

VISIONS



Oct / Nov '06

Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship of Georgia

2006
featuring Convocation

Bill Underwood Mercer University President

"Faith and Science" — Matthew 22:34 - 23:12

Rob Nash CBF Global Missions Coordinator

"The Church and the New Global Mission" — John 20:19-23

Special Music — Mercer University Children's Choir



November 5-6

First Baptist Church of Christ

511 High Place, Macon, GA 31201

Sunday	3:30 p.m.	Coordinating Council
	5:00 p.m.	Network Gathering — <i>Dinner</i> (See page 4 for network listing.)
	6:45 p.m.	Pre-Service Music
	7:00 p.m.	Worship
Monday	8:30 p.m.	Reception
	7:30 a.m.	Baptist Heritage Council Breakfast
	9:00 a.m.	Missions Emphasis
	10:00 a.m.	Break

10:30 a.m.	Worship
12:00 noon	McAfee Luncheon

Child care provided (See page 2 for details.)

Call Julie Long at (478) 742-6485 or email
juliewlong@gmail.com to register for child care.

Information:

CBF of Georgia Office
(478) 742-1191, ext. 21
or toll free (877) 336-6426
fbroome@cbfga.org

www.cbfga.org



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CBF/GA Fall Convocation Details

Speakers



Bill Underwood, Mercer University President
"Faith and Science"
Matthew 22:34 - 23:12
Sunday Worship



Rob Nash, CBF-National Global Missions Coordinator
"The Church and the New Global Mission"
John 20:19-23
Monday Worship

Special Guest



Malkhaz Songulashvili, President of the Union of Evangelical Baptists of the Republic of Georgia. Malkhaz will engage the congregation in a discussion about the work in the Republic of GA. CBF/GA is working on a two-year partnership with the Baptist Union there. Our primary goal is educational. We want to learn from them as well as share something about our life and ministry with them.

Music

Stanley Roberts, Director of Choral Activities & Church Music Studies at Mercer University and Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon

John Simons, Director of Graduate Studies and Director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music at Mercer University's Townsend School of Music



Mercer University Children's Choir, a community arts initiative of the Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music at Mercer

Childcare

Available on Sunday evening from 4:45-8:45 for ages birth-6 years. Preschoolers ages 4-6 will be invited to participate in worship at 7:00 before leaving to take part in a children's worship experience. Childcare will be available on Monday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for ages birth-6. Please register for childcare by calling Julie Long at 478-742-6485 or emailing juliewlong@gmail.com.



Auxiliary Events

Baptist Heritage Council Breakfast

November 6, 7:30 a.m.
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Guest Speaker: R. Kirby Godsey (\$10.00/person)
For reservations call 706-583-8618 or email baptistheritage@charter.net.

McAfee School of Theology Alumni and Friends Luncheon

November 6, 12:00 Noon, Immediately following CBF/GA Fall Convocation.
University Center, Mercer Campus (\$12.00/person)
For more information or reservations call Sharon Lim Harle at 678-547-6420, 800-837-2905 or email lim_s@mercer.edu.



See you there!

First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon
NOVEMBER 4-5



Featured in this issue
**Chaplains and
Pastoral Counselors**

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of Georgia**

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VISIONS is published six times a year
by CBF/GA.

All questions and comments may be
directed to Rachel Huston,
478-742-1191 ext 23 or rhuston@cbfga.org.

Directions to FBC of Christ-Macon

FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

First Baptist Church is located downtown at the top of Poplar Street, just up from City Hall and across the street from St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

FROM I-75 North

Travel I-75 South to Macon. Stay on I-75 at the I-75/I-16 interchange. Take the first exit on I-75 South: "Hardeman Avenue." Go through traffic light at exit(Hardeman, a one way street) to second light and turn left onto 41 South/Forsyth Street. Counting that light as the first, go to fifth light and turn left onto Orange Street. Go down two blocks; turn right at the Unitarian Church onto High Street. FBC of Christ is 1/4 mile down on left. Registration for the CBF/GA Convocation will be from the High Street parking lot.

FROM I-75 South

Travel I-75 North to Macon. Take Forsyth Street/Hardeman Avenue, exit 164. Turn right at traffic light onto Forsyth Street. Counting that light as the first, go to the fourth light and turn left onto Orange Street. Go down two blocks; turn right at the Unitarian Church onto High Street. FBC of Christ is 1/4 mile down on left. Registration for the CBF/GA Convocation will be from the High Street parking lot.

FROM I-16

Take Second Street exit into downtown. Continue on Second Street to fourth traffic light. Turn right onto Poplar Street. FBC of Christ is at the top of the hill on Poplar. Go around left side of building. Registration for the CBF/GA Convocation will be from the High Street parking lot.

For a map showing the location, visit Map Quest at www.mapquest.com.

Enter 511 High Place, Macon, GA, as the address.

