# The Informer

What's happening this month

**October/2026**




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

**STAFF**

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

***…And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*** **- Acts 2:47**

One thing the Scriptures are clear about: God grows the church.

Programs don't grow the church. Events don't grow the church. Instruments don't grow the church. Committees don't grow the church. Buildings don't grow the church. Pastors don't grow the church. Members don't grow the church. God grows the church.

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 says: *[5] What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. [6] I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

All the things of the church and the church itself are just tools in God's hand. (And may He continue to use all our programs, events, instruments, committees, buildings, pastors, and members as tools for the kingdom!)

We have seen growth these past few weeks (and years!) and it is His doing not ours. All we are doing is being His church. And what did Acts say? He added to what? *"Their number."* God started First Baptist Irmo as His church, and if we continue to be His church then He will continue to add to it. Will you join with me in prayer today that God would use us in a mighty way for the growth of His church?

It is a joy to be a partner with you in the gospel.

In Christ's love,
- Blair M. Smith

Love Jesus. Love One Another.

# Last Month…

## Attendance

| | Sunday School | Worship |
|---|---|---|
| 9/6/2026 | 147 | 265 |
| 9/13/2026 | 144 | 264 |
| 9/20/2026 | 172 | 242 |
| 9/27/2026 | - | - |



## Finances (as of 9/25/26)

| | |
|---|---|
| Budget Contributions | $48,759.00 |
| Budget Distributions | $39,438.00 |
| Restricted Contributions | $15,787.00 |
| Restricted Distributions | $35,952.00 |

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 as the email to send the contributions along with the amount. If you need assistance, contact Patty in the church office.

## New Members

Aiden Stone, Carter Stone, Patricia Weller; Rod and Lois Sheldon; Cori, Tori, Emma, Ella Andrews; Kyle and Danelle Reber; Dan and Myra Catoe; Samuel Cleveland



# 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.

October 7 – Hamburgers, Pasta Salad, Dessert

October 14 – Subs, Chips, Dessert

October 21 – Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert

October 28 – Sloppy Joes, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert

## AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, October 7 - 11:30 am - FLC**
**Bring a covered dish (meat provided) and invite a friend**

Amazing Grays is our Senior Adult group. We invite you to join us for fellowship, wonderful food and a great program. Our program this month will be Jared's sister and brother-in-law, Aimee and Jonathan Hoyle. Jonathan is the worship pastor for one of the campuses of Abilene Baptist in Augusta. Jonathan plays piano and they both sing. Come and be blessed by this gifted couple.

# Ministry Updates

## Nursery Schedule

| | Sunday School (Babies) | Service (Babies) |
|---|---|---|
| 10/4/2026 | Lindsey Smith & Trina Spires | Amy Gambrell and Julie West |
| 10/11/2026 | Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes | Nancy Hoover and Deborah Atkinson |
| 10/18/2026 | Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford | Tim and Paige Youmans |
| 10/25/2026 | Brooks Criminger and Kassidy Padget | Brandon and Karly Carter |

| | Service (Toddlers) | Sunday Evening |
|---|---|---|
| 10/4/2026 | Eric & Lisa Dowden | Veronica Watson |
| 10/11/2026 | Ashley Stone and Veronica Watson | Katherine Green |
| 10/18/2026 | John and Robbin Smith | Tracy Cook |
| 10/25/2026 | Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock | No evening nursery – fall fest |

*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom



# Ministry Updates

## Children's Ministry



Please be praying for these volunteers as we begin our Good News Club this semester which runs from September to the end of October. Pray for the students, the volunteers, and for the gospel to go forward and be planted in their hearts!




We will host our annual Fall Fest on Sunday, October 25, 3-5pm. This community event offers lots of excitement including trunk or treat, bounce houses, hay rides, and more. We are accepting candy donations and volunteers for trunks. Invite the community - spread the word, so we can spread the Word.

## College Ministry

We are excited as Samuel Cleveland joined the church this month! What an exciting time in the life of our college students! Please be praying for them as they study for tests, engage in gospel conversations, and are a light to our community!

# 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**
**"Dave Ramsey's negative and positive words"**

Negative Words: credit life insurance, co-signing, time shares, new car (if assets under one million), money telling you what to do, entitled, whole life, and credit cards

Positive Words: good steward of God's money, credit union, God owns everything, content, thankful, debit card, used cars, living below means, shop around, estimates, building wealth slowly, 15-year mortgage, pay off house, pay cash, you tell your money what to do, tithe, keep it simple, to do list, written budget.

Proverbs: 17:18 One who has no sense shakes hand in pledge and puts up security for a neighbor. (It is stupid to guarantee someone else's loan)

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

# Ministry Updates

## WMU

**This month's topic:** Are you ready to hear how God has worked through the lives of two Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCMGO) students who answered the call to GO. TELL. SERVE?

Erin Donnelly served on a 2-week trip to Bangkok, Thailand and Evan Butler served for 8 weeks with GenSend in San Diego, California.





BCMGO is a missions mobilization initiative supported by the South Carolina Baptist Convention. It empowers and equips college-aged men and women across the state to engage in local, national and international missions.

BCMO encourages students to respond to God's call to "go" by serving in various mission opportunities during the summer, a semester, or year. These opportunities are designed to help students grow spiritually, serve effectively, and share the gospel boldly. A portion of your contribution to the Janie Chapman March for Missions helps fuel these opportunities.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am. So, mark your calendars! Tuesday, October 13th, at 11:00 am, it is over in Building 100. We have a seat for you and can't wait to see hear how God is working in the lives of Erin and Evan.

# Member Birthdays in October




**1 – Andy Stokes**

**1 – Marvin McGhee**

**1 – Randy McJunkin**

**1 – Dan Catoe**

**2 – Tallulah Criminger**

**2 – Estamel Benton**

**8 – Rebecka Paredes**

**8 – Kim Oakley**

**9 – Wayne Speicher**

**9 – Lee Kaiser**

**10 – Christine Alred**

**11 – Felton Stephenson**

**13 – Roger Hancock**

**16 – Les Mikulecky**

**17 – Brayden Knight**

**19 – Patti Pharis**

**19 – Gene Rudisill**

**20 – Toni Wright**

**25 – Caroline Watson**

**25 – Sonny Young**

**26 – Phyllis Blizzard**

**31 – Hannah Parker**

**31 – Cat Zavoras**