

The associational ADVISOR


September 2017

POBA

2104 Alice Street, Waycross 31501 ■ phone (912) 285-8161 ■ fax (912) 816-4902 ■ www.pobaonline.com

Associational Missionary: Don Patterson ■ Missions Strategist: Greg Benfield ■ Ministry Assistant: Sarah Rozier

POBA Mission Statement: *The Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association exists to equip, enable, serve, and encourage a cooperating partnership of Southern Baptist Churches to effectively build the kingdom of God through evangelism, missions, discipleship, ministry and prayer.*



Labor Day
Monday, September 4
The POBA Office will be closed.




Choirfest
Thursday, September 21



Mission Georgia
Offering
September 2017
Visit: missiongeorgia.org

Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions



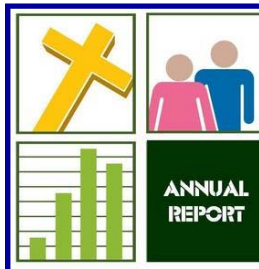
Pastor/Staff Prayer
Tuesday, September 26
11:00 a.m.
POBA




Literacy Missions Conference 2017
September 8-10
Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa

Training offered in:

- Adult Reading & Writing
- Adult
- Citizenship
- English as a Foreign Language
- English as a Second Language
- Training Children & Youth




Annual Church Report
Due Friday, October 13



Sunday School Leadership Training
Saturday, September 9
Central Baptist
8:30—12:00, see page 3



M-Night 2017
Thursday, October 19
Bridge Community
Meal Reservation Deadline:
October 13



Ministry Safe Workshop
Wednesday, September 13
FBC Statesboro
9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

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POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

Rev. Don Patterson, cell (912) 288-7594

On August 15, 2017, a meeting with the interested churches of the association was held to share information concerning the process of starting a recovery program in Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association. This ministry would focus on the great need of our area for those persons who are struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. Bro. Jerry Weathersby led the meeting. These POBA churches were represented at the meeting: Bridge Community, Waycross Community, Hebardville, First Folkston, First Nahunta, Oak Hill, Whosoever Will, Manor Community, Central, First Blackshear, Twin Rivers, Calvary, Hickox.

Several churches from other denominations attended the meeting out of their concern for the overwhelming need in this area of drugs and alcohol addiction and recovery. Please know I do not think it possible to turn our heads away from this destructive need that is plaguing our area and nation.

The following statistical data was shared with the group by Bro. Jim Burkhard. As you read this information you will be taken back by the vastness of the problem facing our associational churches in this area of addiction. One thing you will observe is the impact on children and families. Please prayerfully consider this data and the real lives it represents.

In the United States Today:

*Half of all Children (35.6 million) live in a household where a parent or other adult drinks heavily or uses illicit drugs.

*23.8 percent of children (17 million) live in a household where a parent or

other adult is a binge or heavy drinker.

*12.7 percent of children (9.2 million) live in a household where a parent or other adult uses illicit drugs.

(statistics from Set Free Ministry "The Impact on Children")

Sunday School Leadership Training: September 9 at Central Baptist

Our Team for the Training Event:
Pastors & Directors (Tim Hall)
Adults (College/Career, Young Adults, Adults; Steve Kegley)
Youth (Vance Colley)
Grades 4-6 (Doug & Kathy Todd)
Grades 1-3 (Diane Roberson)
Preschool (Marie Ulmer)
Caregivers & Outreach (Don Harper)

You can find the schedule on page three of this newsletter.

One of the ways that has been proven to reach, teach and care for people in your community is the Sunday School. When organized properly and promoted faithfully this tool will be a proven asset in leading the lost to Christ, assimilating new members into the church and developing disciples. But it must be worked with great discipline, prayed for and prayed over to achieve the impact that it has the potential of achieving. The team a church puts together to lead the Sunday School must be led by a pastor who has a passion for Sunday School and he must believe that small groups are the key to reaching, teaching and caring for those who need Christ and those in the fellowship of the church. The Sunday School Director must also have a passion for Sunday School. He must be willing to work with the pas-

tor in promoting Sunday School every opportunity he gets from the pulpit, from the family night suppers, from deacons meeting, through the mission organizations of the church. He must have Sunday School on the BRAIN. He must work with the pastor to select teachers who are willing to be faithful to the Sunday School effort. Teachers who committed to training and studying in order share God's word effectively with those in his or her class from preschoolers to senior adults. Remember you are serving the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords in your leadership position. Give Him the best that you have by preparing to do so.

