offensive weapon or a defensive weapon? Obviously one does not fight using a gate. Gates are made as a defensive device to keep out an intruder. Now don’t miss this! That Scripture is showing us that the Church is on the offensive constantly bombarding the defenses of the enemy and Jesus promises that those evil defenses will not be able to withstand the onslaught of an attacking church. The picture that this verse is giving us is one where the church is on the attack against evil, not visa versa!

The second verse that reveals a similar reality is where Jesus tells the crowd, “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful

men lay hold of it” (Matthew 11:12, NIV). The Kingdom of heaven is not only a future place where believers go when they die, it is a present reality that Jesus described as “forcefully advancing.” As part of God’s Kingdom, we need to understand that a God-empowered church is on the march advancing and conquering the evil of darkness. Granted, evil all around seems to be more rampant than before, and the institutional church is too frequently in serious decline as well, but we must never lose sight that God’s church is still on the offensive and hell is withstanding the advance only temporarily. Could it be that the institutional church is in decline because it has abandoned this offensive posture? Hell is the one who is hunkered down against the ever advancing church! Living in light of this reality will change our attitude and actions. So, let’s get out of our bunkers and get back into the “chase” as the Kingdom advances. We are not only eventually on the winning side, but those troops who are actively engaged in the battle are part of the victory now. As a New Year begins, I am choosing to lose any “bunker” mentality that I may have and be part of the Kingdom advance here in Laurens County. Care to join the “chase” with me?

Oh, by the way, my brother is really not that unattractive since he had that extra eye removed from his forehead..... *Reiny Koschel*

General Church Contributions:

	SEPT-NOV 2014	2014 YTD	2013 YTD
***Bar None Cowboy	104.76	420.45	437.09
Beaverdam	300.00	900.00	750.00
Bellview	4,166.66	13,790.32	13,389.52
Bethabara	100.00	500.00	550.00
Bethel	375.00	1,500.00	1,375.00
Beulah	1,834.51	6,935.38	6,056.12
Calvary	686.10	2,016.74	1,825.05
Cedarwood	1,801.10	6,402.82	7,097.79
Chestnut Ridge	2,674.58	9,816.63	8,149.58
Clinton First	1,524.99	5,591.63	5,861.63
Community	0.00	500.00	0.00
Cornerstone	150.00	550.00	550.00
Cross Hill First	1,050.00	2,544.00	2,654.00
Davidson Street	225.00	2,023.91	3,953.27
Durbin Creek	774.69	2,131.56	1,938.59
Eastside	700.00	2,300.00	2,500.00
Family Of God	679.94	2,221.81	2,318.33
Friendship	971.74	3,083.85	2,914.44
Gateway	428.75	1,550.13	2,005.22
*Grace Church	0.00	633.00	938.00
Gray Court First	60.85	179.01	183.51
Harmony	313.29	1,052.58	1,057.33
Henderson	637.82	2,407.80	2,265.33
***Heritage Fellowship	170.78	773.50	247.93
Highland Home	0.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Hillcrest	697.51	2,310.29	3,135.86
Holly Grove	342.03	342.03	2,412.45
Hurricane	223.00	1,288.92	1,536.28
Joanna First	900.00	3,300.00	3,400.00
Lanford	375.00	1,375.00	1,375.00
Langston	176.00	252.00	255.00
Laurens First	5,278.02	16,944.50	19,595.38
Laurens Second	159.39	1,586.63	436.90
Lucas Avenue	1,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Lydia	0.00	150.00	75.00
Mountville	825.83	2,354.28	2,424.37
Mount Gallagher	900.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
Mount Olive	300.00	1,100.00	1,833.26
Mount Pleasant	0.00	0.00	1,055.82
New Beginning	152.00	555.00	530.00
New Prospect	996.44	3,553.72	3,516.31
Northside	100.00	100.00	200.00
Pine Grove	134.16	274.16	0.00
Pleasant Grove	397.58	1,281.50	1,331.74
Poplar Springs	600.00	2,400.00	2,200.00
Princeton	468.54	1,995.19	1,972.26
Rabun Creek	523.26	914.03	2,059.78
Rosemont	1,724.00	5,803.00	7,683.33
The Spring	0.00	569.64	980.37
***Transformation	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Union	869.24	2,800.72	4,306.62
Warrior Creek	846.32	3,344.87	3,327.85
Waterloo	90.00	330.00	270.00
Wayside	480.97	1,822.65	2,332.67
Welcome	262.55	897.99	1,189.87
TOTAL	39,052.40	137,771.24	151,753.85

*LBA Sanctioned Church Start
 **LBA Credentialing Process
 ***Other Church Starts
 ****Dissolved

 Thank you for supporting Associational Missions
 by giving at least 3% of your undesignated offerings.

