

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Lessons From A Bug

As the uncertainty of the events surrounding the virus began a few months ago, I made a conscious decision to plant a bit more in my garden this year in case things ended up being worse than we expected. Since I am such a proficient gardener (not!), I planted extra rows of the produce that only experts like myself (read anyone who can plant a seed) can grow. Well, I planted early and took painstaking measures to hoe and spray for weeds. So, fast forward to the present and you will find my anemic pitiful garden masterpiece. For whatever reason, it seems that most of the vegetables have had stunted growth in spite of the abundant rainfall. I noticed that my squash plants seemed to be particularly hard hit as they began dying one after another. As I began to look closer, I quickly noticed the dreaded squash bugs frolicking on my innocent plant. They seemed to be having the best time eating, mating, laying eggs, and whatever else squash bugs do to entertain themselves—all to the demise of my plants. I can't express to you any more clearly how much that BUGS me (couldn't resist). Google told me what steps I needed to rid myself of these pests so I found myself with a spoon and a dish soap mixture scraping eggs from the leaves and going on a squash bug hunt. As I labored for hours trying to salvage my plants, I was reminded of Adam's curse and was tempted to.... You get the point.

That curse from Eden that has caused the problem with my squash plants and even more profoundly in my life continues to try and wreak havoc. We all know the story about Adams and Eve's decision in the garden and the ongoing result that it has had on every person and every part of creation. Nothing has been left untouched by this scourge of sin and the curse. In recent days in the midst of all the volatility that we have experienced in regards to the virus, we have seen sin and the curse on display front and center. Disease and the viruses that harbor it are a result of sin and the ultimate result is death just like God warned our first parents.

I just finished reading a book about a Jewish prisoner at Auschwitz during WW II. In the book, he repeatedly questioned how a person could get to the point where they were willing to commit such atrocities to another human being as he repeatedly witnessed at that death camp. This question has been asked repeatedly through the years and continues to be a valid question in our day as well. The obvious theological answer once again takes us back to the fall and our sin nature. Because of our sin nature, the potential for such atrocities dwells inside of all of us. In that case, it began by a devaluing of human life as one begins to rationalize the worth of a particular person or group of people. If we can convince ourselves that a particular person(s) life is less valuable, less worthy, the slide toward evil has begun. My point is not to suggest that any or all of us would ever actually commit something as horrible as happened at Auschwitz, Minneapolis, or anywhere else but that there is that potential in all of us because of sin.

In recent days, we have witnessed a number of tragedies here in our country that demonstrate this unfortunate reality. Sin caused a police officer to devalue another man's life to the point that he chose to abuse the man with wanton disregard leading to his life being extinguished. The other officers looked on and said apparently little as all this transpired. Although not all the facts of the event have come out, it seems apparent that the man who died was devalued because of his ethnicity and/or other reasons. We should all be appalled by such acts, but not be surprised. Sin left unchecked will cause anyone of us to do things that should not be done. Now my point is not to wade into the political quagmire that has ensued, but to simply note that all the evil that we are observing all around us is a result of sin, and none of us is exempt from that reality.

Those who have taken to the streets and chosen to hurt, burn, and steal from others also have demonstrated our inclination toward sin. Our sinful nature desires to convince us that doing wrong in the face of another wrong can somehow lead to being right. Evil actions are just that, evil, no matter what reasoning we may use to try and explain it away. The problem in America's streets is ultimately a sin problem. The problem with America's policing is a sin problem. And yes, the problem in the church is a sin problem. Christians can choose to act just as sinfully in response to the sins of others, but the point is that we don't have to. Although we are all impacted by sin, as believers the Cross of Christ has freed us from sin's power over us. My prayer is that we as the church, who have been given the gospel which is the only cure for our nation will choose to demonstrate an attitude of repentance and humility in our own lives, and then live out and share the gospel with the world. We all need this spiritual gospel cure not some empty political solution. The church alone is entrusted with the gospel cure. Christ alone is the answer to our Nation's unrest.

