



2026 Church Guide

State Goal:
\$2,222,000

Go Boldly
Ephesians 6:19-20



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South Carolina Baptists,

South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union has a rich history of supporting state missions.

In 1884, the Baptist Woman's Missionary Societies of South Carolina donated \$70.34 to the State Mission Board. In 1902, the organization was renamed South Carolina Woman's Missionary UnionSM (SC WMUSM), with Janie Chapman as its first president. To honor her significant contributions to missions, the state missions offering was named in her honor.

Every year, the Janie Chapman OfferingSM helps South Carolina Baptists reach their lost neighbors, plant churches, send missionaries, serve communities in crisis, and much more. Each year in South Carolina, we see lives transformed by the Gospel and people responding in obedience to God. Much of this is made possible by your giving to the Janie Chapman Offering.

How does the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions make a difference?

- Church Planting Team - They help new churches to be planted throughout our state so that more people can be reached with the Gospel.
- Strong Team - They help churches develop a strong disciple-making culture inside the church walls.
- Share Team - They equip and encourage SC Baptists to share with the 4 million people in SC who are not engaged in a local church.
- Shepherd Team - They help pastors and churches follow the Great Commandment and advance the Great Commission together.
- Missions Mobilization Team - They help every church be missional, sending workers and making disciples in our state, country, and world.
- Serve Team - They help churches find ways to show God's love by meeting tangible needs in their communities.

This year, we have set a goal of \$2.222 million, and it will take our entire family of churches working together to reach it so we can see more people across our state reached with the gospel. Let's join in praying that God would do something among this generation of missionaries we have never seen before.

For more resources, visit www.janiechapmanoffering.org

On Mission Together,

Jess Archer

**Executive Director-Treasurer
South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union**

Who was Janie Chapman?

In 1902, Janie Chapman became the first president of South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union and served for 22 years. She was a natural leader, skillful teacher, and had a deep love for missions. This passion for reaching the lost caused her to emphasize the importance of studying missions in order to see increased prayer and giving for missions.

Janie Chapman was said to be a woman of strict discipline with inner strength and a gentle spirit. Her personal motto was 1 Corinthians 15:58, "So then, Christian brothers, because of all this, be strong. Do not allow anyone to change your mind. Always do your work well for the Lord. You know that whatever you do for Him will not be wasted." She gave us an example of a woman who lived out this Scripture as she paved the path for future generations to engage in missions learning, praying, giving, and going.



About the Janie Chapman Offering & Season of Prayer for State Missions

In 1899, Baptist women in South Carolina voted to establish the first state missions offering and in 1908, a season of prayer was begun to encourage Baptists to pray for the work God was doing throughout the state.

In 1937, the offering was named after Janie Chapman to honor her strong commitment to missions. The offering served as a catalyst for missions within our state and continues in this role today.

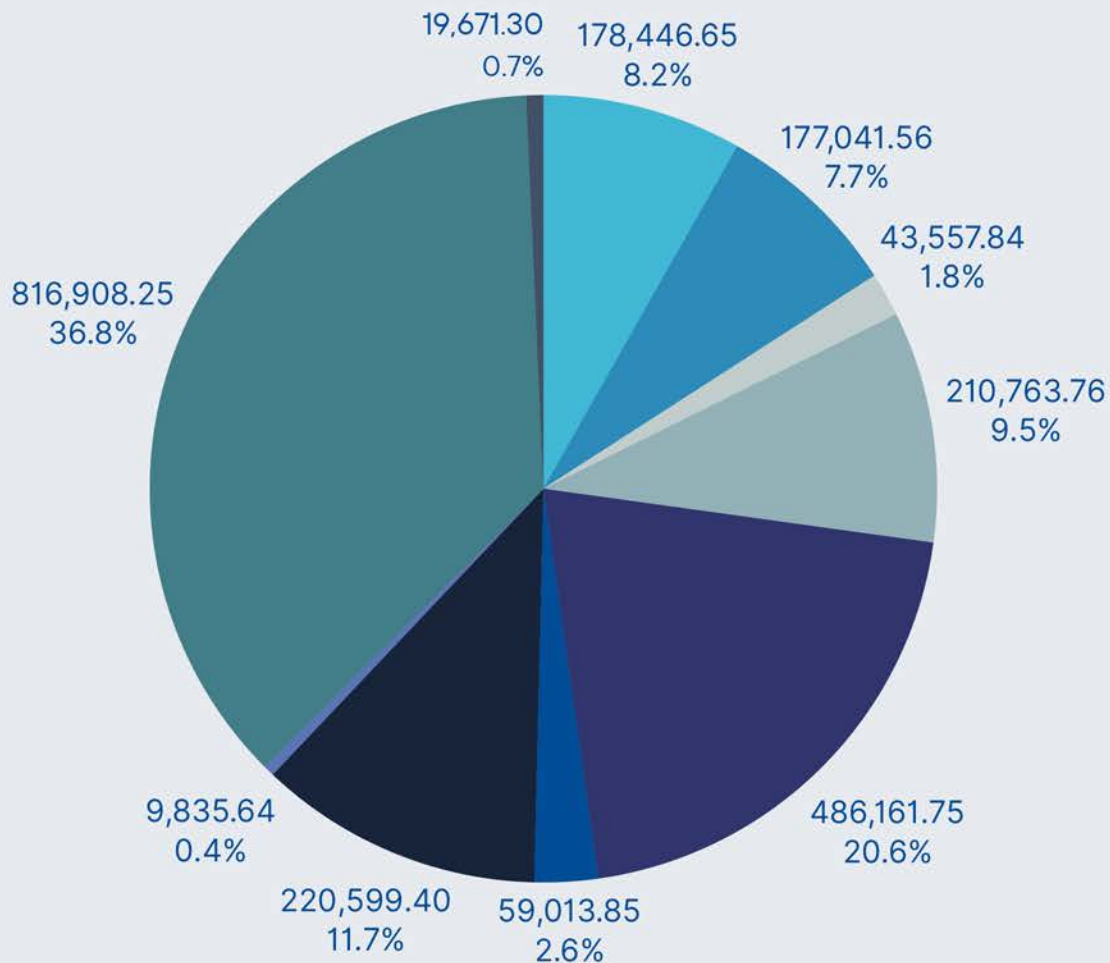
The Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions helps support missions efforts across South Carolina. Each year, we spend one week in September highlighting how the Janie Chapman Offering is used, as well as praying for all God is doing around our state. The hope of the Gospel is made known because of your faithful generosity and prayers!



