

The associational ADVISOR

December 2018

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.*

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o come let us
Adore Him

Merry Christmas! Bro. Don, Greg, and Sarah

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

And Week of Prayer for International Missions
December 2-9
Visit www.imb.org/lmco



Office Closed

The POBA Office will be closed from December 24 to January 1.

The Gathering (Youth)

Sunday, December 2 • See page 5



Stay Informed!

Sign up to receive event reminders
Text "**@pobaevent**" to **81010**



50th Anniversary Shirt Pickup

Shirts will be available for pickup after December 12.

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POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

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

It seems through the last several days and weeks that disaster has arisen on every hand. Beginning just a few weeks ago with the hurricane hitting Florida and Southwest Georgia with devastating winds and destruction leaving homes, churches and businesses as well as farming in shambles. Then more recently the shootings that took place in a Jewish Worship center in Pittsburgh, Penn. Leaving 11 dead; an attack on college students in a bar and dance facility leaving 13 dead. County sheriff of Ventura county (Dean) noted, "among the victims was sheriff's sergeant Ron Helus, who responded to the scene and was shot after he entered the building and died at a hospital early Thursday local time.

"It's a horrific incident," Dean said. "It's part of the horrors that are happening in our country and everywhere."

And we would be missing the total picture of what is happening if we did not mention the overpowering fires that have engulfed California in so many places. Last count from the Camp fire is 80 dead and a host of others missing.

We could go on to mention tragedy after tragedy that has claimed the lives of individuals from the oldest to

the youngest and not so far away with the shootings in Jacksonville near the stadium area of the city. Six young adults were slain at the hands of a gunman.

You may say, "This is so tragic and senseless." And I would most certainly agree with you. But there is a *greater tragedy* here than the loss of physical life that is so horrific and that is the loss of one's life without Christ. For anyone who dies without Christ as his or her savior is the most horrific event that could ever take place. To die without Christ is to face the Savior without hope of heaven and eternal life. To die without Christ is to stand before the God of the Universe, Jesús Christ, to give an answer for sin that has not been forgiven and cleansed and to hear the awful words of the Savior say, "I do not know you. Depart from me ye worker of iniquity." Departing from the presence of the Lord and being sentenced to a place of eternal separation from God in HELL is the *most chilling reality* of life and death.

Most likely few of the victims of the tragedies we have noted above anticipated that this would be the day that the Lord would call them to account for their lives lived on planet earth. That they would be ushered into the presence of the living God.

Reality is that the vast majority of folks are not living on a daily basis with anticipating of seeing the Lord's face to face and of giving an account to Him for the precious life He gave them. Some don't know about the Lord and yet Paul the Apostle in Romans 1 says they are without excuse. Some have heard but have failed to turn from their sin and personally receive Him as Lord and Savior and others know Him but fail to live daily for Him with a mandate to share His saving Love and mercy with anyone else (that is abnormal). And yes there are those few who recognize their indebtedness to Christ and His great sacrifice for them. Their love for Him and others shows in their daily seeking to share His love, mercy and care with as many as is possible before the day of accountability comes. By the way, "that day will arrive." Jesus said, "What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul."

Let me appeal to each person who reads this newsletter to ask the Lord to give you the boldness to share with so many about you that don't know Christ. Tell your story of how the Lord saved you and the abundant life you have found in Him. Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

The *greatest tragedy* of the loss of life we are seeing and hearing about on a daily basis is the loss of a life without Jesus unprepared to meet the Lord.

How does one prepare to meet the Lord?

Continued on page 6



50 Years
Making a Difference Through Christ
1969 - 2019
Celebrate with us at the
ANNUAL MEETING
January 24, 2019
Sweat Memorial Baptist Church

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Beulah	Spring Hill
Mt. Calvary	Youmans Chapel

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- Rehobeth has music available for church choirs. If interested, contact Kay Bowen at 449-5069.
- Second Baptist recently honored Rev. JD & Naomi Bowen for their 65 years of ministry. Thank you for your service and dedication!
- There were 24 people at the Called Executive Committee Meeting on November 16. The following churches were represented: Beulah, Calvary, Central, Emmanuel, FBC Blackshear, Hacklebarney, Hickox, King Memorial, Manor, Newbern, Pineview, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Valley, Second, Shady Grove, Sweat Memorial, Winokur.
- December 28-29: MOVE Conference, Macon GA. Visit moveconference.com to register.
- January 5: POBA Pastor/Deacon Training, Walkerville Baptist.
- January 17: VBS Jumpstart, Sweat Memorial in Waycross, 7:00-8:30 pm. Contact 800-746-4422 ext 286 with questions.
- January 24: Annual Meeting & 50th Anniversary of the POBA, Sweat Memorial Baptist.
- January 24-26: Conclave, Chattanooga TN. Visit ymconclave.org to register.
- January 26: South Georgia Men's Training Conference, FBC Blackshear
- February 7-8: Kids Ministry Summit, Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Register at gabaptist.org/kids/.
- February 19: 55+ Swap Shop Tour (for Senior Adult Leaders), Calvary Baptist in Waycross, 10 am-12 pm. Register at gabaptist.org/groups-events or call 800-746-4422 ext 286.
- Offerman Baptist is accepting resumes for a bivocational Youth/Children's Pastor. Contact James Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.
- The Baptist Village Chapel has 3 light oak wood pews available to a church. Contact Eric Mathison (912-

DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

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

Pebble Hill: Christian Walker (Tina)
 Pine Grove: Adam Walker (Lori Shae)
 Pineview: Randy Ray (Sharon)
 Pleasant Hill: IB Boyette (Joyce)
 Pleasant Valley: David Marshall (Briana)
 Rehobeth: Phil Jordan (Elaine)
 Riverside Chapel: Randy Wainright
 Sand Hill: Trent Long (Jimmy Nell)
 Satilla: Terry Jackson (Karen)
 Second: Derwin Griffin (Debbie)

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS:

The following IMB missionaries from Georgia have birthdays during the month of December. Please remember to pray for them throughout the month. Please remember to pray for Last Frontier Personnel that we are unable to list here.

12/5 Mrs Holly S LesleySub-Saharan African Peoples
 12/6 Mrs Maya M McLane, European Peoples
 12/8 Mr Daniel E Scott Jr., Sub-Saharan African Peoples
 12/9 Mrs Helen D Hardeman, American Peoples
 12/9 Mr Claude D Johnson, European Peoples
 12/10 Mrs Carrie B Webb, European Peoples
 12/15 Mr Alexandre C Garcia, American Peoples
 12/16 Rev Robert J Holder, Sub-Saharan African Peoples
 12/23 Mrs Patti L Sorrell, American Peoples
 12/29 Rev Earl L Quick, American Peoples
 12/29 Mrs P.Joy Mitchell, East Asian Peoples

VOICES OF MOBILE



Voices of Mobile will be at Sweat Memorial Baptist Church on December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

MARY STREET MISSIONS NEWS

(Submitted by Phillip Barnes) All of the volunteers and myself would like to take this time to thank all of our churches for the support to keep one of God's missions open. It is a blessing to serve our awesome God through this ministry. We want to thank the volunteers for their dedication to Mary Street Mission and keeping things running so smoothly. I would like to bring a problem to light. At this time, we are running short on funds to be able to help those who come for assistance with their utilities, rent, and medications. We are only helping families with food at this time. Our food pantry is the lowest that I myself have seen. There are items that we are in need of. We need dry goods (rice, spaghetti, cereal, etc) and other non-perishables. I understand that times have gotten harder for some. Fellow Christians, we hope and pray that everyone will only do what they feel God has laid on their hearts to do.

The counselors and I have had the wonderful privilege of witnessing to people in our community and seeing (1,698) people come to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and some rededicating their lives back to Christ in the 18 years and 1 month that we have had the Mary Street Mission doors open to our community. Praise the Lord for what God is doing through the volunteers at MSM! We know that God is still at work. For we see it happening all the time. All around us each and every day. What an awesome God!

Again, thank you all for what you have and will do for the Mary Street Mission to keep this ministry serving our wonderful community. We pray that all of you will have a wonderful holiday season. Thank you and God bless you all!

MEET SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Visit this link:

SBC Executive Committee

<http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/entities/sbcec.asp>

JOIN THE ASSOCIATIONAL CHOIR

A choir comprised of POBA churches will rehearse on Tuesday, January 22 at Sweat Memorial in preparation for the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at Sweat Memorial.

Please let Sam Stack (283-2577) know how many from your choir will be able to participate in the POBA joint choir.

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.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA WOMEN'S CENTER

The Southeast Georgia Women's Center (SEGA Women's Center) is a Christ-centered ministry that believes in the sanctity of human life and sexual purity through effectively serving pregnant, at-risk women and transforming their fear into confidence by empowering them to make informed choices. SEGA Women's Center is committed to the highest degree of integrity when caring for the clients, earning their trust and providing promised information and services. The services we offer will be free of charge and no one who comes to the Center will be turned away. SEGA Women's Center is "A ministry to celebrate life" as we strive to lower the abortion rates for our six county service area. Each woman will benefit in knowing that if they allow us to, we will love and pray for them no matter their decision during this uncertain time in their life.

