

Finding your fellowship...

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I have done my best to remember those words: **“Faith, hope and love...and the greatest of these is love”** and to show them to everyone I meet (even the most irritating of students!). In fact, just to help me remember on those difficult days, I have put the following quote on my bulletin board in front of my desk “There is only love.” This reminds me to treat my students (and co-workers) with the love that they all deserve.

Have I lost you yet? Is this making sense at all? If you have ever met me, you know how I like to talk (and how I don’t usually make much sense). But this time, please bear with me. All I’m trying to say is this: **Find your fellowship.** Don’t give up. You definitely have had many of the same experiences I have mentioned, and many other different ones as well.

Whatever your path in life, whatever happens to you, please don’t give up on trying to find your fellowship. Whether that fellowship is at church, at home, at work, with friends, or with complete strangers in puppy training class, don’t ever give up trying to find that feeling of belonging, of being a part of something.

That’s honestly what keeps me going each week – knowing that I am no longer just part of a college fellowship but a part of a bigger fellowship – the fellowship of the real world, where puppies poop in pine straw, and middle schoolers punch each other, and I spend way too much time at the grocery store.

My prayer for you: I wish you all peace, hope, and love in the midst of the chaos of your lives. May you find your fellowship right where you are, and in your own way!
Love, Christina

 [Clemson CSF](#)  [CSF_Clemson](#) www.clemsoncsf.com



About CSF >>>

Faith, Hope, & Love

CSF is a campus ministry organization that is open to students of all traditions and backgrounds. We focus on faith, hope, and love - “...and the greatest of these is love” (I Corinthians 13:13).

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CLEMSON COOPERATIVE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

The College Ministry of First Baptist Church of Clemson

CSF Fall Retreat 2012 — Students from Clemson were joined by groups from Furman, Winthrop, Mercer, Georgia Tech, & the Asheville area.



the Outlook

WINTER
2013

Ancient-Future Perspectives >>>

Blasts from the Past

We are in the midst of an historic Rummage Sale in the Global Church, and looking to the past can often help us better navigate into the Future. Consider these passionate perspectives from leaders during times of reform in Global Christianity:

“God called Abraham and commanded him to go out from the country where he was living. With this call God has roused us all, and now we have left the state. We have renounced all the things the world offers.”

*-Justin Martyr, ca. 160 CE
(Justin was beheaded by the state in 165)*

“Make a place where from henceforth the true God will be worshipped...for be assured that it is impossible to rid such deluded souls of all their misconceptions at once. You do not climb a mountain in leaps and bounds, but by taking it slowly.”

-Pope Gregory the Great, ca. 600

*“Nothing is more certain that that the pope and all his leaders can be deceived as to the truth and in their customs.” -Jan Hus, 1413
(2 years before being burned at the stake)*

Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ’s instruction, there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists. For his promise cannot fail: ‘Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them’ (Matt 18:20). -John Calvin, 1536

“What finally counts is not what biblical texts or church doctrines tell us we may believe, but what humanity, reason, justice, and Christ’s love tell us we ought to believe.”

-William Sloane Coffin, 2003

Building a Church from Scratch

Conversations About Faith in a Post-Christian World

By Casey Callahan

If you were given \$100,000 and free webspace, then tasked with the work of starting a church, what would you do? How would you dream this new community of faith into being? What detailed plans would you focus on as you moved from dreaming to logistical planning? Would you spend the capital in brick & mortar, ministry leaders, or mission projects? Would you try to re-create the church experience you’re most familiar with or would you focus on only a few elements that you find important? These questions were posed to 75 students at our CSF Fall Retreat in Black Mountain, NC.