How is the Janie Chapman Offering Used?

2026 Offering Goal: \$2,222,000

2026 Offering Allocation



Advance Strategy Premiere Learning Event

Serving Communities

Sharing Hope

Shepherding Pastors

Sending Workers

Starting New Work

Strengthening Churches

Associational Partnerships

Telling the Story

Woman's Missionary Union

2026 Focus Stories

God is using the generosity of SC Baptists to further the Great Commission around our state and abroad. The following pages contain stories of how your church's giving to the Janie Chapman Offering has encouraged ministry leaders, impacted lostness, mobilized the next generation, and much more. Each of these stories will be highlighted on one day during our week of prayer.

Planting ReFuel Church

The Impact of Faithful Interim Pastors

Twenty Years as a Volunteer BCM Director

Living Intentionally After Palmetto Collective

Community Engagement through Heart4Schools

Thrive Training - Next Gen Ministry Pipeline

Already in the Field: One Student's Call to Ministry

Slavic Churches Take Root in the Upstate

As you read these stories of how God is at work around our state, make sure to spend time praying through the prayer points at the end of each section!

To view the corresponding videos for these stories or for other resources, visit www.janiechapmanoffering.org

WHAT'S BEST FOR THE KINGDOM: PLANTING REFUEL CHURCH

"On our launch day, I was praying that somebody would just show up," T.J. Terrell said. "We had just a little over 100 people." Terrell launched ReFuel Church in Greer, South Carolina, after connecting with the South Carolina Baptist Convention's church planting team.

He first felt the call to ministry at 18, sharing that he was "a young man in college sifting through the Word while everybody else as doing what any other college freshman would do." Pursuing the calling through time spent in Scripture and through a mentor, he felt the Lord telling him the time had come. "I did my first public sermon the following year in October of 2013 and have been preaching ever since then.

After spending time as an interim and then lead pastor at another church, he felt the Lord calling him to church planting. "I had no idea what that looked like or where to go, how to even start," Terrell said. "I prayed about it, had my wife pray about it, and sought out mentors." Once he found out about the church planting team at SCBaptist, he submitted an application, and quickly found a mentor in Chris Jackson, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church.



Connecting to Plant

Although only a mile down the road from one another, Terrell and Jackson had never met. "It was very interesting to see, here's this guy that's a mile and a half down the road that because of just busyness and circumstances, I never connected with," Jackson said.

Riverside Baptist had supported a church plant in the 80's, but this was the first time they developed a residency program to directly equip and send out a future church planter. "It's really exciting to see this grow and to be able to weekly see how God is using Pastor T.J. in the start of ReFuel Church and now in the success of what God's doing with ReFuel Church," Jackson said.

Sending is part of Riverside's DNA. In nearly 50 years, the church has sent more than 50 people into ministry including Jackson himself, who was sent out from Riverside before returning as lead pastor in 2016. "What we say at Riverside is what's best for the Kingdom is best for Riverside," Jackson said. "And if that means 30 people walking out of the door to go be part of a church plant, we're for that." That conviction is what made the residency program a natural next step to be an extension of what the church already believed.

Strengthened in Differences

For Terrell, the yearlong program provided an opportunity to sit down with other local pastors and learn about ministry in a different context than he knew. "Growing up in a Black church, we do things a lot different than we would in a predominantly white church," Terrell explained. "We're still preaching Jesus, but just learning how to do ministry a different way. Learning the nuances and the different avenues of how we approach ministry."

The learning curve wasn't always easy. Jackson admitted the cultural differences were "at first a little bit of a hinge point" and that the Convention connected them with other pastors who'd navigated similar cross-cultural partnerships



But working through differences provided a learning opportunity for Riverside Baptist as a whole. "Because of the logistics and the demographics around our area, primarily we're Caucasian as a whole," Jackson said. "So Pastor T.J. coming in and helping us see things from a different perspective was really just such a blessing."



Reaching People in Greer

"The thing about Pastor T.J. that's always been so obvious to me is he has a heart to reach people with the Gospel and to lovingly care and minister to those people," Jackson said.

In Greer, Terrell shared that the area ReFuel Church is aiming to reach is called Sunnyside. He described it as an area that could be seen as declining, but their hope is to bring revitalization and new life. "We thought that would be a nice area to go do ministry and allow that area to come back up and have some Gospel believers within that side," Terrell said.

One unique aspect of the church is that from the launch date, the worship service provided an American Sign Language translator. "Just because of us having an interpreter, we've seen the increase in deaf people being able to come," Terrell said. "Not many churches service the Deaf community, so people are coming simply because we have an interpreter and so they feel included within a worship service."

Getting More Done Together

The connection to Riverside Baptist has continued to support ReFuel in their early months. Riverside shares their building and, through relationships with other churches in the Three Rivers Baptist Association, helped resource everything from musical instruments to outreach opportunities in the community.

