

The associational ADVISOR

March 2018

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.*

Stay Informed!



Sign up to receive event reminders
See page 4

Pastor/Staff Prayer



Tuesday, March 27
POBA Office
11:00 a.m.

POBA RA Camporee



March 2-3
Beulah Baptist
See page 5

VBS Clinic



Thursday, April 12
Sweat Memorial Baptist
7:00 p.m.
Open Orders: March 26-April 9



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Week of Prayer March 4-11
anniearmstrong.com



Holy Week

Palm Sunday: March 25
Good Friday: March 30
(office closed)
April 1: Easter



Daylight Saving Time Begins

"Spring Forward" on
Sunday, March 11



S Night

Thursday, April 19
Oak Hill Baptist
6:45 p.m.



Church Compliance Seminar

Saturday, March 24
FBC Alma
see page 3

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POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

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

S Night "Souls for Jesus" will be held on **Thursday, April 19, 2018** at **Oak Hill Baptist Church** in Waycross. The Oak Hill Baptist Praise Team will open with praise and worship at **6:45 p.m.** Mark your calendars and make plans to join us!

Emphasis: Revitalization of the church



The guest speaker will be Dr. Robby Foster. Dr. Foster is the Senior Pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Valdosta, Georgia. He is married to Laura Foster.

They have two children: Tiffany and son-in-law Keith, and son Josh and daughter-in-law Morgan. They also have two granddaughters named Ella-Grace & Ansleigh and a grandson named Graham.

Education: Management Degree (Gainesville College/ Lanier Tech), Christian Ministry (GBBI/ Truett McConnell), Masters Christian Ministry (Southwest Bible College: Seminary), Doctorate Christian Ministries (Southwest Bible College: Seminary)

Life Verse: Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

In the annual meeting at Hebardville we had asked those attending to give us a name of someone you would like to see the associational minutes dedi-

cated. As your missionary I am always listening to your input related to the function of our office and when Sarah's name comes up it is always with a word of great appreciation for the work she does for all of us as POBA in the associational office.

Sarah has been with us for nearly 17 years and as I tell many she is more like a daughter to me than a staff person. When she first came to serve in May 2001 she had little knowledge of the work of the association but was so willing to learn the positive relationship the association can have on the lives of the churches and the lives of those who make up those churches. When you are learning the processes of financial issues and ministry related activities of over 68 churches you go through a learning curve and on that curve there are always highs and lows. If there were no highs and lows, no difficult times in the road, there would be no development in the one traveling the road of learning. Sarah and I have passed many experiences in our 16 years of service together and have developed a deep respect for each other and for the work that she, Greg and I do in this office for the kingdom's cause. We initially walked through her preparation for marriage to her husband Barry. Then, we walked through the birth of her first daughter Abigail. Physical problems with her pregnancy brought challenges but she recovered and was back in her place of ministry. Later she became pregnant with Ava and once again faced the challenges of having to adjust to the responsibility of caring for two beautiful daughters as

well as keeping Barry in line. Through these changes in life she has been able to keep the work of the office moving smoothly. Sarah, having Bro. Greg to encourage her, launched out in a mission venture to Ecuador 2011 and 2012 and then to Mexico 2015. I believe that these experiences of being on mission had a powerful impact on her walk with Christ and her perspective of missions.

Sarah has impressed me by her love for the local church to which she faithfully attends and serves. Recently I assisted in a funeral at the church she is a member, and watched her first-hand minister to the congregation through operating the sound system and then helping serve the meal for the bereaved family. I was so blessed by observing her oldest daughter staying right with her mom and observing the things her mom was doing to see the family and friends at the funeral and the meal afterwards were well taken care of.

Sarah, in the office of POBA, oversees the expenditures of the office and the Mary St. Mission along with the needs many of our pastors and churches have on a daily basis. Each year we have worked with Sarah, she has proven her willingness to go beyond what is necessary and doing more than is required. One of the key factors in being a great leader is doing more that is called for in one's job description. Sarah, we acknowledge your support of the association and its ministries and salute you by dedicating this year's Book of Reports to you.

Bro. Don Patterson

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- April 27: Hoboken Baptist will host a Youth Rally featuring guest speaker Clint Burkett and worship by Bridge Community, 6:00—8:30 p.m.
- Offerman Baptist is accepting resumes for a bivocational Youth/Children's Pastor. Contact James Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.

