

“A Breathing Test”

Several years ago, my Physician suggested that I needed to have a sleep study test done. Now the idea of sleeping while I studied was something that I had long since mastered, but since he did have M.D. after his name, I thought it best to patronize him and let him sign me up. I was pretty sure this was one test that someone with a moderate (to less than that) IQ like myself would be able to pass with flying colors. So, when the day of my test came, I showed up at the hospital with my PJ's and a teddy bear.

As soon as they got me into my suite for the night, they proceeded to attach wires and electrodes all over my body. When they were done getting me all wired up, they had a good laugh at my expense because I looked like something from a really bad science fiction movie. They even encouraged me to text a picture of myself to my family, so they too could experience the joy of the event. Once I was all connected with something akin to an automobile wiring harness to my head and chest, they told me to relax and go to sleep. Okay, so at this point, I began to think that I may not ace this test as easily as I had once surmised. Have you ever tried to sleep with a car wiring harness connected to your head? No need to answer, there are some things that I really don't need to know...

So sleep, which usually comes very easy to me, became a bit more challenging on this night -- imagine that! I figured that just being able to fall asleep at all had to ensure a passing grade. Well, when I awoke the next morning, the nurse informed me that I had stopped breathing about 40 times during the night. They proceeded to tell me that not breathing could have negative health consequences (insert Jeff Foxworthy sayin', "Here's your sign..."). They said that these intermittent times of not breathing during the night could cause: high blood pressure, diabetes, and even death; (yes, the granddaddy of all "health" problems). Their solution to my lack of breathing was to hook me up to a breathing machine. Now, some of you have experienced the joy of these machines, but for those who may not have had the pleasure, it is like taking your vacuum hose and taping it to your nose, reversing the air so that it intermittently blows into your nostrils. Somehow the forced air helps you to continue breathing through the night, and in my case, receive much less sleep (another story, for another time.)

I share this "inspiring" story in hopes of making a serious spiritual application. Breathing is essential to life, and even limited times of not breathing can have profound health consequences. I think there are several parallels between breathing and prayer. First, prayer is as vital to spiritual health as breathing is to physical health. Prayer is an opportunity to communicate with our heavenly Father in a way that we can hear and receive from Him; and where He can hear and receive from us. Second, for breathing to be something as natural and necessary for our health, for some of us, it becomes easy not to do. Prayer, too, requires no special training or gift and in a lot of ways comes naturally, but ironically, strategic and focused prayer can often be the most unnatural thing for believers. It is far easier to engage in superficial times of prayer than to labor to really "breathe" in prayer. Have you ever noticed that the most difficult meeting to gather believers is when the emphasis is toward only praying? Paul simply admonishes us to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). In other words, "Don't stop praying (breathing)."

I fear the church is reaping the negative spiritual health consequences of our lack of fervent prayer. God clearly tells us in James 5:16b, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Our nation is collapsing, and our churches are declining, but the power of the Holy Spirit in the gospel remains sure. To that end, I am asking you to consider being a part of our upcoming prayer revival. It could be thought of as a "call to prayer" or a "solemn assembly," but whatever name you would attach to it, it will be an intentional and focused time of prayer and preaching. The priority of each night will focus on prayer, with the preaching leading us to that end. We are planning to gather at Bellview's Family Life Center on March 14-17 at 7:00 PM each night. All those participating will be from our Associational churches, so there will not be any high-profile human participants, but the God of Heaven has promised to be there!

I know the Covid-19 situation may limit those who can and will attend, but the venue we have chosen will allow us to maintain the necessary precautions, while still affording us the opportunity of uniting our hearts in prayer. Each night we will focus on one of these four areas in prayer: Repentance, Spirit-Filled Unity, Laborers in Evangelism, and Spiritual Awakening. With all that we have experienced in this past year and will experience in the days ahead, the only real solution can be found when God's people humbly choose to "breathe" --- PRAY. Praying Together! Reiny

General Church Contributions:

	DEC 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
*Bar None Cowboy	84.03	311.24	471.65
Beaverdam	375.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Bellview	2,794.42	17,684.60	19,893.09
Bethabara	50.00	600.00	600.00
Bethel	0.00	1,125.00	1,500.00
Beulah	764.31	9,334.37	9,368.39
Calvary	0.00	648.78	672.81
Cedarwood	546.35	6,774.63	6,089.90
Chestnut Ridge	0.00	15,550.63	23,225.68
Clinton First	508.37	6,100.00	6,100.00
Community	400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Cornerstone	50.00	600.00	600.00
Cross Hill First	570.00	3,390.00	3,780.00
Davidson Street	496.49	4,955.30	5,322.28
Durbin Creek	256.34	1,559.41	1,870.37
Eastside	250.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Family Of God	274.12	3,272.65	2,904.84
Friendship	0.00	4,665.16	5,698.93
Gray Court First	150.00	350.00	300.00
Harmony	192.75	1,085.04	994.68
Henderson	244.29	3,065.05	3,285.50
Highland Home	500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Hillcrest	337.14	2,472.41	2,416.90
Holly Grove	161.00	2,633.00	2,664.00
Hurricane	140.70	1,797.79	1,567.24
Joanna First	200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Lanford	125.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Langston	0.00	0.00	0.00
Laurens First	1,763.23	22,152.28	22,499.97
Laurens Second	0.00	400.00	200.00
Lucas Avenue	1,352.80	6,078.48	6,285.09
Mountville	690.76	4,572.97	4,858.25
Mount Gallagher	300.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Mount Olive	100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Mount Pleasant	0.00	254.55	435.07
New Beginning	75.00	524.00	601.00
New Prospect	317.08	3,805.00	4,004.49
Northside	50.00	600.00	600.00
Pine Grove	294.12	2,696.92	3,317.55
Pleasant Grove	432.10	4,927.30	4,789.41
Poplar Springs	83.33	833.31	1,166.62
Princeton	0.00	1,551.99	1,464.40
Rabun Creek	476.03	2,920.54	2,371.28
Rosemont	515.00	5,725.00	4,584.00
Union	208.10	905.72	599.32
Warrior Creek	850.68	4,652.10	3,539.03
Waterloo	30.00	390.00	300.00
Wayside	79.08	711.92	604.08
Welcome	303.00	1,920.00	1,790.00
TOTAL	\$17,390.62	\$170,997.14	\$180,735.82

*Other Church Starts

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

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE



Thursday, March 11, 2021
10:30 AM
LBA Mission Center

Matt Rogers
“ Factors For Healthy Change”

Thursday, April 8, 2021
***10:00 AM**
(Note Time Change)
LBA Mission Center

Palmetto Family Alliance

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

CRISIS CENTER

March Schedule

Tuesday, March 02 - Northside & New Beginning

Thursday, March 04 - Chestnut Ridge

Tuesday, March 09 - Rosemont

Thursday, March 11 - Union

Tuesday, March 16 - Bethel

Thursday, March 18 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, March 23 - Hurricane

Thursday, March 25 - Cross Hill First

Tuesday, March 30 - Davidson Street

April Schedule

Thursday, April 01 - Cedarwood

Tuesday, April 06 - Lucas Avenue

Thursday, April 08 - Calvary

Tuesday, April 13 - Durbin Creek

Thursday, April 15 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, April 20 - Mount Gallagher

Thursday, April 22 - Highland Home

Tuesday, April 27 - Rabun Creek

Thursday, April 29 - Family of God & Poplar Springs

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

March

Juice, Dried Beans, Rice

April

Cooking Oil, Shortening, Toilet Paper

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

HOURS OF OPERATION

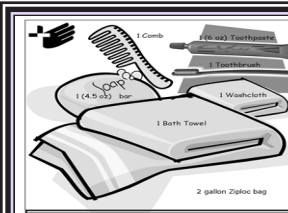
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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

There will be no

SPRING WMU ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING

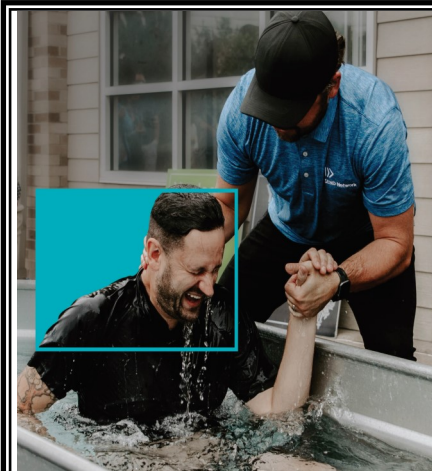
For 2021




NO MINISTRY HEALTH KITS NEEDED FOR 2021

2021 ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING & WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

March 7-14 2021




Mirror His Heart
2021 SC WMU Missions Encounter & Annual Meeting
March 12
First Baptist Church, Simpsonville

Mirror His Heart


South Carolina WMU
God's mission. Our passion.
www.scwmu.org/mirrorhisheart
South Carolina WMU www.facebook.com/scwmu www.instagram.com/scwmu www.youtube.com/scwmu www.tiktok.com/scwmu

196 Stonewall Drive • Columbia, SC 29201 • 803.727.6295, n SC 803.727.7242, ext. 8500
This resource is provided through the Joint Christian Offering for State Missions, Mission Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina.