Hotel Information

Courtyard by Marriott \$80.00
3990 Sheraton Drive, Macon, GA 31210
1-800-321-2211 or 478-477-8899

Reservations must be received on or before October 13, 2006.
Reservations for the event should be made by the individual attendee directly.

Holiday Inn Express \$80.00
2720 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA 31204
478-743-1482

Reservations must be received on or before October 13, 2006.
Reservations for the event should be made by the individual attendee directly.

Crowne Plaza \$79.00
108 First Street, Macon, GA 31201
478-746-1461

Reservations must be received on or before October 13, 2006.
Reservations for the event should be made by the individual attendee directly.

**Questions? Call the CBF/GA office
toll free at 1-877-336-6426.**

A Gift too Good to Keep

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus illuminated for us the simple, yet profound truth that a lamp shines not just for the benefit of one but for everyone in the house.

As followers of Christ, we are the light of the world — we have gifts of grace, freedom, and wholeness that cannot be hidden — they must be shared. They are “gifts too good to keep.” We who find our spiritual home within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship feel the same way. We want others to know of our commitment to serving the marginalized people of the world, of our desire to see lives transformed by God’s love, and of our yearnings for growth and depth through education and interaction with people who are different from us.

These are just a few of the “gifts” that Fellowship Christians are eager to share with the world, and it is in that light that we have developed our theme for the upcoming CBF/GA Fall Convocation. The convocation’s theme of a “Gift Too Good to Keep” will highlight global missions and education in the contexts of CBF and Mercer University, with Rob Nash and

Bill Underwood representing each respectively. In addition we will learn about two specific ministries — the work of the Evangelical Baptist Church of the Republic of Georgia and the Cooperative Student Fellowship at Mercer University.

The schedule will also include networking events (including dinner) for clergy and laity prior to the Convocation on Sunday afternoon. [See inset for list of networks.] Childcare will be available as at past events, but this year families with children are especially encouraged to attend the Convocation on Sunday evening. Children will enjoy hearing the Mercer University Children’s Choir as well as participating in a children’s sermon and children’s church. And as always we will enjoy wonderful fellowship with one another and the generous hospitality of our host church — First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon.

I hope you will make plans to attend the Fall Convocation! Invite someone new to join you so that she or he may also experience our gifts of fellowship, grace, and freedom!

Devita Parnell
Associate
Coordinator for
Congregational Life,
CBF/GA
dparnell@cbfga.org



Networks for Fall Convocation

*Colleagues in ministry
resourcing one another and
engaging in fellowship.*

- Chaplaincy Network
- Children’s Ministry Network
- Christian Educator’s Network
- Laity Network *NEW!*
- Music Ministry Network
- Pastors’ Network
- Student Ministry Network



Worship and Music

Preschoolers ages 4-6 will be invited to participate in worship at 7:00 before leaving to take part in a children’s worship experience. Mercer University Children’s Choir, a community arts initiative of the Townsend-McAfee Institute Graduate Studies in Church Music at Mercer, will perform during worship.

Childcare

Childcare will be available on Sunday evening from 4:45-8:45 for ages birth-6 years, and on Monday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for ages birth-6. Please register for childcare by calling Julie Long at 478-742-6485 or emailing juliewlong@gmail.com.

*A Gift too Good to Keep ... fall convocation events
especially for children*

CBF /GA dedicates this issue to Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors



Tear Catchers: A Tribute to Chaplains

SITTING IN THE RIB SHACK around tables brightly painted in primary colors of red and yellow, green and blue, I was eating lunch with four of my best buddies, Cass, Jason, Kadar, and Neil (in alphabetical order so no one is offended!). As we ate, I told the guys I was writing an article about Chaplains for the next *Visions*. As always, they were eager to help me. Jason suggested the title and reminded us of Jesus' grief in the Garden of Gethsemane and the disciples' inability to watch (and catch a few tears) with him. Cass focused on the temporary relationships for Chaplains who move in and out of lives so quickly at times, in hospitals and hospices and so on. Cass also mentioned how we all minister to each other in "tear catching ways." Neil was quick to remind us that Chaplains, however, receive very specialized training beyond what we lay folks know how to do for those in need of a Chaplain's good care. We all agreed and I chimed in that Chaplains go through an excruciating process of self-examination to be certified as a

Chaplain. I think it is a process that produces some of the best "wounded healers." Jason remembered Nouwen's "wounded healer" as one who "embraces us in our humanity." Kadar, always the thoughtful, quiet one, spoke of grief so overwhelming that one simply moves through the process, "doing what you have to do" and hoping that others will be there to catch your tears.

