



CANVA/Affinity TRAINING for LBA Churches

Training by Ellesor Holder
with Gray Marketing and PR

THURSDAY, JULY 23
10:30 -12:00
LBA Office

This training is open to anyone in our churches, but will be most helpful to secretaries and those creating graphics and publications.

Please call the Association office for more info, to sign up, and what to bring.
864-227-6261

September Associational Events

Sept 1: Pastor2Pastor
Sept 8: Prayer Intercessors
Sept 14: Joint Men's Rally at Lake Gwd
Sept 21: Executive Board Meeting
Sept 28: Connections Fellowship

*Please help us welcome
Mrs. Tammy Gordy as our
Associational
Financial Secretary*



JULY 27 AT 7PM

RICE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
1975 Hwy 72 W, Greenwood

Speaker: Bryant Sims
Menu: Low Country Boil

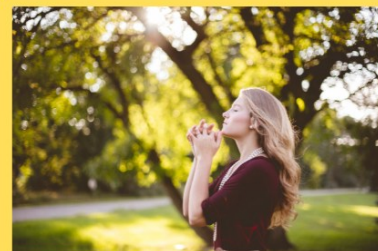


PRAYER WALK of LANDER UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Please join us on
Tuesday, August 11 at 6PM

Meet at Baptist Collegiate Ministry Building
154 W Cambridge Avenue, Greenwood

*Let's kickoff the new school year
by covering our local college
students and staff in prayer.
Everyone is welcome!*



SONNY NOBLIN
LBA SCHOLARSHIP
2026-2027
Ministry-Related Education

Visit lakelandsbaptist.org
to fill out an application.

Mail applications to:

Lakelands Baptist Association
232 Bypass 225
Greenwood, SC 29646

**Mid-year statements through the end of June
will be sent out to LBA churches in July**

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS	Jan 1- May 31, 2026
Abbeville First	\$7,312.16
Abney Memorial	\$2,041.65
Beulah	\$1,104.72
Bold Spring	\$1,000.00
Buffalo	\$175.00
Calhoun Falls First	\$685.16
Callie Self Memorial	\$1,103.69
Calvary	\$1,902.32
Connie Maxwell	\$0.00
Coronaca	\$1468.99
Donalds	\$833.30
Due West	\$0.00
Emerald	\$5,184.96
First Damascus	\$500.00
First Mt. Moriah	\$6,282.60
Friendship	\$0.00
Greenwood Shores	\$0.00
Harris	\$10,937.88
Horeb	\$0.00
Jordan Memorial	\$1,227.00
Lakeview	\$0.00
Laurel	\$866.68
Lowndesville	\$500.00
McCormick First	\$1,500.00
Midway	\$1,418.09
New Hope	\$50.00
New Journey	\$13,895.88
New Market	\$250.00
Ninety Six First	\$7,883.00
North Side G	\$11,500.00
Northside CF	\$2,076.23
Providence	\$6,000.00
Rice Memorial	\$3,647.10
Siloam	\$1,666.65
South Main Street	\$6,559.90
South Side	\$3,394.02
Temple	\$2,756.25
Troy	\$750.00
Turkey Creek	\$368.27
Walnut Grove	\$500.00
Ware Shoals First	\$2,879.25
West Side G	\$1,500.00
Westside A	\$0.00
Winona	\$0.00
Woodfields	\$500.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$112,220.75

“INDIVISIBLE”

A PATRIOTIC MUSICAL

**Join us as we honor God,
America, and our Armed Forces**

McCormick First Baptist Church

108 S. Oak Street, McCormick, SC
(864) 852-2640

Friday, July 3, 2026 @ 7 p.m.

(an Ice Cream Social
follows this presentation)

-and-

Sunday, July 5, 2026 @ 11 a.m.



