

“See”

The “Ode to aging.” If you think that is the title of a new Christmas carol, you are just plain weird (have to be honest). Actually, it’s a song I find myself singing rather frequently these days as I lament the pain in my back, the frequent need for the word “huh” during normal conversations, and the difficulty in trying to see anything without the means of my coke bottle lenses. If you are under 40, you probably are unaware that Coke actually was sold in real glass bottles at one time, no really it’s true, you can search the internet for archeological evidence. All my aches and pains along with the rapid deterioration of my hearing and sight is one of the depressing realities of the “toils of the years.” (Nope not a soap opera title, but sure could be...)

So, several years back I started noticing that I was having a more and more difficult time seeing the words in my Bible as I had my devotions. I continued squinting harder and moving the pages closer, but over time (yup, there’s that years thing again) I couldn’t squint enough or position the pages in a way that would help me see any better. At that time, I hadn’t been to an eye doctor in about 25 years so I quickly ascertained that I must have some dreaded eye malady. So as days passed into months, nothing goes fast as I get older, I decided to pay a visit to the local eye Doctor. Why do I always have to “pay” a visit to the Doctor? It would be so much more bearable if I could just go and visit and not have to pay, but I digress....

Now the good news about going to the eye doctor is that he does not require me to get on the scale before I go back to see him. He obviously has some decorum that my regular Doctor lacks. I guess being “largesse” (French for “fat”), does not necessarily have an adverse effect on my ability to see, thank goodness or I would be in need of a white cane for sure. Anyway, after an extensive exam and an opportunity to look through a giant “view finder” (under 40’s may need to consult the internet for archeological evidence for that one as well), the doctor informed me that I did have a dreaded disease – old age. He told me to go get some reading glasses and guess what, I could see. Now that was years ago and those reading glasses have morphed into my bifocal coke glasses, but thankfully with them I can still see! Being able to see to read and engage the world is truly a blessing that we often take for granted.

As I began reflecting on the gift of sight, I began to think about how physical blindness would impact what a person was able to know about the world. Someone who was born blind would have no frame of reference for anything that they might feel, hear, or experience. It would absolutely affect how they would know and understand the world. Now if that is true for physical blindness how much more would that be true for someone with spiritual blindness. The way they understand the world, their own life experiences, and any concept of God that they may have, would be very different from the way that it truly is. It’s not that they just don’t know, but they can’t know because they are blind. The reality is that every person is born into this world with spiritual blindness. Every one of us has been cursed with the life-altering malady called “sin” that prevents us from knowing God on our own. We can know about God (Romans 1:19), but we can never come to know Him personally apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. I’m afraid that sometimes as Christians we may begin to think that we have come into a relationship with God because we were somehow more virtuous, deserving, or insightful than “those” people (the spiritually blind ones). Truth is, the only thing that will allow the spiritually blind to truly see is for their blindness to be turned into sight by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

As we now find ourselves on the precipice of the new decade of 2020, I could not help but be drawn to the obvious significance of that year. 20/20 is often used to describe normal eye sight, and now we are about to embark on the year 2020. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if 2020 would be the year every person in Laurens County had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and have their spiritual blindness removed and truly See? Statistically, this can happen if the approximately 15,000 Southern Baptists in our LBA churches would make it their commitment to share five clear presentations of the gospel to five different people during the 365 days of 2020. Will you join me in praying, serving, and sharing Christ in 2020 so that those without Christ will truly SEE? Let’s trust God for spiritual 20/20 in 2020!