Our conversation made me think of Chaplains who have blessed my life. I want to mention two or three in tribute to them and all Chaplains. The Reverend Pearl DuVall came into my life shortly after she returned from Nigeria, a mission field she did not want to leave. She led a group for wives of pastors at Camp Pinnacle. We connected there around grief, I think. She had to leave the place of her mission dreams and I had lost the dream of my place in missions. Now, some thirty years later, our friendship has been a series of catching tears, moving through times of grief and

sadness or joy and fulfillment, always finding a dream and a place in God's plan. Chaplain DuVall embraced me in my humanity more than once, and I am grateful for Chaplains well-trained, wounded, and gifted in tear catching. A few months ago, I sat with my dying mother in Portsbridge Hospice. The Reverends Mark Parnell and Robbie Kerr were ever present tear catchers. Nine long days and they listened and laughed and cajoled and counseled, showing up at just the right moments to catch more than a few tears. Mark and Robbie embraced me in my humanity and once again, I am grateful for Chaplains, well trained, wounded, and gifted in tear catching.

I encourage you to take time to remember and pay tribute to the Chaplains (Tear Catchers) in your life, as my buddies and I did around the table at the rib shack! It's a reminder of humanity touched by the Divine!

Renée Bennett
Moderator, CBF/GA



Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Ministry

in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

George Pickle, Associate Coordinator for Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling, CBF/National

Chaplaincy and pastoral counseling is a dramatic ministry by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. There are 538 chaplains and pastoral counselors who are endorsed by CBF through the Council on Endorsement. These chaplains and pastoral counselors are the presence of Christ in the world.

The worlds of chaplains and pastoral counselors include a variety of settings. These special places of ministry are medical centers, correctional institutions, the United States Armed Forces, business and industrial corporations, schools for the developmentally disabled, hospice organizations, universities, public safety services, retirement communities, and pastoral counseling centers. Chaplains and pastoral counselors live out their call of God as ministers in these specialized settings.

Chaplains or pastoral counselors are endorsed to their employing or certifying agency. There is no general endorsement. One is endorsed as a full-time or part-time employed chaplain or pastoral counselor to a specific agency. Certifying organizations require endorsement in the application process.

The 538 CBF endorsees include a broad diversity of chaplains and pastoral counselors. There are 159 women and 379 men endorsed for this ministry. The number of endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors falls into the following categories: 260 hospital, 57 hospice, 111 military, 7 business/industrial, 16 correctional, 7 public safety, 37 pastoral counselors, 33 professional, and 10 clinical pastoral education (CPE) residents. One chaplain ministers in a school for the developmentally disabled.

In Georgia, chaplains and pastoral counselors are endorsed to the following ministries: 26 hospital, 10 hospice, 11 military, 3 professional, 5 pastoral counselors, 1 public safety, and 1 business/industrial. There are 13 female endorsees and 45 male endorsees in the state of Georgia. These endorsees minister to individuals, families, and staff members in their unique settings.



George Pickle

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are the pastoral care presence for thousands every day in their respective places of ministry. They are present in the celebrations and deaths in hospitals. They journey with hospice patients and their loved ones. They minister to military personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places throughout the world. They care for inmates in federal and state penitentiaries. Chaplains and pastoral counselors minister to people in the trauma and drama of life.

Primary expressions of ministry by many chaplains include leading worship services and Bible study groups. They coordinate worship services in hospitals, in the military, in prison, in retirement centers, and in university chapels. Military chaplains gather with soldiers, sailors, Marines, and Air Force personnel throughout the world. Chaplains lead these worship services every Sunday in every kind of setting.

I urge you to pray for these dedicated CBF-endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors. They are the CBF in ministry. When people in any of these places of need are touched by a chaplain or pastoral counselor, they experience the touch and care of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Please pray for your chaplains and pastoral counselors who are the presence of Christ in the world. ■

To order a copy of the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Prayer Calendar, call toll free 888-801-4223.

58 Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors in GA:

13 female
45 male

—
26 hospital
10 hospice
11 military
3 professional
5 pastoral counselors
1 public safety
1 business/industrial

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are the pastoral care presence for thousands every day in their respective places of ministry ... ministering to people in the trauma and drama of life.

