

# The Informer

March/2026

What's happening this month

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*A family devoted to  
the Word, to Worship, to the  
Fellowship, & to the Ministry  
of the Gospel*

## STAFF

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REV. BLAIR M. SMITH,  
Senior Pastor

REV. CALEB BARTLETT  
Associate Pastor

REV. ANDY STOKES  
Worship Pastor

DYLAN JACOBS  
Youth Leader

PAIGE YOUMANS  
Children's Director

PATTY HAMPTON  
Ministry Assistant

COLE HANCOCK  
Pianist

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. - 1 Corinthians 9:19–21

Paul explains some ministry strategy and reasoning in this section that is usually summarized as: “To the Jew I’m a Jew, and to the Gentile I’m a Gentile.” His *strategy* is to not to adapt to the culture but to adapt to the context. (e.g. I’m not going to take my Jewish friend to a BBQ joint to share the gospel with him.) His reasoning is stated here but also at the end of the section very blatantly in vv.22-23: *I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*

In college when I was a youth volunteer at a church in Northeast Columbia the boys there skateboarded. I cannot skateboard, so I did what was wise... I bought a skateboard. Thankfully I survived. Still cannot skateboard. But in an effort to establish relationships and disciple I adapted to their context.

Now as a pastor at a growing Baptist church in 2026, I have to get out of my comfort zone and adapt to a technological culture; and not just me, but all of us. Nowadays the sign, front porch, entryway, and first impression of a church is the website. Also, nowadays a website is not just an information page, but a platform to connect with people; and that is what we want to be great at. Recognizing this and other technological/communication needs we have chosen to work with a company called Subsplash. This will be a platform for information, communication, and presentation where people can engage with our church. NOTE: This will not change our website address or replace our normal communications (you will still get emails).

What it will do though is simplify some of our main things. One example is our streaming. Currently we use one website (Vimeo) and then connect it to other platforms (like Facebook). Subsplash will become our streaming provider while also our website. Services will be more accessible and available to find. Currently for folks to research our services they have to dig around on the Vimeo link or scroll back on our FB page.

This technological move is ultimately based on one reason (as all we do should be, Lord willing), and that is as Paul wrote above: *for the sake of the gospel*. So pray that this change will be a blessing to our church to better equip us to reach the lost, and pray that it will too reach the hundreds of lost people who click on our webpage each month. This transition will be implemented later this month.

It is a great blessing to be your pastor and your partner in the gospel!

in Christ’s love,  
- Blair

Love Jesus. Love One Another.



7068 Nursery Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29212



803-781-1345



[www.firstbaptistirmo.org](http://www.firstbaptistirmo.org)

Last Month...

## Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
2/1/2026	0	171*
2/8/2026	143	214
2/15/2026	149	203
2/22/2026	150	205

\*Online Views



## Finances

Budget Contributions	\$ 69,510
Budget Distributions	\$ 58,826
Restricted Contributions	\$ 18,176
Restricted Distributions	\$ 20,436

New Members



Dary Linder




**Come Join Us!**  
**DIVORCE Care**<sup>®</sup>  
**Begins Sunday, March 15**  
**at 4:30 pm in Bldg. 100**  
*Support Group*  
 Divorce Care is a 13 week Christian support group for people to guide them on the path of recovery after separation or divorce.



First Baptist Irmo  
**GOLF**  
**Tournament**  
**Golfing for the Gospel**  
**Thursday, May 14th**  
*All proceeds go to mission trips.*

**FBI Golf Tournament "Golfing for the Gospel"**

We are planning a golf tournament for May 14 to raise money for our missions teams. If you are interested in planning or helping with this event there will be a short initial meeting after service this Sunday in the church parlor (beside the kitchen). Please see/call Chris Fite for information: (803)-354-6273



**Stained Glass Donations**  
 Donations can be Made:  
 In Honor or Memory  
 of a loved one  
 List will be published in the Special Bulletin for the sanctuary rededication service.

**Sanctuary Stained Glass Window Donations**

We will be getting 10 stained glass windows at a cost of \$4,100/window. Since members of our congregation have expressed an interest in donating directly to the costs of the windows, donations may now be made through the Church Office.

# Ministry Updates



## Wednesday Night Dinner

Dinner begins at 5:15 in the FLC. The price is \$8 for adults and children 12 and under eat free (no take-outs) with a max family cost of \$30. Please reserve your place by noon on the Monday before by calling the church office @ 803-781-1345, or signing up in your Bible Study class. Tickets will be handed out upon arrival.

March 4 – Baked Potato/Salad Bar, Dessert

March 11 – Eggs, Grits, Biscuits, Sausage

March 18 – Hamburgers, Pasta Salad, Dessert

March 25 – Hot Dogs, Chili, Baked Beans, Slaw, Chips, Dessert

## AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON



Wednesday, March 10, 2026 - 11:30 am in the FLC  
Bring a Covered Dish (meat provided) and invite a friend

The Amazing Grays program for this month will feature our own Brett DeYoung. You will enjoy hearing him sing “Southern Gospel”. Come enjoy the music, food and fellowship.