CHURCH NEWS...



Langston welcomes new pastor, Rev. Gregory Rankin, wife, KariJoy and family. Please join us on Sunday, March 7th, at 11:00 AM for the grand reopening of Langston Baptist Church in Clinton, SC. Our church closed in March but will be reopening under the leadership of a new pastor, Gregory Rankin. There will be a potluck dinner after the service. Feel free to bring your favorite food. The address is 1474 Langston Church Road, Clinton, SC. Questions? Call 864-862-7306 or 864-684-0930. Face masks are optional.

New Beginning is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumes to: vjern@yahoo.com or PO Box 32, Waterloo, SC 29384, Attn: Search Team.

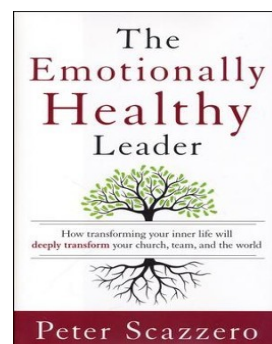
Union would like to invite you to an Evening of Worship through Music: "Thank You For The Cross," Sunday, March 28th @ 6 PM. Address: 536 Old Quaker Church Road, Laurens.



DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

April 17, 2021
Brushy Creek Baptist
Easley, SC

Questions?
Contact Phil Bryson
@
864-682-2511
or
864-981-0131



Pastor's Roundtable Discussion

"The Emotionally Healthy Leader" Book Study

Thursday, March 25 @ 10 AM
Lunch Will Be Provided Following Discussion

Thursday, April 29 @ 10 AM
Lunch Will Be Provided Following Discussion

RSVP Reiny at 984-0123
to reserve your place & book.

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 25, 2021

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



National Day Of Prayer
Thursday, May 6 @ 12 NOON
Steps Of The Old Laurens County Courthouse

POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE
Saturday, May 8



Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, May 13 @ 5:30 PM
LBA Mission Center

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31
(Office Closed)



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
www.laurensisland.org

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



VOLUME 52

ISSUE 2

MARCH / APRIL 2021

Laurens Baptist Association Men's



Special Speaker: Bennie Durham
Chaplain, Greenville Co. Sheriff
March 4th, 6:45 PM
Beaverdam Baptist Church
1555 Beaverdam Ch. Rd., Mountville, SC
Bring a Friend and an Appetite!

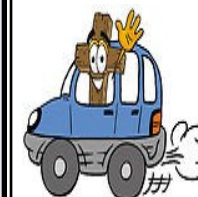
This is a FREE event, but there will be a donation basket available to help cover the cost of the meal. For more information call 984-0123

2021 Summer Mission Trip Kentucky/Tennessee

July 25-30, 2021

Preliminary Ministry Opportunities:

- Construction
 - Food & Clothing Ministries
 - Children's Ministry
- Cost: \$150/Adult
\$75/Child



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 2021
LBA Mission Center
6:30 PM

PRAYER REVIVAL

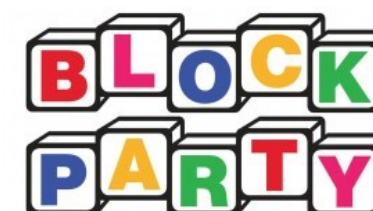
March 14-17, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Bellview Baptist Family Life Center
757 Bellview Church Road, Laurens, SC

The Laurens County Revival with Dr. Greg Mathis
will be held August 29-September 1, 2021
Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church

SPRING 2021 ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 @ 6:45 PM
Rosemont Baptist Church
2267 Dillard Road, Waterloo, SC

MANDATORY ANNUAL



TRAILER TRAINING

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 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 2021.

Each church **MUST HAVE** at least one representative **THAT WILL BE PRESENT** during use of the Block Party Trailer to attend this meeting.