Reiny Koschel

General Church Contributions:

	<u>Oct/Nov 2019</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>	<u>2018 YTD</u>
*Bar None Cowboy	84.41	409.04	473.69
Beaverdam	0.00	1,125.00	1,125.00
Bellview	3,089.94	16,727.82	17,728.14
Bethabara	100.00	550.00	550.00
Bethel	250.00	1,250.00	1,375.00
Beulah	1,607.51	8,602.86	9,166.67
Calvary	0.00	672.81	1,580.56
Cedarwood	941.75	5,703.06	5,752.39
Chestnut Ridge	4,284.15	19,418.18	16,590.93
Clinton First	1,016.66	5,591.63	5,591.63
Community	200.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Cornerstone	100.00	550.00	550.00
Cross Hill First	480.00	3,180.00	3,370.00
Davidson Street	853.90	4,358.91	4,617.50
Durbin Creek	0.00	1,413.58	2,259.97
Eastside	750.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
Family Of God	480.69	2,718.12	2,688.37
Friendship	0.00	4,314.47	3,453.74
Gray Court First	0.00	300.00	300.00
Harmony	166.05	922.80	1,127.94
Henderson	596.40	3,069.48	2,659.12
Highland Home	500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
Hillcrest	396.50	2,213.95	2,579.77
Holly Grove	257.00	2,311.00	2,640.00
Hurricane	298.42	1,441.38	1,261.07
Joanna First	400.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Lanford	250.00	1,375.00	1,375.00
Langston	0.00	0.00	0.00
Laurens First	3,466.50	20,780.95	20,518.66
Laurens Second	200.00	200.00	904.35
Lucas Avenue	1,064.97	5,086.04	4,872.14
Lydia	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mountville	385.06	4,061.70	3,652.32
Mount Gallagher	600.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
Mount Olive	200.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Mount Pleasant	84.30	435.07	80.14
New Beginning	45.00	515.00	498.00
New Prospect	634.16	3,687.41	3,819.50
Northside	100.00	550.00	50.00
Pine Grove	552.74	2,817.31	2,383.41
Pleasant Grove	779.03	4,387.79	4,602.67
Poplar Springs	166.66	999.96	1,116.63
Princeton	366.50	1,337.45	1,441.50
Rabun Creek	386.84	2,207.62	2,297.59
Rosemont	815.00	4,282.00	5,252.00
Union	147.85	599.32	595.21
Warrior Creek	822.06	3,539.03	3,736.66
Waterloo	50.00	275.00	200.00
Wayside	93.16	554.09	538.17
Welcome	300.00	1,635.00	1,497.00
TOTAL	28,363.21	159,019.83	159,222.44

* LBA Sanctioned Church Start

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

MINISTER’S CONFERENCES

Thursday, January 9, 2020, 10:30 AM

Wayne Bray, First Baptist Simpsonville

“Inside Out”
A Missional
wake-up call



Thursday, February 13, 2020, 10:30 AM

CRISIS CENTER

January Schedule

Thursday, January 02 - Hurricane

Tuesday, January 07 - Bellview

Thursday January 09 - Welcome

Tuesday, January 14 - Mountville

Thursday, January 16 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, January 21 - Rabun Creek

Thursday, January 23 - Hillcrest

Tuesday, January 28 - New Beginning

Thursday, January 30 - Laurens Second

February Schedule

Tuesday, February 04 - Laurens First

Thursday, February 06 - Chestnut Ridge

Tuesday, February 11 - Warrior Creek

Thursday, February 13 - Northside

Tuesday, February 18 - Rosemont

Thursday, February 20 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, February 25 - Union

Thursday, February 27 - Clinton First

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.

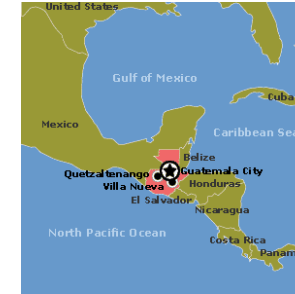
HOURS OF OPERATION

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



The Guatemala Joy Bag Mission trip was awesome!

3,000 children received a Joy Bag and heard the Good News of Jesus. The team also fed a village, dedicated 6 houses, and gave each family a food bag. The team shared the hope of Jesus to a women’s ministry plus gave out 42 bags of food. Since so many of you gave, we were able to donate money to help provide food to women’s groups in six other communities.

Thanks for sharing in this mission ministry!

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020

ALL DONATIONS TO THE CRISIS CENTER SHOULD BE DELIVERED ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 9:00–NOON



Crisis Center Workday
Monday, February 3
9:00 AM - 12 NOON

We will be stocking the Souper Bowl contributions. Volunteers are needed to help sort food.

Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

Call Kay @ 984-0123 or email: kay@laurensbaptistassoc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Souper Bowl 2020
Sunday, February 2, 2020

Collect canned food and bring to the Crisis Center on Monday, February 3rd between the hours of 9 AM - 12 NOON. Let’s make the Crisis Center the **REAL** winner of Super Bowl 2020.

God at Work! Thank you for being His hands

Clemson / Carolina Challenge

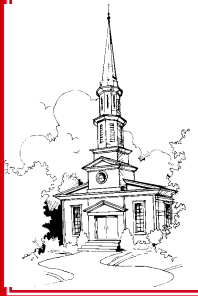
Clemson: 845 Peanut Butter **Carolina: 632 Jelly Beats**

Clemson Wins the Challenge this year, but those in need are the real winners!

2019 Prison Packets

We collected 500 packets which were delivered on December 9th to the DJJ in Columbia for distribution throughout South Carolina. 35 packets were given to AMI in Clinton. Thanks for all who gave so others could hear the Gospel message. Thanks to New Prospect Baptist Youth for checking the packs and adding the Christmas cards and Gospel booklets.

Among Our Churches...



Warrior Creek Baptist Church welcomes their new Pastor Rev. Bobby Howell, wife Hannah, and three children: London, Soren, and Ellie.

An "Odd" Prayer


- 1** Pray for **UNITY** among the Body of Christ in Laurens County and for those without Christ, specifically for your "1". Who's your "One"?
- 3** Pray for at least **3** minutes daily for the specific items mentioned in **1**.
- 5** Pray for at least **5** days during the week for this "odd" emphasis. The goal is to pray with regularity not as a scorecard.
- 7** Pray at **7** o'clock each morning with other believers all over Laurens County.

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)

 **Focus On WMU Week**
February 10-16, 2020

«AddressBlock»

NEWSLETTER
Laurens Baptist Association
Post Office Box 745
Laurens, SC 29360
(864) 984-0123

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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 51
Issue 1

www.laurensbaptistassoc.org
www.laurensisland.org

January/February 2020


Simply The Story
Inductive Bible Study—Oral Style
Jan 22-26 OR Jan 24-26, 2020
New Prospect Baptist Church
Laurens, SC

Simply the Story is a process of teaching the Bible where the learners are engaged in discussion-based learning where they will remember the story, discover truths from Scripture for themselves, and are led to apply what they have learned!

Two Tracks: Leadership Track - Jan. 22-26
\$50 for LBA Churches
Practitioner Track - Jan. 24-26
\$35 for LBA Churches

Cost includes all workshop materials, meals, and snacks

TO REGISTER CALL DEBORAH @ 984-0123
Checks payable to: Laurens Baptist Assoc.

For schedule or specific questions about the training or the STS process call Reiny.
Scholarships are available if cost is a prohibitive.

Did you know that about 9 of 10 people prefer to learn by non-literate means of learning, but that most teaching methods used in the church tend to emphasize literate methods?

You are Invited to a retirement drop-in reception for **Kay Leagans** to celebrate her 22 years of Service to the Association
Sunday, January 12th
3:00-5:00 pm
LBA Mission Center

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2020
7:00 PM
LBA Large Conference Room
All pastors plus 1 representative from each church are invited and encouraged to attend.

Associational Staff

Associational Missionary
Reiny Koschel
Ministry Assistant/Office Manager
Deborah W. Adams
Crisis Center Director
Kay W. Leagans

MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday...8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Friday...9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Lunch Hour...12:30 PM-1:30 PM
www.laurensisland.org
www.laurensbaptistassoc.org

FEBRUARY EVENTS

PASTOR'S & WIVES DINNER
Thursday, February 6 @ 6:30 PM
Details to follow....

SCBC EVENTS

"RESTORE" - A Solemn Assembly
January 28th, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
First Baptist Columbia
\$20, includes Lunch

"IMPACT" Conference
Shandon Baptist, Columbia
February 20, 2020

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your LBA Staff!
Reiny, Kay, and Deborah

The LBA Office will be closed from December 24 - January 1