Reiny Koschel

General Church Contributions:

	FEB/MAY 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
*Bar None Cowboy	66.31	66.31	162.30
Beaverdam	375.00	375.00	375.00
Bellview	5,837.36	5,837.36	7,712.44
Bethabara	200.00	250.00	250.00
Bethel	375.00	500.00	625.00
Beulah	2,897.17	4,006.82	4,176.21
Calvary	151.32	254.68	394.33
Cedarwood	2,367.11	2,888.89	2,957.27
Chestnut Ridge	8,806.56	8,806.56	9,266.69
Clinton First	2,033.32	2,541.65	2,541.65
Community	600.00	800.00	800.00
Cornerstone	250.00	250.00	250.00
Cross Hill First	870.00	1,140.00	1,590.00
Davidson Street	1,740.97	1,740.97	1,975.30
Durbin Creek	398.71	537.04	865.92
Eastside	1,000.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
Family Of God	1,074.95	1,319.54	1,210.79
Friendship	1,541.36	1,541.36	1,584.84
Gray Court First	100.00	100.00	300.00
Harmony	212.19	302.58	409.26
Henderson	938.98	1,434.08	1,375.88
Highland Home	0.00	0.00	500.00
Hillcrest	698.64	972.14	1,037.34
Holly Grove	151.00	474.00	1,248.00
Hurricane	500.52	634.18	434.65
Joanna First	800.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lanford	500.00	625.00	625.00
Langston	0.00	0.00	0.00
Laurens First	7,161.49	10,058.49	10,201.05
Laurens Second	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lucas Avenue	1,887.37	1,887.37	1,728.68
Mountville	1,471.31	2,079.65	1,900.29
Mount Gallagher	1,200.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Mount Olive	400.00	500.00	500.00
Mount Pleasant	0.00	89.39	190.45
New Beginning	122.00	161.00	213.00
New Prospect	1,268.32	1,585.40	1,696.25
Northside	200.00	250.00	250.00
Pine Grove	625.06	797.82	1,176.31
Pleasant Grove	1,543.56	2,039.83	2,016.60
Poplar Springs	333.33	333.33	499.98
Princeton	115.88	468.00	557.79
Rabun Creek	895.06	1,126.29	1,027.77
Rosemont	1,565.00	2,405.00	1,915.00
Union	149.29	308.25	289.40
Warrior Creek	972.70	1,810.72	1,697.78
Waterloo	120.00	180.00	125.00
Wayside	187.55	252.02	244.22
Welcome	593.00	726.00	702.00
TOTAL	\$55,297.39	\$68,206.72	\$73,349.44

*Other Church Starts

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



There will be no Minister's Conference for the month of July.

August Minister's Conference
Thursday, August 13th
10:30 AM
LBA Mission Center

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

CRISIS CENTER

July Schedule

Thursday, July 02 - Welcome

Tuesday, July 07 - Bellview

Thursday, July 09 - Mountville & Cornerstone

Tuesday, July 14 - Rabun Creek

Thursday, July 16 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, July 21 - New Beginnings

Thursday, July 23 - Hillcrest & Davidson Street

Tuesday, July 28 - Laurens Second

Thursday, July 30 - Laurens First

August Schedule

Tuesday, August 04 - Warrior Creek

Thursday, August 06 - Chestnut Ridge

Tuesday, August 11 - Northside

Thursday, August 13 - Rosemont

Tuesday, August 18 - Union

Thursday, August 20 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, August 25 - Clinton First & New Prospect

Thursday, August 27 - Cross Hill First & Family of God

If your church cannot provide at least 2 volunteers, call Kay at 984-0123 or 981-1084.

July Crisis Center Needs
Bath Soap, Toothpaste

August Crisis Center Needs
2% Milk From Dollar Tree
(\$1.00 For A Quart Of 2% Milk)

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

HOURS OF OPERATION
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

CRISIS CENTER TEAM LEADERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON & TRAINING

Tuesday August 4, 2020
12 Noon
LBA Mission Center

All Team Leaders Need To Attend

RSVP Kay @ 984-0123
no later than July 30th



CLOTHES NEEDED 2020 SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Share the love of God with the children of Whitley City, Kentucky by collecting clothes of any size.

Due Date: July 27, 2020

Deliver To: LBA Mission Center

For more information call Reiny at 984-0123

We will not be collecting VBS materials this year.

Crisis Center Sunday July 26, 2020

Due to Covid 19, the Post Office Food Drive has been postponed and most churches are not doing VBS.

The Crisis Center needs your help to replenish the shelves. The following items are needed: Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Beans, Meat, Ramen Noodles, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Jiffy Mix, Juice, Sugar, Tea, Cooking Oil, Cereal, Rice, Soap, Toothpaste, Bathroom Tissue. If you could gather the following items and bring to your church on Sunday, July 26 or the Crisis Center on Tuesday, July 28, it would be appreciated.

