

The associational ADVISOR

November 2017

POBA

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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.*




NOVEMBER IS:
**NATIONAL
ADOPTION
MONTH!**




**Mary Street Mission
Thanksgiving Dinner**
Saturday, November 18




**Daylight Saving Time
Ends**
“Fall Back” on Sunday,
November 5



Thanksgiving Holidays
November 23-24
POBA Office Closed



Backpacks of Hope
Deadline: November 10
See page 5



Pastor/Staff Prayer
Tuesday, November 28
11:00 a.m.
POBA



Veterans Day
Saturday,
November 11
**THANK YOU,
VETERANS**



Caregivers Conference
Saturday, December 2
Jamestown Baptist
See page 6



2017 GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION
North Metro First Baptist Church, Lawrenceville
November 12-14
“The harvest truly is plentiful...” Matthew 9:37

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POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

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



On November 11 we honor our veterans who have served us in the military of this great nation. My Uncle John Patterson was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam. He served three tours of duty in Vietnam and was away from his family for months and years as he sought to hold high the nation and the flag he so deeply loved. For over 20 years he gave his life in serving this country and seeking to preserve the values and freedom we all hold dear. Uncle John passed away a number of years ago but left a great mark on my life as a valent soldier and warrior.

Many of you who are presently reading this article have also in times gone by served this nation as a soldier. Maybe you were in the Navy like my nephew who presently stationed at a nearby naval base and finds his duty on a vessel or in port waiting for his next assignment. Maybe you served in the Army with a willingness to face deployment where ever the need may arise. Just recently a young man from our hometown was killed in Africa serving the nation he

loved. Maybe you were a Marine. Someone has said, "Once a Marine, always a Marine." Or maybe you served in the Coast Guard, protecting the harbors and shorelines of our nation. Maybe you served in the Air Force and assisted in keeping pilots and aircrews flying or maybe you were a pilot or crew member of an aircraft. You are a veteran and we salute you and your service. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts for your service and sacrifice to keep us as the United States of America free.

Like you I still get gooseflesh when I hear the national anthem and salute the grand ole flag that represents the very best of who we are as a nation. Where ever you are right now just take a moment to thank God for the privilege you have to be an American. Let me ask you to bow your heads and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for his grace and mercy in giving us this freedom we know in this great nation. Thank Him for those who have paid the price for this freedom we enjoy. It has been paid for at a very high price.

For those in this hour who think it unnecessary to salute the flag and stand in honor of the national anthem, pray a special prayer for them to realize the cost of freedom represented in our flag and the national anthem. Take a moment to just respectfully say these words with me: "I **pledge allegiance** to the

Flag of the **United States** of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.", should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.

Would you say or sing with me this awesome song called our National Anthem?

*Oh, say can you see
by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright
stars
thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?*

LET ME URGE YOU TO PRAY DAILY FOR OUR PRESIDENT AND HIS LEADING OF OUR GREAT NATION. PRAY THAT OUR FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND OUR SPIRIT OF HELPING OTHERS WILL OVERSHADOW ALL THAT WE ARE AS A NATION AND THAT ABOVE ALL JESUS WILL BE EXALTED IN THE LAND. Our constitution and governing principals are a gift from God and His Word.

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- November 5: The Brewton-Parker Choir will be at Sweat Memorial for the evening service, 6:30 p.m.
- November 13-20: National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child
- Homecoming Services: Riverside Chapel (October 15)
- There were 78 people at M-Night 2017. The following churches were represented: Beulah, Bristol, Bridge, Calvary, Camp Pinckney, Central, Community, FBCB, FBCN, GBMB, Hacklebarney, Hickox, Jamestown, Laura Walker Park, Lees Chapel, Lulaton, Manor Community, Mershon, Millwood, Pineview, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Valley, Second, Set Free, Shady Grove, South Gate, Walkerville, Ware Terrace, Whosoever.
- Satilla Baptist has called Terry Jackson as pastor.
- 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 Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Bristol	Spring Hill
Lulaton	Youmans Chapel
Mt. Calvary	

NOVEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

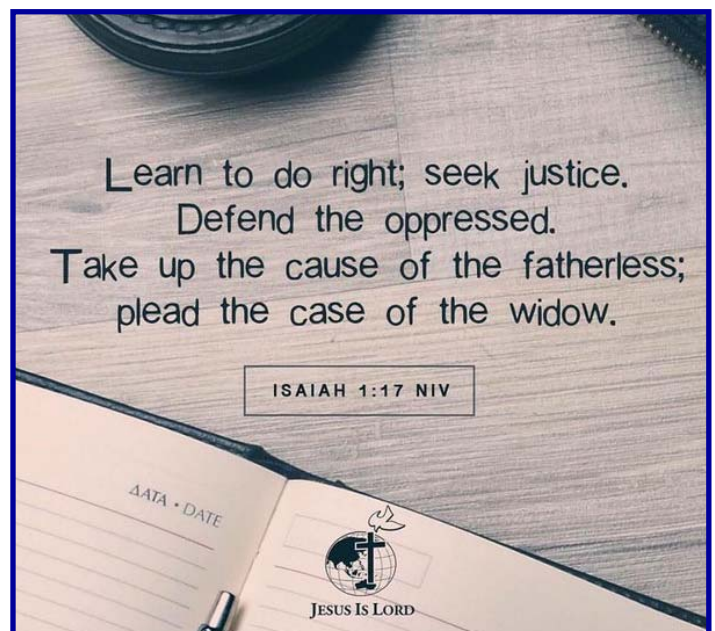
This month, please remember these pastors and their families in prayer.

