



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

July/August 2026

www.laurensisland.org

Volume 57 Issue 4

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

250TH ANNIVERSARY

1776 - 2026



Pray for Our Associational Mission Trip July 19-24

That God will guide our team, keep us safe in our travels, open hearts to receive His message, and use us to be a blessing to those we serve. Pray that we would reflect Christ's love in all we do and return home encouraged by what God accomplishes through this journey.

Independence Day

LBA MISSION CENTER CLOSED JULY 6
WISHING YOU A SAFE AND JOYFUL
FOURTH OF JULY!

PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

We encourage you to remember our schools in your prayers as the new school year begins. Teachers return to school on July 27th, with the first day for students being August 4th.

You may also consider Prayer Walking the school closest to you now and throughout the entire school year.

Or adopt a school through the Hearts4schools program by visiting www.scbaptist.org/heart4schools/

ONE CHURCH ONE NIGHT WORSHIP

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LBA CHURCHES TO
GATHER AS ONE TO BE CHALLENGED &
ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY
WITH THE GOSPEL TOGETHER

30
AUGUST '26

**DAVIDSON
STREET
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
400 DAVIDSON
STREET, CLINTON

6 PM

JOIN US AT 5:15 PM TO BE
PART OF A COMBINED CHOIR!

GUEST SPEAKER:
PASTOR CHUCK SPROUSE
NINETY-SIX FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



“Avoiding Stupid”

Years ago, I heard a pastor make a statement about how we as humans often overreact to various situations in life. He said that the pendulum tends to swing “from stupid to stupid.” For whatever reason, that comment has stuck with me, and most of our pastors have probably heard me quote it many times. In other words, our human tendency is to react to situations that have not gone well by overreacting and moving to the opposite extreme. Then, realizing that the outcome on the other end did not yield the intended results, we allow the pendulum to swing back-you guessed it-to the other side of stupid.

There are many examples that most of us could point to that illustrate this tendency, whether in our personal lives, church life, political life, or just life in general. For me, it is perhaps most easily illustrated by my lack of discipline in my eating habits. In those moments after I have overindulged in some delicacy, I realize how foolish it was and decide that my next course of action will be too fast. That works until about dinner time, and then...I think you get the picture. A much better decision would be to enjoy the delights of food in moderation and avoid the extremes. All of us experience those kinds of moments in life, perhaps not with food, but in other areas.

In Matthew 16:6 Jesus tells his disciples to, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” In that warning, Jesus cautioned His disciples about the equally destructive extremes of legalism and liberalism. You see, the Sadducees were the liberals of Jesus’ day. They did not believe in angels, demons, or the resurrection of the dead. The old preacher's line that helps me remember them is that since they did not believe in the spiritual realm or a future resurrection, they were “sad-u-see.”

On the opposite end of the spectrum (can I say, on the other side of stupid?) were the Pharisees. As most of us are aware, they were the strict keepers of the Jewish law. In fact, they were so “spiritual” that they actually chose to add to the law in order to ensure that the law itself was not violated. This practice is often referred to as building a “hedge about the law.” They willfully added to the law with the intention of creating an extra buffer to help prevent anyone from violating the actual law. The hedge was enforced as if it were the law itself. They perfected their craft and added clarification concerning even the smallest details of keeping the law, all the way down to the number of steps one could take on the Sabbath.

Jesus told His disciples to be on guard against the “leaven” of both groups. Leaven is often mentioned in Scripture as a symbol of sin, but it is also used to describe something that permeates and influences the whole lump of dough. You cannot put a little leaven into something without affecting the whole thing.

Jesus was warning His disciples to avoid the tendency of liberalism to measure what God says alongside what culture is saying. When we give our secular culture that much of voice into what Scripture says, we will too often find ourselves allowing culture to take negate the clear teachings of Scripture. This is what is often referred to as the “slippery slope.” You compromise a little, and before long, you end up surrendering much more. We must be careful not to interpret Scripture according to the changing winds of culture.

On the other side of the pendulum is legalism. Legalism is a set of rules that man determines and then elevates to the authority of Scripture. It is sometimes exemplified by an attitude that says, “If you do not believe and interpret everything exactly as I do, then you don’t believe the Bible.” The legalistic side of the pendulum is much more of a danger to those of us who are Biblically conservative. Legalism establishes standards that are not clearly defined in Scripture and then requires others to adhere to those standards. Interestingly enough, Jesus never applauded the Pharisees for their zeal in adding to the law. Instead, He told them that their man-made rules placed burdens on people that they themselves were unwilling to bear (Matt. 23:4).

As we navigate our way through the summer and beyond this year, let us remember Jesus’ warning and seek to avoid sliding down the slippery slope of liberalism or sanctimoniously adding to Scripture and placing burdens on people that we are unwilling to help remove. The pendulum continues to swing, but let us avoid either of these extremes of “stupid.”