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.

advance 103

Advance 103 is a strategic initiative by IMB missionary teams to partner with Southern Baptists and national Baptist churches to engage 103 unreached people and places in the Americas and strategic global locations by 2020. The goal for 2018 is to engage 34 of the 103 people and places.

// Church Partnership Opportunities

There are two unique ways your church can partner in this initiative:

PRAY: Your church will become a prayer partner for a specific unreached people or place. You'll also support the church and IMB missionary team as they engage this group.

ENGAGE: Your church, in partnership with an IMB missionary team will take ownership of developing a comprehensive strategy plan to engage one of the 103 unreached people and places. This will include multiple short-term trips annually, a prayer strategy, evangelism, and discipleship that leads to the planting of healthy churches that reproduce.

Interested in learning more or exploring the 103 unreached peoples and places further? Take the next steps by choosing a group of people and places to explore and then starting a conversation with our church success team. Details online: <https://info.imb.org/advance103>

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Beulah	Spring Hill
Bristol	Youmans Chapel
Mt. Calvary	

MARCH PRAYER FOCUS

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

Emmanuel: Mike Stone (Andrea)
 FBCB: Bill Young
 FBCF: Randy Jacoby (Paula)
 FBCN: Jake Baum (Susan)
 FBCSG: Larry Finley (Laura)
 FBCW: Charlie Mayberry (Amy)
 Grace Chapel: John Boatwright (Melodie)
 Hacklebarney: Monroe Gill (Sue)
 Haywood: Donnie Tuten (Nina Jo)
 Hebardville: Mark Cardwell (Anne)

2018 CHURCH COMPLIANCE & GIVING SEMINAR

This training provides pastors, treasurers, and church finance teams with information they will need to effectively carry out their financial processes in the church. These church compliance events are designed for both church staff and lay leaders who work with church finances to stay current with financial issues as they relate specifically to churches as well as topics related to church giving.

First Baptist Church Alma
 Saturday, March 24
 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
 \$10 per person, \$15 walk up registration
 Register: <https://gabaptist.org/churchcompliance/>

Please note that there will **not** be a financial training event in our Association this year. Let me urge all of our financial leaders to plan now to attend this training event.

EFFECTIVE MISSION



EVALUATE

Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate. It is tool many churches do not employ.

Evaluating mission trips gives us great insight. First there needs to be an established purpose for taking the mission trip. What is the reason the church is going on the mission? To take a "mission" trip just to take a trip is not an acceptable reason to go. "Spiritual" tourism is no reason to take a mission trip. Taking a trip to make us feel good or to see a new location is not a good reason to invest resources given the church for the purpose of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having a clearly defined, God-inspired reason to engage in the Great Commission so that God is glorified is the only reason to be on a mission trip.

Evaluating and documenting each trip allows us to see the progress toward the intended goal and purpose. Adjustments can be made early along if we stay in any one phase of the missionary task (1.entry, 2.evangelism, 3.discipleship, 4.healthy church formation, 5.leadership development, 6.exit) over the course of multiple trips. The task of a specific trip will help evaluate and determine the

STAY INFORMED!

We have two Remind 101 lists so that we can send quick texts with information about meetings and pastor prayer time.

Remind Lists you can join:

@pobapas: For Pastors only.

@pobaevent: Event Reminders. For anyone.

How to join by text:

Text the List Name (ex. @pobapas) to the number **81010**.

It may ask you to confirm that you would like to send the message. After you will receive a confirmation text that you have joined the list. We hope that this will be a good communication tool for the POBA. You are welcome to share the @pobaevent list information with anyone who would be interested in receiving event reminders.

personnel that needs to make up each team.

One primary benefit of partnership mission trips is the making of disciples in obedience to the Great Commission. Disciple making is not a one-trip mission trip. A second is the establishment of relationships which can provide accountability. Another benefit is the evaluation of the progress toward a specified purpose to include the making of disciples and church formation, as well as when to leave or exit.