The theme for the weekend was **TBD** [To Be Determined] and over the course of our four worship gatherings, students engaged in thoughtful and timely conversations about major issues facing the Church and potential pathways forward. We considered the tensions between **church & culture**,



individualism & community, going backward or moving forward, and **exclusion or inclusion**. Referencing the A&E television show *Hoarders*, we considered the sorts of things that modern churches give unwarranted value and

possessively collect. Paired with that metaphor is the image of a **rummage sale**, as we argued that even healthy churches need to periodically go through their ‘stuff’ and determine what is truly valuable for today and tomorrow and what is in unnecessarily taking up precious space.

Throughout the weekend, students thoughtfully engaged the theme and were eager to receive words of guidance and inspiration as found in the Way of Christ and some historical stories from our 2,000 years of Christianity (SEE SIDEBAR). I personally found significant inspiration as I witnessed the future of the Church before me. They may have represented only a slight fraction of the emerging generation, but seeing their passion and spirit for the hopeful journey ahead was simply overwhelming.

A Few of My Favorite Things!

By Elizabeth Gerndt, CSF President

There are so many things I love about being a part of CSF. I love Thursday nights and the chance to spend time with a wonderful group of people. I love fall retreats and spring break trips. I love student luncheons and the way the College Committee, with the help of the entire church, always takes care of us. But one of my favorite things about CSF is when we are able to come together with other faith groups. Last semester, our church hosted an interfaith dialogue called “The Table of Abraham” in which students from Christian, Jewish and Muslim student



ministries gathered around the table to share a meal and discussion. As I sat down between a Muslim student and an Episcopalian student, I realized what a rare opportunity it was for members of different faith groups to participate in open and honest conversation about our beliefs. That night, we talked about traditions such as marriage and baptism. We asked questions of each other out of genuine curiosity, and we listened to stories, eager for a better understanding. Looking around the room, it was powerful to get a glimpse of what the world might look like if we were able to come together as one community rather than breaking apart into many. I am so thankful for the continuous opportunities that CSF provides for new and meaningful experiences.



Table of Abraham
FBC Clemson, Fall 2012

Testimonials>>>

Why CSF?

“I have been coming to CSF since freshman year and it has been an integral part of my collegiate experience. CSF has helped me grow in my faith in ways I never expected.” (Justin W.)

“I like the community I find at CSF and that we also help communities both locally and elsewhere.” (Beth D.)

“CSF and FBC Clemson feel like my home here in Clemson and I’m so thankful I found them.” (Jacob B.)

“The church provides a place of refuge...this church provides so much for all of us, and the most important aren’t the physical, but the love and welcome we all feel everytime we walk through the doors.” (Morgan S.)

On the Horizon >>>

Spring Break Mission Trip Washington



March 15—22, 2013
\$100 / student

Host Church: National City Christian Church

Our week will include **education, exposure, and experience** with some of our country’s most pressing needs (on Capital Hill and far beyond.) Plus visits with the Baptist Joint Committee, Bread for the World, and the White House.

For more information visit clemsoncsf.com

Life After CSF: Finding A Fellowship

By Christina Devon, CSF Alumni Coordinator

My experience with CSF has probably been a lot like yours (... or maybe not). I got to Clemson, had been pretty involved in my church youth group back at home, and was looking for a place where I could fellowship with other young people. I found that fellowship in CSF at First Baptist. I found new friends and reconnected with old friends. I found a way to celebrate the good times in life and a way to deal with the difficulties of young adulthood. I found a family.



Now, fast-forward 6 years. I am a middle school Spanish teacher in Greenville. It’s my second year teaching, and I am always tired! I have about a hundred and thirty crazy middle schoolers constantly looking to me for guidance and instructions every day. I also have two dogs that require a lot of energy and attention (and food, toys, dog beds, vet bills, etc). In addition to serving others at my job and in my personal life, I serve at church. I teach high school Sunday school, elementary age children on Wednesday nights, and I am also involved in my Sunday school class at church.

