

Bethel
Baptist
Association

September 2020

“Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ”

the BETHEL NEWSLETTER 2020

At **Blakely First Baptist Church**

This will be a live, in-person event limited to 3 persons per church (with social-distance sitting) and also live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Preston Wilson will preach the annual sermon.

All written reports for the Fall Meeting must be submitted to the BBA Office by Thursday, Sept. 24th in order to be available for download on October 18th.



Items for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home will be loaded on the truck beginning at 3:00 pm.

Items needed for the Children's Home:

White t-shirts
Toothbrushes/toothpaste
Shampoo/conditioner
Bar Soap
Pillow Cases
13-gallon trash bags
Deodorant
Ziploc bags-all sizes
Paper products
White towel/washcloths

School Supplies
Filler paper
Ruled index cards
Composition notebooks
(not spiral bound)
Flash drives
Ear buds for computer use

Gift cards are always appreciated. They can be used for emergency needs.



Missionary Musings

Well, the time has finally come for me to write my final "Missionary Musings" for the Newsletter of the Bethel Baptist Association. You would think, after 21 years of writing this column every single month, that I would have run out of musings. Not so, as I have just a few things I would like to share about some of the things. I have learned over the past 21 + years serving as the Associational Missionary for the Bethel Baptist Association:

- 1) **Every church is different.**
Despite our shared doctrinal beliefs and commitment to evangelism and missions as Southern Baptists, each local church has its own unique heritage and personality. I have had the joy of assisting 36 different congregations in the Bethel Association. I have participated in the worship services of each one of our current 34 member churches **at least 20** times (and some many more), and have preached more than once in all of them. And I can testify that, just like our children, they are all different! There is no "One size fits all" solution for Baptist churches. We have learned to adapt and customize our approaches to helping each church reach its full potential in Christ.
- 2) **God has called some amazing servants to South West Georgia.**
In addition to all the different churches, an Associational Missionary has the privilege of coming alongside many God-called pastors and ministers. Over my time of service in the Bethel Association, I have been able to work with **102** different pastors! That may seem like a lot, but considering we have 34 churches, that represents remarkable stability over 21 years. Many of our Pastors have faithfully served long tenures at their churches. In fact, I have met some of the Godliest, most

talented, and most faithful servants I have ever known right here in the Bethel Baptist Association. These are men who could have served practically anywhere, in larger and more lucrative ministry settings, but they have been faithful in answering God's call to rural South West Georgia. And they have enriched my life. I have been blessed to know them, and to be able to call them my friends and brothers.

- 3) **We are one body in Christ.**
Despite the truth of statement #1 above, our churches in the Bethel Association share an amazing unity in Christ. His Spirit binds us all together in fellowship and love, and guides us toward the common goals of glorifying His name and extending His Kingdom in SW Ga., and around the world. God has done great things when small churches with limited resources share what they have in cooperation together. He multiplies our offerings like the loaves and the fishes to feed the hungry multitudes.
- 4) **It's not all up to me.** Oh, how I wish I had learned this one sooner! But for the past several years, God has allowed me to equip others for ministry and to "release the reins" of many responsibilities to disciples who are more creative, more energetic, and more effective than I could ever be. It's such a good feeling to approach retirement and know that the Bethel Baptist Association will go on into the future under very capable leadership. Yes, it will probably look different...but that can be a good thing!
- 5) **God is good.** All the time. He has never let us down. And I know He has good plans for me and my family as we begin a new chapter of life and ministry. After over 32 years in full-time associational work, I can't wait to see what He has next for us!

In His Service,

Bro. James



Coordinating Committee

Meeting has been rescheduled for
Tuesday, Oct. 6th at 6:30 pm
BBA Office.

Our Moderator, Bro. Michael
Williams, will convene this
meeting. Request for New Work
Funds need to be into the Assoc.
Office by Thursday, Oct. 1st.

Pray for the Associational
Mission Strategist Search Committee!

Cathy Arnold
(Morgan Baptist Church)

Ryan Lancaster
(Arlington Baptist Church)

David McFather
(Damascus Baptist Church)
Randolph Co.

Chris Sumner
(Southside Baptist Church) Blakely

Karin Tabb
(Milford Baptist Church)

SEARCH COMMITTEE
Meeting on Monday, August 31st
6:30 pm at the Associational Office!

Michael Williams will convene the
meeting and Ricky Thrasher from
the GBMB will be with him
to do some training and share how
the GBMB can help in the search.



Women on Mission Conference Sept 18-19

at Camp Pinnacle in Clayton– registration deadline Sept. 1.

If you are planning to go, please let me know, call 229-254-2041

The cost is \$90 which includes all but transportation.

I hope we can coordinate that.

Thanks
Karin Tabb

Southwest Georgia Sunday School & Small Groups Training

We decided that it would not be wise to go-forward with our September 12th **Regional Sunday School and Small Group Leader Training** event in Bainbridge. Instead we are planning to hold the same event, hopefully with all or most of the same conference leaders, on Saturday, **February 20, 2021**, at the **First Baptist Church in Bainbridge**.

We hope you understand the necessity of this change. Please disregard the prior publicity for this event as printed in our August Newsletter. We will be reminding you all of the February event as that date draws nearer.



August 16, 2020

Congratulations to Rev. Chris & Jill Holdorf

On their baby girl!

7 lbs 4 oz

20 inches



Rosemary Leigh Holdorf
(Rose)

Bro. Chris is the Pastor of Morgan Baptist Church.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

July 30 - August 26, 2020

Arlington	717.00
Bethel	
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,507.81
Bluffton	392.14
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	494.10
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	305.13
Edison	103.20
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	539.28
Georgetown	416.66
Leary	143.32
Milford	726.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	38.40
Mt. Hebron	
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	278.60
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	78.52
Shellman FBC	250.00
Shiloh	833.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhattee	178.51
Springvale	100.00
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	50.00
TOTAL	7,939.17
Balances Aug. 26	
General Fund	12,970.28
Designated Fund	10,155.91
New Work Fund	7,702.17



“Barnabas” Group Prayer

Associational Office

Tuesday, Sept. 1st at 11:00 AM

Bethel Baptist
Association

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Edison, GA
39846

The Bethel Baptist Association

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September 2020

- 1 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- 7 LABOR DAY (Assoc. Office Closed)
- 21 BBA Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 24 Deadline for Fall Meeting Reports!
- 30 **Bro. James final day as AMS**

October 2020

- 6 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- 6 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 18 BBA Fall Meeting - Blakely FBC, 5:00 pm
(Truck Loading for Children's Home begins at 3:00 pm)
- 25 Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clocks back!)

November 2020

- 3 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- ELECTION DAY**
- 9-10 Georgia Baptist Convention
- 25-27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Office Closed)



DATE
CHANGE

ACR's are due by October 1, 2020