CBF Endorsed Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors in GA

Business/Industrial/ University

Denny Spear, Dunwoody

Hospice

Arley Hughes, St. Mary's

Carol Fletcher, Atlanta

Connie Graham, Lithonia

Cynthia Corey, Brunswick

Mark Parnell, Macon

John Reeser, Sautee Nacoochee

Kevin Quiles, Canton

Norman Bellury, Gray

Paul Douglas, East Dublin

Ruth Demby, Gainesville

Willard Hayes, Athens

Hospital

Bryan Lake, Douglas

Skip Wisenbaker, Atlanta

Charles Christie, Jr., Loganville

Cindy Wallace, Rome

Donald Kriner, Woodstock

Donnie Marlar, Savannah

Franklin Duncan, Roswell

Gary Batchelor, Rome

Gary Hargrove, Union City

Jack Brown, Dublin

Jeffrey Thompson, Gainesville

Larry Connelly, Decatur

Michelle Smith, Columbus

O. Chappell Wilson, Jr., Roswell

Phil Owens, Marietta

Rebecca Brannon, Gainesville

Rebecca Shoaf, Atlanta

Robert Duvall, Lawrenceville

Steve Safreed, Fayetteville

Thomas Thompson, Stone Mountain

Timothy Brown, Dublin

Twyla Nelson, Toccoa

William Barnes, Savannah

William Flowers, Evans

William Hemphill, Stone Mountain

Military

Daniel Bucur, Patrick AFB

Gerald Hutchinson, Jr., Decatur

Jeffrey Ross, Decatur

John Foxworth, Richmond Hill

Julie Rowan, Evans

Lyde Andrews, Atlanta

Michael Coggins, Warner Robins

Rachel Coggins, Warner Robins

Robert Elkowitz, Cumming

Seymone Porter, Grayson

Stanley Vaughan, Columbus

Pastoral Counselor

Andrew Gee, Marietta

Gloria White, Lawrenceville

Professional

Charlotte Liphart, Hiram

George Pickle, Marietta

Milton Snyder, Milledgeville

Oscar DeLozier, Bogart

Roger Bolton, Conyers

Ronald King, Midland

Taliaferro Williamson, Decatur

Public Safety

Harvey Mills, West Point

**Please pray
for your chaplains
and pastoral counselors
who are the presence
of Christ in the world.**

Pictured in the background is Paul Douglas, Chaplain Recruiter, Army National Guard. See article on page 9.

Lessons Learned at the Airport

Denny Spear, Chaplain with the Cecil B. Day Companies

MY TEN YEARS as an airport chaplain was for me a period of fascinating ministry. During that time I served as Director of the Interfaith Airport Chaplaincy of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta.

Fortunately, I entered airport ministry with good preparation. For twenty years I had served, first as a church pastor, and then as a Workplace Chaplain (as the chaplain of a motel chain and briefly as chaplain for a trucking company).

Those experiences had already convinced me that Christians are called to serve both inside and outside of our church buildings. They reinforced my awareness of the significant ministry laypersons can provide on their jobs. They helped me discover how we can experience God's presence in far more places than we are often led to believe, even where we earn our daily bread.

What was different about airport chaplaincy? Imagine trying to help busy employees and passengers who are consumed with going somewhere else. It was ministry to a passing parade often limited to brief encounters on the move. Being among so many people of different religions and cultures, I was forced as never before to re-examine my personal beliefs. Then there was the constant awareness that I could be called on at any time to respond to the kind of extreme disasters that can strike airports. Other challenges related to providing religious activities on public property — a concern that grew out of my beliefs about church and state separation.

No period of my life was as challenging, broadening, demanding, creative, and personally enriching as those ten years when I was an airport chaplain. I thank God for the opportunity. ■

The Pilgrimage of Chaplaincy

Ruth Demby, Hospice Chaplain of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

THE ELDERLY BAPTIST WOMAN had not eaten or spoken for days. Lying in a hospital bed in the den of her small rural home, she was surrounded by a large constellation of grieving siblings, children, and grandchildren. When I entered the crowded room, I was introduced as the Hospice chaplain and she began to communicate.

I clearly heard the word “love.” All around me were amazed that she was speaking but I was accustomed to the unexpected. I gently leaned towards her head, received her cue, and began speaking of God’s love. She redoubled her effort at communication and I caught more of her meaning. The beginning was garbled but she closed by saying she loved me. Hospice chaplains are accustomed to expressions of gratitude. I received her gesture and returned to the theme of God’s grace and love. She seemed to be gaining steam and with several more efforts she clearly stated her mind: “If you will get me a plug of tobacco, I’ll love you forever!”

Contrast this humorous scene in a country home with the sterile confines of a hospital room. A man lay dying from lung cancer and the ravages of alcoholism. He had desperately sought the support of a chaplain as he lay struggling for breath. When I entered, his respirations were rapid, shallow, and unproductive. There was terror in his eyes. He could barely talk but he told me he needed medicine and my immediate assessment confirmed his. I pressed the red button by his bedside and alerted the nurse’s desk of this patient’s needs. As we waited I read comforting scriptures. It was somewhere in the green pastures of the 23rd Psalm that I noticed a remarkable drop in his respirations. He began breathing productively. He listened to the reassuring words of the Psalm but he had questions. “I do not deserve God’s love,” he told me. I asked him to listen to the story of the prodigal son. He listened intently and

the nurse came to a much calmer scene and gave him a dose of his medicine that calmed him further.

