

## “Falling”

I was never much of a thrill seeker. Truth is I have always kind of been more of a chicken (in a really cool way of course). You see, I never would admit that I was afraid of doing something because I didn't want to have to deal with the ramifications of what my friends thought. So, I would muster up enough courage to do just enough of whatever I needed to do to save face with my buddies. I rarely was the first to jump (or whatever) but likely was the one egging the others on toward stupidity. The problem was if they ended up surviving the “whatever,” it only meant that my turn was soon to follow (along with the other cool guys, not like the idiots who went first).

I remember rock climbing on some massive boulders in Montana when I was a teenager. The thought of climbing up the crevices and footholds of those huge rocks sounded rather exciting and exhilarating, but then came the dim voice of reason somewhere deep in the recesses of my mind. Now, listening to reason was never my strong suit in those days, instead I tended to listen much more closely to the voice of idiots. On this particular day, my friend quickly began to traverse up the big rock and even though I was really afraid, I faced my fears (ignored reason) and started climbing. As long I was only 6-8 feet from the ground, I was fine. I figured if things went bad I could just slide back down and absorb the fall. But, the higher I climbed and the more precarious the rock became, the more nervous I got. I can still feel the nervous feeling in my gut as I contemplated the “what if” of falling. Some profoundly important questions began to flood my mind like, “Who would come to the funeral, who would be sad, who would be happy....?” All these thoughts were running through my head as I was clinging precariously to that rock. (I have found out in life that I tend to do my best thinking after-the-fact.) It has often been said that falling is never really the problem in situations like this, instead it always that sudden stop at the end of the fall. Well, I know you are reading breathlessly awaiting the loud “thud” at this point in the story, but thankfully it never came for me or my buddies. Falling from that rock never happened and we survived that adventure to go back many more times.

Falling is not what anyone plans to do. Falling is never the objective in most situations, but too frequently it is the outcome. Falling happens in many more situations than on rocks and mountains, it happens in marriages, in temptations, and it happens spiritually. Recently, I have read a number of articles, books, etc. about people who once seemed to be on fire for the Lord who have now chosen to walk away from the truth that they once proclaimed. It just seems that recently there have been several relatively high profile people who had some level of Christian notoriety who have simply thrown in the towel and said they no longer know what they believe, or if they do. Presently, I am reading a book written by a man who I remember speaking in chapel when I was in college who has “fallen” from what he once believed. It is all really quite sad and makes me wonder what did it take for them to get to that point? Nobody starts this journey as a Christian with the intent of falling away.

Each of us is susceptible to falling in one way or another. For some that may mean falling into a temptation that we would have never believed we would give into. To others it may be a fall that begins by being deceived to believe or feel something that is not true or right. Still others, may succumb to a total abandonment of what it meant to even once be called a Christian. My point is simply to acknowledge that there is nothing more that the enemy would desire except to cause any of us who claim the name of Christ to fall in some way. Paul warned us about a “falling away” (2 Thessalonians 2:3) that would take place prior to some of the events of the last days. There have been many people who were much smarter and more gifted than us, who have fallen. It is not about our strength or personal resolve, but about being anchored to one much greater than ourselves.

Now, the good news! Listen to what Jude wrote, “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to prevent you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (v. 24). Reality is that falling is what human beings have been doing ever since that first “fall” in the garden, and it happens when we try to operate in our own strength. The key is found in our relationship with the person of Jesus and the power of His Spirit who promises to empower us so that we won't fall. When you experience doubts that you cannot reconcile, trust the great reconciler. When you have fears that seem to close in all around you, trust the Prince of Peace. When you are tempted to throw aside any vestiges of faith, trust the one who is faithful even when our faith falters. Falling is not inevitable, but it is always a possibility. So, stand firm in the faith and trust the Savior!