"Our church supports not only through our facility, but through financial giving," Jackson said. "So by putting dollars behind our mouths, we have come alongside and tried to be a part of what ReFuel is doing to reach the community."

Alongside church partnerships, ReFuel is also supported by the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions. "The Janie Chapman Offering is unbelievable. It helps church planters like myself and others to be able to know that there doesn't have to be a strain or a burden when it comes to doing ministry," Terrell said.

He has already felt the weight of that blessing in tangible ways. "Thanks be to God, we're able to be here and able to do ministry and not have to worry about the stress," he said. Without the financial burden on their shoulders, "we're able to get things done more effectively and efficiently."

Even though ReFuel Church is a recipient of the offering, they already see the importance of sacrificial giving. "They say that 'churches plant churches.' With the Janie Chapman Offering, we're able to be not only recipients of that, but we're also able to give to help another young church planter."

Prayer Points:

- Pray for ReFuel Church as it reaches the Sunnyside area, that many would come to know Christ and grow as disciples.
- Pray for fruitful partnerships between church plants and sending churches as they work together to advance the Gospel.
- Pray for the Janie Chapman Offering to continue meeting practical needs and removing financial barriers for ministry.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN SEASONS: THE IMPACT OF FAITHFUL INTERIM PASTORS

"The interim pastor period in a church is vitally important," Brian Saxon, SCBaptist Shepherd Team Leader, said. "There is a great opportunity for change in those seasons."

That season arrives differently for every church, Saxon explained. Sometimes a church is saying goodbye to a well-loved leader after a decade of faithful ministry, or sometimes a church conflict reaches a breaking point. But Saxon has seen enough transitions to know that this period of time matters more than most churches expect.

"Because you're short-term as an interim, some churches think you can only have short-term impact," Saxon said. "But what I have found in so many churches, is that the interim pastor can almost be a catalyst for what is to come."

It is a conviction that SCBaptist has invested in through an interim shepherd training program, equipping pastors to step into an often-challenging moment for a church and lead it to health.

Becoming an Interim Pastor at El Bethel

When Pastor Benjamin Littlejohn arrived as the interim at El Bethel Baptist in July of 2020, he had been through that training twice. The church had experienced some challenges and was down to around 40 members.

Littlejohn remembers sitting down with deacons when he first came on. "They said, 'Hey, we got our work cut out for us,' and we did," he said. "I came and did what I'd been trained to do. Knowing they'd been through rocky times, I spent almost a year just listening, preaching, and loving." His primary goal was to meet the people where they were. "The old adage is so true; people don't care what you know until they know how much you care."

Meeting the Church Where They Are

Another significant moment for Littlejohn was realizing that the church needed to acknowledge something the congregation hadn't been able to name. "In the departure of their former pastor, they had to see it was okay to grieve. They didn't know they could do that," he said. He recognized this was a process that would take some time to work through. "For 20 years, you're used to sitting in the same chair beside the same people, seeing the same face, hearing the same voice, and then boom, the next Sunday he's gone for good," Littlejohn said.



"The role is to love them where they are. So, when I got here, that's what we did." It was only after about a year that the church leadership moved into evaluation and planning for the future. The questions no one wanted to answer rose to the surface. Littlejohn recalled asking, "Should we close? Should we merge? Should we begin again?"

Making Plans for the Future

After laying a relational foundation, the real assessment began. "I handed about a 15- or 17-page document on what I saw they needed to improve on," he said. Littlejohn was worried the church would be upset. He told them, "This is just a love letter. You may not see the love in it, but I'll promise you there's love on every page and every sentence."

This is where Littlejohn began to focus the church outward rather than inward. "We started stressing outreach and discipleship. We started prayer walks. We started mission trips. We started getting involved in the community," he said.

All the while, they continued to pray and ask the Lord for direction. "I'm telling you, here we are today because of God's people and God's prayer," he said.

Transitioning the Pastorate

When the church began interviewing Jonathan Baldwin for the pastorate, Baldwin felt the impact Littlejohn had on the church immediately. "In one of those interviews, I asked them, 'Why are you talking to me, and why haven't you hired Dr. Littlejohn?'" Baldwin said. "But they said, 'He's not the one being called.'" Littlejohn had made it clear that the Lord had called him to be an interim for a season, setting the church up for healthy future growth.



And the church did grow under Littlejohn's leadership. When Baldwin accepted the role of pastor, the church had gone from about 40 members to around 100. "Not only did Littlejohn take a church that was dying and build it back up, but he was also able to help them focus more on giving to missions," Baldwin said.

While also paying down the church's debt, there was a renewed effort to reach the nations with the Gospel through sacrificial giving. "The goals that he set and the people meeting those goals to give to Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Janie Chapman—he set a precedent there," Baldwin said. "It's something that I'm just so happy to take the baton and carry forward his heart for missions and getting the Gospel out."

Set Up for Success

For Littlejohn, the four years he spent as interim at El Bethel Baptist can be easily summed up. "In a short tale, we just loved the people, preached the Gospel, opened the doors, and people decided to come," Littlejohn said.

Baldwin attributes it all to the Lord working through and utilizing ordinary faithfulness. "You can fill the pulpit and have people come in and preach, but to have someone who is intentional and trained come in, it helps so much for someone like me," he said.

Saxon hopes that as SCBaptist intentionally trains and raises up interim pastors, it will impact the way the role is viewed. "Interims are literally bridging the gap between one pastor and another," Saxon said. "And to be honest, whether you're an interim or you're a full-time pastor, it's the same work. You're shepherding people, counseling people, proclaiming God's word, sharing Jesus," he explained. "There's great ministry done through our interim pastors."

