

**Fall Annual Meeting:
New Schedule Format
Save the Date!
Thursday, October 5**

Our fall annual meeting in October is always a highlight for our association as we share and celebrate stories and successes of our cooperative partnership. One of the logistical challenges that restricts attendees and messengers has been competing with evening schedules and the ability to get to our gathering during rush hour traffic. Our association team has been collecting information from other associations and the timing of their annual meetings. Our findings are showing that some leading associations are increasing their attendance and including more staff members and lay leaders during a daytime, extended lunch gathering. With this in view, we are planning to conduct our next annual meeting on Thursday October 5. We will be sending the details of time and location by e-mail this summer. Please save the date by marking your calendar and reserve your mid-morning through lunch time schedule. It is our desire that more leaders and staff members can attend and participate in our strategic annual gathering.

Additionally, our state and national convention are actively creating and curating resources for best practices and next steps. State Convention leadership has prioritized and funded a full-time staff position for a qualified individual who is trauma-informed and biblically equipped to help church leaders and congregations. Immediately following the SBC convention in June, a church-based tool kit as well as a national database listing those who have been credibly accused will be launched. To keep informed on or to report sexual abuse: <https://www.sbc.net/satf/> or <https://www.scbaptist.org/resource/sexual-abuse-task-force-response/>

Does your church have a clear target for making disciples? Does your disciple making strategy need greater Gospel emphasis? Do you need more clarity on how to reach people in your specific context? Do the members in your church see themselves as everyday missionary disciples? Mission Charleston is inviting Greater Charleston churches in a collaborative learning experience in strengthening your church's discipleship strategy. Pastor Jeff Vanderstelt who authored the books, *Gospel Fluency* and *Saturate* will be teaching, coaching and consulting with church staff teams through in person intensives and online cohorts. Your church's discipleship effectiveness will be strengthened and your leadership will be better equipped in reaching and growing disciples within your church. This disciple-making lab and cohort will be launched this fall. To learn more, please contact us: clay@charlestonbaptist.net



DML DISCIPLE MAKING LAB
BEGINNING OCTOBER 2023

JEFF VANDERSTELT

HELPING CHURCHES BUILD CUSTOM DISCIPLESHIP MODELS THAT WILL REACH EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD.

SATURATE
MISSION:CHS

Church Safeguarding Training: Thursday, July 13

Shepherding people in our congregations is a high calling especially being attentive to the threat and actions of sexual abuse. Protecting the vulnerable, caring for victims and implementing measures is mission critical. Our association has committed to make this issue a centralized focus for Strengthening Churches.

On April 11, Attorney Curtis Bostic & Pastor Marshall Blalock helped equip 13 church teams in safeguarding the church and serving those who have been abused. Their qualified voices and expertise pointed leaders toward protocols and resources.

As a follow up to this introductory consult, on **Thursday July 13**, Attorney Bostic will join us for a workshop offering legal counsel, practical protocols and tools to equip leaders.



ANNUAL MEETING
2022

**SCBC
Sexual Abuse
Task Force
Response**

STRENGTHENING LEADERS

Replenish Week Reflections



We know that the complexity of needs, fatigue of decision-making and spiritual warfare stretches out margins of time, emotions and energy. Because of these dynamics, ministry is demanding and often depleting for pastors, spouses and staff. In March, the Charleston Baptist Association conducted replenishing gatherings to strengthen leaders and churches both personally and professionally. Pastor Mark Hallock of Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado served as our speaker and consultant within three relational environments.

We hosted an evening of encouragement to invest time and care in the marriages of CBA pastors and spouses in addition to a workshop on

church renewal. We learned from Pastor Hallock about church renewal in principle and in practice as he is a catalytic leader who is navigating a city-wide church renewal movement in Denver. Every church needs to experience renewal whether the vision for the church is in decline or when a church is asking what's next. There is always a path forward and there are windows of opportunities to seize. As the demographics of Greater Charleston shift every year and cultural complexities take new turns every 6 months, every church needs to revisit context, recast vision and renew values.

We concluded our Replenish Week with a staff development day at Peaceful Way's Retreat Center in Ravenel (pictured above). Mark brought a timely message about experiencing joy in life and ministry and being a relentless encourager. We rejoice over the pastors, spouses and staff members who participated!