# Ministry Updates

## Nursery Schedule

	<b>Sunday School (Babies)</b>	<b>Service (Babies)</b>
3/1/2026	Lindsey Smith and Trina Spires	Barbara and John Cooley
3/8/2026	Brandon and Karly Carter	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes
3/15/2026	Jennifer Branham and Heather White	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford
3/22/2026	Pete and Paula Dent	Lisa and Olivia Dowden
3/29/2026	Lynn and Hugh Mann	John and Robbin Smith

	<b>Service (Toddlers)</b>
3/1/2026	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson
3/8/2026	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock
3/15/2026	Tim and Paige Youmans
3/22/2026	Nancy Hoover and Melissa McDonald
3/29/2026	Amy Gambrell and Julie West

\*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

# Ministry Updates

## College Ministry



Our college ministry went to the Converge Conference earlier this month in Myrtle Beach. They enjoyed time away from school with multiple breakout sessions, had great guest speakers, a great time of fellowship, and dug into the Word. This was a great time for them to reset while being asked where God is challenging them in their walk with him. The emphasis was on living a life for God no matter where he sends you. This was great for our students to hear and wrestle with as college midterms approach and summer creeps around the corner.

# Ministry Updates

## College Ministry



We also had the opportunity to serve our fellow students at the USC BCM. This was a great night as they had 3 rededications and 2 salvations! Pastor Blair preached both services and God used him in a mighty way as he shared the gospel and challenged the students! We served roughly 150 students BBQ from Hudson's. Our students got to engage in conversations with their fellow peers, serve them, and invite them to church and to our college group. What a night as the food was served, the gospel was preached, and God was glorified!



## Children's Ministry

Parent's Night Out  
Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM



Join Us for Our Children's Easter Egg Hunt!  
**Saturday, April 4 at 10AM**  
First Baptist Irmo  
7068 Nursery Road, Columbia SC

Open to children through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Easter Egg Hunt ○ Sweet Treats & Candy ○ Photo Ops ○ Fun & Smiles for All!

**June 15 - 19 5:30PM**  
First Baptist Irmo  
7068 Nursery Road, Columbia SC

Open to children through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Dinner included.



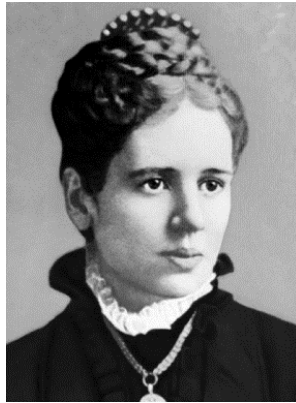
Questions? Contact Paige Youmans at [paige@firstbaptistirmo.org](mailto:paige@firstbaptistirmo.org) or (803)781-1345.

# Ministry Updates

## Mission's Ministry

### March Mission Focus

#### What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?



The offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Annie was born in Baltimore at a time when there was little opportunity for women. Yet, her devotion to Christ led her to a life of service and leadership. She organized women to pray, to give and to meet the needs around them. She challenged pastors and churches to action and rallied vital support for missionaries. Ultimately, Annie was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer for her visionary leadership that still inspires millions today.

Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the gospel. Join us March 8<sup>th</sup> for our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering March for Missions. Your generosity is more than a gift.

# Ministry Updates

## Mission's Ministry



Each year around Easter, we observe the **Week of Prayer for North American Missions** by praying for missionaries, their ministries, and their families.

North American missionaries take the gospel to unreached communities throughout the US and Canada. They depend on our prayers to open hearts and help them disciple new believers.

To fuel their work, missionaries also need our gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. You can play a role in North America missions by praying and giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Every dollar given equips missionaries, plants churches and helps reach people with the hope of Jesus. March 1-8, we will observe the Week of Prayer; concluding with our March for Missions on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

# 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 different type of AUTO INSURANCE. There are three types of auto insurance you need:

1. Liability -which pays for someone else's injury or property damage you caused.
2. Comprehensive – to pay for fire, theft and windshield damage for your car.
3. Collision – to repair your car in an accident.

You also need underinsured and uninsured insurance because there are numerous people who don't have car insurance or don't have enough car insurance.

In past years when a car got older, people would drop their comprehensive and collision, because cars were a lot cheaper. I recommend having both these insurances. In the past, old cars might only be worth \$700 and now that same car might be worth \$3000. Do not get credit life insurance on your car because it is expensive. Just use regular term life insurance.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty (plan out a defensive plan to retain your money).

We are thinking about teaching a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace class in the future. Let Bruce Pharis (803-730-3240) know if you are interested.

# Member Birthdays in March



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Connie Spivey     | 17 – Elizabeth Gregory |
| 3 – Greta Sikes       | 17 – Jim Logan         |
| 4 – Deborah Atkinson  | 18 – Eli Criminger     |
| 4 – Vicki Lindsey     | 18 – Summer Pearrow    |
| 4 – Lindsey Smith     | 19 – James Causey      |
| 4 – Wyatt Speicher    | 20 – Bethany Hancock   |
| 5 – Carol Taylor      | 22 – Janice Peed       |
| 7 – Danny Swofford    | 24 – Kady Channell     |
| 12 – Sarah Smith      | 24 – John Firestone    |
| 12 – John Smith       | 24 – Trina Spires      |
| 12 – Carter White     | 25 – Alex McDonald     |
| 14 – Brooks Criminger | 25 – Elsie Hancock     |
| 14 – Cole Hancock     | 25 – Kevin Becknell    |
| 14 – Wayne Speicher   | 26 – Kim Hannon        |
| 15 – Linda Young      | 26 – Jan Binnicker     |
| 15 – Bruce Estabrooks | 28 – Charlee White     |
| 16 – Toni Cockrell    | 29 – Margaret Stagg    |
| 16 – Janet Davis      | 31 – Carlene Smith     |
| 17 – Jennifer McGhee  | 31 – Gilbert Marlowe   |
| 17 – Isaiah Paredes   |                        |