*Reiny*

## General Church Contributions:

	DEC 2019	2019 YTD	JAN 2020
*Bar None Cowboy	62.61	471.65	48.75
Beaverdam	375.00	1,500.00	0.00
Bellview	3,165.27	19,893.09	0.00
Bethabara	50.00	600.00	50.00
Bethel	250.00	1,500.00	125.00
Beulah	765.53	9,368.39	1,109.65
Calvary	0.00	672.81	103.36
Cedarwood	386.84	6,089.90	521.78
Chestnut Ridge	3,807.50	23,225.68	0.00
Clinton First	508.37	6,100.00	508.33
Community	400.00	2,400.00	200.00
Cornerstone	50.00	600.00	0.00
Cross Hill First	600.00	3,780.00	270.00
Davidson Street	963.37	5,322.28	0.00
Durbin Creek	456.79	1,870.37	138.33
Eastside	250.00	3,000.00	250.00
Family Of God	186.72	2,904.84	244.59
Friendship	1,384.46	5,698.93	0.00
Gray Court First	0.00	300.00	0.00
Harmony	71.88	994.68	90.39
Henderson	216.02	3,285.50	495.10
Highland Home	500.00	2,000.00	0.00
Hillcrest	202.95	2,416.90	273.50
Holly Grove	353.00	2,664.00	323.00
Hurricane	125.86	1,567.24	133.66
Joanna First	0.00	2,200.00	200.00
Lanford	125.00	1,500.00	125.00
Langston	0.00	0.00	0.00
Laurens First	1,719.02	22,499.97	2,897.00
Laurens Second	0.00	200.00	0.00
Lucas Avenue	1,199.05	6,285.09	0.00
Mountville	796.55	4,858.25	608.34
Mount Gallagher	300.00	3,600.00	300.00
Mount Olive	100.00	1,200.00	100.00
Mount Pleasant	0.00	435.07	89.39
New Beginning	86.00	601.00	39.00
New Prospect	317.08	4,004.49	317.08
Northside	50.00	600.00	50.00
Pine Grove	500.24	3,317.55	172.76
Pleasant Grove	401.62	4,789.41	496.27
Poplar Springs	166.66	1,166.62	0.00
Princeton	126.95	1,464.40	352.12
Rabun Creek	163.66	2,371.28	231.23
Rosemont	302.00	4,584.00	840.00
Union	0.00	599.32	158.96
Warrior Creek	0.00	3,539.03	838.02
Waterloo	25.00	300.00	60.00
Wayside	49.99	604.08	64.47
Welcome	155.00	1,790.00	133.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,715.99</b>	<b>\$180,735.82</b>	<b>\$12,958.08</b>

\*Other Church Starts

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

## MINISTER'S CONFERENCE



**Thursday, March 12, 2020  
10:30 AM**

**LBA Mission Center**

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**Thursday, April 9, 2020  
10:30 AM**

**LBA Mission Center**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Duduit**  
Preaching Professor, Anderson University

**These meetings are a time of fellowship  
& encouragement for all of our pastors.**

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**PASTOR'S BOOK ROUNDTABLE**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2020 @ 10:00 AM**  
**LBA Mission Center**

Special thanks to all the churches that gave to the Crisis Center after Souper Bowl Sunday.

## CRISIS CENTER

### March Schedule

Tuesday, March 03 - Lucas Avenue

Thursday, March 05 - Highland Home

Tuesday, March 10 - Mount Gallagher

Thursday, March 12 - Cedarwood

Tuesday, March 17 - Durbin Creek

Thursday, March 19 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, March 24 - Bethel

Thursday, March 26 - Calvary

Tuesday, March 31 - Poplar Springs

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### April Schedule

Thursday, April 02 - Cross Hill First

Tuesday, April 07 - New Prospect

Thursday, April 09 - Davidson Street

Tuesday, April 14 - Friendship

Thursday, April 16 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, April 21 - Eastside

Thursday, April 23 - Cornerstone

Tuesday, April 28 - Family of God

Thursday, April 30 - Hurricane

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

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### March

Juice, Dried Beans, Rice

### April

Cooking Oil, Shortening, Toilet Paper

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HomeLife, Mature Living,  
Devotional Magazines & Plastic Bags  
Are Always Needed

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### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

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The LBCC will be closed if Laurens  
District 55 is closed or on 2-hour delay.

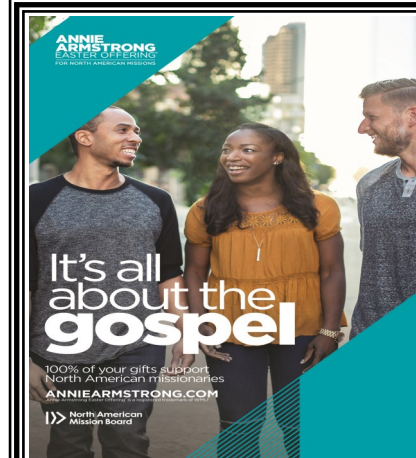
*To the Churches of the Laurens Baptist Association*

*How do I say thanks? First, thank you for the wonderful  
reception that truly honored my years of serving the Laurens  
Baptist Association. I appreciate the love offering as your  
expression of thankfulness. I am truly overwhelmed by the  
cards, gifts, and words of appreciation and encouragement.  
I am grateful that I could serve our Lord in Laurens County.  
It has been an honor to work together in this ministry.*

*I look forward to continuing to work together in the  
Crisis Center ministry.*

*With grateful appreciation.*

*Kay Leagans*



**2020  
ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING  
&  
WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSIONS**

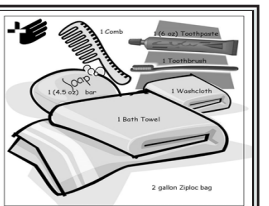
**March 1-8, 2020**

2020 SC WMU Missions Encounter & Annual Meeting  
South Main Baptist Church, Greenwood

**UNSHAKABLE**  
**March 27-28**

**SPRING WMU ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday, May 4, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Bellview Baptist Church**  
**757 Bellview Church Road**  
**Laurens, SC**



**NO MINISTRY  
HEALTH KITS  
NEEDED FOR 2020**

## CHURCH NEWS...



**Clinton First: reREGENERATION** (Reaching Generation Z), Featuring Stuart Hall, Speaker For BigStuf, Youth Camps & Orange Conferences, March 15. Leader Lunch & Learn @ Jitters in Clinton @ 1 PM for all youth leaders & volunteers. Youth night @ First Baptist Clinton @ 6 PM. For more information, call Tara Webb @ 864-833-2578.