“Why should God have mercy on me when I have turned my back on him all my life until now, just before I die?” He described his determination to live on his own terms with no interest in spirituality until now. I spoke of God’s justice, which is often different from our own sense of fairness. I spoke of the futility of our efforts to earn righteousness through our behavior or work. I referred to the thief on the cross that Christ proclaimed would be in paradise. This tormented man in the hospital room digested the words and he was satisfied. He was grateful for the support, the discussion, and prayer. He seemed at peace. It was a radical contrast to the scene I had found when I first arrived.

As my heels clicked along the empty hospital corridor that led to the parking deck, my mind wandered in analysis. Did I simply give this desperate man a message that he wanted to hear to placate him? I had never been more aware of the absurdity of God’s justice from a human perspective. Suddenly I remembered the parable of the employer who hired workers at different times and then paid them each the same sum regardless of the hours they had worked. I had always thought this parable untenable and uninspiring. And yet this was the potent message I had just expressed.

Where is there a livelier laboratory for ministry and theology? When the Hospice chaplain is requested, patients and their loved ones are

open to growth. Their world, their beliefs, their family system have been dramatically shaken. How will they find their equilibrium? It is the privilege of the Hospice chaplain to walk or sit quietly beside them as they gain their bearings. For those of us drawn to the deepest meaning of things, this is a spectacular landscape, full of beauty but not without dangers.

The Hospice chaplain bears witness to a high degree of physical and spiritual suffering. The added pressures of productivity and timely documentation can be overwhelming. Few of us are totally satisfied with the balance we are finding between caring for others and caring for ourselves. This quest is part of the fascinating terrain. We are constantly reminded that our own spiritual needs must be addressed if we are to accompany others on their spiritual journeys. This friction is what makes the work so meaningful. Hospice chaplains are pilgrims on their own journeys who are learning to pause beside patients and their loved ones who are traversing their unique and challenging paths through death. ■



Chaplain Ruth Demby (left) provides bereavement support for the wife of a Hospice patient. Hospice provides end-of-life care for terminally ill patients and their families and caregivers.

A Call to Serve

Gerry Hutchinson, Minister of Outreach & Administration at Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, and Group Chaplain for Marine Air Group 42 in Marietta, GA

GERRY AND VICKI HUTCHINSON share the following reflections about his call to active duty to serve in Afghanistan, 2004-2005, and how it impacted their lives and their church.

Q What were your thoughts on learning you were being mobilized for active duty in Afghanistan?

A Gerry: The phone call came while I was at home on my day off. I was not totally surprised because the Navy had contacted me three months earlier to ask if I was interested in going. However, they subsequently communicated that they intended to send a junior (younger) Chaplain. After hearing that, I concluded it was unlikely I would be mobilized. When the Chaplain on the other end of the phone asked "Are you still willing to go to Afghanistan?," during the split second I considered his request, I knew that my answer had to be "yes" because I strongly sensed God's leadership in this.

Vicki: When Gerry told me about the phone call, my initial reaction was one of fear. Fear for his safety and fear of the unknown. I wondered how I would handle things at home in his absence? But as we started to prepare for his departure I began to experience the peace of Christ. I knew that if God was calling Gerry to go he was calling me to do my part as well. I had a growing sense of excitement and adventure about things.

Q Gerry, What was the ministry like in Afghanistan?

A Gerry: I was the Chaplain for four Marine Helicopter Squadrons comprising a total of 440 people. We were based in Bagram, Afghanistan. Our personnel rotated
(continues to page 11)



Military Chaplains

Paul Douglas, right

Humbled and Awestruck in Iraq

*Paul Douglas, Chaplain Recruiter, Army National Guard
148th Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard
Received Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge for service in Iraq
Current duties: Chaplain Recruiter, Army National Guard*

AS THE 148TH SUPPORT BATTALION made its way to Iraq I remember the ever present nervous laughter and the bravado that has long been characteristic of soldiers in similar circumstances. There was such a mixture of emotions. Some chomping at the bit while others quietly mourned their circumstances. I learned that soldiers are masters of concealment. Concealment not only in a tactical sense but in an emotional and spiritual sense as well. From the time we began our train-up until we actually hit the ground in Iraq we had been on active duty for over five months. I had already become immersed in soldier issues ranging from just plain homesickness and fear to conscientious objection. Many soldiers just internalized their issues and attempted to "deal with it." This worked well for some soldiers but not for others. There would be ample opportunity for one-on-one ministry once we were on the ground in Iraq. I would learn the difficulty and the blessing involved in being the "presence of Christ."

