

The associational ADVISOR


May 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 5




**Associational Missions
Emphasis Week**
May 20-27
See page 4




National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 3
See page 6




**Pastor Prayer
Breakfast**
Saturday, May 26
Offerman Baptist
8:00 a.m.




The Gathering
Monday, May 7
10:30 a.m.
Second Baptist
RSVP by May 3, see page 4




Memorial Day
Monday, May 28
POBA Office Closed



Mother's Day
Is
Sunday, May 13



Pastor/Staff Prayer
Tuesday, May 29
POBA Office
11:00 a.m.



**Georgia Baptist
Children's Home Day**
Sunday, May 13
See page 5

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POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

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

As I write this brief note I am more than aware that many of our churches are seeking for an easy solution to the gradual decline of their congregations. I am sorry to inform you that there are no easy solutions for the literal loss of those who are passing on to be in the Lord's presence and for those for one reason or the other have forsaken the local church and its influence on their lives. "No easy solutions" by no means is to be interpreted as no solutions at all. I am profoundly aware that there is an attitude or mindset that exists among many of the leaders of our churches that the old way of reaching folks just won't work in this post Christian era of our nation and communities. To that mind set I must simply remind myself and those of you who are reading this article that Jesus mandate found in Matthew 28: 16-20 was not given at a time when following Christ was in any shape form or fashion the thing to do. Yet, in the midst of the possibility of death, persecution and the loss of property and yes even family ties. The church flourished and grew with great strides.

Just look at the Acts accounts in Chapter 2 and you will be astounded at the number of folks who came to Christ after the preaching of the Apostle Peter. Three thousand it is estimated yielded their lives to Christ. On another occasion some 5000 were called to receive Christ through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. It is fascinating to note the follow-up program the Apostles offered to those who came to Christ. They encouraged these new converts to get under the preaching and teaching of the Apostles. The

Apostles taught these new Christians the teachings and actions of Jesus. These converts were taught what is called the Apostles' doctrine. They were steeped and indoctrinated in the meaning of the coming of Christ, what His death on the cross meant, what his resurrection indicated and what he taught his disciples to teach to those who would follow Him. In other words those who came to Christ were disciplined. It is obvious that they were taught to share their faith with others. This sharing came out of a living relationship with Christ. So, not only were the Apostles teaching and training the new believers but the new believers became active in their sharing the Good News with those they came in contact with on a daily basis. These new disciples were taught the power of prayer and saw first hand the impact prayer did and could have on those they new and those who were strangers and unbelievers. Many supernatural deeds occurred as awe for the Savior blossomed and bloomed among a band of followers of Christ who called on His name for intervention in the lives of the demon possessed, sick, afflicted, and lost. The power of Christ living in those who came to Him gave them an overwhelming love for each other and for those without Christ. This love caused the believers to share their belongings and possessions with those who had need. This love caused the believers to break down barriers of race, social differences and religious differences that had been hindrances in the Palestinian society for hundreds of years. This band of followers of Christ became one in HIM. And the Gospel spread like wildfire.

A song was written several years ago that had the theme "Do it again Lord!" By the way when, He does do it again in a church you and I won't have to be told it is happening at such and such a church, it will be noised every where that God is moving in the people of God at such and such a fellowship.

Four characteristics can be noted about the early church:

- They made the study and learning of the Word priority.
- They made prayer and praise necessity
- They made loving each other the indicator of spiritual vitality
- They totally committed themselves to sharing their faith with the lost.

