

# The Informer

What's happening this month

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JULY/2026



## STAFF

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REV. BLAIR M. SMITH,  
Senior Pastor

REV. CALEB BARTLETT  
Associate Pastor

REV. JARED KNIGHT  
Worship Pastor

REV. ANDY STOKES  
Counseling Pastor

DYLAN JACOBS  
Youth Leader

PAIGE YOUMANS  
Children's Director

PATTY HAMPTON  
Ministry Assistant

COLE HANCOCK  
Pianist

## FROM YOUR PASTOR



Hey church family, you have probably seen this image on many license plates over the last few months. It was created by our SC250 Commission to celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and also has the slogan “Where the Revolutionary War Was Won.” Though the last battle on American soil was in Yorktown, Virginia it was the battles in South Carolina that dealt the decisive blows to the British. The last battles in SC were not the only decisive ones, the first one was just as significant, and was the battle where the flag on the license plate was first flown. By 1776 the states had started to prepare defenses for the inevitable British attack. The initial British invasion involved sending troops North and South, to New York and Charleston. Their armada arrived in June of 1776 to take Charleston, but to get to it they would have to pass by a partially built fort on Sullivan’s Island with walls made of palmetto tree logs, sand, and a Colonel of the State who would not abandon what the Continental Army Commander had called a “slaughter pen.” The British may have found an unfinished fort, but they did not find unprepared volunteers, instead they found a brave regiment of SC volunteers who were ready. They were led by Colonel William Moultrie who was so prepared he even had a flag made. A dark blue flag with a white crescent containing the word “liberty.” Moultrie was a successful veteran and a revolutionary through and through. It was not only the leadership that had them ready, but a good many of the men had fought in the Anglo-Cherokee War as well. These men were prepared by time, experience, leadership, and their hearts were dead set on obtaining one thing: liberty.

British warships opened fire, but the palmetto logs were somewhat soft, so the cannon fire was reflected or absorbed, and the walls held. The 435 South Carolinians returned fire with great accuracy repelling the ships. The British tried to flank them by sending a few thousand on foot, but the water was too deep and then they got pinned down by fire from other South Carolinians.

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During the battle the flag was cut down by fire and landed outside of the wall. A man named William Jasper (who paid the ultimate price for liberty at a later battle) jumped over, retrieved the flag and raised it again igniting the spirit of the men around him. The British were repelled and had to go North to unite with the other invading force. The British sent a larger force in 1780 and eventually took Charleston starting their southern campaign which they ultimately lost in SC. There would have been no need for a Southern campaign had the British won on June 28; and there is no telling how that would have affected the decision of the states in July of 1776. The flag over the fort (known as the Moultrie flag) became the main inspiration for our state flag. It was flown at the first official victory over the British campaign, and the final three. We might not have our red, white, and blue flag, with its field of stars, today had that blue flag with its white crescent not stood beside it through those difficult years.

Here on our 250th Anniversary when British guns have long been silenced, the Devil is still firing his guns on the church; and specifically, the church in America. But I believe South Carolina Baptists are in a similar position as we were 250 years ago. That the devil and his demons will not find a fort unprepared, but a strong fort filled with saints who have been prepared by time, experience, and are equipped with great leaders. A fort filled with men and women who have already died to this world and their hearts are dead set on one thing: proclaiming the gospel. I believe South Carolina Baptists are poised to help lead this war of liberty for souls, but the question is: will we? Will each of us do our part where we are? Will each of us be determined to hold their position? Will we help each other hold their positions? Will we advance together? Will we stand on every word of Scripture? Will we get caught up in the politics or be devoted to prayer? Will we seek to only grow our own churches or see churches established across the land? Are we ready to fight not just for a night, but for the years to come? And if the flag falls, will we be the ones who drop down to pick it up?

During this semi quincentennial let us thank God for our nation, our state, and for the ones who died for it. May our God bless America, but may God bless South Carolina Baptists to stand together with greater fervor in the coming years, because the war for independence may be over, but the war against sin still rages, and new attacks are most certainly planned.

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:1-2*

In Christ's love,  
- Blair M. Smith

Love Jesus. Love One Another.

# Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
5/31/2026	129	157
6/7/2026	142	212
6/14/2026	125	212
6/21/2026	145	227



# Last Month...

## Finances (as of 6/23)

Budget Contributions	\$45,427.00
Budget Distributions	\$36,742.00
Restricted Contributions	\$22,492.00
Restricted Distributions	\$36,038.00



We now accept contributions directly through Zelle (no fees involved). If your bank uses Zelle, you can set up for a single or recurring transfer of funds. Just put in [irmobaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:irmobaptist@yahoo.com) as the email to send the contributions along with the amount. If you need assistance, contact Patty in the church office.

## New Members

James and Rose Hollister  
James Hollister (son)

**July Missions Focus**

PACK A SHOEBOX

**Due July 31st**

Donations being accepted to purchase items to go in shoe boxes

Samaritan's Purse  
OPERATION  
Christmas Child

**GRIEF SHARE®**

Grief Share is a 13 week Christian recovery support group to equip those in grief with some practical encouragement for their daily life.

**Come Join Us!**  
**Sundays at 3:30 pm**  
**Starting July 19th**

YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY

First Baptist Irmo

803-781-1345  
7068 Nursery Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29212

# Ministry Updates



## **Wednesday Night Dinner**

No Wednesday night dinners in July

## **AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON**

**Amazing Grays** will not meet in July.  
Join us again August 5.  
Good food, fellowship and entertainment.

# Ministry Updates

## Nursery Schedule

	<b>Sunday School (Babies)</b>	<b>Service (Babies)</b>
7/5/2026	Lindsey Smith and Trina Spires	John and Barbara Cooley
7/12/2026	Lynn and Hugh Mann	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes
7/19/2026	Karly and Brandon Carter	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford
7/26/2026	Pete and Paula Dent	Tim and Paige Youmans

	<b>Service (Toddlers)</b>
7/5/2026	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson
7/12/2026	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock
7/19/2026	Chris and Heather Fite
7/26/2026	John and Robbin Smith

\*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

# Ministry Updates

## Children's Ministry



The Children's Council would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make VBS a success, and all the families and friends who entrusted us with their children. Please continue to pray that the lessons taught and the fellowship shared further kingdom growth.

We will continue to offer missions-focused fun on Sunday evenings for the summer session starting at 5pm. The children learn about missionaries and mission field activities while enjoying time together. Thanks to Robbin for leading us each week - even getting soaked when heading up water day activities! Also, Wednesdays with Dylan will remain a part of the summer schedule as they have been a hit with the children. Meeting each Wednesday at 6pm, Dylan recaps the Sunday School lesson and coordinates games and crafts for fun and fellowship alongside the youth and college helpers. Thanks to Dylan and the young people in our church who have a heart to serve!

Upcoming activities include a churchwide roller skating trip in July and a back-to-school swim party in August with intermittent meetups/play dates sprinkled in. Please keep an eye out for more details once the dates are finalized. It's going to be a fun summer with our church family!

# Ministry Updates

## College Ministry



Our college students were able to participate in the blood drive as they finished up their spring semester. God is moving within the college students as they engage in discipleship opportunities, dive into the Word, and invite others to be on mission.

## Women's Ministry

Due to Summer Sessions meeting on Sundays, women's group will resume in August.

## WMU



Women of all ages are invited to join Women on Mission  
Tuesday, July 14th at 11:00 am

Join Women on Mission as we come together to celebrate Christmas in July and highlight two impactful mission projects: Gifts for Grands and Operation Christmas Child, sharing hope and joy at 11:00 am in Building 100.

# Ministry Updates

## Mission's Ministry

### Monthly Budgeting Tips

Every month, we will be going over budgeting (financial) tips to have financial peace (Dave Ramsey).

#### **This month we will be discussing “Shopping Around”.**

An example is the purchase of a coffin. At Costco, a coffin online is around \$1,300.00 including tax and shipping. Usually, a coffin starts at \$5,000.00 and up. The funeral homes have to accept it and are not supposed to charge additional fees.

We shop around to get better prices at different grocery stores. Publix has two for one and Walmart has the Great Value products which are always cheaper in price. In comparison, the brand name for cool whip is one dollar more than the Great Value brand at Walmart. Many times, brand names produce the Great Value brand products. Costco has items that cost less. I try to know the prices and buy whichever is the cheapest of the stores.

I try to always buy clothing items on sale. A few years ago, Belk had a big Charity Sale on shirts that usually cost \$32 each. They were on sale for \$8 each. I bought 10 of them.

