

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER



Laurens Baptist Association

Laurens Baptist Association Equipping Churches to Reach "Laurens Island"

Churches Working Together For HIS Kingdom, By HIS Power, For HIS Glory

LBA NEWS

For HIS Kingdom, By HIS Power, For HIS Glory

May/June 2026

www.laurensisland.org

Volume 57 Issue 3



Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th

Mission Center Closed



GLORIFY GOD
AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM
IN ALL GENERATIONS
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7

75TH



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



Come, seek the Lord with us at the
Laurens County Plaza
for this
75th National Day of Prayer
in this
250th Year of the Great
United States of America!

12:00 noon

Sponsored by Laurens Baptist Association
Prayer & Spiritual Development Team

Combined Ministers

Lunch

May 12, 2026

11:45 am

DISCIPLE'S TRAIL RETREAT CENTER
WATERLOO, SC

Dr. Brian Saxon

SC Baptist, Shepherd Team Leader

BBQ ribs will be served for lunch
RSVP by May 7th : 984-0123

Associational Mission Trip

July 19th - 24th

"Helene" Affected North Carolina
Hendersonville Area

Disaster Relief type ministry

Join us for a planning meeting on
May 21st at 6:30 pm at the
LBA Mission Center.

Cost is \$120.00 per person and includes meals,
lodging, mission materials, & t-shirt.

Non-refundable \$50.00 deposit due by May 19th,
with the remaining balance due by July 1st.

You are responsible for transportation to and from
North Carolina, plus meals en route.

Only 30 spaces available
Minimum age is 13

"No Fire on the Fence"

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

* Other Church Starts

	Jan-Mar 2026	Q1 2025
*Bar None Cowboy	-	34.05
Beaverdam	375.00	375.00
Belview	6,218.18	5,779.01
Bethabara	100.00	-
Bethel	-	-
Beulah	2,475.13	2,590.73
Cedarwood	1,560.95	823.87
Chestnut Ridge	9,249.99	20,947.36
Clinton First	1,500.00	-
Community	900.00	900.00
Cross Hill First	637.00	832.00
Davidson Street	481.15	73.106
Dublin Creek	340.26	332.86
Eastside	500.01	500.01
Fairview	801.60	-
Friendship	-	1,039.49
Gray Court First	200.00	200.00
Harmony	283.41	330.60
Henderson	1,096.19	1,158.98
Highland Home	-	-
Holly Grove	140.100	1,062.00
Hurricane	549.66	595.58
Joanna First	300.00	300.00
Lanford	375.00	375.00
Laurens First	5,170.37	2,757.84
Laurens Second	-	317.22
Lucas Avenue	583.34	852.57
Mountville	959.19	1,034.41
Mt. Gallagher	900.00	1,500.00
Mt. Olive	300.00	300.00
Mt. Pleasant	-	-
New Beginning	90.00	90.00
New Prospect	751.48	671.26
Northside	150.00	150.00
Pine Grove	1,222.62	948.89
Pleasant Grove	1,337.78	1,056.01
Poplar Springs	300.00	300.00
Princeton	666.12	470.53
Rabun Creek	733.04	427.45
Rosemont	1,270.00	1,415.00
Union	434.00	1,301.52
Uplate Gathering	-	2,000.00
Warrior Creek	-	1,166.63
Wayside	101.22	167.40
Welcome	316.72	303.32
TOTAL	44,630.41	56,237.65

This past week, I had the privilege of preaching at Pastor Chris Sullivan's church in Abbeville. You may recognize Chris' name, as he previously pastored a couple of our churches. Interestingly, he is now serving at the church I pastored before coming to Laurens. He invited me to preach with him at an event focused on those dealing with addiction and recovery.

When I say he invited me to preach *with* him; I mean that quite literally. He asked me to "tag-team" preach a single sermon alongside him. When I hear "tag team," my mind immediately goes back to my childhood, watching "Stampede" wrestling on TV. "Stampede" wrestling was the precursor to the WWF wrestling of today. Only one wrestler was supposed to be in the ring at a time (unless the referee was distracted, and he usually was), and his partner could only enter after a tag. Well, we attempted something similar with preaching - minus the hand slap. It was a different format than neither of us had experienced before, but it actually worked out quite well.

The event included a skit showing a man being pulled in two opposite directions. One person encouraged him to follow Christ, while another urged him toward the party lifestyle. The skit ended with the man sitting on a fence, unable to decide which way to go. This led into our sermon, titled, "There Is No Fire on the Fence."

Our focal passage was 1 Kings 18:21, where Elijah asks the Israelites, "How long will you waver between two opinions...?" (NIV). As you may recall, this story concludes with the prophets of Baal exhausted and bleeding as they try unsuccessfully to call down fire from their god. When Elijah's turn comes, he repairs the altar, prepares the sacrifice, and drenches it all repeatedly with water. Then he simply prays and the Lord answers in a powerful way, sending fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, the stones, and even licking up the water surrounding the altar.