SEGA Women's Center is committed to presenting the gospel of our Lord to women and families in crisis pregnancies in both word and deed. Our Center will offer programs such as counseling for abortion-minded women, free pregnancy tests and sonograms, and community referrals. Along with a Learn-to-Earn program, there will be classes in newborn care, breastfeeding and parenting. For those women who choose abortion, we will offer post-abortion care and abstinence information. Trained and caring volunteers

will meet with clients to offer emotional support and God's love in a gentle, non-judgmental manner and environment. In one study, 60 out of 100 women said they would not have had an abortion if they only had someone to stand by them and help them find positive alternatives. We are passionate about helping women in crisis pregnancies find positive alternatives.

We are currently asking for prayer support from the Christian community. Pray for wisdom for the Steering Committee but more importantly, for the women and families we will serve. While we plan to open our doors in early 2019, many decisions still need to be made. At this time, we are seeking a building in Waycross to house the Center. In order to do that, we need financial assistance. Please consider a one-time gift or monthly contribution. All gifts are tax deductible. Our account is with PrimeSouth Bank or checks may be sent to PO Box 303, Blackshear, GA 31516. We also ask that you support future fundraising efforts. Volunteers are needed. If you would be willing to lead a small group Bible study, serve as a mentor, act as a receptionist, or perform cleaning and repair tasks, please contact us through our Facebook page (Southeast Georgia Women's Center), by email (segawc@yahoo.com), or by mail. Volunteers must be trained and complete an application process. Additionally, a ministry team is available to speak to your church groups and answer any questions.

THE GATHERING (YOUTH)

THE GATHERING.....Local churches gathering young people together to fellowship, worship, disciple, evangelize, and do ministry all in the name of Jesus Christ. Join us for an amazing time of fellowship, games, food, and worship!



December 2

The GATHERING will be held in the new ministry building at FBC Blackshear. Activities begin at 5pm.

CHANGED BY A CHILD—LIVE NATIVITY

Central Baptist will have live nativity performances:

Friday, December 14: 7pm / 7:30 pm / 8 pm

Saturday, December 15: 6:30 pm / 7 pm / 7:30 pm / 8 pm

Sunday, December 16: 6:30 pm / 7 pm / 7:30 pm / 8 pm

SHEPHERDS AND KINGS—MUSICAL

First Baptist Waycross will perform a dramatic musical for Christmas on December 15 and 16, 6:00 pm nightly. Contact the church office with questions (283-5757).

POINTS CONTINUED...

Hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ that He lived and died for your sins and rose again to save you and give you eternal life. (John 3:16)

Repent of your sins (means to turn away from your sins and follow whole heartedly Jesus Christ by faith.)

Confess your belief in Jesus. "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that he has been raised from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9-10)

Personally invite Jesus into your heart as Lord and Savior. Rev. 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock if anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into him and sup with him and he with me." (Hearing the voice of Jesus means you are being drawn to Him by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit convinces you of your great need to be forgiven of your sins and the need for radical change in your life.)

Once you receive Christ then the first act of obedience is to follow Christ in believer's baptism. Baptism is the time when you publicly declare your faith in Christ. This act of obedience is related to becoming a member of a local church to which you become connected for nurturing and growing in Christ. Failure to connect to a local church will leave you on your own to develop as a believer. The bible is clear that we need fellowship with other believers and continued teaching and nurturing to develop as a strong follower of Jesus Christ (Acts 2). God's intent for every believer is to grow spiritually and to become involved in leading others to Christ and developing them as strong followers of Christ.

What is the best resource for developing as a Christian? The Bible. My suggestion for a new believer is to have a Bible that you can readily understand. There are a number of sound translations available today that give clear meaning to the original text of Greek and Hebrew. If you are committed to the KJV then let me suggest that you use another easier reading translation as a commentary for your study of the Scriptures. There is a short book called Key Bible Words For Young Christians that can be helpful in understand words and terms in the New and Old Testaments. I have found The New King James Study Bible to be one of the most helpful study Bibles in my library. It is the Bible we suggest students in our extension classes use for their class work. The Holman Christian Standard Bible: Life Essen-

tials Study Bible is another study Bible I have personally found an asset in understanding Gods Word. The Thompson Chain Reference Bible in the New American Standard Bible translation is another comprehensive study bible that has been a favorite in the KJV for years gone by.

Let me personally wish all of our churches and pastor/staff a very blessed Christmas and a Christ filled new year.

Note on your calendar Pastor/ Deacon Training at Walkerville Baptist on January 5. Bro. Mike Griffin is our key speaker. Mike represents us at the State Capital on Moral and Civic Concerns. He will be speaking to us as leaders in the church as to how we can effectively deal with the issues facing our churches and communities through our prayers and church involvement. It is our plans that he addresses the gender issue that is now becoming a major issue within churches. If you want to *be on the cutting edge* of what is happening to change our society then plan to attend this training event. (Wives of pastors/deacons are invited, as well as any interest church member.)