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Interim Pastors to lead their congregations with grace and wisdom.
- Pray for Congregations who are currently seeking full-time pastors.
- Pray for more men to accept the call to serve as interim pastors and to receive training for this challenging assignment.

TWENTY YEARS AS A VOLUNTEER BCM DIRECTOR: A GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Generations of college students at USC Aiken and Aiken Technical College have encountered the Gospel because one woman kept showing up, voluntarily and faithfully, for over 20 years.

Gina Booth attended USC Aiken as a student, and she joined the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) group there her freshman year. "BCM meant a lot to me," Booth said. "It was really my people."

Several years after graduating, and feeling unsure about her career path, Booth received a call that impacted the next 20 years of her life. "The director that was at USC Aiken when I was here in college contacted me and said, 'Hey, what do you think about being BCM Director?'" For Booth, the answer was an easy yes. "Absolutely," she said. "Little did I know, 21 years later, I'm still here."

When asked why she has served in this role for 21 years, the answer was simple. "This is just my way of showing other people God's love and helping them to see Him," she said. "Hopefully I've accomplished a little bit of that."

The Vital Role of Volunteer Directors

Chad Stillwell, SCBaptist Evangelism Team Leader, said, "It would be hard to overstate the importance of Gina's leadership at BCM. God has used her faithfulness to make a real difference." Booth may have the longest tenure as a volunteer BCM Director in South Carolina, but she is only one of many volunteer directors serving faithfully across the state.

South Carolina has nearly 60 colleges and universities, many in small or rural communities. "In order to reach those schools, so that every student in the state has the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ, we engage volunteer directors," Stillwell explained. That's especially true at technical and community colleges, where about a third of the state's college students are enrolled. "Volunteer directors are a critical and important role that gets us into communities across the state," he said.



The Cost of Ministry

In 2025, BCMs across the state engaged 30,323 college students. That reach doesn't happen without resources. The Janie Chapman Offering funds nearly all of what volunteer directors do to reach students on their campuses. Because while the directors give their time for free, ministry still costs money.

"Without the Janie Chapman Offering, we would be engaging tens of thousands fewer students each year with the Gospel on our campuses," Stillwell said. "But because churches and people in those churches are faithful to give, we're able to expand our ministry to get to new campuses, community colleges, technical colleges, historically Black colleges and universities. All these things are possible because of gifts to Janie Chapman."

For Booth, the funds cover things like programming and mission trips for students. "College students love food, that costs money. Or mission trips or the CONVERGE conference—it costs money to get there," she said. "It's so important that people continue to give. It really is making an impact even when you can't see it."

Impacting Students' Lives

That impact is very real for several USC Aiken students. Heather Fore serves as the BCM President. "Gina has probably impacted me more than she thinks," Fore said. "She's been a constant presence of support since I was a freshman. If I need support, if I need prayer, I can go to Gina for pretty much anything."

After first attending BCM in her freshman year for a few meetings, the stress of classes began to catch up with her. That's when a fellow BCM attendee reached out. "She texted me asking where I was and asking if I was okay," Fore said. "That's when I knew that I wanted to continue going to BCM and to be involved."

From that point on, Fore emphasized that attending BCM was "nonnegotiable" for her. "BCM is where I get such fulfillment and reassurance when I'm going through my week," she said.

A mission trip to Myrtle Beach provided a tangible moment of impact in her life. "They had us talking to strangers and praying for strangers," she said. "I'd never actively gone up and talked to a person about Jesus or asked if I could pray for them."

Jacob Mastromonico, USC Aiken's BCM worship director, describes his experience as similarly impactful. "BCM has done a complete 180 on my life," he said. A pastor once told him why that happens: "You're never more like Jesus than when you're serving."

Stillwell has seen it proven true across the state. "No effort put forward for God," he said, "ever returns in vain." And, somewhere, on a college campus right now, a student needs someone to show up.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for college students across the state who are engaging BCM ministries, that they would come to know and grow in Jesus.
- Pray for volunteer BCM directors like Gina Booth as they faithfully serve, disciple students, and invest in campus ministry.
- Pray for God to call out more people to serve students on local college campuses.

LIVING INTENTIONALLY AFTER PALMETTO COLLECTIVE: A MISSIONS PIPELINE IN UTAH

Wells Jernigan hasn't fully answered the question yet, but it's something he's working through. The question, "Where is the most strategic place you can be for Jesus after graduation?" is central to the Palmetto Collective, a two-year program run by the South Carolina Baptist Convention that equips college juniors and seniors to be missional leaders of the Gospel.

Discovering the answer to that question is what drew Jernigan to apply. "At the time, I was exploring ministry, specifically missions, and what that would look like," Jernigan said. Since then, he has committed to serving as an International Mission Board Journeyman in London. Because Palmetto Collective provides hands-on missions and ministry opportunities through short-term mission trips, Jernigan found himself spending time in Utah working alongside church planters like Bobby Wood and Michael Cooper, getting a firsthand look at church planting.



Lostness in Utah

The partnership between SCBaptist, Palmetto Collective, and Send Network in Utah is an intentional effort to build missions pipelines. Cooper, lead church planting catalyst for Utah and Idaho and pastor of Valley Light Church, shared that the city is home to nearly three million people in the Salt Lake City metro alone. "Right now in Utah, we are only 2% evangelical Christian," Cooper said.

Facing the lostness before them, Cooper emphasized the importance of partnering in the missional effort. "At this point

in time, there's been no better partner than South Carolina in helping us reach our communities, our neighbors, and start new churches in Utah, both by sending people and resources, and partnering with and loving on church plants," Cooper said.

