

Associational Missions Strategist: Greg Benfield ■ Ministry Assistant: Sarah Rozier

*The Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association, Inc. exists to glorify God.  
As a cooperating partnership of Southern Baptist churches, we mutually equip, engage, and expand disciple-makers of Jesus Christ.*

## Week of Prayer *for* Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

*October 20-27*

**Will you pray** for the Associational Leaders and Pastors of the POBA?  
**Prayer Guide:** <https://bit.ly/2024AMEPrayerGuide>

appreciate those who diligently labor  
*esteem them very highly in love  
because of their work.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13



October is  
**Pastor Appreciation  
Month**

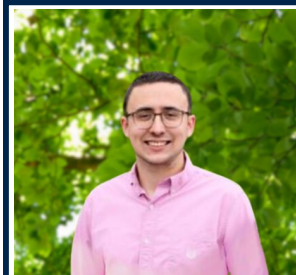


**Scotty & Jadison Hayes  
(& Family)**  
(Emmanuel Baptist)  
Church Planting  
Peru

<https://ebchurch.net/ftm/>



**Aaron & Rebekah  
Harris (& Family)**  
(Laura Chapel Baptist)  
Bible Translation  
Fulani of West Africa  
[www.pioneerbible.org/  
aaronandrebekahharris](http://www.pioneerbible.org/aaronandrebekahharris)



**Chandler Watson**  
(Mershon Baptist)  
Church Planting  
Boston

[www.kingshillboston.com/  
give](http://www.kingshillboston.com/give) (Choose fund: "Watson Support")

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### Want To Stay Informed?



**Join our lists:**  
Text the list name (below)  
to **81010:**  
Newsletter: **@pobanews**  
Events: **@pobaevent**  
Pastors: **@pobapas**

## POBA 56TH ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 24



POBA's 56th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, October 24 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Hoboken.

Schedule:

Meal: 6:15 PM  
Annual Meeting: 7:00 PM

Please RSVP for the meal by Thursday, October 17. Call the POBA Office at (912) 285-8161 or RSVP online at: <https://bit.ly/OCT24AnnMeal>

## CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS



POBA will be partnering with Coastal Rivers Baptist Association to collect Christmas Backpacks. Backpacks can be boxed and brought to the POBA Office by **October 30, 2024**.

**POBA Goal:** 200 backpacks

POBA will focus on packing backpacks for 9-10 year olds (4th-5th grades).

Each backpack should be zippered and all items should be new.

The Christmas Story and instructions for packing can be found at [mypoba.org/backpacks](http://mypoba.org/backpacks).

## ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS

Annual Church Report information has been mailed to each church. These reports will be due **Monday, October 7**.

If you have not receive this information, please contact the POBA Office at (912) 285-8161.



## HURRICANE HELENE

Please let the POBA office know if your church plans to file an insurance claim as a result of Hurricane Helene. Resources may be available.

## CHOIRFEST RESCHEDULED

Choirfest was rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene and will be held on Thursday, October 10 at Sweat Memorial Baptist Church, beginning at 6:30 PM.



## BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

Take advantage of the opportunity to engage college students through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.



POBA churches can host a meal (for 20) and share a devotional beginning in August during fall semester at *South Georgia State College, Waycross* campus. Contact the POBA Office at (912) 285-8161.

**SGSC Waycross Students:** See [mypoba.org/bcmmsgscwaycross](http://mypoba.org/bcmmsgscwaycross) for additional info.

## CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Astoria	Manor Community
First Waycross	Satilla

## MINISTRY OPENINGS

Ministry openings are listed online. See them here: [www.mypoba.org/ministry-openings](http://www.mypoba.org/ministry-openings)

## THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

You can read the Baptist Faith & Message here: <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>.



## REVIVALS IN THE POBA

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>
September 29-October 2	Laura Chapel	
October 20-23	Camp Pinckney	Algernon Tennyson
October 20-23	Pine Grove	Edward Colley
October 20-23	Riverside Chapel	Harold Smith
November 3-6	Mt. Calvary	Trent Long, Thomas Williams, Floyd Davis, Joey Lee

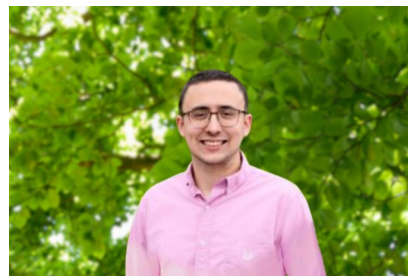
## PRAY: MISSIONARIES OUT OF POBA



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[www.kingshillboston.com/give](http://www.kingshillboston.com/give) (choose fund: "Watson Support")

## HOMECOMINGS IN THE POBA

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>
October 6	First Nahunta	Jeremy Curtis
October 6	Laura Chapel	
October 6	Pleasant Valley	
October 13	Pleasant Hill	Sammy Crosby
October 20	Riverside Chapel	
November 3	Central	



## HOW TO LOOK AT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

*(By Tom Kennedy, POBA Moral & Civic Concerns Leader)*

In the heart of our democratic process lies a powerful tool: the vote. For Christians, voting is not just a civic responsibility; it's an extension of our faith and values. As we face a political landscape marked by social and moral complexity and decay, it's crucial that we approach voting with both conviction and wisdom. Elections have consequences, and the choices we make (or don't make) at the ballot box will have profound consequences.