Basically, there’s a lot going on in my life right now. Don’t get me wrong – I love each and every one of the people and animals I just mentioned very much – even the middle schoolers! I care for them each and every day and worry about them constantly. I want them all to be happy and healthy and get good grades. But I have to admit, sometimes, it can all be a bit much. Sometimes, I am tired of it all and I daydream about the Thursday nights I spent running around organizing music, moving around chairs, turning on and off lights, singing, eating, laughing, crying, talking (a lot!), greeting new people, talking to old people (literally, old people), running around a dark church at night (hm... that sounds sketchier than it was), watching The Office, and basically having the best time ever.

How could I have known that I would soon be collecting puppy poop from the stupid pine straw outside my apartment at three in the morning? And going to bed by nine sharp? And saying the words “**Silencio, por favor**” a million times every day (that means “Quiet, please” for those of you that don’t know any Spanish)? I couldn’t have. And I’m sure that you could never have guessed your own path in life. Whether you’ve just gotten a job, gotten married, had a baby, or simply just graduated from college (which really isn’t that simple, after all!), you will be reminded it’s impossible to predict the future, as much as we often would like to.

Looking forward, though (there I go, trying to predict the future!), where will I find my fellowship? I know that I can never re-create the experiences I had at CSF. Nor can I re-create the friendships that I had in Clemson. I almost feel as if summer camp is over, and two years later, I have lost touch with that warm, comfy feeling you get when you are with your truest friends.

Well, I want it back! And I believe that it is possible. In fact, I feel like I’m on the verge of something. It has seriously taken me about two years to finally have some kind of “real” life. I often stop and realize that I am now a “real person” and I have to make things happen for myself. Whereas at college, everyone is constantly asking you to join them, hang out with them, and do fun stuff with them, once you’re out in the real world, you kind of have to make the fellowship happen; find the fellowship yourself. **AND IT’S NEVER WHAT YOU THINK IT WILL BE.**

So far, I have found fellowship in all the obvious places: work, church, my family (that one’s really obvious); I’ve also found fellowship in the most random places: at the puppy training class I’m taking with my puppy Gatsby, at the grocery store in line, with my students the other day after a particularly bad fight at school, and at the funeral of a co-worker’s father.

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RECENT DEVOTIONAL BLOGS >>>



csfclemson.tumblr.com

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SARAHANN CALLAWAY ('08) graduated from Belmont University with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (8/12) and is living in Denver, CO.

DAVID LANE ('11) married Heather Ann (11/17/12) and they enjoying married life on Pawley’s Island, SC.

CHRIS OLVEY ('11) graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Master of Science degree in Economics (12/12).

KIRK ('09/'10) & MORGAN ELLISON ('09) are finding a new normal after the birth of their son Crosby Matthew Ellison (12/22/12).

MORGAN CRAWFORD ('10) & STEPHEN FLOWERS ('09) are engaged to be married this summer (6/15/13).

JEFF SMITH ('07/'08) is a civil engineer working for Chicago Bridge & Iron in Saudi Arabia.

SARAH JOHNSON ('12) is a financial analyst for Chiquita Banana living in Charlotte, NC.

LAUREN EVANS ('11) is serving as the Interim Minister of Children at FBC Clemson.

JASON PATSKOSKI ('10) is a Ph.D student at NC State doing research in hydroclimatology.

AMY SARTAIN ('12) is a logistic engineer for WalMart living in upstate New York.

SETH HAMILTON ('11) just returned from Peru where he served as a missionary for 5 months.

DIXIE DURANT ('11) is a team leader for City Year in Harlem, New York working to fight the drop out crisis in area public schools.

RYAN KANTOR ('11) is a marketing research manager for Bellomy Research in Winston-Salem, NC.

CAITIE WALSH ('12) is a student at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (VA) pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

DAVID MATTHIESSEN ('11) is working towards a Master’s degree in Mathematics at Clemson, teaching labs, & is often called “Dr. Dave.”

ATTN ALUMNI: Please help us keep updated with our growing alumni by sharing stories, news, and contact information with Christina Devon (christina.d.devon@gmail.com) or by emailing csfclemson@gmail.com.