DISASTER RELIEF



HURRICANE HARVEY:

Please continue to pray for all who have been affected and who are still in the path of Hurricane Harvey. Below is the current update:

- This disaster is already larger and has affected more homes than Katrina.
- At this point, the only ones allowed in the areas are military with high clearance vehicles.
- Louisiana is starting evacuations in Lake Charles as Harvey heads that way with continued rains.
- Texas anticipates not being able to receive units until at least next week.
- When we deploy, normal call-out procedures will be followed.

As updated information is received, it will be posted here and on Facebook.

NOTES: Please do not self-deploy or collect any items as there is no infrastructure in place to receive and distribute these items.

What can you do? – Pray – Donate: 100% of all donations go directly to relief efforts!

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- Calvary Baptist Clothing Ministry: During the month of September, they will be open on the first & third Tuesdays from 8:00-11:00 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, contact Calvary Baptist (283-5051).
- September 13: Ministry Safe Conference, FBC Statesboro, 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., No cost.
- November 13-20: National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child
- Offerman Baptist is looking for a bivocational Minister of Music. Contact James Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.
- Lulaton Baptist is seeking a bivocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to: Lulaton Baptist Church, PO Box 961, Nahunta GA 31553-0961.
- Jamestown Baptist is accepting applications for the position of custodian (36 hours/week). Applications can be obtained from the church office or call 912-283-6762.
- Deenwood Baptist has a 1998 GMC 3500 Bus (31 passenger, 47k miles, \$7500) for sale. Contact 283-7168.
- Offerman Baptist is accepting resumes for a bivocational Youth/Children's Pastor. Contact James Light-

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Date: September 9, 2017

Location: Central Baptist, Waycross

Time: 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Opening
9:40 a.m.	First Session
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Second Session
12:00 p.m.	Dismiss

Sessions:

Outreach & Caregivers (Don Harper)

Pastors & SS Directors (Tim Hall)

Preschool (Maris Ulmer)

Grades 1-3 (Diane Roberson)

Grades 4-6 (Doug Todd)

Youth (Vance Colley)

Adults (Steve Kegley)

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Atkinson	Lulaton	Williams Chapel
Bristol	Mt. Calvary	Youmans Chapel
Hephzibah	Satilla	

SEPTEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

This month, please remember these pastors and their families in prayer.

First Folkston: Randy Jacoby (Paula)
 First Nahunta: Jake Baum (Susan)
 First St. George: Larry Finley (Laura)
 First Waycross: Charlie Mayberry (Amy)
 Grace Chapel: John Boatwright (Melodie)
 Hacklebarney: Monroe Gill (Sue)
 Haywood: Donnie Tuten (Nina Jo)
 Hebardville: Mark Cardwell (Anne)
 Hephzibah: Johnny Ware (Frances)
 Hickox: Jamie Giddens

REVIVALS IN THE POBA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>
Sept 3-6	Sand Hill	Rick Coram
Sept 10-13	Mershon	Sam Quick, Tim Hall, Ben Smith, Ben Glosson, Billy Atkins
Sept 10-13	Shady Grove	Ray McMillan, Thomas Williams, Brian Brazzell
Sept 17-21	Walkerville	Greg Carter, Mark Griner, Leslie Owens, David Lowman, Matthew Tuten, Kevin Moore
Oct 1-4	Beulah	Ryan Clements, Robby Foster, Brad Waters, Randy Mullinax

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

A new BTCP class will be starting on October 3, 2017 at First Baptist Nahunta. For more information, please contact the POBA Office (912-285-861) or Bud Jones (912-223-8786).

BACKPACKS OF HOPE



The Georgia Baptist Mission Board is partnering with Appalachia and the poorest counties in Georgia to deliv-

er **BACKPACKS of HOPE** this year. The state goal is 35,000 backpacks with 5,000 remaining in Georgia and the 30,000 backpack balance being delivered to Appalachia.

