



From the Pastor

Friends,

This past week Lelia and I took Hattie to the church for her first day of preschool. This day came with many of the expected emotions. We recognized again that time passes far too quickly. We grieved the season when only we cared for her, and we recognized how much help our parents must have needed raising us. Yes, there was the expected level of stress as we scrambled to get Hattie's bag together and put her in the perfect outfit for a "first day of preschool" photo. Perhaps she was nervous. Perhaps she had eaten too much that morning, but of course this process required a change of clothes for both Hattie and me.

As students and teachers have headed back into the classroom, I am reminded of the wonderful potential that can be unlocked when a new year and a new chapter begins. This is no less true when the church begins a new program year. I feel so much excitement as we come back together after our summer vacations, as we rethink some of our traditional program opportunities, and as we begin new opportunities for children and young adults. I am also excited by opportunities to clarify and more closely follow the mission to which we are called.

I hope you will plan to join us for Reconnect Sunday on Sunday, September 11 to get a taste of the excitement yourself. We will gather around the tables for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. We will then share a combined Bible study time in the Fellowship Hall as Bridget and I preview opportunities for you to be involved in ARBC's ministries throughout the year. Finally, we will share a time of worship together that will inspire us to move into the world reminded of the covenant God has made with us and with the world.

As we think of opportunities to work with God beyond the walls of our church in this new church year, let me encourage you to give to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions throughout September. Recently Jay Kieve, Coordinator of the CBF of SC, joined us in worship to thank us for our mission involvement through CBF, and to share with us information about the ministries at Metanoia in North Charleston and at Palmetto Works. These are just two of the important ministries supported through the Beverly Greer Offering that work for the education and development of the children and teens with whom they work. As we give to this offering, and as we work to meet our goal of raising \$1,600, we remember how important it is for us to work to make life better for the next generation.

As we begin a new year and a new season, I would challenge you to consider how God might be leading you to grow deeper in your faith in the days ahead. Perhaps it is time for you to become involved in a Bible study when, until now, you have only joined us for worship. Perhaps it is time for you to find a place of service and mission involvement. Perhaps it is time for you to officially join the family of faith at Augusta Road Baptist Church. Whatever it might mean for you to commit to growing deeper in your faith, I pray that you to follow God's leadership.

I look forward to seeing where God will lead us all during this new church year. May God bless us and our ministry together.

Peace,

Rev. W. Mattison King