Connections Fellowship for Pastors

Tuesday, July 28

7:30am

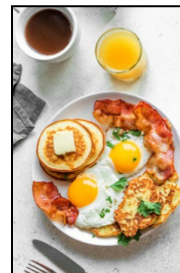
On The Run BBQ

We meet monthly for breakfast and discussion
and occasionally meet for dinner with our wives.
Open to any pastors. Come join us!

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Remaining balance: \$210,433.01

We are grateful for your continued support!



Connections Fellowship for Pastors

Tuesday, August 25

7:30am

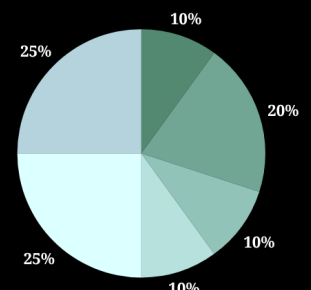
On The Run BBQ

We meet monthly for breakfast and discussion
and occasionally meet for dinner with our wives.
Open to any pastors. Come join us!

LBA BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

**AUGUST 27 AT 7PM
LBA OFFICE**

Mark Hamm, Shane Sprouse,
David Clegg, Matthew
Thigpen, Chris Sullivan,
Matthew Woodyard,
Scott Smith (Moderator)



“Sowing vs. Reaping”

Oh my, what a whirlwind Kim and I have been on in the past month or so! What started as a lazy trip to Gatlinburg, took us through Alaska, then to Orlando, and finally back to Greenwood, more specifically, to Rice Memorial. And as we head towards our July 4th celebration, I discovered on my journeys that I have an appeal to make. So, buckle up and here we go!

Mary Hartley is the widow of Earl Hartley. And Earl Hartley was the pastor of South Side Baptist Church in Abbeville until his retirement after 19 years of ministry there. Earl was a wonderful man, a solid pastor and a great pianist, but he passed away suddenly a few years ago. My son Zack followed Earl as pastor and Kim has been/still is the financial secretary there. So, we have had the pleasure of getting to know Mary over the years and count her as a dear friend.

Well, she asked Kim and I if we could take her to Gatlinburg as that was her and Earl's favorite place to go, and for obvious reasons she didn't want to go alone. So, we went for a couple of days and had a great time with her. We laughed until we cried at times and after herding Mary through stores and restaurants, I told her I was gonna get a tee-shirt printed that said, “Just call me Earl!” So many good times...but that was just the start of our whirlwind tour!

Two weeks later, Kim and I, after having been gifted a trip to Alaska, headed out by plane to Vancouver. After nesting in Vancouver for a night, we boarded a cruise ship and set sail up the interior waterway of Alaska. Many days later, we docked in Anchorage, boarded a train, and traveled inland to Denali National Park for a bus ride to the base of Mt. McKinley. Next, we boarded a motor coach to Fairbanks where we hopped on another plane and headed back home.

Listen, I'm not going to spend much time here telling you how amazing that trip was cause many of you have taken this same journey, heck, some of ya'll are professional “cruisers.” Kim and I are not! This was our first and probably our last. This trip simply reminded me of how blessed this nation is! I have always been patriotic. I have always loved this country! I tried my hardest to get into the military as a chaplain when I was a young man but never could get it done. I have always been grateful to God Almighty for the gift of being born in this great land, with all the beauty, all the freedoms, all the opportunities afforded us by God Himself! I still stand for the flag with my hand over my heart and I still get a tear when the National Anthem is played, or when I watch a video of the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier. Men, and women, have put on the uniform, put their lives in harm's way, left family and friends, to do the dirty work of protecting this land from all enemies at home and abroad. And too many of them did not return. I am truly grateful for the sacrifice that the many are willing to make to keep this country the way God has blessed it to be! And quite frankly, my heart aches at times for the cavalier attitudes exemplified by too many who refuse to acknowledge our debt of gratitude for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. And the majestic land of Alaska simply reminded me of just how blessed we are!