Your POBA will be partnering with **Baker County** in southwest Georgia. We have set our goal to deliver **400 backpacks** and participate in a ministry event on December 2, 2017 from 10am - 2pm. We will come alongside our sister association to assist in evangelism, backpack distribution, manning stations like a bounce house, snow cone machine, popcorn machine and the like. If you are interested in joining with a group from our association to assist the delivery of backpacks on December 2nd, please contact Glenn Bohannon (912-240-1929) at New Union Baptist Church by October 31, 2017. New Union is also where the donated backpacks can be delivered. Please **drop off all backpacks by NOVEMBER 10, 2017**. Should we collect more than 400 backpacks, the balance will be taken to the Georgia Baptist Convention to be held North Metro in Lawrenceville, GA. Visit: <http://ow.ly/ngzs30dRPTTr> for information on packing a backpack.

NAMB SENDING CHURCH LAB



NAMB office, Alpharetta, GA
September 11-12, 2017

Dates: September 11-12
Location: NAMB, Alpharetta, GA

Topics include practices for coaching planters, planning financial sustainability for church plants and more. NAMB will cover the cost of lodging for one night for one room and meals for pastor and up to one more staff person while in Alpharetta. Once the registration is received, NAMB will make your lodging reservation and send you a confirmation number. Visit: <http://ow.ly/KQyV30dRNm1>

EFFECTIVE MISSION



The church (followers of Jesus Christ) is charged with the responsibility to make disciples of all the people groups of the world (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8) because at some

point in the future representatives from all nations, tribes, people, and tongues will be represented worshipping God for all eternity (Revelation 7:9-10). God has chosen the church to be his messengers and the way the remaining 3,178 (<http://grd.imb.org>) unreached and unengaged people groups will have representation in the eternal worship of God in heaven is by followers of Jesus Christ sharing the gospel, God drawing that person to Himself, and an individual or multiple individuals from that people group surrendering their life to become followers of Jesus Christ.

So, with this in mind, it is important for the church to be effective in its mission efforts. Each month, I will address ways for the church to be effective in its mission efforts and will cover the following topics: Defining Terms, Engage Lostness, Use Partners, Be Strategic, Prepare, Evaluate.

MISSIONS COLLEGE



IMB Missions College

Dates: January 16-19, 2018
Location: Richmond, VA

Registration Now Open

Visit: <https://info.imb.org/missions-college/2018?mail01>

WHAT WE BELIEVE AS SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

Each month we focus on a different topic in the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM). You may obtain a copy of the BFM (in print or by email) by contacting our office.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Dates: September 8-10

Location: Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa

Cost varies depending on classes taken and supplies purchased. Visit: <http://ow.ly/Jrks30dRODa>.

Contact: Paula DeHart to register (404-538-8729)

IMB MISSIONS INTENSIVE



Dates: September 6-7, 2017

Location: Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa

Address: 18333 Exciting Idlewild Blvd, Lutz FL 33548

Registration: \$129 includes conference materials, breakfast and lunch. Visit: <http://ow.ly/OBae30dRMEy>

MEXICO PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Our association has had 40 participants from seven different churches from the Piedmont Okefenokee Association participate in our Mexico Partnership this year! We are working with a Mexican national church planting partner to establish a Bible-centered, evangelical, Baptist church in the state of Oaxaca in a town that currently has NO evangelical church.

We have engaged many adults this year in conversation about their spiritual condition, their reading the Bible, and the plan to establish a Bible-based evangelical church in their town. Our most recent trip (July 7-15) God allowed team members to lead three people to a personal relationship with Himself! People have been receptive to our presence in both their community and in their homes and are open to gospel presentations and conversations. We continue to pray for men to come to Christ. This past trip we had a man and his wife trust Jesus as his Savior.

We were reminded on this most recent trip that some of the people of Atoyaquillo have family members living in or around the Jersey City area of New Jersey. We will explore possible mission trips to New Jersey in the near future to share the gospel with the family members living in the USA. Our next Mexico Partnership Mission trip is scheduled for January 26-February 2. If God is leading you to participate, please contact Greg Benfield at [912-285-8161](tel:912-285-8161).

CHOIRFEST



Date: September 21, 2017

Location: Sweat Memorial Baptist, Waycross

Time: 6:30 p.m.

It's that time again! Choirfest 2017 is just around the corner. It is a wonderful time of musical praise and fellowship that we can share with our fellow churches in the Association. All churches are encouraged to participate.