When we arrived in Baghdad it seemed like it was only a short time until our sister battalion took losses due to an improvised explosive device (IED). That battalion, at the time, didn't have a chaplain assigned. Chaplain (1LT) Jonathan Fisher and I were to provide support. I had been trained for Critical Incident Stress Management but I wasn't prepared for the range of emotions that confronted me that night. My heart was heavy as I watched grown men cry out in their grief and weep for their friends. I gathered them together and shared scripture and prayer. Someone had to keep his or her head in the midst of the mourning and I found that this is what chaplains do. I spent the better part of that evening consoling one soldier after another as well as the young company commander who was deeply shaken by the losses. It wouldn't be long before the commander, the same men and I would repeat this process again when more men from the same platoon were killed by another IED. I saw the same scenario played out again in Mahmudiyah when three men were drowned after their Humvee rolled over and slid into a canal. The very next day a young soldier was killed when an IED detonated near his foot patrol. I did the memorial service for all four. Death found

(continues to page 10)

its way to the 148th when we were at Camp Adder and three of our men were killed in a Humvee accident. I was close to these guys and I mourned along with the other soldiers. I came to dread the late night wake-up calls that only meant that something terrible had happened or could happen.

Paralleling the difficult times there were alternating times of intense joy. I guess that's one thing that I will always remember about Iraq. Emotions and experiences seemed to be magnified tenfold. I savored times when I would congratulate a soldier on the arrival of a son or daughter or be present at a much deserved birthday or promotion celebration. In Baghdad we had a modest chapel tent but the services there were truly spectacular. Each Sunday was an adventure. I was amazed at the size of the attendance and I often remarked that the Camp Striker Chapel was the largest church congregation I had ever pastored. It seems that we were much like those in Jerusalem after Pentecost in that we all were in wonder and awe at how God moved in our midst. The singing in our chapel tent would give us respite from the realities we faced, the message from God's word always seemed to address the problems at hand, and the testimonies of the soldiers were always a favorite of mine. Hearing how Christ was so intimately involved in their lives always moved something deep within me. Following each service we had a call to accept Christ as Lord and Savior complete with on the spot baptisms in the outdoor baptismal. We would sing old hymns as the soldiers crowded around the baptismal to hold hands and pray. There was almost always someone to step forward and sometimes it would seem as if they would not stop coming! As long as I live I will always remember those services and the way Jesus Christ was glorified. There were no socio-economic or racial divisions. It seemed like for that brief period of time we were able to come together, care for one another, and worship a God that was very near. Later, when our battalion was

moved south to Base Camp Adder we were integrated into a larger installation service but the joy continued.

I learned much about military ministry that many of chaplains before me already knew. I found that the chapel, while a good place for worship, was not the only place for ministry. My tremendously talented assistant, Sergeant Kurt Kirby, was always quick to have everything at hand to set up an impromptu field service. When we traveled to outlying areas we did nothing but field services. I found that you have to take the church to the soldier. It was when we were taking the church to the soldiers in an outlying position that we were involved in a rocket attack that would result in our being awarded the Army Combat Action Badge. I'm proud of the award but I'm just blessed to have all my parts. We had prayer for each convoy as it prepared to leave on mission, we prayed for guys departing on patrols or other types of missions. When I offered to pray there was never a soldier that didn't bow his or her head. No one ever thought that it was "politically incorrect." It seems that I handed out thousands of crosses, Bibles, tracts, and other pieces of media to soldiers. When I saw a soldier I saw an opportunity to strike up a conversation and it wouldn't be long until a need emerged. Scripture, prayer, or just plain encouragement often met the need. I probably missed many opportunities but I am grateful for those I didn't miss. I also found that just being a good listener is a powerful form of ministry. Finally, I found that those in command bear a tremendous load. I'll always cherish the memories of praying with my battalion commander and speaking with him at length about the issues he faced and the issues I faced. I served a wonderful commander who gave me tremen-

dous latitude in ministering to his soldiers. He will always have a special place in my memories.

My wife and my children are the real unsung heroes of the entire deployment. Christine, aside from her daily home school duties to our children, managed the home and worked at a feverish pace in the family support group. She remained active and engaged at our church. She counseled the wives of soldiers who contacted her. She was my counselor and confidant. She was the groundskeeper and handyman at our home. I don't think I will ever really fathom the emotional and physical strain that she endured while I was gone. My kids were ever patient and I always looked forward to their drawings and letters I would receive in the mail. In my absence from them I came to love them even more.

As I look back upon my time in Iraq I marvel at my misconceptions about military ministry in a combat zone. All the things I thought would take up the bulk of my time seemed to pale in



Douglas leads an "on the spot" baptism in the outdoor baptismal.

comparison to the unforeseen challenges that confronted me on a daily basis. I was humbled by my inabilities and limits but awestruck by the pure grace and strength that I encountered in prayer for my inadequacies. I would do it all again if asked or commanded. In retrospect, I can truly say that my time there was a blessing. I think that going to Iraq changed me in ways that my family will never truly understand. Similarly, I believe my family was changed in ways that I will never truly understand. ■

Military Chaplaincy: Labor Coupled with Reward

*Art Wiggins, Chaplain Headquarters and Service Battalion
aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.*

MILITARY CHAPLAINCY is unlike any other ministry. All Christian clergy start with a call to serve God's people using the tenets of Christ. Military ministry, however, combines the pastoral care of hospital ministry, the hard-nosed evangelical teaching of prison ministry, and the spiritual journey of a congregational ministry.