Utah presents a unique opportunity for missions. "We have a place that's very lost, very desperate, and needs the Gospel. Many have never heard the biblical Gospel," Wood said. Wood serves as the teaching pastor for Redemption Church in Ogden and the president of the Redemption Family Churches. "It's hard to believe that exists right here in America. You don't need a passport. You don't need to learn a new language," he said. "We have a lost people group in our backyard, and we just need laborers to come and reach them."

Living on Mission

Some of those laborers came from a two-week trip with the Palmetto Collective—and never left. Both Maura Santa and Lauren Napier are graduates of Palmetto Collective who decided to choose a strategic location to live on mission after college. The experiences through the program equipped them, and their lived experiences sent them to go.

"Palmetto Collective helped me think through that calling and putting in that focus of missions into my everyday life," Napier



said, “thinking of it as a strategic move instead of just a dream to do one day—no, this is something you can actually do today.” She currently serves as Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator at Valley Light Church, one of three churches she first worked alongside during her time with Palmetto Collective.

For Maura Santa, missions weren't on her radar. “When I joined Palmetto Collective, I was actually a really new Christian. I was planning to move back home to live in New Jersey with my family,” Santa said. “But through retreats and also just learning about the need for Jesus in different areas, I was able to slowly discover that missions was something I wanted to do.”

Living on mission looks different for her as a teacher. “I think I’m the only Christian in my whole school—teacher or student,” she said. She easily could have pursued a career in education elsewhere, but her choice to live and work in Utah was intentional and driven by sharing the Gospel in her day-to-day life. “I’ve been able to share with people that I’m building relationships with,” she said. “That’s what I feel like my main ministry is right now in Utah. It’s pretty simple, but it is something important that is still needed.”



The Palmetto Collective Pipeline

Napier and Santa aren't the only Palmetto Collective graduates living in Utah. The Palmetto Collective pipeline keeps producing.

Paige McLemore works with a Christ-centered nonprofit after spending two summers in Utah. The Janie Chapman Offering helped make that possible. “We got free housing when we moved out here. We got classes,” she said. “All of that money supported students like me who come out to Utah post-grad to be trained and have a period of time to figure out what it means to live on mission.”

Mariah Gonzalez has lived and worked in Utah since 2023, serving with Redemption Church and working alongside mission teams that come to Utah. To any students considering a call to missions, her answer is simple: “Go, why not?” She said, “What do you have to lose? Jesus is worthy of big decisions. You’ll find joy in being faithful in bold decisions, offering up your life to the Lord.”

For the SCBaptists who are sending their people and their resources to Utah, Wood expressed his thanks for the enduring partnership. “You may have just given a small amount of money. And for you, that may have cost you a lot,” Wood said. “But you can’t discount the Kingdom impact and the eternal glory that comes as a result of your faithful giving.” And for young adults like Jernigan, Napier, Santa, McLemore, and Gonzalez, that giving made saying yes possible.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Palmetto Collective students as they continue to seek God’s leading for their futures.
- Pray for Students and churches as they minister in a hard culture and share the Gospel with those who have never heard.
- Pray for God to continue growing the partnerships between SCBaptists and churches in Utah.

CUPCAKES AS AN ACT OF GRACE: COLLEGE STREET'S HEART4SCHOOLS MINISTRY

"The Bible teaches that it's more blessed to give than to receive. As a Heart4Schools program, we're always giving. And I'm hoping the people on the receiving end are feeling the love of Jesus we're trying to share with them," Rhonda Barker said.

Heart4Schools is a network of churches through the South Carolina Baptist Convention that make meaningful connections with schools in their communities. Of the 1,218 public schools in South Carolina, 670 have an SCBaptist church regularly serving them. The goal is to connect every school in South Carolina with a church that loves and serves them well, creating inroads to share the Gospel and make disciples locally.

Barker, like many of the Heart4Schools volunteers at College Street Baptist Church, is a former educator herself. Each year, she leads the church in collecting supplies for first-year teachers, including dry erase markers, pencils, tissues, and more, easing the financial burden of stocking a classroom that often falls on a teacher's dime.

"I know how overwhelming it feels to walk into an empty classroom," Barker said. With overflowing bags, Barker and other volunteers distributed the supplies to the seven first-year teachers between Walhalla Middle School and Walhalla Elementary School. Barker described the shock on the teachers' faces at receiving the gifts. "They couldn't believe a church would do something like that," she said.

Widespread Church Involvement

Caring for first-year teachers is only one of the six core ways that College Street Baptist Church ministers to the two schools they adopted. The ministry started after a few College Street members attended a Heart4Schools training event at another local church.

After deciding to gauge volunteer interest, the church hosted a luncheon to cast vision for the program. They prayed for about 15 people to attend, but they were shocked when over 70 people RSVP'd.

Excitement for school partnerships spread quickly. As of writing, nearly 35% of the church is involved in some

"Heart4Schools has become like a rallying cry for our church family to feel like they can be part of something that goes beyond Sunday morning," Pastor Jeremy Beauford said.



Prayer and Encouragement for Teachers

For College Street, the ministry is grounded in prayer and encouragement for teachers. At the beginning of the school year, volunteers receive a photo of the teacher they're praying for.

That personal connection eventually finds its way into Carol Stine's hands. Stine, a Heart4Schools volunteer, coordinates the ministry's PET bags — a simple but intentional gift: Pray, Encourage, Treat. Each bag arrives to a teacher with a handwritten note as a small reminder that someone is thinking of them.

Stine said the gifts are a way to plant seeds of the Gospel. "We want them to know that we care," she said. "And regardless of what the treat is, when they get a personally signed note from somebody, I know that can be the brightness in a difficult day."



Many of the volunteers have a photo of the teacher they pray for on their fridge. "Every time I go to the refrigerator, it's just a great reminder to pray for them extra throughout the day," Stine said. Whether they hear specific prayer requests from the teachers or not, every teacher across the two schools is regularly prayed over.