An often forgotten tool to prepare for future trips is the post-trip debriefing. This evaluation serves the function of seeing if the team accomplished the established goal of the trip. It helps identify the positive and negative aspects of the trip which can be used to improve future trips. Each mission trip should have a specific purpose that helps meet the overall purpose for making the trip in the first place. The evaluation should consider the effectiveness of translators, logistics (food, lodging, transportation), evangelism and discipleship tools employed, travel dates and season, team preparedness, etc. This information should be passed to the next team so as to provide continuity and continual improvement in the effectiveness of the mission.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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



Ecuador Mission Trip

Tangali, Ecuador

May 14-21, 2018

Estimated cost: \$1,500

Deposit due: \$600 - March 7, 2018

You must have a valid passport by March 7, 2018.



Mexico Partnership Missions

Oaxaca, Mexico

July 14-21, 2018

Estimated Cost: \$1,100

Deposit Due: \$600 - March 7, 2018

You must have a valid passport by March 23, 2018.

RA CAMPOREE IN MARCH



The Associational RA Camporee is scheduled to be on March 2-3, 2018 at Beulah Baptist Church. Registration is \$15/person and includes the t-shirt and great fellowship. Please contact Josh McCarthy (mac.fca03@gmail.com) with questions and to send tshirt information.

FURTHER YOUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

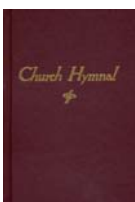
The POBA and the Associational Missions Ministries Program of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, in partnership with Brewton Parker College extend to you the opportunity to further your Christian Education by offering: **CHR 102 Introduction to the New Testament**, a 12-week course beginning March 15, 2018.

Classes will meet Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Crawford Street Baptist Church. Tuition is \$45. Registration deadline is March 12, 2018.

To register: application and registration forms and tuition fees should be mailed to: Leslie Lanier, 204 South Crawford Street, Waycross, GA 31503. Tuition does not include books.

Questions: Contact Dr. Billy Puckett (912-347-0053 or bpuckett@bpc.edu)

PLEASANT VALLEY HOSTS HYMN SING



(Sam Stack) Pleasant Valley Baptist Church will host its First Annual Red Back Hymnal Hymn Sing on March 11, 2018, beginning at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If anyone would like to be a part of the choir they are welcome to join us as well. We will have two mass choir rehearsals prior to the event. Tuesday February 27 and Tuesday March 6. Both rehearsals will begin at 7:00 PM and will conclude at 8:30 PM.

PIANO SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

Auditions for the 2018 Piano Scholarships will be 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

For full eligibility and music requirements, contact the POBA Office.

Entry Deadline

All applications must be submitted by April 29, 2018. Applications may be submitted to your POBA music minister or the POBA office.

REVIVALS IN THE POBA

If your church has planned a spring revival, please send information (date, church, and speaker) to Sarah at sarah.poba@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN APOLOGIST DR. FRANK TUREK SPEAKING AT FBC WAYCROSS IN MARCH



Dr. Frank Turek - public speaker, award-winning author, and President of CrossExamined.org - will be speaking at FBC Waycross on Saturday, March 10 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Turek will be speaking from his book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*. He will address four major questions to establish why Christianity is the most reasonable worldview:

1. Does Truth Exist?
2. Does God Exist?
3. Are Miracles Possible?
4. Is the New Testament True?

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.fbcwayx.com or by going to the FBC Waycross church office (702 Elizabeth Street).

THANK YOU, BILLY GRAHAM

(By Thom Rainer, complete article can be found: <http://thomrainer.com/2018/02/thank-you-billy-graham/>)

Here are five simple but profound lessons I learned from [my] visit with Billy Graham.

1. **A life pleasing to the Lord is a life of integrity.** The name of Billy Graham inevitably reminds us of integrity. His was a life that did not compromise morally. It was a life that was above reproach financially. And his was a life of incredible honesty. Leadership at any level cannot begin to function well unless the leader has integrity.
2. **Our first ministry is to our family.** The home of Billy Graham was a home of love. It was the place where Billy and Ruth Graham raised children and welcomed grandchildren. At one point in my visit with Mr. Graham, he pointed to a portrait of his late wife Ruth. With tears in his eyes he said, "I can't wait to see her in heaven." Today, he has that joy. Thank you, sir, for reminding me again of the priority of family.
3. **Listen to critics, but don't dwell on them.** In my position, I am subject to criticisms more often than I like. Indeed I am pretty thin-skinned, so it is an area in which I

constantly struggle. So I asked Mr. Graham how, in a lifetime of international ministry and scrutiny, he dealt with the constant stream of criticisms. He smiled at me and simply said, "I ignored most of them." While he never implied that he was blameless, he knew that dwelling on criticisms would distract and harm his ministry. So he simply moved on.