### Looking Back: A Reminder From History

History provides us with a sobering reminder of the consequences of voting without a clear moral compass. Consider the example of the 1930s in Germany. The rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party was facilitated by a combination of economic turmoil, political instability, and widespread propaganda. Many voters, driven by desperation and manipulated by charismatic rhetoric, overlooked the dangers posed by the Nazis' extremist ideologies.

The result was catastrophic: the rise of a regime that led to World War II and the Holocaust, two of the darkest chapters in human history. This example highlights how critical it is for voters to be well-informed and to scrutinize the candidates and policies that will shape their society. Uninformed voting can lead to the rise of leaders and policies that have devastating impacts on millions of lives.

### Looking Around: The Moral Decay of Political Parties

Today, many Christians feel disillusioned by the moral decay present in both major political parties. The political landscape is often characterized by partisanship, scandals, and ethical lapses, leading to a sense of moral ambiguity. This tension can make it challenging to discern how best to align our votes with our faith-based values.

Despite the imperfections of political parties, Christians are called to engage thoughtfully and critically in the political process. Our responsibility is to evaluate the candidates and policies based on their alignment with biblical principles, rather than merely choosing the lesser of two evils.

### Looking Forward: Voting Your Convictions

Voting is an opportunity to put our faith into practice, shaping our society in ways that reflect our Christian values. Here's how you can approach voting with a convictional mindset:

1. **Prioritize Biblical Principles:** Assess candidates and policies through the lens of biblical teachings. Consider issues such as justice, integrity, the sanctity of life, and religious liberty. Align your vote with candidates who demonstrate a commitment to these principles, even if they do not perfectly align with your views.
2. **Engage in Thoughtful Research:** Take the time to research candidates' positions and track records. Look beyond campaign promises and media soundbites to understand their true stance on key issues. Seek out reliable sources and engage with diverse perspectives to form a well-rounded view.
3. **Pray for Guidance:** Seek divine wisdom in your decision-making process. Pray for discernment, asking God to guide you in choosing leaders and policies that align with His will and contribute to the common good.
4. **Be a Witness:** Let your voting choices reflect your commitment to living out your faith. Your vote is a testament to your values and convictions, and it can serve as a witness to others about the importance of integrating faith with every aspect of life.
5. **Vote:** Do your homework, seek wisdom from scripture, and go to the poll. Put your faith into practice.

### Look Up: Trusting God

As we navigate the election season, our ultimate hope transcends any political outcome. Our faith assures us that God's sovereignty is unwavering, regardless of who holds political office. While elections are an opportunity to shape our society and uphold values that align with our beliefs, our ultimate trust rests in God's eternal plan and His promise to work all things for good. In every season, including the electoral, we hold fast to the assurance that our hope is rooted not in human leaders or policies but in Christ's enduring power and love.

# CALENDAR

## October

Pastor Appreciation Month  
7 POBA ACR Deadline  
7 BCM@ SGSC Waycross  
10 Choirfest  
14 BCM@ SGSC Waycross  
15 November Newsletter Deadline  
15 Administrative Committee Meeting  
17 Meal Reservation Deadline  
20-27 Week of Prayer for Associational  
Missions  
21 BCM@ SGSC Waycross  
21 Music Minister Lunch  
24 POBA Annual Meeting  
28 BCM@ SGSC Waycross  
30 POBA Backpack deadline

## November

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends  
4 Baptist Women World Day of Prayer  
4 BCM @ SGSC Waycross  
11-12 GBC Annual Meeting  
11 Veterans Day  
11 BCM @ SGSC Waycross  
15 December Newsletter Deadline  
18 Music Minister Lunch  
18 BCM @ SGSC  
19 Administrative Committee Meeting  
25 BCM @ SGSC Waycross  
28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday, POBA closed

## December

1-8 Week of Prayer for International Missions  
and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
2 BCM @ SGSC Waycross  
15 January Newsletter Deadline  
16 Music Minister Lunch  
17 Administrative Committee Meeting  
23-26 Christmas Holidays, POBA closed  
31 New Year's Eve



## Celebrating in October

*Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month*



### Birthdays

James Perry—3  
Randy Jacoby—6  
Joe Carr—7  
Ben Glosson—7  
David Marshall—11  
Darby Benfield—13  
Larry Altman—15  
John Boatwright—15  
Donna Rowell—20  
Shirleen Dunn—21  
Harriet Bowman—24  
Chris Smith—27  
Jimmy Thrift—29  
Leslie Weathersby—29  
Jan Carr—31

### Anniversaries

Greg & Shay Carter—21  
Jamie & Dallas Buckins—30  
Vance & Connie Colley—31



Download *The Associational Advisor* at [mypoba.org](http://mypoba.org)  
Associational Missions Strategist: [greg.poba@gmail.com](mailto:greg.poba@gmail.com)  
Ministry Assistant: [sarah.poba@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.poba@gmail.com)

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