Cupcakes as a Reminder of Grace

The ministry first started with a fun, simple idea: birthday cupcakes. Every month, volunteers take cupcakes to every teacher and student with a birthday that month.

"It's amazing the joy a cupcake can bring," Vanessa Conway said. For her, the simple gift of a cupcake represents a much larger idea: grace. "We're not asking anything in return," she said. "To me, it shows the unearned grace that Jesus offers us."

Although a free gift to the students and teachers, the cupcakes and staff lunches College Street provides come at a cost. However, the burden of that cost was lifted because of the Janie Chapman Offering for state missions.

Fueling the Mission

After hearing about ministry grant funds, Duke Lee decided to submit for College Street. Each year, grants are awarded based on need, scope and intended impact, and available funding. Lee said the grants provided generously to purchase cupcakes and fund teacher lunches three times a year at the two schools. "When you start something like this, the funds are not there," Lee said. "Janie Chapman gave us a good startup to do a few things without worrying about where the money is coming from," Lee said.

For Lee, the grant is a tangible act that highlights the importance of cooperative giving. "We are a real-life version of those funds being used," Lee said.

That real-life impact—cupcakes, supply bags, handwritten notes, and mentoring relationships—is exactly what College Street set out to build when they first said yes to Heart4Schools. And for Pastor Beauford, the partnership is only the beginning.

"As we minister to the schools, we pray that it will provide a place of spiritual support or encouragement. And we'll be there to help them," Beauford said.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for teachers and students in these two schools to see and experience the love of Jesus through the church's ministry.
- Pray for church members to have increased opportunities and boldness to share the gospel as they serve local schools.
- Pray for churches across the state to recognize and meet the needs of teachers and students in local schools.



THRIVE TRAINING INSPIRES A NEXT GEN MISSIONS PIPELINE

"God brought me into ministry using statistics," Zach Howell said. The statistic that changed everything for him? Hearing that around 70% of high school seniors leave the church after graduation. "It was heartbreaking."

At the time, Howell was 17 and heavily involved in the student ministry at his church, Mt. Elon Baptist in Hartsville, South Carolina. "It was very interesting coming into ministry at that time. I didn't really know what I was doing," he said. His calling was confirmed over time, "just being obedient, listening to God along the way, not always being perfect."

That obedience led him to Ridge Church in Summerville, where he currently serves as the Next Gen Pastor. There, he felt the Lord stirring him to get the next generation involved in missions. "I've always wanted to do mission trips with our youth ministry and take them places, but I just needed to know how to do it."

Thrive Equips Youth Leaders

While taking a group of students to SummerSalt, a camp for 7th-12th graders, Howell had the opportunity to attend a missions training for youth leaders, called "Thrive." SummerSalt has always been about the students, but with so many student leaders in one place, Charlie Swain and his team saw an opportunity to invest in them, too.

Swain, Director of Next Generation Mobilization at SCBaptist, said, "With Thrive, we wanted to give student leaders free resources, free training, and an opportunity to get around each other to learn how iron sharpens iron." The focus of the training in 2025 was on missions mobilization.

Howell knew he wanted to be part of Thrive. Hearing about it, Howell said, "I got my team together. We all went. And that's ultimately where God did a lot of speaking." The impactful part for Howell was getting to work through practical questions with other leaders.



Through talking to one another and listening to what God was trying to tell us in that moment, we got to work together as a community of churches to strengthen one another and build one another up," he said. And besides just cooperation, they walked away with action steps. "Every single leader in that Thrive training left with some sort of plan that they could implement that day."

The Acts 1:8 Mandate

For Howell and Ridge Church, those action steps turned into a churchwide missions strategy. "When we got back from Thrive training, we hit the ground running," he said. "We had started planning our annual vision for our church, and missions was at the forefront of our minds."

He felt the Lord moving him toward what would become the “Acts 1:8 Mandate,” a missions pipeline strategy that starts from children’s ministry and involves the whole church. Beginning with a culture of education and engagement, the plan explains the need for missions and engages each demographic in age-appropriate outreach opportunities.

The plan starts with children’s ministry — teaching kids to be missional right where they are through things like food drives and donation closets — and builds toward national and international mission trips by the time students reach high school and college.

“Missions has just become the very core of what we’re doing,” Howell said, “and having the whole church become a part of it has made the Next Gen part so much easier.” The year already includes several trips, including New York City, Peru, and Boston.



A Missions Pipeline

For Howell, a plan like this is about creating a pipeline to missions, not just a program. “If all our ministry is based on is fun games, loud music, or fancy lights,” he said, the mission gets lost. “If we’re not training up the next generation to be missionaries, whether that’s a foreign missionary or one right there in their backyard, then we’re seeing the decline of the Gospel in our own churches, in our own ministries.”

His vision for what that next generation could become is clear. “You’re sitting in your ministries right now with the next generation of missionaries, the next generation of Janie Chapmans, the next generation of Annie Armstrongs,” he said. “If you’re not giving them opportunities to go and to serve, we’re almost wasting our time.”

The Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions funded the training that equipped Howell with a missions strategy. In his eyes, the next Janie Chapman might already be sitting in a youth group in South Carolina, growing a heart for the nations even now.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for next gen leaders like Zach Howell as they disciple the next generation toward a lifelong commitment to missions.
- Pray for churches to create meaningful opportunities for their children, students, and adults to engage in Gospel work.
- Pray for God to call out more missionaries from among our churches.

ALREADY IN THE FIELD: ONE STUDENT'S CALL TO MINISTRY

On Friday mornings at North Greenville University, around 30 young men gather on the baseball field, but they're not there to play—they're walking through Scripture together, verse by verse. And Levi Powell is leading the charge.

