

# Santee Baptist Association

A network of Baptist congregations cooperating to share the transforming message of Jesus Christ.

January 2017

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## Fishers of Men By Pastor John Sorrells

A friend took me fishing last month at Lake Wateree. We talked about church. We talked about our mutual love for God's people and a desire to see God do great things through His church. We long to behold His glory. We spoke of the church's purpose lead people to and grow people in Christ.

We were watching the birds flying all over the lake and it reminded me of some vivid pictures of our church in this community. The birds come to Wateree in the winter for food. The circle of life works this way: the stripers chase the shad to the top where the birds feed also on the shad. Men look for the birds to catch the stripers. From a boat you can observe several things. Birds that the fishermen call scouts fly up and down the lake seeking the disturbance of water. Often the birds flock together encircling something that appears to be activity. It often ends up being a loon. Here's the take on the loon. There are shad there, but the loon dives deep to feast. I will address that later. It is unmistakable when finally a real feeding frenzy is observed on the top of the water. All the birds within sight come to where the food is readily available. They come quickly. Boats also motor to the spot with eager, ecstatic fishermen.

Many in the world are spiritually hungry whether they are cognizant of it or not. In all cultures we find many flying from frenzy to frenzy in search of meaning in life. There are frenzies that offer a smorgasbord of the spiritual—other religions, philosophies, mysticism, cults and paganism. For some, they may find that others are feeding but they have no means to feed. Like gulls among loons, there is food but it is too deep for them to come to the table. The content or the approach may be too deep and they are left searching with empty souls. There are others, in the case of the gulls the majority, who spot the frenzy that only shad on top of the water can produce, and they flock there to gorge themselves on the abundance of food being offered at the top, readily available. Here is the takeaway for the church in 2017.

The church has to be where the food is readily available to all. The church is where the food, God's word of Truth, is feasted upon and available to others throughout the world. The result of a church feeding together on Truth should impact its community. The church must produce scouts who go out into our community and constantly point the searching to where there is abundance of truth. Our feasting upon truth will grow us all and will create a frenzy that attracts the hungry to feed with us. Come and eat! Invite others to the table. Help others to feed.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Col. 1:28*



## RESTORE: Pastor & Wife Retreat

**Sonesta Resort, Hilton Head Island**  
**February 24-26, 2017 Cost:\$300**  
 Register at [www.wcbaptist.org](http://www.wcbaptist.org)

**RESTORE** is a weekend retreat for Pastors and their wives!

**LOCATION:** The Sonesta Resort-130 Shipyard Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Enjoy a weekend away together seeking God in one of South Carolina's most beautiful places. You will be led by noted pastor and psychologist, Dr. Charles Lowery. You will have the opportunity to meet other pastors and their wives from all over South Carolina.

Meals included in the \$300 price are Dinner Friday night, Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday, and Breakfast on Sunday. Saturday afternoon and evening you are on your own for a "date" night.

### John 1:1- 5 In A Nutshell

by Bill Langford

*The Word of God is God*

And

*The Word of God is the Light of God*

And

*The Word of God is the Light of the world*

And

*The Word of God created the world of man*

And

*The Light of the Word came into the world*

**So That**

*The man of the world might have Life.*

### Crisis Closet 2017 Schedule

Month	Church
January	Sumter First / Home Branch
February	Grace
March	Alice Drive
April	Long Branch / Westside
May	Shaw Heights / Graham
June	Pinewood
July	Northside
August	Sumter First
September	Bethel / Dalzell
October	Providence / Grace
November	New Salem / Summerton
December	Southside / Paxville

**Hours of operation:** The Crisis Closet receives clothing on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM and they give out clothing on Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 AM.

**Address:** 36 Artillery Drive, Sumter, SC 29150

**Phone:** (803) 775-3147

# Creative MINISTRIES FESTIVAL

March 10 – 11, 2017

Rawlinson Road Baptist, Rock Hill SC

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR:

DRAMA  
PUPPETS  
CLOWNS  
INTERPRETIVE MOVEMENT  
OUTREACH

Bring your team, learn new pieces, perform with your group, & showcase what you learned at the community block party.

### Friday:

7:00 pm Performance Showcase

### Saturday:

8:30 am Registration begins

9:00 am Opening Worship

9:40 am Conference 1

10:45 am Conference 2

11:50 am Lunch (on your own)

1:15 pm Conference 3

2:25 pm Closing Challenge

3:30 – 5:30 pm Block Party

### Cost:

**\$35 per person by 2/10/2017**

**\$45 per person after 2/10/2017**

*Group discount for 10+: \$5 per person*

**\$50 per person at the door**

*No refund after 2/17/2017*

*Requests must be received in writing by 2/7/2017*

### For More Information, visit:

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

[www.scbaptist.org/worship](http://www.scbaptist.org/worship)

### or contact

Worship & Music office  
at 803-227-6168

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Rev. James Melton	January 6
Rev. Dearld Sterling	January 8
Rev. Esta Gilly	January 23
Rev. Ron Taylor	January 25
Rev. Neil Sweet	January 28

### Anniversaries

Rev. Larry & Pat Kennedy	January 28
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### Pastoral Church Anniversaries

Rev. Jimmy & Lynn Holley	January 1
Rev Dan & Shannon Nichols	January 1
Rev. James& Lynn Melton	January 2
Rev. Ben & April Hill	January 4

## Upcoming Events

<b>Office Closed</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday	January 16
<b>Sanctity of Human Life</b>	January 17
<b>Focus on WMU Week</b>	February 5 – 12
<b>Executive Team Meeting</b>	February 9
<b>WMU Celebration &amp; Salad Supper</b> Grace Baptist	February 16, at 7:00 PM
<b>Children's Ministry Day</b>	February 18
<b>Office Closed</b>	February 20
<b>Ministers Conference</b> Assoc. Office, (breakfast included)	February 21
<b>Season of Prayer</b> North American Missions	March 5 – 12
<b>Ministers Conference</b> Assoc. Office, (breakfast included)	March 21
<b>SC WMU Missions Encounter</b> First Baptist, Boiling Springs	March 24 – 25
<b>Cooperative Program Day</b>	April 9
<b>SBA WMU Spring Meeting</b> Providence Baptist	April 20, at 7:00 PM



JANUARY 2017						
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FEBRUARY 2017						
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MARCH 2017						
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