Well, from Alaska it was home for a week then on to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando. Again, it pains me to be a part of

so wonderful a convention and then return home and hear and see the yuk-yuk put on Facebook and the media, bashing our convention, from people who were not there and did not take part in the proceedings. Since returning home, I've seen too much about how we Southern Baptist continue to prevent women from serving as pastors, and my response to that is, “Yes, that is correct! The Word is explicable clear on this matter!” This is a position we have always held and the vote regarding only men serving as pastors, elders or overseers, did not change our position at all, but was simply for the purpose of codifying that position in our SBC Bylaws. It changed nothing about our longstanding position on the matter.

What you will not hear from too many media platforms is that we commissioned 63 new IMB missionaries with many going into harm's way, we voted on and discussed how to better minister to our special needs population within our local communities and we learned that baptisms across the SBC landscape have increased every year for the passed five years. We heard great sermons, worshipped with 12,000 other Baptists from many places, countries and cultures. Southern Baptists are a “force for good” (thanks Chuck Sprouse), locally and globally. I am proud that Southern Baptists stick to the inerrancy of Scripture, and as long as they do, I will remain a Southern Baptist.

And then, from Orlando to home! First Sunday back I attended Rice Memorial, where I was fascinated beyond words to hear Dan Fisher, a pastor and former state legislator from Oklahoma, give one of the best presentations I have heard in a long time. He spoke and discussed the Black Robe Regiment, those pastors who in the days of the American revolution, took off their black pulpit robes and led men into battle and were instrumental in helping to win the battle for America's independence. Here is one quote among many from our great Christian patriots from the past, “Would you rather be ruled by pagans or governed by Christians?” And honestly, I cannot get that quote out of my mind!

Like many, I agree that it is time to stop standing behind our “separation of church and state” mantra and get Christians more involved than ever in our government. Doesn't the Bible say, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Dan Fisher, while pastoring a 1000-member church, served in state government and ran for governor of Oklahoma. If we as believers don't get more involved in the direction of our government, this nation may well fall. And God, in His infinite wisdom and sovereignty, has enabled this country's citizens to have a part in the election of who runs our government. Are we living out the Biblical example of “sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind?” Too many Christians don't even vote! I ask again, “Would you rather be ruled by pagans or governed by Christians?”

The whirlwind is coming if we don't answer that question appropriately...and quickly! We need to ponder these things as we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary! The Bible is steadfast in this one thing...we will reap what we sow. Do your part...please! If Christians can get involved...and we can...but choose not to...well, that'll be on us when the whirlwind comes! Instead of praying for God to raise up Christian leaders, maybe our prayer should be, “Here am I Lord, send me!



How to Become a Christian

Jesus Christ was with God the Father before the world was created. He became human and lived among humanity as Jesus of Nazareth. He came to show us what God the Father is like. He lived a sinless life, showing us how to live, and He died on a cross to pay for our sins. God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is the source of eternal life. Jesus wants to be the doorway of new life for you. In the Bible, He was called "Lamb of God" (John 1:29). In the Old Testament, sacrifices were made for the sins of the people. Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb offered for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He is waiting for you now.

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. By faith, receive Jesus Christ as God's Son and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness by dying on the cross.

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You may pray a silent prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you.

"Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen." After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for a baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

The Holy Bible, Book of Romans 10:9-13

Lakelands Baptist Leader

JULY/AUGUST 2026



Lakelands Baptist Association **Periodical Paid At**
David W. Little, Associational Missionary
Greenwood, SC 29649-9998
USPS 391-110
232 Bypass 225
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646

dlittle@lakelandsbaptist.org (Associational Missionary)

finance@lakelandsbaptist.org (Financial Secretary)

admin@lakelandsbaptist.org (Administrative Assistant)

Website: www.lakelandsbaptist.org

Telephone: (864) 227-6261

Mark Your Calendars

THE 156TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LAKELANDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
ABBEVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
6:30PM

Please continue to pray for the following churches without pastors:

Bold Spring, Due West, Harris, South Main, Turkey Creek, Walnut Grove, Winona, and Woodfields