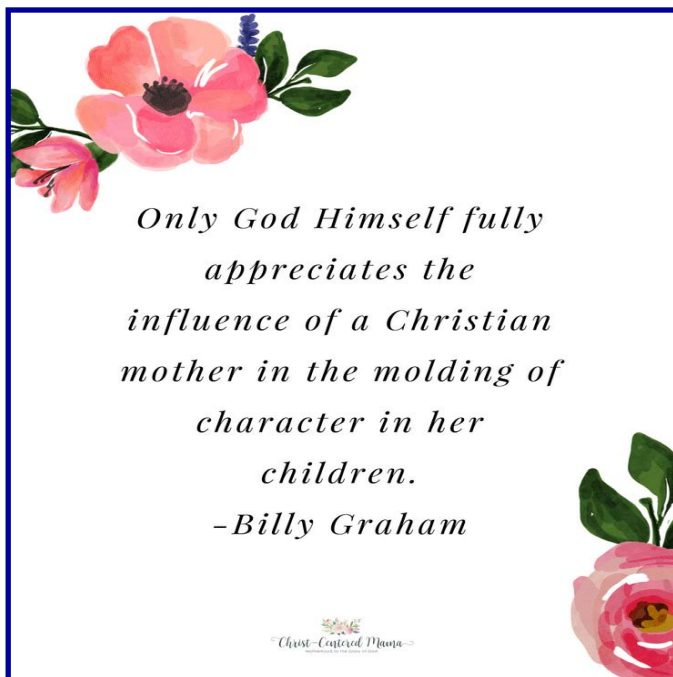
If you are looking for a tool to revitalize your church let me encourage you to go the GBMB revitalization website and pull up *Sample Revitalization Strategy for "Any" Baptist Church*. Over the next several months Sarah will be putting a portion of the this process in the newsletter for you to study and glean from. (See page 4)

In the book **Flickering Lamps** by Henry and Richard Blackaby, this statement is made, "There are churches that could shut down today and their community would never know they are gone. Nothing in the neighborhood or community would change."

What about your church???

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- There were 233 people at the VBS Clinic. The following churches were represented: Bridge, Calvary, Camp Pinckney, Central, Deenwood, FBCB, FBCF, Hacklebarney, Jamestown, Laura Chapel, Mt. Calvary, Mt. Vernon (Baxley), Oak Hill, Offerman, Pine Grove, Pineview, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Valley, Providence, Red Oak, Second, Shady Grove, Sweat Memorial, Ten Mile, Waynesville, West Carswell.
- There were 72 people at S Night. The following churches were represented: Bethel, Beulah, FBCB, Calvary, Camp Pinckney, Central, Hacklebarney, Hebardville, Jamestown, Lees Chapel, Millwood, Mt. Calvary, Oak Hill, Pineview, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Valley, Southside, The M.A.L.L., Ware Terrace, Waynesville, Whosoever.
- Sweat Memorial is hosting a grief support group, which began on April 19. If you are interested in attending contact the church at 283-7270.
- May 6-9: Waynesville Baptist will host an Every Believer A Witness training/evangelistic revival.
- Offerman Baptist is accepting resumes for a bivocational Youth/Children's Pastor. Contact James Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.
- Deenwood Baptist has a 1998 GMC 3500 Bus (31 passenger, 47k miles, \$7500) for sale. Contact 283-7168.



ASSOCIATIONAL INTERN POSITION

SUMMER INTERN!

Your POBA is accepting applications for an *Associational Intern* for the summer of 2018. The *Associational Intern* is

designed for men called to the gospel ministry. We want to expose high school juniors through college seniors to the ministry and work of the local Southern Baptist association.

The intern will:

- Join one of the POBA staff members each week to visit the churches of the association
- Participate in the meetings, conferences, conventions, mission trips, training events and ministry opportunities alongside POBA staff
- Assist churches of the POBA in establishing or enhancing VBS/Back Yard Bible Clubs or other outreach ministry of the church
- Equip churches on the use of and keep the Evangelism Trailer ready for ministry
- Be disciplined in *MasterLife*, *The Disciple's Cross*
- Read and discuss ministry related books assigned by POBA staff
- Assist in office and administrative duties

The 2018 internship is for the months of June and July. This is a non-paid position.

Completed applications must be submitted by mail to the POBA Office or by email to greg.poba@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

For additional information contact Greg Benfield at 912-285-8161 or by email at greg.poba@gmail.com.

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Beulah | Spring Hill |
| Bristol | Youmans Chapel |
| Crawford Street | |

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.

REVITALIZATION STRATEGY—PART 1

Over the next several months we will be including segments of "Sample Church Revitalization Strategy for "Any" Baptist Church." You can find the entire document at: <https://gabaptist.org/churchrevitalization/>.