4. **Humility is one of the greatest virtues of leaders.** He counseled presidents and kings. He preached to millions. Volumes have been written about his life and ministry. Some have seen him to be the world's most influential person of the second half of the twentieth century. Yet in each of the times I was with him, I witnessed one of the most humble men I've ever known. Billy Graham never thought too highly of himself. What an incredible example he was.

5. **All that really matters is Jesus.** Mr. Graham preached about Him for most of his life. The message of the gospel was the heart of his ministry. He understood the brevity of life. And he knew, when it is all said and done, our relationship with Jesus Christ is all that really matters.

These lessons are but a sampling of what he has undoubtedly contributed to the millions and millions of lives he has impacted through his ministry.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I ♥ VBS

(Nancy Perry) Our 2018 VBS Associational Training will be held at Sweat Memorial Baptist Church on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. We are "Game On!: Gearing Up For Life's Big Game."

We have started fervently praying for the upcoming VBS training and we will begin soon recruiting teachers to help us at this exciting time of worship and training.

Send your VBS Order Form to the POBA Office between March 26-April 9 and your VBS materials will be available at the VBS Clinic on April 12.

GREAT COMMISSION RESOURCE CNTR



Monday, March 19 - 7:00 p.m.
POBA Office

Affinity Groups: "Your Passion, His Purpose"

GCRC helps the pastor to lead his church to reach Unengaged Affinity Groups through discovering the passion of the members and leading them to use their passion for God's Purpose of Global Redemption. GCRC is a concept that produces Involvement, which produces Passion; Passion produces Participation, and Participation produces Acts 1:8.

website: goo.gl/Zw4Qkb

video: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/72058032>

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.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

THE SENIOR ADULT GATHERING

The Senior Adult Gathering will be held at Second Baptist Church on Monday, May 7, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will immediately be followed by a meal of southern barbeque and all the trimmings.

This year's guest will be The Chuck Wagon Gang. You can learn more about them at <http://thechuckwagongang.net>

Information has been mailed to each church. Please RSVP to the POBA Office by Thursday, May 3. Lunch is \$6/person and can be paid at the door on May 7.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, yet so many across North America are lost without Him. Through your support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, you can help change that.

March 4-11 is the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the suggested dates for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Learn more about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and download resources at anniearmstrong.com



100%

of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* supports North American missionaries.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million





Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

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

CALENDAR

March

- 1 Pastor’s Day at the Capitol
- 2-3 POBA RA Camporee
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the AAEO
- 11 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 16-17 State RA Camporee
- 18 Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
- 19 Great Commission Resource Center Roll Out
- 20 Administrative Team Meeting
- 24 Church Financial Compliance, FBC Alma
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 26-9 LifeWay VBS Orders
- 27 Pastor/Staff Prayer
- 30 Good Friday, office closed

April

- 26-9 LifeWay VBS Orders
- 1 Easter
- 8 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 12 VBS Clinic
- 17 Administrative Team Meeting
- 19 Spring Meeting
- 24 Pastor/Staff Prayer
- 25 Great Commission Resource Center Roll Out

May

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 6 Senior Adult Sunday
- 7 The Gathering
- 13 Mother’s Day
- 15 Administrative Team Meeting
- 20-27 Associational Missions Emphasis Week
- 20 Piano Scholarship Audition
- 28 Memorial Day, office closed
- 29 Pastor/Staff Prayer



Celebrating in March

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Jean Sinclair—2
- Amy Mayberry—2
- RC James—4
- Teke Dixon—8
- Larry Ray—10
- Courtney Everson—10
- Sheryl Bohannon—12
- Rein Hall—18
- Becky Snow—26
- Greg Delk—31

Anniversaries

- Mitch & Rein Hall—18
- Jimmy & Ida Thrift—28
- Randy & Sharon Ray—29



Download *The Associational Advisor* at pobaonline.com
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