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING® — for international missions —



The Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is December 2-9. You can download or order resources at imb.org/lmco.

HURRICANE MICHAEL DISASTER RELIEF

The Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association is planning to partner with the Bowen Association in Southwest Georgia (Bainbridge) through the associational missionary, Ken Cloud following Hurricane Michael to assist sister churches and their communities recover by working in partnership.

1. Clean up and chainsaw crews can be used immediately to clear debris from property and premises. Each team will need to supply their own equipment (rakes, gloves, ladders, hammers, chainsaws-fuel-oil).
2. Clean up crews may also place tarps on roofs. There are a few tarps available at the POBA office in Waycross. We use 16' x 20' and 20' x 40' size tarps and the plastic cap nails.
3. We are working with **Rocky Ridge Baptist** in Donalsonville, Georgia to repair their fellowship hall. Service Masters was there Wednesday, October 31 to evaluate the damage and begin the tear-out process. They will be employing a roofing company to replace the roof. Once the fellowship hall is dried in and the ceiling torn out we will be sending drywall and insulation teams to finish to work toward allowing Rocky Ridge to have a place to worship again. Rocky Ridge will let us know when they are ready for insulation and drywall teams.

POBA is receiving tarps (16' x 20' or 20' x 40'), and boxes of plastic cap nails. Donations can be made to the POBA with DISASTER RELIEF indicated on the memo line.

If you are interested in receiving updates, upcoming projects, and information related to this partnership, join us in REMIND. Here is the link to use to join: <https://www.remind.com/join/dk2ka7>

PLEASE let **Ray Sullivan** (229-392-1494 / dellrayberries@gmail.com) or **Greg Benfield** (912-285-8161 / greg.poba@gmail.com) know when you send teams or to coordinate work assignments for your team. We want a coordinated effort so we do not waste precious re-

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Don't miss this! You can hear Bro. Mike Stone's message at the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting about reaching the next generation here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-729440055/mike-stone-reaching-generation-yet-psalm-781-8>

sources, time, nor energy.

Your church can help in the following ways:

1. **PRAY** – For the churches in the impacted area to reach out in their community with the love of Jesus Christ. For lost people to trust Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. For strength and encouragement for church members and their leadership as they move toward restoring the community.
2. **GIVE** – You can contribute donations through your POBA and designate the resources for DISASTER RELIEF. They also need tarps (16' x 20' and/or 20' x 40') and the round plastic grip cap nails to secure the tarps. The tarps will be distributed by the Bowen Baptist Association located in Bainbridge, Georgia. POBA wants to bless these churches and their leadership. You can also give online through *Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief* at: <https://gabaptist.org/shop/disaster-relief-donation/>
3. **GO** – You can put together teams to travel to the affected area **in coordination with the associational missionary** in the Bowen Association, Ken Cloud. Ken Cloud can be reached by phone at **229-221-7837** or by email at: **bowenassoc@mediacombb.net**. **Do not deploy without communicating with Ken Cloud.** Your lodging and meals will need to be planned and coordinated.





**Piedmont Okefenokee
Baptist Association**

2104 Alice Street , Waycross, GA 31501
Phone (912) 285-8161, Fax (912) 816-4902

CALENDAR

December

- 2-9 Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
- 2 The Gathering
- 12 50th Anniversary Shirts available for pickup
- 18 Administrative Team Meeting
- 24-1 Christmas Holidays, office closed

January

- 1 New Year's Day, office closed
- 5 Pastor/Deacon Training
- 15 Administrative Team Meeting
- 17 VBS Jumpstart
- 20 Life Chain
- 22 Pastor/Staff Prayer
- 22 POBA Choir Practice
- 24 POBA Annual Meeting, 50th Anniversary
- 24-27 Jacksonville Pastors Conference
- 26 Men's Ministry Training
- 28-29 GBMB Evangelism Conference

February

- 11 WMU AIM Meeting
- 12 Pastor's Day at the Capitol
- 19 Senior Adult Swap Shop
- 19 Administrative Team Meeting
- 26 Pastor/Staff Prayer



Celebrating in December

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Susan Baum—6
- Vian Glosson—6
- Steve Beal—8
- Edmund Thrift—14
- Richard Golden—14
- Tommy Youmans—14
- Danielle Griner—15
- Matt Tuttle—15
- Don Patterson—16
- Lamar Christie—16
- Sam Stack—19
- Sue Stack—20
- Barry Rozier—21
- Edward Colley—29
- Jason Hayes—31

Anniversaries

- Scotty & Jadison Hayes—5
- Jason & Amanda Hayes—12
- Johnny & Frances Ware—19
- Ben & Dana Smith—19
- Ben & Vian Glosson—30
- Matt & Jennifer Tuttle—31



Download *The Associational Advisor* at pobaonline.com
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