Part 1: The Foundation is Vital

- a. Pray - Use times with the people to pray specifically for people who need Christ or need a church family. This can be a men's prayer group meeting with the pastor before Church on Sunday morning or at another time of the week. Wednesday night prayer meeting can be turned into a time to pray for individuals and the community.
- b. Communicate - Be very clear about your vision for the church, any goals you set, and the purpose for the goals. When you think you have said it enough say it one more time. The people are just beginning to get it.
- c. Move – Move at a pace the church can follow. One leader said, "If you think you are leading and no one is following you are just taking a walk." As pastor you want to be out front of your people but not so far that they cannot see you!
- d. Preach - Preach sermons that teach the church the importance of taking down the walls and reaching into the community. Base this on the model of Jesus and the model of the first century church.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS EMPHASIS WEEK: MAY 20-27

- **Our association is *our* association.** Churches make up an association; our association is our churches acting cooperatively.
- **An association is a group of churches doing missions.** Churches can do collectively through the association what no one church can do by itself.
- **An association promotes teamwork.** An association gives churches an opportunity to work together on local projects.
- **An association is an open door to the world mission outreach.** An association plans strategies and assists churches in proclaiming the gospel to internationals and ministering to them in Christ's name.
- **An association trains church leaders.** An association provides conferences and worships that are designed to train and develop church leaders.
- **An association gives personal assistance to churches.** The associational missionary and staff members assist churches to more effectively do their work within the church body and to meet the needs of people in their respective communities.
- **An association provides opportunities for fellowship.** As fellowship is developed and experienced, church leaders realize that they are not alone in seeking to serve the Lord in their local setting.

MAY PRAYER FOCUS

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

- Mershon: Mitch Hall (Rein)
- Millwood: Hershell Spears (Michelle)
- Mt. Calvary: Rusty Bryan (Judy)
- New Union: Glenn Bohannon (Sheryl)
- Newbern: Ralph Ramey (Tonya)
- Oak Hill: Ray McMillan (Cheryl)
- Offerman: James Lightsey (Tasha)
- Patterson: RC James (Myra)
- Pebble Hill: David Merck (Natalie)
- Pine Grove: Adam Walker (Lori Shae)

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. @pobaevent) 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

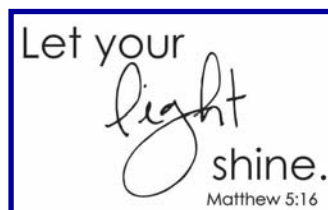
the list. We hope that this will be a good communication tool for the POBA. You are welcome to share the @pobaevent list information with anyone who would be interested in receiving event reminders.

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.

Dates	Church	Speaker(s)
April 29-May 2	Offerman	Brad Waters, Herb Reavis, Kenny Grant, Mike Stone
April 29-May 4	Hickox	
May 6-9	Hoboken	Jerry Johns
May 6-9	Waynesville	Paul Monroe
May 14-18	Riverside Chapel	Rick Brown

CHILDREN'S HOME DAY 2018



There are almost 13,000 children in the foster care system in Georgia. There are mothers in your community struggling with homelessness and overcoming domestic violence. There are

children being pushed into human trafficking in our backyards. Right now there are families and children in need of light during their darkest hour.

In 2017, the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes helped 1,215 children and their families find a glimmer of hope through a variety of innovative programs designed to bring spiritual, emotional and physical healing. Since they do not receive Cooperative Program funding, the Children's Homes are dependent on churches across the state that budget and/or recognize Children's Home Day.

The 2018 theme for Children's Home Day is "Let it Shine." We want to encourage you to join us in shining HIS light of home on children and families in need anytime. Bulletin inserts and posters were mailed to each church. Additionally, a short video clip is available to be downloaded at www.gbchfm.org.

If you need additional materials or would like to schedule a representative to speak at your church you can call (770) 463-3800 or visit www.gbchfm.org.

MORAL & CIVIC CONCERNS



(Debra Giddens) Please announce at every meeting of your church that the **National Day of Prayer** observances will be **Thursday, May 3, 2018**. The observance for Ware County will be at the Waycross City Auditorium at 6 p.m.

