

# FROM OUR PASTOR

## JUNE NEWSLETTER



A GREAT *Commission* PEOPLE  
with a  
GREAT *Commandment* HEART

## Cooperation

by Brett Mask

In a couple of weeks, Laray and I will be heading to Phoenix, Arizona for the 2011 Southern Baptist Convention. At the convention, we will welcome the new president of the North American Mission Board and the new president of the International Mission Board. These two organizations represent the mission arm of the SBC. As a convention, we are blessed with one of the largest protestant mission forces in the entire world.

I bring this up not to boast, but to remind us of the reason for the existence of the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist Churches have existed in America since the colonies were established, but the Southern Baptist Convention wasn't organized until 1845. Besides the fact that I believe God had "his hands" in the process, one of the main reasons for the establishment of a group of like-minded churches was cooperation in the area of missions.

I believe the thought process was "look at what God is doing in individual churches to spread the Gospel all over the world, just imagine what God might do if we would come together for the sake of spreading the Gospel all over the world?" Two is always better than one, and thus began the SBC.

Fast forward to 1925 and the establishment of the Cooperative Program. For almost 100 years since, SBC churches have "pooled" their finances in order to penetrate the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Again, cooperation between totally independent churches for the sake of missions.

It reminds me of a verse in Ecclesiastes 4. "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

As I think about the cooperation of churches, I realize that the same cooperation should happen even in the local church. Lord, let us work together in cooperation because "two are better than one..."

In Christ,  
Pastor Brett

# How Things Work

## Effectively

By Brody Bearden

Sometimes I like to think about how things work. Like, literally. What makes it work?

How is this piece of plastic and metal and glass forged together and shaped in a box, called a camera, able to take pictures and video of things that I choose whenever I choose?

How does this metal container and glass screen with keys and a mouse, called a computer, show me images and documents and the internet at the click of a button (sometimes longer if you have a virus)?

How do all these things work so effectively?

Don't even get me started on thinking about how the human body works.

I believe one of the most important things that we can do is think about how things work. Not just how they work, but how they work effectively. More importantly is thinking about how WE work and how we work effectively.

Day in and day out we have jobs, homework, tasks, relationships, faith, family, and a smorgasborg of other things that we deal with. Answer the following questions: What am I doing? Why am I doing it? Am I doing it in the most effective way?

For example: I could use my fingernail to drive a screw into a piece of wood, couldn't I? It would get the job done (eventually) and it would turn out alright (hopefully). But I could also ask the question, "Is this the best way to do this?" Turns out, probably not. I could use a screwdriver or even a drill. That would be way more efficient and effective.

The reason we have to constantly ask these questions is that sometimes we get caught up doing things just because we've always done them. Maybe nothing is wrong, per se. Maybe it's always worked. Maybe it's not even broken. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be asking the questions.

Take Paul, for example. His initial approach was to persecute Christians. And he did...very well. But that wasn't how God wanted to use him. So he (God) stepped in and intervened, while Paul had to answer the question about his own effectiveness and reapproach everything he had known in his life.

We have to ask these questions.

If we don't, then sometimes we'll walk down the wrong path and it might take something drastic to pull us back in.

The thing about asking these questions is, a lot of times the answer will be "yes." What you are doing is the best way that you can do it. And that's ok. But sometimes the answer will be "no". Sometimes change will be good and healthy and effective. The important thing is that you are honestly asking and answering the question.

In youth ministry, if I don't constantly ask myself this question about "what I am doing", "why I'm doing it", and "is it the most effective way to do it", then the odds of me being ineffective skyrocket.

What about you?

In what areas of your life do you need to ask these questions?

What am I doing?

Why am I doing it?

Am I doing it in the most effective way?

If yes, then great! Keep at it.

If no, then take a step back, re-evaluate, and retackle the task at hand. Be effective.

Peace, Love, Christ

Brody

### Upcoming Events

June 6th - 10th - Impact Youth Camp  
July 20-27th - Kenai, Alaska Mission Trip

**Baby Shower**

One June 26th, there will be a baby shower for Jay and Shonda at the church from 3-5pm.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 20th - 24th**  
 Ages 3yrs - 6th Grade  
 6:00 until 8:30pm  
**SIGN YOUR CHILD UP TODAY!**  
 Available Online at  
[salembaptistcommunity.org](http://salembaptistcommunity.org)

Children's Church Schedule for June

June 5 - Gloria Peterman  
June 12 - Maggie Faz  
June 19 - Laray Mask  
June 26 - Blake Arnold

NurSery Schedule for June

June 5 - Lisa and Sarah Power  
June 12 - Amy Forrester (SS)  
Angel and Faith Terry (Worship)  
June 19 - Shannon and Stephanie Peterman  
June 26 - Alan and Melissa Bridges

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Maria Bridges-6/1  
Samantha Manning - 6/1  
Jimmy Hayes-6/2  
Stewart Sanders-6/6  
Kevin & Kelli Smith-6/6  
Faith Terry-6/6  
Sam & Caroline Paradise-6/7  
Annette Schoeman-6/7  
Ted & Debbie Hansford-6/8

Jay & Shonda Peterman-6/10  
Steve & Sharon Peterman-6/10  
Danny & Karen Sanders-6/10  
Leigh Satterfield-6/13  
Kevin Smith-6/14  
Ben Adkins-6/14  
Blake Howard-6/14  
Amy Pyfrom-6/15  
Darrius & Rita Tompkins-6/18

Phil & Melanie Sanders-6/19  
Dorothy Buckman-6/19  
Leigh Anne Bridges-6/21  
Bill Schoeman-6/21  
Shonda Peterman-6/22  
Sophie Beatty-6/25  
Vickie Stevens-6/25  
Barry & Iris Walker-6/26  
Angel & Steve Terry-6/27

I ♥  
VBS

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= YOU!

**Don't Miss Out on Vacation Bible School 2011!**

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
694 Salem Church Road  
Lexington, GA 30648