**Davidson Street:** Revival Service - March 23 - Dr. Herb Reavis, First Baptist of North Jacksonville, Florida; March 24 - Dr. David Gallimore, Rock Springs Baptist Church, Easley; March 25 - Celebration in music with the Rock of Ages Music by the Rankin Family of Hickory Tavern. All services at 7 PM.

**Union:** Seeking a full-time pastor. A seminary degree preferred but not mandatory. Please mail resumes to: Pastors Search Committee, 1098 Wilsontown Road, Laurens, SC 29360.

## AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



2020 Summer Mission Trip  
Kentucky/Tennessee  
August 2-7, 2020

2020 Laurens County Revival  
August 30-September 2



March 14, 2020 April 18, 2020  
Summerville Baptist Brushy Creek Baptist  
Summerville, SC Easley, SC

## DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

Questions?  
Contact Phil Bryson

@  
864-682-2511 or 864-981-0131

## Associational Staff

**Associational Missionary**  
Reiny Koschel

**Crisis Center Director**  
Kay W. Leagans

**Ministry Assistant/Office Manager**  
Deborah W. Adams

## MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday...8:30 AM-4:30 PM  
Lunch Hour...12:30 PM-1:30 PM

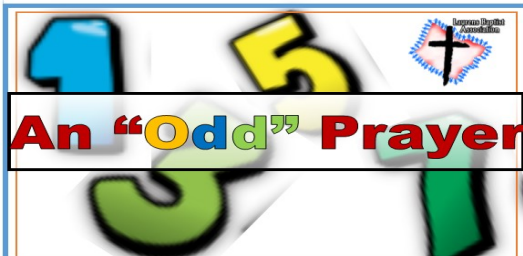
[www.laurensisland.org](http://www.laurensisland.org)  
[www.laurensbaptistassoc.org](http://www.laurensbaptistassoc.org)

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING



2020 Summer Mission Trip  
Kentucky/Tennessee

Tuesday, April 28th  
LBA Mission Center  
6:30 PM



## 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.

**National Day Of Prayer**  
Thursday, May 7 @ 12 NOON  
Steps Of The Old Laurens  
County Courthouse

**POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE**  
Saturday, May 9  
Workday - Monday, May 11



**Trustee's Meeting**  
Thursday, May 14 @ 5:30 PM  
LBA Mission Center

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 25  
(Office Closed)



## 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)



Cooperative  
Program Sunday  
April 26, 2020

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Laurens, SC 29360  
Permit No. 86  
Return Service Requested



## Equipping Churches To Reach

## "LAURENS ISLAND"

## Laurens Baptist Association

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

## LBA NEWS

[www.laurensbaptistassoc.org](http://www.laurensbaptistassoc.org)  
[www.laurensisland.org](http://www.laurensisland.org)

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



VOLUME 51

ISSUE 2

MARCH / APRIL 2020

## Laurens Baptist Association Men's HOOFEST



**Rev. Bennie Durham**

Chaplain, Greenville Co. Sheriff's Dept.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 P.M.**

Beaverdam Baptist Church  
Mountville, SC

**Bring a Friend  
and an Appetite!**



This is a FREE event, but there will be a donation basket available to help cover the cost of the meal. For more information call 984-0123

## The LBA Women's Ministry Invite All Ladies To:

## SOUL/SOLE SISTERS

Friday, April 24, 2020

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church  
499 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Laurens, SC

Doors Open @ 6:00 PM  
Meal Served @ 6:30 PM  
Program Starts @ 7:00 PM



Dawn Smith Jordan

**Guest Speaker:**  
Dawn Smith Jordan

Dawn is a Christ-follower,  
Christian speaker, singer/  
songwriter, Urgent Records  
recording artist and published  
author. In 1986 she was  
crowned Miss South Carolina  
and 2nd Runner-Up to  
Miss America.

\*RSVP: Deborah Adams @ 984-0123 no later than April 15, 2020.

## PASTORS' WIVES FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Monday, April 27, 2020 @ 6:30 PM  
Laurens Baptist Mission Center

"Truth Be Told Art"

RSVP Deborah @ 984-0123 no later than April 22nd



## MANDATORY ANNUAL



## TRAILER TRAINING

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 @ 6:30 PM  
LBA Mission Center

**THIS IS A REQUIRED ANNUAL TRAINING  
FOR ALL CHURCHES THAT WISH TO USE  
THE BLOCK PARTY TRAILER AT ANYTIME  
IN 2020.**

Each church **MUST HAVE** at least one  
representative that will be present during use of  
the Block Party Trailer to attend this meeting.



- \* Inflatable Bounce Houses (One With Slide)
- \* Huge Inflatable Movie Screen
- \* Popcorn Machine \* Snow Cone Machine
- \* Sound System

## SPRING 2020 ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 @ 6:45 PM  
Rosemont Baptist Church  
2267 Dillard Road, Waterloo, SC