There will also be a prayer meeting at 12 noon on the steps of the Ware County Courthouse. The observance in Pierce County will be at the First Baptist Church Blackshear at 7 p.m. The observance in Charlton County will be at the Charlton County Courthouse in Folkston at 12:00 p.m. For churches in Brantley county, please check with your pastor regarding time and location. Please encourage your members to attend the National Day of Prayer observance in their community to pray for our nation, our state, and our community. This is a time when Christians should be taking a stand in the public arena for Christian values.

Also, please remind your members that the **General Primary Election** will be Tuesday, **May 22**. Early voting will begin on Monday, April 30. Please encourage everyone in your congregations to get registered to vote and **VOTE** in the upcoming General Primary Election. In this primary election the two major political parties will be selecting their candidates that will run for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, State School Superintendent, Agriculture Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Public Service Commissioner, members of the State Senate, and members of the State House of Representatives as well as some local offices. Electing Godly men and women to office is what we need to be concerned with.

LOCAL MISSIONS CAMP

June 17-21, 2018
Warehouse 419, Blackshear

We will have Algernon Tennyson with us as Camp Pastor. We will offer morning Bible study and missions, afternoon rec, and evening worship services. Services will be at Bridge Community in Blackshear.

You can plug in wherever you want to plug in.

- Morning Bible Study
- Missions / or do your own missions
- Rec
- Evening worship Services

If you choose to eat with us and desire a T-shirt (Cost is \$40). If you just want a shirt (\$10)

Please do not miss this opportunity to worship again together with other students locally and do missions locally. We all spend a ton of money to take our kids off for the Summer Camp experience, but very rarely are we able to keep the passion they had going from their time at camp. This scenario allows you to plug your students in locally in missions and in solid biblical teaching within in their own community. Our prayer is that they no longer get a Camp Experience and associate that with going off to another location, but that they see the Holy Spirit giving them opportunities everyday to have that same camp experience.

Please let me know if you want more information or want to plug in. 912-276-0220 (Phillip Cochran)



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.

VII. Baptism and The Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VBS IN THE ASSOCIATION

Send your VBS dates to: sarah.poba@gmail.com.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Theme</u>
June 3-6	Pine Grove	Game On
June 3-7	Camp Pinckney	Game On
June 3-8	Hickox	Game On
June 10-13	Laura Chapel	Game On
June 10-14	Walkerville	
June 10-15	Sweat Memorial	Game On
June 18-22	Riverside Chapel	Game On
June 24-28	FBC Folkston	Game On
June 24-28	Pleasant Hill	Game On
June 24-28	Waynesville	Game On

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>





Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

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CALENDAR

May

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 3 RSVP Deadline for The Gathering
- 6 Senior Adult Sunday
- 7 The Gathering
- 9 Intern Application Deadline
- 13 Mother's Day
- 13 Georgia Baptist Children's Home Day
- 15 Administrative Team Meeting
- 20-27 Associational Missions Emphasis Week
- 20 Piano Scholarship Audition
- 26 Pastor/Staff Prayer Breakfast
- 28 Memorial Day, office closed
- 29 Pastor/Staff Prayer

June

- 9 SBC Crossover
- 10-11 SBC Pastor's Conference
- 12-13 SBC, Dallas TX
- 17 Father's Day
- 17-22 Local Mission Camp
- 19 Administrative Team Meeting
- 23 WMU Summer Brunch
- 24 Mission Dignity Sunday
- 26 Pastor/Staff Prayer

July

- 4 Independence Day, office closed
- 14-21 Mexico Mission Trip
- 17 Administrative Team Meeting
- 31 Pastor/Staff Prayer



Celebrating in May

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Jimmy Nell Long—4
- Karen Jackson—10
- Susan Harris—10
- Joyce Boyette—12
- Derwin Griffin—15
- Elaine Jordan—18
- Lynn Harris—22
- Curtis Cason—23

Anniversaries

- Tim & Sherri Hall—9
- Jake & Susan Baum—12
- David & Briana Marshall—18
- Lamar & Debbie Christie—19
- Butch & Elaine Hickox—20



Download *The Associational Advisor* at pobaonline.com
Missionary: don.poba@gmail.com
Missions Strategist: greg.poba@gmail.com
Ministry Assistant: sarah.poba@gmail.com

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