New Haven: Ernie Crussell (Charlotte)
 New Union: Glenn Bohannon (Sheryl)
 Newbern: Ralph Ramey (Tonya)
 Oak Hill: Clint Carter (Jennifer)
 Offerman: James Lightsey (Tasha)
 Patterson: RC James (Myra)
 Pebble Hill: David Merck (Natalie)
 Pine Grove: Adam Walker (Lori Shae)
 Pineview: Randy Ray (Sharon)
 Pleasant Hill: IB Boyette (Joyce)

MARY STREET MISSION THANKSGIVING DINNER

Mary St. Mission needs evangelistic volunteers to serve tables at this year's annual Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at the Waycross Railroad Depot on Saturday, November 18 from 11am – 1pm.

Please call *Tammy Carson* at [912-670-1918](tel:912-670-1918) to volunteer in this capacity or other ways.



EFFECTIVE MISSION



As of the writing of this article there are 7,035 *unreached* people groups in the world. This is the "number of people groups where Evangelical Christians comprise less than 2% of the total population" (<http://grd.imb.org>). Of the 7,035 unreached people groups there are 3,179 *unreached and unengaged* people groups. This is the "number of unreached people groups not engaged by anyone. A people group is engaged when a church planting strategy, consistent with Evangelical faith and practice, is underway. In this respect, a people group is not engaged when it has been merely adopted, is the object of focused prayer, or is part of an advocacy strategy" (<http://grd.imb.org>).

Being on effective mission always involves engaging lost people, those that have no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, the local church is always to engage the lost in its community, nation and around the world. One way for the church to be about the Father's business (Luke 2:49) in obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-47, John 20:21) is for every believer to share the gospel as a lifestyle (not just an event) with the lost they encounter each day and among the people God leads the church to engage that has no gospel witness. The way God designed for the gospel to go forward is by believers sharing it. The only way for the unreached and unengaged lost of the world to be represented among those nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues worshipping God as indicated in Revelation 7:9-10 is for the church to make it their aim, like Paul, to "preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation" (Romans 15:20). The local church must take its responsibility to share the gospel in places where it is not currently known and simultaneously among those we cross paths with regularly for its mission to be effective.

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>

ELECTION OF GEORGIA BAPTIST MISSION BOARD PRESIDENT

(Don Patterson) Many of you are aware that Mike Stone will be placed in nomination to serve as the President of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board in the Convention proceedings in November. Dr. Don Hattaway, former pastor of Emmanuel and former President of the Convention will nominate Bro. Mike to this place of leadership.

As your associational missionary, I want you to prayerfully consider voting for Bro. Mike who so ably represents who we are as Georgia Baptist and Southern Baptist in this convention and beyond. I am often amazed at the knowledge and understanding I hear Mike share when we are gathered together for the Administration Committee of the GBMB. Presently he serves on this committee and is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of our convention. For those of you in and out of our association who have invited Bro. Mike to preach for you or have heard him preach know that he is totally committed to preaching the inerrant and infallible Word of God. If you have never heard his choir sing or had the privilege of worshipping with the church family of Emmanuel, then I would at some point in time consider the opportunity of doing so. I can only say that in my experiences of worship with his church family, I have been moved and blessed by both the music and the proclamation of the Word. Much of what transpires in those times of worship are impacted by Bro. Mike's leadership and the fellowship (note *fellowship*) of his staff and church family.

I count it a privilege to call you to prayer on behalf of Bro. Mike Stone, his precious wife, Andrea and their children, as well as his church family, as Mike offers himself as a servant to all the churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention on November 13-14 at North Metro Baptist Church.

SHARE THE NEWSLETTER



Do you know someone who would like to receive the Associational Advisor? They can scan the QR Code to the left or simply go to www.pobaonline.com/AssociationalAdvisor to sign up.

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.B. God The Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

BACKPACKS OF HOPE



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

PACKS 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](tel:912-240-1929)) at New Union Baptist Church by [November 3, 2017](http://ow.ly/ngzs30dRPT). 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/ngzs30dRPT> for information on packing a backpack.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



Mexico Partnership Missions
Oaxaca, Mexico
 February 13-20, 2018
 Estimated cost: \$1,000
 Deposit due: \$400 - December 1, 2017



Ecuador Mission Trip
Tangali, Ecuador
 May 15-22, 2018
 Estimated cost: \$1,500
 Deposit due: \$600 - February 2, 2018

Please contact Greg Benfield at the POBA Office (912-285-8161) for more information or to sign up for one of these mission opportunities.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is November 13-20, 2017.