Registration Forms need to be returned to the Associational Office no later than Thursday, September 7, 2017.

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Hi everyone,
Your Georgia Baptist Mission Board Communications team would like to announce that the reachingnextgen.com website is now live!

“#ReachingNextGen - Choosing To Reach the Next Generation” is the public presentation for the U2019 initiative of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. U2019 is intended to challenge and partner with Baptist leaders to focus on reaching more teens and children from now through 2019.

The website features:

1. Intro to #ReachingNextGen
2. Video overview of the general strategy.
3. Strategic action plans that include video training and support documents for Kids, Teens and C-Bridge (Post High School).
4. A sign-up form for churches to join the initiative, receive updates, and a FREE church consultation (optional).
5. A list of participating churches.

Going forward, every two months, we will add the next shift to the current cycle of the Strategic action plans. In total, there are two cycles of six shifts each that carries into 2019. We will also be adding testimonials, and other interesting content.

When does the strategy begin? Now.

It is never too early to begin. The “official” launch will take place at the 2017 annual meeting that will serve as a “ribbon cutting.” Churches are encouraged to begin planning as soon as possible as we focus greater energy in 2018 and 2019 toward reaching the next generation. So, help spread the word and let’s invite every Georgia Baptist church to get involved in reaching the next generation!

Thanks for all you do!

Barry Dollar

State Missionary, Communications

M-NIGHT IS OCTOBER 19

M-Night will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at Bridge Community Church on Main Street in Blackshear. Rev. Thomas Hammond, President of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, will be speaking.

Breakout sessions: Recovery Ministry, Local Mission Partnerships, National/International Mission Partnerships

Reservations: The meal is provided at no cost, but RSVP is required by Friday, October 13. Reserve your meal at: <http://ow.ly/dZS730eMxYm>

Schedule:

5:00 p.m.	Truckloading for GB Children’s Homes
5:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Special Music
6:45 p.m.	Message: Thomas Hammond
7:15 p.m.	Transition to Breakouts
7:30 p.m.	Breakouts
8:45 p.m.	Dismiss

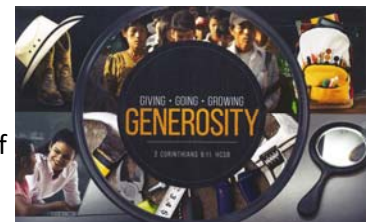
We will be collecting items for the Georgia Baptist Children’s Homes before M-Night. You may bring items between 5:00—5:30 p.m.



These are the items that our association has been requested to bring: chili, marshmallows, large can of vegetables, canned fruit, pasta noodles, Bisquick. Gift cards are always appreciated!

MISSION GEORGIA OFFERING EMPHASIS

The Mission Georgia Offering is an annual emphasis which supports the ministries, missions, and evangelism work of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. September is the suggested emphasis month, though promotion material may be used anytime during the year.



You can request a State Missionary speaker to share about what God is doing in Georgia Baptist state missions ministries by calling (800) 746-4422 ext 296. Order materials at missiongeorgia.org

M-Now 2017

What a wonderful weekend we were able to experience August 4-5. We were able to see more than 500 people from 20 churches from 4 different counties come together at Central Baptist Church of Waycross, GA for M-Now (Missions Now). It was amazing to watch as so many different churches worked together to put on an amazing event that honored God and was geared towards our teenagers being mobile for the sake of the Gospel. God showed up and showed out by blessing us with over 6 decisions for salvation and having our teenagers impacting their communities for the Gospel. The worship sessions geared our students towards being mission minded, our theme this year “#serve” (Locally, Nationally, and Internationally, our verse was:

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”

John 12:25-26

We heard challenging messages from Josh Pilgrim who serves as Associate Campus Minister for Shorter University and Lead Pastor of Three Rivers Church (Kingston Campus) Rome, Georgia. Josh gave one of the strongest and simplest outlines of the Gospel Friday night that connected with the entire crowd, at the conclusion students were challenged to boldly stand for Christ if they wanted to Repent and follow Jesus. Josh shared a convicting statement, “We have taught generations of believers to only stand for Jesus when every head is bowed and eye is closed, yet Jesus doesn’t desire us to be quiet and ashamed in our faith.” Saturday morning Josh challenged students to be salt and light as they worked in ministry that afternoon, and to be the best at whatever vocation God has called them to as to bring honor to Christ. In the last session Josh shared about hearing revelation from God through His Word, all throughout the room students were given the chance to share what God had been revealing to them through His Word. We were led in authentic worship led by Wes Willis and Rush of Fools. Rush of Fools is a band comprised of worship leaders from the Birmingham and Montgomery area of Alabama who have led worship as a band for 15 years!! These guys set the tone for each session, by taking us

to the throne of our Savior and allowing us the amazing opportunity to just love on Jesus through music.