There truly is no fire on the fence - whether for someone who has never trusted Christ or for those who have followed Him for years. The in-between indifference on the fence will leave us powerless. The call to repent applies to our lives personally and to the church as a whole. Perhaps your love for the Savior is not as fervent as it once was. The only remedy is to repent, step off the fence, and then prepare for the fire of heaven to fall.

This is a familiar story for many of us, and if you're like me, you've wondered what it would have been like to witness such a dramatic display of God's power. Our message was directed especially toward those struggling with addiction and inner conflict, urging them to repent, get off the fence, and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

As I watched during the invitation, with many coming forward to pray, my thoughts began to shift. I reflected not only on the importance of repentance for those present, but also on how essential it is for those of us in the church to repent as well.

Last week, Dr. David Jackson led a workshop for our pastors using his "Falling in Love with Jesus (Again)" materials. It is based on the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2, which had lost its first love. He reminded us that the Ephesian church was commended for many good things and was doctrinally sound in confronting false teaching. However, they had drifted in their love for Christ. The remedy Jesus gave this otherwise strong church was simple: they needed to repent or risk losing their witness (lampstand).

Too often today, there is little mention of the church itself needing repentance. I fear we may have lost spiritual power because it is easy to recognize the need for repentance in others while neglecting to examine our own hearts. When we become convinced that we have nothing to repent of, we may actually be in greater need of repentance than we want to realize.

Reiny

CRISIS CENTER

Hours of Operation

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am - 11:30 am

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May

Tuesday, 5 - New Beginning

Thursday, 7 - Beaverdam

Tuesday, 12 - Northside

Thursday, 14 - Union

Tuesday, 19 - Clinton First

Thursday, 21 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, 26 - Warrior Creek

Thursday, 28 - Upstate Gathering

June

Tuesday, 2 - Laurens First

Thursday, 4 - St. James Methodist

Tuesday, 9 - Welcome

Thursday, 11 - New Prospect

Tuesday, 16 - Bethel/Davidson Street

Thursday, 18 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, 23 - Pine Grove

Thursday, 25 - Mountville

Tuesday, 30 - Friendship

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If your church cannot provide at least
3 volunteers, call Kay at 984-0123.

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May Needs

Sugar, Tea, Kool-Aid

June Needs

Ramen Noodles, SpaghettiOs,

Boxed Dinners

HomeLife, Mature Living, & Devotionals
are desperately needed

Trustee Meeting

May 19th @ 5:30 pm

LBA Mission Center

Laurens POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE



Saturday, May 9th



Place a bag of
nonperishable food
next to your mailbox.



Your letter
carrier will
handle the
rest!



Crisis Center

Work Day

Monday, May 11th

9 am - 11 am

We'll need volunteers
to pick up items from
the Post Office and
to stock the shelves



Looking for a Christ-centered camping
experience for boys 1st - 12th grade?

Summer camps will be from

June 4th - August 2nd.

Learn more at

scbaptist.org/summercamps

Camp La Vida is a missions
discipleship camp primarily
for girls in 3rd-12th grade in
June-July. There are also
camp opportunities for
1st-2nd grades.

Visit camplavida.org to
register for camp or to apply
for Camp Summer Staff.



HELP NEEDED

We are in need of someone for yard maintenance
at the LBA Mission Center.

Perhaps an individual or a group of people ☺

Please call 984-0123 if you are interested.

Church News

Bellview will host an unforgettable YOUTH RALLY with *Forged in Fire* Champion, Billy Salyers, performing live forging demonstrations and an inspiring message of faith on May 3 at 6:00 pm. Stick around for food, fun, and games afterward!

Clinton First celebrates Blake Harwell for his service of 28 years as their Senior Pastor. His last Sunday will be June 28th.

Gray Court First welcomes Mark Kennedy as their new pastor.

New Prospect wishes to thank their pastor, Phil Hall for his service of 12 years to the church. His last Sunday will be May 31st.

Princeton will host a Ladies Spring Luncheon with guest speaker, Cheryl Cannon, on May 30th from 10:30am to 1:00 pm.

ABC's For Becoming a Christian

A – Admit to God you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sin. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 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; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:16)

C – Commit your life to Jesus. Trust Him to be your Savior. (Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)



ORLANDO

2026 SBC Annual Meeting & Pastors' Conference

June 7-10, 2026 | Orange County Convention Center



HISPANIC MINISTRY GRANT
For LBA Churches

**\$250/PERSON
MAX
\$1000/CHURCH
per year**

Contact LBA Mission Center for application & guidelines

864-984-0123

Associational Staff

Associational Missionary

Reiny Koschel

Crisis Center Director

Kay Leagans

Office Manager

Lory Satterfield

MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Lunch hour 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Pastors'

ROUNDTABLE BOOK DISCUSSION
"40 Questions About Pastoral Ministry"
by Phil A. Newton



May 21st & June 18th
10:00 am

Lunch provided following the discussion.
RSVP Reiny if you would like to participate



NEWSLETTER
Laurens Baptist Association
Post Office Box 745
Laurens, SC 29360
(864)984-0123

REQUIRES PHOTO WHO STATED
ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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