I got an estimate on a retaining wall for \$28,000.00. I found someone whose estimate was \$4,000.00. When I put in a new drain, the first estimate was \$2,200.00 but I got it done for \$1,200.00. Try to get three estimates when making large purchases.

Verse 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

For any questions call Bruce Pharis at 803-730-3240.

# Ministry Updates

## Mission's Ministry



First Baptist Irmo had the opportunity to host a golf tournament to raise money for our missions ministries this year. Thanks to the charitable golfers, we were able to raise \$1,200 which will help impact our community and beyond! Thank God for the generous hearts of the golfers and thanks to all who helped volunteer and to our new golf buddies! The gospel was shared boldly and faithfully by Pastor Blair! Special shoutout to Chris Fite who spearheaded this event! Thanks to all who came out and golfed, supported, and gave their time to help make this event a success.



We were able to partner with the Red Cross and host a blood drive in the FLC! This event was amazing as we had many volunteers and donors. Because of generous donors, we collected 34 units which results in over 100 saved lives! This was a great opportunity to not only save lives by giving blood, but meeting spiritual needs as people were prayed over, prayed for, and people were invited to church. What an amazing time and we want to thank all the volunteers, the American Red Cross, the donors, and our community for showing up and donating. God was glorified during this event and we thank Him for all he is doing!

Thanks to Toni Wright for spearheading the blood drive!

# Ministry Updates

## Mission's Ministry

This July, our monthly mission focus is getting a head start on the holiday season with **Christmas in July: Sharing Hope Through Operation Christmas Child**, a global ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Every single shoebox we pack is a tangible expression of God's love. Each box opens the door for local church partners to share the life-changing message of the Gospel.

Look at the incredible kingdom impact made during the recent collection season:

- **12,205,900** boxes were distributed globally
- **10,906,661** boxes were distributed right here in the United States

Because of these efforts, over 23 million boys and girls had the opportunity to hear that Jesus loves them!

### **How You Can Participate This Month?**

- **Grab a Shoebox:** Pick up an official cardboard box in Building 100. You can also use any standard-sized cardboard or plastic shoebox from home.
  - **Pack with Purpose:** Choose a target age group (2–4, 5–9, or 10–14) and gender. Fill your box with a prominent "wow" toy like a soccer ball with a pump or a stuffed animal, along with school supplies and personal hygiene items.
- **Follow the Rules:** Please do not include candy, food, toothpaste, liquids, lotions, or scary items like toy weapons.
- **Meet the Deadline:** Please drop off your filled shoeboxes to **Building 100** no later than **Thursday, July 31st**.
  - **Give a Financial Gift:** If you prefer to skip the shopping lines, monetary donations are also gladly accepted! Your financial gifts help cover purchasing items to pack additional boxes as well as the shipping and ministry costs (\$10 per box) required to deliver these gifts around the world. You can give online or mark "Operation Christmas Child" on your giving envelope.
- **Pray Over Your Gift:** Before you seal your box, take a moment as a family to pray for the specific child who will receive it.

Let's work together to make an eternal impact, one box at a time!

# Member Birthdays in July



- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 – Duffy Spivey      | 19 – Joey Rushing          |
| 4 – Peggy Teague      | 21 – Missy Swofford        |
| 5 – Terry Helsley     | 21 – Greg Cockrell         |
| 6 – Jim Channell      | 21 – Aiden Gambrell        |
| 6 – Amy Struthers     | 22 – Mary Kaitlyn Bartlett |
| 8 – Patricia Weathers | 22 – Johnnie Frye          |
| 9 – Jason Cashatt     | 22 – Isaac Case            |
| 9 – Gene Rollins      | 23 – Linda Burriss         |
| 10 – David Maddox     | 23 – Sharon Marlowe        |
| 11 – Andrew Cook      | 24 – Brittany Hancock      |
| 14 – Martha Arthur    | 25 – Brenda Comer          |
| 14 – Emy Youmans      | 25 – Ray Koneval           |
| 15 – Judy Johnson     | 29 – Charlotte Shealy      |
| 16 – Chris Fite       | 30 – Judy Carter           |
| 17 – Amy Berube       | 30 – Wyman Cook            |
|                       | 30 – Jared Knight          |