Powell comes from a line of SCBaptist ministers from both his mom and his dad's sides. "For as long as I can remember, people would always ask me if I was going to be a pastor just like my father," he said. But it wasn't until his late teen years that he felt the Lord calling him to ministry.

Answering the Call to Ministry

He recalls a moment at a church retreat with his youth group that solidified his call. "I just said, 'Hey, God, if I'm going to pursue ministry in my life, show me that people will follow.'" He walked to the altar, prayed to surrender his life to ministry, and began to feel hands placed on his back. "I looked up, and the entire altar was filled with students praying," he explained. "It was very special. It gave me lots of clarity that God did want me to pursue ministry."



From the moment of his calling, Powell had one focus. "I started planning my life for that call. I only applied to one school, and that is North Greenville University," he said. That decision was an easy one for him. "North Greenville was an obvious choice for anyone that was pursuing ministry," he said. "It was clear that they were able to teach me God's Word in a deeper way so I would grow in understanding and be able to apply that knowledge."

Finding Support as a Catalyst

Along with the equipping he received from North Greenville, Powell also found support through SCBaptist's Catalyst program. Catalyst is an initiative funded through the Janie Chapman Offering that connects college students with mentors and resources to pursue ministry while still in school. "The Catalyst program has blessed me in so many ways. It's given me a community and people who are very wise to pour into me."

As his mentor through the program, Lee Clamp got a front row seat to watch Powell's growth. Clamp serves as the Associate Executive Director-Treasurer at SCBaptist. "He already had a desire to be in ministry full-time. I simply came along beside him during his year here to talk through what it looks like for him in ministry moving forward," Clamp said.

Baseball as a Mission Field

Aside from his desire to grow spiritually, North Greenville also provided him with the chance to pursue another of his passions—baseball. "Baseball has shaped my life in so many ways. It's taught me discipline, how to be coachable, how to be around others."

He feels baseball has also provided him with ministry opportunities. That was especially the case after an injury took him out for the season. "October 2025, I had hip labrum surgery, and it was a big deal," Powell said. "This was tough news for me because this meant obviously that I would have to stop playing baseball." Without getting to play, he felt his relationships on the team would suffer. "I felt like these relationships with these guys, these friendships, this brotherhood, was all over," he said. "I struggled a lot with just wondering what God was doing in my life."

Starting a Team Bible Study

Although he felt the Lord close the door on baseball for the season, he did feel the Lord opening up a new one. Prior to his surgery, he began entertaining the idea of a Bible study with the team. "I was beginning to talk about it, and everybody was excited about it, saying it was a great idea. And right after I started those conversations, I got taken out from my hip." With a schedule that was suddenly freed up, Powell felt the Lord nudging him to get the Bible study started.

He's already seen an impact. His home church, Taylors First Baptist, is about 20 minutes down the road, and Powell points his teammates there to get connected to the local body of believers. On any given Sunday, he can see several of his teammates sitting in the pews. "It's provided a place for my teammates, who I'm sharing the gospel with, to go on a Sunday morning," he said. "And they're coming on their own because they want to be there. Even if I'm not able to be there, these guys are showing up each and every week, trying to learn more about God."

Powell's Vision for the Future

"It was really cool to hear him kind of dream up what this project was going to be with his baseball team as a Catalyst," Clamp said, "and an incredible opportunity for us to see him do local ministry."

Powell's dream for the Bible study extends far beyond just this season. "My biggest hope is that in 10 years, they'll call me up and they'll say, 'Hey, I remember all those times we opened up God's Word together, and I'm really struggling with something.'"

He plans to be there to answer those questions. "I hope they know they can come to me, and I'll tell them the Gospel again, and then finally their heart could be transformed," he said.

Clamp has big hopes for Powell, as well. "My prayer is that he'll be a leader among our churches," Clamp said, "that he'll be one that says, let's do more together than we can separate. Let's sacrifice individually at the local church to be able to send more missionaries around the world." For this college student, sending missionaries looks like sharing the Gospel on a red dirt infield.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for Levi as he continues to pursue a call to ministry and embraces the opportunities God puts before him.
- Pray for Catalysts to grow in wisdom, faith, and clarity as they discern their callings and serve in ministry.
- Pray for the mentors and ministry leaders who invest in these students during the program.

THE NATIONS ARE HERE: SLAVIC CHURCHES TAKE ROOT IN THE UPSTATE

Thirty years ago, Baptist missionaries from South Carolina traveled to Ukraine and helped a college student named Ruslan Antonov believe in Jesus. In 2022, Antonov was asked to pastor a Ukrainian-speaking congregation in Spartanburg.

The church members came from Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, some fleeing war, some chasing opportunity—all of them facing the challenges that come with building stability in a new country.

Unexpected Paths to Pastoring in Spartanburg

Antonov never imagined how full-circle his story would become thanks to those missionaries. “They brought the Gospel. They were those who encouraged me for ministry in Ukraine,” he said. “I’ve never dreamed for me to appear in South Carolina and to be a pastor of Ukrainian-speaking Baptist church.” Willi Dueck, pastor of Revival Baptist Church also arrived in South Carolina in 2022. Born in Russia and raised in Germany, Dueck moved to the United States to pursue theology and helped plant a church in Kansas City before joining Revival Baptist Church as lead pastor.

They are part of a growing Slavic population in Upstate South Carolina; Spartanburg County alone is home to nearly 4,700 Ukrainian residents, the largest concentration in the state. For SCBaptists, this presents a unique opportunity. Robbie McAlister served as a Mission Catalyst with SCBaptist, working with the Convention to mobilize missionaries. “Most of the time we send people all over the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” McAlister said, “but it’s amazing how God has brought the nations to us. We have an opportunity to reach out and serve the communities that are coming to South Carolina with the Gospel.”