CRISIS CENTER

January Schedule

Tuesday, January 06 - Calvary /
 Cornerstone
 Thursday, January 08 - Highland Home
 Tuesday, January 13 - Grace
 Thursday, January 15 - Friendship
 Tuesday, January 20 - Joanna
 Thursday, January 22 - New Prospect
 Tuesday, January 27 - Durbin Creek
 Thursday, January 29 - Poplar Spring

February Schedule

Tuesday, February 03 - Mt. Gallagher
 Thursday, February 05 - Cross Hill
 Tuesday, February 10 - Rabun Creek
 Thursday, February 12 - Davidson Street
 Tuesday, February 17 - Beulah
 Thursday, February 29 - Family of God
 Tuesday, February 24 - Henderson
 Thursday, February 26 - Rosemont

**If your church cannot provide
 at least 3 volunteers,
 call Kay at 984-0123.**

January Crisis Center Needs

Soup, Canned Meats, Canned Fruits

February Crisis Center Needs

Spaghetti Sauce,
 Spaghetti Noodles,
 Macaroni & Cheese

 HomeLife, Mature Living, and
 Devotional Magazines
 are always needed.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday & Thursday
 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

The Crisis Center will follow the winter
 storm closings of Laurens District 55.
 If the schools are closed or on 2-hour
 delay, the Crisis Center will be closed.

Kay’s Korner

Surrender. Sacrifice. Serve

Helping Foster Family With Needed Items:

Diapers/pull-ups, wipes, baby wash, diaper rash ointment, burping cloths,
 diaper bags, socks for 3-10 year olds, toothbrushes, shampoo, hairbrush/comb,
 pillow, solid color pillow cases.

Please bring items to the Mission Center by February 14, 2015.



Souper Bowl 2015 Sunday, February 1, 2015

Collect canned food and bring to the
 Crisis Center on Monday, February 2nd
 between the hours of 9 AM - 12 NOON.
 Let’s make the Crisis Center the
REAL Winner of Super Bowl 2015.

Crisis Center Workday Monday, February 2 9:00 AM - 12 NOON

We will be stocking the Souper Bowl contributions.
 Volunteers needed to sort food.
 Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

Call Kay @ 984-0123
 or

email: kay@laurensbaptistassoc.org
 if you would like to volunteer.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Laurens Baptist Crisis Center would like to thank all that gave to World Hunger
 and donated to the Crisis Center.
 It is greatly appreciated.

LBA collected over 400 Joy Boxes plus money from 19 churches.

Clemson: 826 Jelly Beats Carolina: 796 Peanut Butter
 Thanks to all that gave to help others.

Special thanks to the 2K, 3K and 4K at Laurens First Baptist.
 They raised \$166.15 for the Crisis Center in the Clemson/Carolina Challenge.
 Clemson won their challenge.
 Way to Go!!!!

Prison Packets 2014

400 Prisoner Packs from 29 churches were collected for DJJ.
 New Prospect Youth helped check each pack and added a Christmas card and Scripture.
 Thanks for ministering to the young people at DJJ at Christmas with God’s love.

Valvoline Express Care & WLBG...

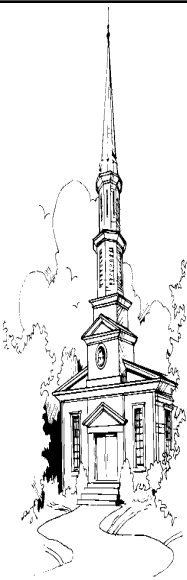
Thanks for sponsoring the food drive on December 5th for the Crisis Center.
 They collected 1,300 cans of food + \$1,120.00. Thanks to all that gave.

LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing a car key?

A car key was found at the Crisis Center several weeks ago.