As an active-duty navy chaplain I can think of few ministers who fulfill such varying roles.

Two aspects make military ministry unique. The first distinguishing factor is the demographic of the military population. The majority of military personnel are males between 18 and 30 years old. This statistic reflects a young congregation



Chaplain Art Wiggins

by any church census. Secondly, our military population is continuously being trained for war. As a result, their focus and fears are atypical to most congregants.

Military ministry is not what I expected. Having grown up a Baptist, I was quite comfortable with the inner workings of the church. The roles of the pastor, deacons, trustees, associate ministers, and the auxiliary staff (i.e. secretary, clerk, and musicians) were instilled in each of us members. In military ministry, you fulfill all these roles. You may have the support of one RP (religious personnel), but oftentimes the implementation of the chaplain's ministry is a "one man show." At my first duty station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, being responsible for and implementing every aspect of the chapel service was sometimes frustrating. Preparing the bulletins, arranging the music, balancing financial records, preparing and preaching the sermon, along with fixing the pews and the air-conditioning were all just part of a week's work. At times, I thought this must have been what early pastors endured when starting community churches throughout our history. Juggling all these duties is truly only possible with God.

This is not your grandmother's church. Naval chaplains serve with the Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps. Thus they are called to provide ministry in every climate and zone from the deserts of Iraq to the hurricane stricken Gulf

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A Call to Serve

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between Bagram and two forward operating bases (FOBs) near the Pakistan border where we flew combat missions.

I led worship, taught a weekly Bible study, and gave counsel to Marines and other service members. I also coordinated a Humanitarian Aid project in partnership with an outpatient clinic operated by the Egyptian army. The Egyptians allowed us to distribute food, hygiene, and clothing items to the Afghans who came to the clinics.

RP1 Mark Benson (my assistant and body guard) and I were assigned as the Protestant Ministry Team for a FOB about two hours north of Bagram. We traveled by helicopter every fifteen days to provide for the religious needs of the Marines and Soldiers there.

In essence, I functioned as any Pastor does who serves his/her people except I operated in a combat

environment. Fortunately, I never came under enemy fire although a number of our Marines did.

Q How did your church support you?

A Gerry: Druid Hills' members were very supportive. They showered me with Christmas cards, which I posted on the walls of my hooch to brighten it up. They prayed for me and the specific requests I communicated. Each week I sent an email update to the church informing them of my experiences and reflections. This helped us keep in touch. A number of members corresponded with me. I always found their notes encouraging. When I returned home our church secretary presented me with a notebook of the weekly updates. That notebook is a special keepsake as it chronicles my experiences while in country.

The church also continued my life insurance and retirement contributions while I was on active duty.

Vicki: Folks from church regularly inquired how I was doing. They assured me of their prayers for us. One member even helped me prepare our tax return. This was something Gerry had always done and it was a great relief to me to receive this help.

Gerry: I consider my time in Afghanistan to be one of the great experiences of my life. I had the privilege to serve the Lord while serving my country. Druid Hills' church members could not have been more supportive. ■

Gerry Hutchinson (right) serves communion, while serving his country in Afghanistan.



The Mission Field of Prison

Susan Barnett, Corrections Officer, USP Leavenworth, Kansas

IT'S BEEN FOURTEEN years and the Lord still has me in prison!! It was halfway through my Master of Divinity work that I sensed God calling me to the mission field — prison. Since June of 1992, I have served as a prison chaplain in five different prisons beginning with a men's maximum state prison in Texas. My first night I encountered what one might call a "small riot." Three Prison Fellowship men were leading a Bible study when the inmates started throwing racial slurs at one another. Assuming the volunteers would take control, I sat back only to watch the volunteers run out of the room as not only racial slurs were being thrown but also chairs and punches. This was the beginning of my prison ministry. At times the mission field is filled with tension, pain, and loneliness. However, what better place for the presence of Jesus to be introduced to men and women, some of whom welcome Him into their lives and hearts.

At the second institution I served, a female inmate asked me why I worked in a prison. She considered her surroundings cold and lonely — as did many of the people, inmates and staff. The inmate felt that I did not fit in. I told her that was exactly the reason I was there — to bring compassion, love, and joy that comes only from the heart of God.

My third institution was Federal Medical Center-Carswell, Fort Worth,

Texas. This institution included separate maximum, medium, and low security units along with major medical and mental units, housing approximately 1300-1400 women. I served there from 1996-2001. It was an exciting five years of ministry filled with much joy and tears. I performed approximately sixteen memorial services for women who died while incarcerated. Although dying in prison sounds like the darkest of times, many of these women were believers in Christ who had their sisters in Christ at their bedside as they went home to be with the Lord. God taught me a lot about His grace, mercy, and love during such times as these and that the family of God can function in some of the most unusual settings.

