**Monday, May 17, 2021**

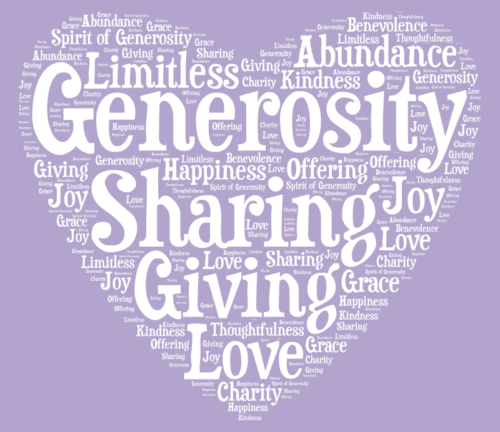
***One Priority* Briefing for Congregational Leaders from George Bullard**

A Family of Congregations in the Midlands of South Carolina

***One Priority***

*Starting and Strengthening Congregations to Serve as Vital and Vibrant Missional Communities.*

**Tuesday Lunch and Presentation on Teaching Generosity in Your Congregation**



Tuesday, May 18th is the next Our One Priority Briefing Live! lunch and speakers in the Student Building at North Trenholm Baptist Church. The speakers are Nathan McCarthy, President/CEO, and Jacque Wenger, Director of Ministry Advancement for the Baptist Foundation of SC. The lunch is at noon and is free. The speakers begin at 12:30 p.m. and the program is over by 1:30 p.m.

***Lunch reservations are required and may be made*** [***HERE***](https://forms.office.com/r/p73reF660G)***.***

As we emerge out of the pandemic, this is a great time for congregations to look at how we are encouraging generosity of our members and active attendees. During this session, you will learn methods for using God’s blessings for His purposes and how generosity at its core is a matter of the heart.

**Welcome Baskets for International Teachers in Richland County Schools**

WMU-Women on Mission-Sisters Who Care in our association are collecting welcome baskets for international teachers coming to teach in the Richland County School Districts One and Two. They are calling on congregational missions groups and other small groups to fill a 1.5-bushel rectangular laundry basket with items needed by these new arrivals. ***Completed baskets are due by July 15th.*** Contact Cathy Locklear about details such as the items to place in the baskets at [***CathyLocklear@ColumbiaMetro.org***](mailto:CathyLocklear@ColumbiaMetro.org) or 803.622.0303.

***See the welcome baskets announcement and checklist*** [***HERE***](https://columbiametro.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Welcome-Baskets-Checklist.pdf).

**Who Are These People Calling My Church?**

CMBA has a team of three people – Julia Bell, Kyndra Bremer, and Cathy Locklear – who are calling every church in the association (beginning with the smaller membership churches and then the medium membership churches) to check-in, update our database, and secure any prayer requests congregations would like for their family of congregations to join them in prayer.

If you receive a call from Julia, Kyndra, or Cathy, they are not trying to sale you anything. They are just wanting to connect with each member church in our family of congregations. They are your church representatives and form what we call the *Blue Squad* within the association. They are finding this is a slow process. They enjoy talking with your voice mail or answer machine. They are contacting around three churches each per week.

When you talk with them, ask them how your congregation can receive a hunger ministry grant. Ask them if we can send you a copy of the new book entitled *The Nones* that talks about the characteristics of people who have no church relationship. Tell them ways you wish the association would help your congregation’s ministry.

***Our One Priority Briefing and the Our One Priority Briefing Online Gathering are made possible by the financial gifts of the member and network connection congregations of the Columbia Metro Baptist Association at*** [***www.ColumbiaMetro.org***](http://www.ColumbiaMetro.org)***,*** [***CMBA@ColumbiaMetro.org***](mailto:CMBA@ColumbiaMetro.org)***, or 803.619.7110. To donate to CMBA go to*** [***https://www.columbiametro.org/donate/***](https://www.columbiametro.org/donate/)***. Congregations can make their general contributions through this link. Congregations, missions groups***

***and individuals can designate gifts to the Congregational Grant Fund, hunger ministry,***

***disaster response, and Baptist Collegiate Ministry.***