Collection Centers and Times:

Second Baptist

(301 Tomberlin Rd Waycross, Contact Glenda Bashlor 282-4414)

- Mon Nov 13: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Tue Nov 14 : 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Wed Nov 15: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Thu Nov 16: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Fri Nov 17: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Sat Nov 18: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Sun Nov 19: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Mon Nov 20: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Offerman Baptist

(Hwy 84 Patterson, Contact Tommy Colley 282-3211)
 Mon-Fri (11/13-11/17) 6:00—8:00 p.m.

For more information about how to pack a shoebox, go to: www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

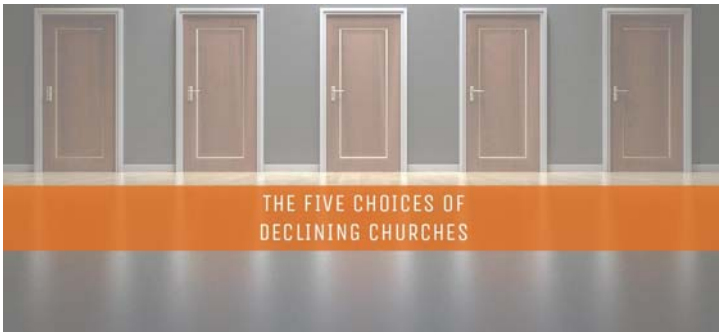


Date: Saturday, December 2
Location: Jamestown Baptist Church
Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

This conference is designed to provide love, support, and encouragement to those in our churches who are seeking to care for loved ones who can no longer care for themselves. It will feature a time of worship and inspiration, a wonderful meal, breakout sessions and inspiration, and giveaways. All caregivers are invited to attend.



FIVE CHOICES OF DECLINING CHURCHES



(From thomrainer.com)

It's simple and straightforward. Leaders of declining churches have five choices.

Let me clarify. In theory, the choices are simple. But putting them to practice is not so easy. So when pastors or other church leaders ask me what they can do about their declining church, I ask them to begin at the high level before looking at a lot of details. One of these five choices must be made.

1. Do nothing.

Anecdotally, I can tell you the majority of churches make this decision. Such is the reason that two-thirds of the churches are declining or plateaued.

Advantages: You avoid conflict. You may get to keep your job.

Disadvantages: If you do nothing and are declining, you will still decline. You are disobedient to the Great Commission. And leading a declining church is no fun.

2. Incremental change.

I wrote about this kind of change many years ago in a book called *Eating the Elephant*. You attempt to discern a pace that can take as many members as possible with you.

Advantages: Change is taking place, hopefully for the better. You minimize losses of membership and criticisms, but not completely. You probably keep your job.

Disadvantages: Today most churches don't have the luxury of changing incrementally. The world is so different than just a few years ago. Incremental change may not stop the bleeding.

3. Significant change.

Leadership recognizes the simple choice is, "change or die." The church decides to make significant leadership, methodological, organizational, structural, and philosophical changes.

Advantages: The church may reverse the decline and become a gospel influence in the community again. For those who are on board, there can be a sense of radical obedience to the gospel.

Disadvantages: The church almost always loses significant numbers of members. Ironically, the church may not survive the change created for survival. Leadership is inundated with criticisms. You could lose your job.

4. Preparation for closure.

Unlike the "do nothing" choice of option one, the church acknowledges it is declining and headed toward death. It makes preparation for an orderly shut down and disposition of property and other resources.

Advantages: This option is one of death with dignity. The church is not scurrying at the last moment to consider options. The process is orderly and well planned.

Disadvantages: The church dies. The gospel presence in the community once represented by this congregation no longer exists.

5. Preparation for acquisition.

The church seeks to become a campus or site of a healthier congregation. It yields its leadership and gives its resources to the acquiring congregation.

Advantages: There is a continuation of the gospel presence in the community. The acquiring church provides leadership and resources to effect a turnaround. The church does not close.

Disadvantages: The acquired church is not the same congregation. The members of the acquired church often have a false notion that the new church will let things stay fairly constant. They never do.

At its basic levels, declining churches really have one of five choices. And if a church makes no choice, it has really decided to choose the "do nothing" option, the worst of the five choices.

CALENDAR

November

National Adoption Month
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

December

2 Caregiver Conference
2 Backpacks of Hope, Baker Co.
3-10 Week of Prayer for International Mis-
sions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
19 Administrative Team Meeting
24 Christmas Eve
25-1 Christmas Holidays, office closed
31 New Year's Eve

January

1 New Year's Day
6 Pastor/Deacon Training
16 Administrative Team Meeting
16-19 Missions College
21 Sanctity of Life Sunday
25 POBA Annual Meeting
25-28 Jacksonville Pastor's Conference
27 POBA RA Derby
29-30 Evangelism Conference



Celebrating in November

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

Bill Young—1
Phillip Cochran—1
Vance Colley—4
Raquel Corey—5
Sue Gill—10
Butch Hickox—11
Carol Colley—13
Jake Baum—13
Vera Smith—15
Connie Colley—27
Johnny Ware—27

Anniversaries

Ralph & Tonya Ramey—9
James & Nancy Perry—22
James & Tasha Lightsey—22
Randy & Paula Jacoby—30



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