Saturday saw 500 plus go into our community to “Love Loud”, after the morning session of the conference. We had churches do mission projects in areas around their church, some taught their students about true leadership and being mission minded, some stayed at Central Baptist and partnered with “Project Foster” (a ministry group established to aid and encourage Foster Families) they were able to provide a fun water day for foster kids. Some churches went to our local nursing homes and loved on residents, visited / encouraged police, ems, and fire personnel, some groups worked in an unengaged neighborhood that had been adopted by their church and picked up trash, cut grass, delivered school supplies door to door and had spiritual conversations with families. Some churches canvased areas around town for prayer and to have spiritual conversations with people. I am very thankful to serve with other leaders who want to engage the community for the sake of the Gospel! We asked a couple of students about how M-Now has impacted them and this is their response: Harlie Phillips says, “M-Now is special because it’s not only a place to come and revive yourself but it’s an event where you can also revive our community. Because you can do youth revivals and other events but unless you are doing something missional how will we reach the lost?” Abby Cox says, “M-Now is such an eye opener because you get to see how much you are truly a follower of Christ when you’re around your peers who go to the same school. That is our mission field!” What a great and busy weekend!!!

Special thanks to all of those involved, Central Baptist Church for hosting M-Now, Ben Smith, Tim Kilgore, Matt Peters, Central Baptist volunteers, Millennium Sound, POBA Churches, Churches outside of our association, Adult Volunteers, all those involved behind the scenes and involved in the planning. Thank you Youth leaders for supporting this event and loving on your students. It is a joy and pleasure to work with you! I know sometimes you don’t feel like you are making a difference, but YOU ARE! Thank you churches for supporting this event and to our Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association for their support and help! Thank you Bro. Don, Greg, and Sarah!



Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

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Phone (912) 285-8161, Fax (912) 816-4902

CALENDAR

September

- 4 Labor Day, office closed
- 6-7 IMB Missions Intensive
- 9 Sunday School Leadership Training
- 13 Minister Wellness Retreat, Toccoa
- 15-16 Women on Mission Series, Clayton
- 19 Administrative Team Meeting
- 21 Choirfest
- 25-1 Mexico Partnership Missions
- 26 Pastor/Staff Prayer Meeting
- 28-29 Discover GA Baptists
- 29-30 Together for Adoption, FBC Woodstock

October

- 8 Global Hunger Sunday
- 9 Columbus Day
- 13 ACR Deadline
- 13 M-Night Meal Reservation Deadline
- 17 Administrative Team Meeting
- 19 M-Night
- 23-24 Sending Church Lab, NAMB
- 27-28 SS Directors Summit, Newnan
- 31 Pastor/Staff Prayer Meeting

November

- 4 Caregiver Training
- 5 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 7-9 Renovate Conference, Orlando
- 10 Backpacks of Hope Deadline
- 10 Veterans Day (observed)
- 13-14 Georgia Baptist Convention
- 18 MSM Thanksgiving Dinner
- 21 Administrative Team Meeting
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holidays, office closed
- 28 Pastor/Staff Prayer Meeting



Celebrating in September

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Delores Ray—3
- Robin Thrift—4
- Mike Stone—8
- Scotty Hayes—9
- Nina Jo Tuten—12
- Jennifer Tuttle—13
- Sam Quick—14
- Debra Golden—17
- Ralph Ramey—26
- Mark Cardwell—28

Anniversaries

- Tim & Raquel Corey—1
- Larry & Laura Finley—4
- Loren & Janice Bryant—8
- Tommy & Sharon Woods—20
- Don & Barbara Patterson—23
- Charlie & Ann Mayberry—25
- Mark & Anne Cardwell—29



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