Don't Pastor Alone

Charleston Baptist Association is intentionally focusing on connecting relationships and fostering leader health among those who lead the church. Thirty-eight percent of pastors and 43% of staff have considered leaving the ministry based on *Barna Research* (2021). One of the marks of success that we have targeted as an association is in strengthening leaders. Therefore we seek to create environments and opportunities to serve and assist leaders in their personal and professional pursuit of living and leading well.

Steward Ministry

Do you have a safe place to share or confide in trusted ministry leaders? Is there a tenured ministry leader you can go to for counsel or advice? Many times there is understandable hesitation to seek such a resource within your own church. We are grateful for the ministry of the Stewards of the Charleston Baptist Association who have prioritized their time and energy to serve church leaders. These tenured leaders have been strengthening leaders within our association for the past 2 years. Connecting with a Steward is as easy as reaching out to them personally or letting our association assist in connecting. Regardless of geographical proximity, each of our Stewards are open to connect based on your need:

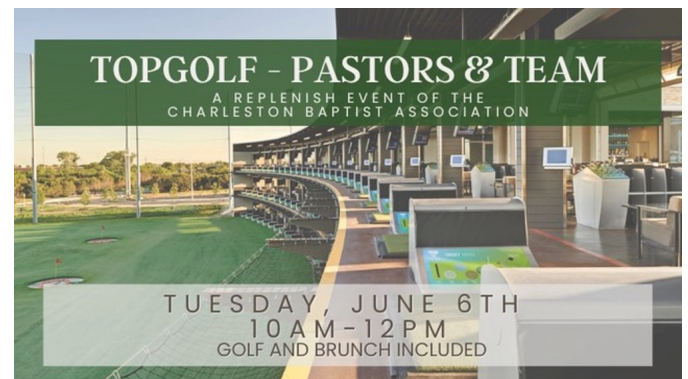
Curt Bradford: curt@charlestonbaptist.net

Tom Brown: tombrown41@comcast.net

Marshall Blalock: marshall@fbcharleston.org

Sonny Holmes: cid71m@gmail.com

David Coleman: dcoleman@crowfieldbaptist.org



On Tuesday June 6, CBA is reserving a space for you and your team for some relational recreation together at Topgolf in North Charleston. We will enjoy golfing, eating brunch and engaging in conversation together. This is a great opportunity for you and leaders on your team to meet other church leaders. Please reserve your spot as soon as possible since we have a limited number of bays we can reserve. Register at the CBA Events page on our website!

Harbor Dinner Cruise - November 2nd

We invite lead pastors and spouses to enjoy a Harbor Dinner Cruise together this Fall. This is a great way to take in views of downtown Charleston, surrounding islands and enjoy an evening in Charleston's harbor. More details to come, but **save the date** as registration will begin in August. Please contact Jennifer Simpson with questions: office@charlestonbaptist.net

PLANTING CHURCHES



Between the years of 2017 and 2021, 10% of the population stopped being involved in a church congregation. On any given Sunday (pre-pandemic), approximately 90,000 attend an evangelical church in Greater Charleston while the population growth of the tri-county area will reach 1 million by the year 2028. As our region grows into greater secularism and further away from engaging in spirituality, the good news is that we can engage in strategic ways now that call for innovation and intentionality.

On September 26-29, we invite you to travel with other leaders to the future to see and experience the future demographics of Greater Charleston by going to Boston to consult with churches reaching northerners, engaging secularism & impacting communities. There are 10 spaces available to participate in a shared learning experience with Greater Boston pastors as well as trace Gospel & church history. We will also gain a greater understanding of how our national convention (NAMB) is leveraging resources into this SEND city and region. Those who attend will take in ways the Gospel is gaining momentum as well as enjoy cultural and recreational moments. Future Church Conversations are vital to what we must do in the present by taking an honest look at where our future is headed. Let's consider the future outlook of Greater Charleston in order to see and learn from others where a post Christian culture is the majority. For more information please contact us: clay@charlestonbaptist.net

Welcome to the CBA

Please join in welcoming two new pastors to the CBA family:

First Baptist Church of Goose Creek recently affirmed and installed Pastor Mike Millner as Lead Pastor. Pastor Millner, his wife Daran and three sons: Jackson, Parker and Asa have relocated to the lowcountry from



Tennessee. In addition to pastoring in Tennessee, Pastor Millner has served and led Disaster Relief efforts through the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Please extend a welcome to the Millners:

Mike.fbcgc@gmail.com

Harbour Lake Baptist Church in Goose Creek installed Pastor Bradley Thomas on May 7 as Lead Pastor. Pastor Thomas, his wife Ashley and their 3 children have relocated to the lowcountry from Hiawasee, Georgia. Please join us in sending a message welcoming the Thomas family:



thebradleythomas@gmail.com

CHURCHES COLLABORATING

Greater Charleston Prayer Movement



"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer" A.T. Pierson, 20th century American pastor.

On Thursday May 11, the CBA office convened a collaborative table of regional prayer leaders. As there are various interdenominational prayer circles functioning in Greater Charleston, these leaders came together to connect and prayerfully discuss ways to foster and fuel a collective prayer movement in Greater Charleston. We are grateful for the way that The Church at Lifepark is modeling prayer ministry and engaging in a regional movement called *Charleston Prays*. To learn more about how you and your church can engage in this growing movement, please reach out to: <https://www.charlestonpraystogether.org>



CHARLESTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 71486, N. Charleston 29415

Electronic Service Requested

DATES

May 25	Marketplace Conversation (Off-Track Ice Cream)
May 29	Memorial Day - CBA Office Closed
June 6	Replenish Church Staff Outing (Top Golf)
June 12-15	SBC Annual Meeting
July 4	Independence Day - CBA Office Closed
July 13	Safeguarding the Vulnerable Training w/Bostic Law (CBA Office)
August 17	Darkness to Light Training (Location TBD)

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage Paid
Charleston, SC
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CHECK OUR EVENTS PAGE FOR ONGOING UPDATES

<https://www.charlestonbaptist.net/events>

CBA PARTNER MINISTRIES

- Mission Charleston
- BCM Charleston
- NAMB - North American Mission Board
- South Carolina Baptist Convention
- South Carolina WMU
- IMB - International Mission Board
- International Seafarer's Ministry
- South Carolina Disaster Relief

Links to partner websites at:

<https://www.charlestonbaptist.net/ministry-partners/>

Office: 843-723-4571

General Email: office@charlestonbaptist.net

Website: www.charlestonbaptist.net

Epic Bible Teacher Training : Charleston Southern University

Details: <https://www.churchandgospel.com/events/epic-bible-conference/>



Connie Maxwell Children's Home coming to Greater Charleston

Since 1892, Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries (CMCM) has provided hope for South Carolina's children and families in need. Established as a ministry of the SC Baptist Convention, CMCM has positively impacted thousands of individuals tending to the physical needs of children by providing housing, food, and clothing within a safe community of group homes and through a network of foster parents. In addition, CMCM seeks to meet emotional and relational needs through family care services, moving toward reuniting them with their birth families. Currently CMCM has 5 locations throughout our state and in the near future they are seeking to add a 6th children's home location here in Greater Charleston. To learn more or to invite CMCM to speak at your church, contact Philip Turner, Church Relations at pturner@conniemaxwell.com or (803) 218-8775.

Executive Committee Meeting: Nominating Administrative Team

On Tuesday September 19, the CBA Administrative Team will be presenting nominations for new Admin Team members that will begin serving in 2024 (3 year term). Officer and team lead positions are open for election (Moderator & Vice-Moderator and Chair positions for Strengthening Leaders, Strengthening Churches & Planting Churches). Please be in prayer as we receive nominations as well as for potential team members. Messengers from churches are eligible to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. For more information contact: office@charlestonbaptist.net

PARTNER MINISTRIES



Woman's Missionary Union leaders in eight churches led their congregations to collect 400 migrant ministry kits to be used by Iglesia Luz y Verdad at the migrant camps this summer. At each camp they feed and visit with the workers and their families. Pastor Claudio presents a Gospel message and items are given out. Thank you to these churches: Crowfield, DoorWay, Ft. Johnson, Folly Beach, Friendship, James Island, Northbridge, Pinecrest. An additional thank you to Pinecrest for being our collection site again this year.