

January
2018

Edgfield Baptist Association

Organized 1807

Making History with His Story

Executive
Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 13
7:00 P.M.

Mission Dartmouth

Edgfield Baptist Association Mission Trip

Testimony Day



What a wonderful opportunity this mission team had when they journeyed to the Boston area the first weekend in December. It was a first mission trip for some, a first time flying for others, a first time in the northeast for others. Their mission was to assist church planter, Chad Hartis, with a Fun Night at South Coast Church, and to serve along with them at Anchor Ministries for the homeless.

Some team members are sharing their experiences at their home churches, but if you have an opportunity you are invited to attend First Bethany on January 28th.

The team was led by John Alexander, EBA Moderator, and included Barbara Langley (Berea); Terri & Fisher Miller (Edgfield First); Wendy Gable, Kathy Hollingsworth, Holly & William Newman (First Bethany); Greg Gordy & Michelle Moorhead (Mountain Creek); Jesse Bryant (Red Hill); and Michael Howe (FBC, Ninety Six).

EBA Men's Ministry Supper and Meeting

Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 P.M.
Providence Baptist Church

Guest Speaker: Tim Shull
Discussion about Outdoor EXPO

For more information, please call Ricky Miller at 803-215-5500.

**Edgefield Baptist
Association**
985 Hwy 25 N
Edgefield, SC 29824

Director of Missions
Rev. Tim Shull

Moderator
Rev. John Alexander

Vice-Moderator
Rev. Tom Rogers

Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Jackie Ridings

Clerk
Ms. Faye Usry

Treasurer
Mrs. Terri Miller

Office Hours
Monday-Tuesday
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Wednesday
8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

**Scheduled meetings at
the Association Office:**

Dolls on Mission
Tuesday, January 16 & 30
9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, February 6 & 20
9:30 A.M.

WMU Leadership
Thursday, February 1
7:00 P.M.

**News for February
Newsletter is due by
January 22**

**Catch the Vision Tour Boston
March 12-14, 2018**

Pastors and Missions leaders from SC Baptist churches are invited to Boston to meet church planters and discover ways to pray, provide and partner through Send Boston.

Participants must contact Missions Mobilization at SCBC to register. Contact Sandy Bezjak at 803.227.6064 Monday-Thursday.

Disaster Relief Training 2018

More volunteers trained in Disaster Relief are needed in Edgefield as well as more trained Unit Leaders.

The dates and locations for 2018 are:

March 17: Walterboro FBC
April 21: Mt. Airy BC, Easley
May 18-19: Chaplain Training at
White Oak Conference Center
August 28: Unit Leader Update
Meeting at SCBC in Columbia

Please let Jackie at the association office know if you are interested in going to any of the training sessions.

**Literacy Missions
and Hunger Ministries
Training**

Saturday, March 3
Lexington Baptist Church

Join with others to improve skills for teaching English. And new this year is a dedicated Hunger Ministry Track for churches who have a food pantry or other type hunger ministry.

Cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Registration opens January 5.

**Special Days
January**

Wedding Anniversaries

Rev. John Alexander, First Bethany, and his wife Jennifer celebrate their anniversary on January 7.

Pastoral Anniversaries

Pastor Lance Thomas begins his 15th year at Republican Baptist Church.

Travis Brian begins his 3rd year as Associate Pastor of Music at Edgefield First Baptist Church.

Church Events

Edgefield First: The Women's Ministry is hosting a Bible study entitled "**Discerning the Voice of God**" by Priscilla Shirer. The study begins at 6:30 P.M. January 22 for 7 weeks. The study book is \$15. All women high school and up are welcome. Contact the church for more information: 637-3139.

First Bethany: The church is hosting a live stream conference "**Marriage: What Did You Expect?**" with Dr. Paul David Tripp on February 2-3. For more information please email Pastor John at revjohnalexander@gmail.com.

Peace Haven: You are invited to **Revival Services** Sunday-Tuesday, January 28-30 at 7 P.M. Rev. John Alexander will be preaching and the music will be led by Bobbi Oerman.

Red Oak Grove: Tim Shull began serving as Interim Pastor on December 1.

Financial Report November 2017

Church Contributions	MTD	YTD
Antioch	0.00	2520.00
Berea	75.00	825.00
Big Stevens Creek	600.00	3350.00
Ebenezer	0.00	2000.00
Edgefield First	0.00	6200.00
First Bethany	0.00	3347.00
Gilgal	0.00	4000.00
Little Stevens Creek	1250.00	3125.00
Modoc	0.00	0.00
Mountain Creek	153.66	1100.91
Mt. Zion	0.00	750.00
Parksville	367.95	4325.89
Peace Haven	0.00	1460.00
Plum Branch	0.00	2493.50
Providence	575.00	1725.00
Red Hill	0.00	6000.61
Red Oak Grove	0.00	2580.00
Rehoboth	0.00	2756.00
Republican	0.00	11962.17
Sweetwater	963.91	5172.67
Various Donations	500.00	2360.00
Total Receipts	3910.52	68058.75
Total Expenses	4915.92	64424.24
Designated Accounts		Balance
Block Party Trailer		150.00
CCC		4137.74
Hispanic Missions		2470.29
Disaster Relief		7849.53
Men's Ministries		10667.45
WMU		2325.61
EBA Missions Offering		6062.12
Investments		Balance
Money Market #1		13343.80
Money Market #2		10357.12
Baptist Foundation		12749.51