	Apr-May 2026	YTD May 2026	YTD May 2025
*Bar None Cowboy	-	-	65.22
Beaverdam	-	375.00	375.00
Bellview	4,735.62	10,953.80	10,591.23
Bethabara	-	10.00	-
Bethel	-	-	-
Beulah	1,756.02	4,231.15	4,176.25
Cedarwood	1,248.25	2,809.20	1,939.99
Chestnut Ridge	6,166.66	15,416.65	26,947.36
Clinton First	1,000.00	2,500.00	-
Community	300.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Cross Hill First	822.00	1,459.00	1,612.00
Davidson Street	880.95	1,362.10	1,655.57
Durbin Creek	324.85	665.11	730.80
Eastside	333.34	833.35	666.68
Fairview	534.40	1,336.00	-
Friendship	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,139.49
Gray Court First	-	200.00	200.00
Harmony	180.90	464.31	552.45
Henderson	761.01	1,857.20	1,684.52
Highland Home	375.00	375.00	375.00
Holly Grove	1,445.00	2,846.00	1,856.00
Hurricane	206.07	755.73	79.194
Joanna First	200.00	500.00	500.00
Lanford	275.00	650.00	625.00
Laurens First	3,504.97	8,675.34	6,605.66
Laurens Second	-	-	317.22
Lucas Avenue	583.34	1,166.68	1,435.91
Mt. Gallagher	600.00	1,500.00	2,100.00
Mt. Olive	200.00	500.00	500.00
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	-
Mountville	229.74	1,188.93	1,602.73
New Beginning	30.00	120.00	160.00
New Prospect	426.09	1,177.57	1,119.13
Northside	100.00	250.00	250.00
Pine Grove	584.68	1,807.30	1,579.51
Pleasant Grove	911.70	2,249.48	2,328.68
Poplar Springs	200.00	500.00	500.00
Princeton	414.04	1,080.16	824.83
Rabun Creek	627.73	1,360.77	868.61
Rosemont	987.00	2,257.00	2,385.00
Union	449.60	883.60	1,714.63
Upstate Church	-	-	2,000.00
Warrior Creek	-	-	1,166.63
Wayside	110.01	2,112.3	303.85
Welcome	374.12	690.84	681.72
TOTAL	34,378.09	79,008.50	86,118.61
Thank you for supporting Associational Missions by giving at least 3% of your undesignated offerings. * Other Church Starts			

CRISIS CENTER

Hours of Operation

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am - 11:30 am

July

Thursday, 2 - Chestnut Ridge

Tuesday, 7 - Bellview

Thursday, 9 - Rosemont

Tuesday, 14 - Rabun Creek

Thursday, 16 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, 21 - Hurricane

Thursday, 23 - Cedarwood

Tuesday, 28 - Holly Grove

Thursday, 30 - Second

August

Tuesday, 4 - Lucas Avenue

Thursday, 6 - Highland Home

Tuesday, 11 - Mt. Gallagher

Thursday, 13 - Cross Hill

Tuesday, 18 - Durbin Creek

Thursday, 20 - Martha Franks

Tuesday, 25 - Highland Home

Thursday, 27 - Poplar Springs

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

July Needs

Bath Soap & Toothpaste

August Needs

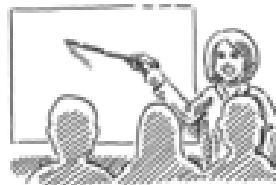
Dollar Tree Milk



Thank you

To the Laurens Post Office, carriers, and
individuals for donating food items to the
Post Office Food Drive!

HomeLife, Mature Living, & Devotionals are desperately needed



TEAM LEADER LUNCH & TRAINING

August 18th 11:30 am
LBA Mission Center

Connie Maxwell Children's Home

Be a Blessing to local children in need!
Collect your assigned item and bring to LBA
Mission Center by September 10.

Paper Plates - Beaverdam, Bellview, Bethabara, Bethel

Paper Towels - Beulah, Cedarwood, Chestnut Ridge

Liquid Hand Soap - Clinton 1st, Community, Cross Hill 1st, Davidson St

Body Wash - Durbin Creek, Eastside, Fairview, Friendship

Dryer Sheets - Gray Court 1st, Harmony, Henderson, Highland Home

Facial Tissue - Holly Grove, Hurricane, Joanna 1st

Shampoo - Lanford, Laurens 1st, Laurens Second

Conditioner - Lucas Ave., Mt. Gallagher, Mt. Olive, Mt. Pleasant

Toothpaste - Mountville, New Beginning, New Prospect, Northside

Toothbrush - Pine Grove, Pleasant Grove, Poplar Springs, Princeton

Deodorant - Rabun Creek, Rosemont, Union, Upstate Church

Bathroom Tissue - Warrior Creek, Wayside, Welcome

Church News

Cross Hill First presents Phillips & Banks and the Mylon Hayes Family in concert at Disciple's Trail on August 21st @ 6:30pm.

Lanford is seeking a church pianist. A typical week schedule includes Sunday morning worship @ 11:00 and choir practice on Wednesday evenings 6-7 pm. Other services may include funerals and weddings. Salary to be discussed. Please call Richard Cain at 864-981-2155 or by mail to the church at 104 Patterson Plant Rd, Enoree, SC 29335.

Items available at Mission Center for mission trips



Pillowcase dresses



Menstrual kits



Salvation Dolls

Limited quantities: First come, First Serve

Scheduled Meetings

- * Nominating Committee
August 4 @ 6:30 pm
- * Administrative Committee
August 13 @ 6:30 pm
- * Trustees Meeting
August 20 @ 5:30 pm

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



August 20th
10:00 am

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

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)



NEWSLETTER
Laurens Baptist Association
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U.S. Postage Paid
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