ITEMS FOR CONNIE MAXWELL

Due:
Thursday, August 28, 2020
At
LBA Mission Center

Please bring at least 12 items of your assigned item.

Dinner/Lunch Napkins - Beaverdam, Bellview, Bethabara, Bethel
Bath Soap/Body Wash - Beulah, Calvary, Cedarwood, Chestnut Ridge
Dish Detergent - Clinton First, Community, Cornerstone, Cross Hill First
Facial Tissue - Davidson Street, Durbin Creek, Eastside, Family of God
Shampoo - Friendship, Gray Court First, Harmony, Henderson
Conditioner - Highland Home, Hillcrest, Holly Grove, Hurricane
Toothpaste - Joanna First, Lanford, Langston, Laurens First
Toothbrushes - Laurens Second, Lucas Avenue, Mount Gallagher, Mount Olive
Deodorant - Mount Pleasant, Mountville, New Beginning, New Prospect
Bathroom Tissue - Northside, Pine Grove, Pleasant Grove, Poplar Springs
Paper Plates - Princeton, Rabun Creek, Rosemont, Union
Paper Towels - Warrior Creek, Waterloo, Wayside, Welcome

The Crisis Center is in need of clean grocery bags. Drop-off anytime during regular office hours.



CHURCH NEWS...

New Pastors:
Cross Hill First:
Rev. Robert Fleming

Congratulations To:
Rev. Bobby Howell
& wife Hannah
on the birth of son
Calvin.

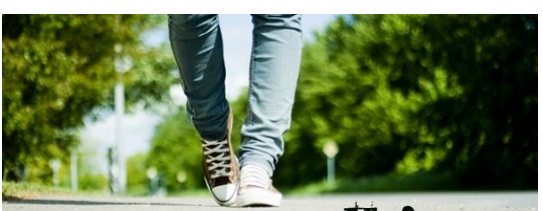
THERE WILL BE NO LBA DAY CAMP THIS YEAR

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



ASSOCIATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- 2020 Summer Mission Trip Kentucky/Tennessee August 2-7, 2020
- 2020 Laurens County Revival August 30 - September 2, 2020



prayer walking

LAURENS COUNTY SCHOOLS
Saturday, August 15, 2020
Questions? 984-0123
Make plans to prayer walk at least one of the Laurens County Schools prior to opening day. In order to assure prayer coverage for each of our schools, please let us know where you plan to prayer walk by contacting Reiny at 984-0123.



Please continue to keep the Laurens Baptist Association in your thoughts and prayers as we work together to win Laurens County and the world for Christ.

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)



ACP Time Again!!
Be on the lookout for your Annual Church Profile during the month of August.

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
www.laurensbaptistassoc.org

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.

«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


JULY & AUGUST 2020
VOLUME 51
ISSUE 3

LBA NEWS

Laurens Baptist Associational Revival

August 30th - September 2
7:00 PM Nightly

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church
499 Chestnut Ridge Road
Laurens, SC



Guest Speaker: Dr. Greg Mathis
Senior Pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church
Hendersonville, NC

Ministry Event Sponsored by the Outreach Team of the Laurens Baptist Association



2020 Summer Mission Trip
New River/McCreary County Baptist Association
Winfield, Tennessee
August 2 - 7, 2020

ALL MONEY IS DUE BY: JULY 7, 2020
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE:
Laurens Baptist Association

Memo Line: 2020 Summer Mission Trip
Mail To: Laurens Baptist Association,
PO Box 745, Laurens, SC 29360

Questions? Call Reiny Koschel @ 984-0123

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AUGUST MEETINGS

- 11 - Administrative Committee @ 6:30 PM
- 13 - Nominating Committee @ 6:30 PM
- 18 - Trustee's @ 5:30 PM


SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 07 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 10 - Minister's Conference @ 10:30 AM
- 12 - Youth "Feet To The Streets"
Time & Place TBA
- 14 - Combined Men's Event W/
Lakelands Association @ 6:45 PM
Disciple's Trail
- 22 - Executive Board Meeting @ 11:00 AM

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

PASTOR'S BOOK ROUNDTABLE
Thursday, August 27, 2020 @ 10:00 AM
LBA Mission Center

We will be having a monthly roundtable discussion revolving around a particular book.
Contact Reiny @ 984-0123 for more details.



LBA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY!
July 6, 2020