True Prosperity

I saw a statement the other day from a well-known TV preacher and prosperity author. He wrote, "When you do the right thing when it's hard, you're going to reap blessings, favor, increase, and not just eternal life, but abundant life here on this earth." My friend Pastor Jimmy Parris tweeted back at the celebrity, "I'd love to see a reference on this one." Indeed, there is no Biblical basis for prosperity theology. There is, on the other hand, a wealth of Bible teaching that our Heavenly Father knows us and loves us and has good plans for us that include hardship and difficulty. Paul wrote from prison, "*You have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.*" Philippians 1:29-30.

As we abide in the love of Christ, we have joy that is full and complete, independent of our circumstances. Our joy, as well as love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, all grow on the vine of abiding in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The blessings of the abundant life and the blessed hope of the life to come are found in the loving arms of our sure relationship with our Savior. Too many people are looking for what's in God's hand rather than seeking God's heart.

Of course, as we wish one another a Happy New Year, we would all desire for each other and for ourselves a life of prosperity, free from adversity, pain or problems. But that simply isn't the way it works for the people of God. Jesus said, "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" John 16:33. He said that we should expect persecution from the world as we stand for Him, and that He will be with us and never leave us nor forsake us.

Paul writes in Romans 5:3-4, "*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*" James 1:2-4 tells us about God's process for growing us: "*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*"

Between the promise and the payoff is the process. We all want to avoid pain, but we must be careful to trust God and not short-circuit the

process. The process is often painful, but it helps to remember that God is in control and He has a purpose in our pain. Pain and problems drive us to pray, and fervent prayer helps us know God's heart when we can't see His hand. And this is how He equips us for ministry: "*God comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us*" 2 Corinthians 1:4. In addition, as we reflect the light of Christ to people around us, it is often in the darkness of hard times that our witness shines the brightest. Many of you have been and are today shining lights for Jesus in the midst of trouble. People notice. "*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*" Romans 8:18.

While God doesn't send every hurt, in His sovereignty our loving Heavenly Father never wastes the hurt, pain, loss, problem or adversity that comes to us. He uses pain and problems to direct us, to inspect us, to correct us, to protect us, and to perfect us. "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*" Romans 8:16-17.

Humbly His,
Tim

Looking Ahead

Event	Date	Location
IMPACT: Creating a Sending Culture	Feb 22	Riverland Hill BC Columbia
Literacy Missions/Hunger Ministries Conference	Mar 3	Lexington BC Lexington
SC WMU Missions Encounter & Annual Meeting	Mar 23-24	North Augusta FBC
Ministry Assistants Annual Meeting	May 17-18	Mt. Pleasant FBC

More information on all events is available at the EBA Office (803.637.3309 or jackie@ebamissions.org) or the South Carolina Baptist Convention (1.800.723.7242 or www.scbaptist.org).

New website and new email addresses:
Visit us at www.ebamissions.org

Email us at either jackie@ebamissions.org
or tim@ebamissions.org

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”
Romans 8:28

Edgefield Baptist Association
985 Highway 25 North
Edgefield, SC 29824

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Plans for **Children’s Ministry Day in February** include putting together **Bags of Love** on **February 7** at Edgefield First Baptist at 6:30 P.M. Bags will be delivered to homebound senior citizens on Valentine’s Day. Please contact Susan Keck at 803.637.3906 for more information.



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER?

PAID RESIDENTIAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CABIN LEADER • CABIN LEADER-IN-TRAINING
SALES AND FOOD ASSISTANTS • WATERFRONT DIRECTOR • LIFEGUARD
MEDIA COORDINATOR • NATURE RECREATION COORDINATOR

COME WORK THIS SUMMER AT
CAMP LA VIDA!
WWW.CAMPLAVIDA.ORG

A CAMP LA VIDA STAFF MEMBER MUST BE A:

- Mature Christian
- Rising college freshman or older
- Active member of a Southern Baptist Church who has a love for children, youth, and missions



2018
SC WMU Missions Encounter & Annual Meeting
March 23-24
First Baptist Church, North Augusta

embrace

By All Means: Focus on WMU – February 12-18, 2018

During WMU emphasis, Christ followers are challenged to follow His example, step into the world around you, cultivate relationships, and create opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ. WMU is committed to reaching people, through whatever means, and by whatever means possible. WMU serves as a great catalyst for missions.