Two Churches, One Vision

The two churches actually came from the same family of churches but decided to reach different strategic populations in the Upstate. With services primarily in Russian, Revival Bible Church regularly sees 200 to 250 people on Sundays for teaching. “Most of them are Slavic. Some are from Moldova. We sometimes sing Ukrainian, but the service is in Russian,” Dueck said.

Upstate Family Baptist, on the other hand, speaks primarily Ukrainian with some Russian songs. For the two congregations, it was an intentional choice. Antonov said, “Strategically, it was right to do because when the war started and people started to come here, there were people from Ukraine who needed to hear Ukrainian. And there were people from Ukraine for whom it was okay to be in a Russian-speaking church.”



Finding Openness to the Gospel in Displacement

For the two churches, the war between Russia and Ukraine has been a painful reality with widespread impact, and Antonov believes that displacement has created unusual openness. "It caused a lot of pain, a lot of moving, a lot of challenges," he said.

His family personally felt the challenges of leaving Ukraine after building a solid foundation, then having to rebuild. "Now you have to reestablish everything. Your language, your culture, your work, a church," Antonov said. "So, I think all these things motivated, at least me and my family, to seek for God, to cry to him, to stick to him."

Dueck saw the same dynamic. Living in an unfamiliar country, many people are looking for community. "We have many immigrants who are in need of social contacts," he said. "And many of them, they come to church looking to socialize, to find work, to find a job." It presents a unique opportunity that the churches are trying to meet with the Gospel.

Both churches have been intentional about meeting people where they are. Revival Bible hosts community orchestra concerts twice a year, drawing believers and non-believers from across the Upstate to hear the Gospel through music. The church has also run a chess program for children, something Dueck sees as a natural bridge. "Many parents want their kids to play chess," he said. "It is a good tool to help people get acquainted with the church."



Finding Partnership and Encouragement

During this time, both Antonov and Dueck have also found encouragement and partnership through the Spartanburg County Baptist Network. "When I came here and when our church started to grow, looking for a place, we joined the local Spartanburg Network," Antonov said. "And because we want to know the churches, we want to have fellowship, we need encouragement. And I'm so thankful that we did."



Since launching in 2022, Revival Baptist has used space at Hub City Church. Dueck shared that the partnership has been a blessing. "Their patience is like Jesus' patience. They are very nice to us," he said.

They also found fellowship among other pastors at events like the Multi-Ethnic Pastors Retreat. "It was very beneficial for me to have a bigger circle of pastors from other countries, from other nationalities as a part of the South Carolina Baptist Convention," Antonov said. "You need to be in fellowship with other pastors; you need to be in prayer and not just to be insulated in your own church."

What Comes Next

Both pastors are thinking about the future of reaching Slavic people in the Upstate. Dueck hopes to launch an English-speaking service for the next generation of Slavic young people who are growing up in American schools and culture. Antonov's sights are set on planting churches in communities that currently have no Ukrainian Baptist church, potentially in Greenville or Columbia. "We are in the process of growing our own spiritual leaders," he said. "I think there will be a time when our church will easily send a team to start another church."

Supporting that growth is exactly what the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions makes possible by funding training for future pastors, resourcing church planters, and coming alongside ethnic congregations doing the work of the Great Commission in the Upstate. When asked what he would say to SCBaptist churches considering giving to Janie Chapman, Antonov's answer was simple: "It works. It's a big blessing. Education and missions." Dueck encouraged churches, "Give generously," he said, "and praise God for what you already do."

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Slavic pastors and churches in the Upstate as they minister to families who are rebuilding their lives.
- Pray for unity, wisdom, and continued partnership among churches as they reach diverse communities.
- Pray for more ethnic churches to be started to reach the nations that are coming to South Carolina.



PREPARING YOUR CHURCH FOR THE SEASON OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS

Pray

- Pray that God would help your church to catch a vision of how all SCBaptist churches can work together to make a significant investment in the Kingdom of God.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in the hearts of your church members to lead them to give sacrificially to the Janie Chapman Offering.
- Pray that the stories of how God is working throughout our state would inspire your church members to find new ways to reach your community and the world with the gospel.
- Pray that God would use this time of prayer and giving across our state to see many lives transformed by the Gospel.

Plan

- Set a goal of how much you would like to see your congregation give to the 2026 Janie Chapman Offering.
- Challenge your church members to give to the Janie Chapman Offering and to spend time praying through the prayer guide during the week of September 6-13.
- As your church members pray, encourage them to visit the Janie Chapman website to watch videos that correspond to each day's prayer focus.
- Use the online promotional materials to communicate the offering, its purposes, and your church's goal.
- Utilize the 2026 Speakers' List found on the Janie Chapman website to find a guest speaker who can share about state missions with your congregation.
- Consider using the recommended sermon outline and age-level lesson plans as a way to communicate how God is working in our state.
- Order printed resources (posters, prayer guides, & offering envelopes) to be shipped to your church ahead of our Week of Prayer in September.
- Decide how to incorporate the videos for each of our eight focus stories into your church's worship services, small group times, or social media platforms.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Interested in finding more resources to help your church promote the Janie Chapman Offering and Season of Prayer?

Visit www.janiechapmanoffering.org to find these resources and more:

- Order form for free posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes
- Digital downloads of posters and prayer guides
- Videos for each of our eight focus stories
- Lesson plans for every age-group in your church
- Suggested sermon outline for pastors
- Promotional graphics for social media and church use
- List of available speakers to invite to your church



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