Claim the key by stopping by the Crisis Center or the Mission Center.



Durbin Creek is currently looking for an occasional fill-in pianist.
Call Maxcy Rowell at (864) 593-1692 for more information.

Hispanic Ministry announces the birth of Lily Cotoc born December 6, 2014 to the proud parents, Mario and Marie Cotoc.

Union is seeking applicants to fill the positions of pianist and organist. Responsibilities include playing music for Sunday morning and evening worship services, Wednesday evening prayer service, revivals, special song services and weekly choir rehearsals. Interested persons should submit resumes to: Musician Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, 536 Old Quaker Church Road, Laurens, SC 29360 or email to UBC@backroads.net by January 31, 2015.

Waterloo is now accepting applications for a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resume to: Search Committee, PO Box 130, Waterloo, SC 29384.

Welcome is looking for a pianist.

For more information call Don Peake at 864-872-3080.

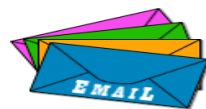
ALL FOR YOU

Surrender • Sacrifice • Serve

Focus on WMU

Monday, February 9 — Sunday, February 15, 2015

Celebrate WMU in Your Church!



If you would like to receive the LBA News via email, please let us know by calling the LBA Office at 984-0123 or email: deborah@laurensbaptistassoc.org

SCBC Evangelism Conference

February 18 - 19, 2015

Call SCBC at 1-800-723-7242 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 10 @ 10:30 AM

HOGFEST

(MEN'S MINISTRY)

Thursday, March 19 @ 6:45 PM

Disciple's Trail / Waterloo, SC

WOMEN'S GATHERING

(WOMEN'S MINISTRY)

Thursday, March 26

Time & Place TBA

All meetings will be held at the LBA Mission Center unless noted otherwise.

SEASON OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS & ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING

March 1-8, 2015

ABC's For Becoming A Christian

A – Admit

to God you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sin. (Romans 3:23 & 6:23, I John 1:9; Acts 3:19)

B – Believe

that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to save people from their sin. (Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; I Peter 3:18; John 14:16)

C – Commit

your life to Jesus. Trust Him to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)

NEWSLETTER

Laurens Baptist Association

Post Office Box 745

Laurens, SC 29360

(864) 984-0123

Non-Profit Organization

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Laurens, SC 29360

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Equipping Churches To Reach

“LAURENS ISLAND”

Laurens Baptist Association

Churches Working Together For HIS Kingdom, By HIS Power, For HIS Glory

LBA NEWS

Volume 46
Issue 1

January/February 2015

www.laurensbaptistassoc.org

www.laurensisland.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Associational Office will be closed Thursday, January 1, 2015.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, January 19, 2015

7:00 PM

LBA Large Conference Room

All pastors plus 1 representative from each church are invited and encouraged to attend.

PASTOR'S & WIVES DINNER

Thursday, January 29 @ 6:30 PM

LBA Mission Center

All pastor's and their wives are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP the LBA Office at 984-0123 no later than January 22, 2015.

JANUARY EVENTS / MEETINGS

TEAM LEADER'S MEETING

Tuesday, January 6 @ 12 NOON

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 8 @ 7:00 PM

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

Tuesday, January 13 @ 10:30 AM

TRUSTEE'S MEETING

Tuesday, January 13 @ 6:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the LBA Mission Center unless noted otherwise.

FEBRUARY EVENTS / MEETINGS

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

Tuesday, February 10 @ 10:30 AM

All meetings will be held at the LBA Mission Center unless noted otherwise.

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH OUTREACH EVENT “S.O.A.R”

Liberty University Slam Dunk Team

Friday, February 20, 2015

(Time & Place TBA)

As Liberty University's most unconventional ministry team, S.O.A.R is a high-flying dunk basketball team that uses acrobatic maneuvers off of trampolines to dazzle crowds of all ages.

S.O.A.R is not afraid of flying high above the rim, nor boldly sharing their faith in Jesus Christ while using their own worship style.

More information will be arriving soon.

Associational Staff

Associational Missionary

Reiny Koschel

Missions Mobilization Director

Kay W. Leagans

Ministry Assistant/Office Manager

Deborah W. Adams

MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday...8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Friday...Closed

Lunch Hour...12:30 PM-1:30 PM

www.laurensisland.org

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