After leaving Carswell in December of 2001, I served at two men's prisons in Florence, Colorado, until my current position at the United States Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Since my arrival at USP Leavenworth in March of 2006, I have been struck by the hardness of hearts of both inmates and even some staff. Many staff at Leavenworth have made this their career serving in the correctional field. Over the years, some staff have seen both inmates and staff assaulted and/or killed. During my first week I met an officer who had been stabbed in the back by a Muslim inmate. He still works here but not without being affected by his surroundings.

For this reason, many staff do not understand the need or logic in bringing in a chaplain to such a violent and difficult setting. For some, the thought is that "inmates have nothing coming." Some look at chaplains as "weak" or "inmate lovers" instead of treating them as "the less than" in society. Thus, chaplains are often mocked for the stand they take to be an advocate and pastor to "the least of these." To walk as a chaplain in a correctional setting is to walk a fine line — one as correctional officer, when called upon, and one as pastor and comforter when needed.

Often I feel less than adequate for the place of ministry that I believe God has called me. I meet many in this setting that would as easily "take someone out" when offended rather than discuss their differences. For some, they have killed, raped, or assaulted one or more people. Nonetheless, God has offered His forgiveness as well as redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ, and for me it is a privilege to be that vessel that can share such Good News.

Finally, and most recently, I have been asked to serve on the Council on Endorsement for Chaplains with CBF. What a joy and a privilege to serve with chaplains who serve in other unique settings, i.e., hospitals, Navy, hospice, as well as the opportunity to learn and pray for others that the Lord is leading to a ministry in chaplaincy. CBF truly wants to connect and spiritually support those chaplains who've dedicated their lives to serving Him. I, for one, am truly blessed. ■

Labor Coupled with Reward

(continues from page 11)

Coast. Military chaplains jump with paratrooper units, care for patients and staff in military hospitals, minister aboard war ships, and serve in military prisons. It is truly safe to say that there is no aspect of the military mission that is void of a chaplain's spiritual influence. All activities coexist with God's presence awaiting that one

opportunity to minister in His name.

The relationship of a pastor with a church member is significantly different than a chaplain to military personnel. The chaplain lives, eats, and may one day be sent into battle and face death with his/her "flock" like every other officer. Yet, we must also fulfill the duties of a pastor. Military personnel do not form committees and select chaplains as some church

members select pastors. All military chaplains are required to be endorsed by a government-approved sanctioning body. It is not a church officer, but rather the endorsing agent that is responsible to ensure that chaplain candidates have the requisite experience, education, and character to succeed. We are truly thrust upon the troops. For many, we are the first ministers with whom they have had

(continues to page 13)



Resource Wise

Compiled by Denise Massey, Associate Professor for Pastoral Care and Counseling, McAfee School of Theology

Sellon, Mary K. and Daniel P. Smith. *Practicing Right Relationships: Skills for Deepening Purpose, Finding Fulfillment and Increasing Effectiveness in your Congregation*. Herndon, Virginia: Alban Institute, 2005.

This easy-to-read volume applies Daniel Goleman's research about emotional intelligence to congregational ministry.

Gottman, John. *The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1999.

Based on solid research about marriage relationships, these principles can be effectively applied to pastoral care and counseling.

Johnson, Robert A. *Inner Work: Using Dreams and Creative Imagination for Personal Growth and Integration*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1986.

I find this work to be the clearest and best discussion for both beginners and more experienced listeners to the wisdom of dreams to guide us in growth. I recommend that those who wish to use creative imagination do so with a therapist or spiritual guide who understands and is experienced with this process.

Hudson, Joyce Rockwood. *Natural Spirituality: Recovering the Wisdom Tradition in Christianity*. Danielsville, Georgia: JRH Publications, 2000.

Hudson attends to spirituality in Christian life in a way that can be useful for congregational ministry.

Switzer, David K. *Pastoral Care Emergencies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.

This volume contains practical guidelines and suggestions for providing pastoral care in crisis situations, as well as a helpful discussion of the meaning and importance of caring in ministry.

Oates, Wayne E., and Thomas W. Chapman, ed. *A Practical Handbook for Ministry: From the Writings of Wayne E. Oates*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.

Oates was a Baptist pioneer and founder of pastoral care and counseling. This handbook contains some of the best and most timeless of his writing, such as the discussion of workaholicism and ministry. (Oates coined the term workaholic.) Because he wrote at an earlier time, however, the minister would want to supplement this work with up-to-date resources.

Kornfeld, Margaret Zipse. *Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities*. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, 1998.

Kornfeld uses the metaphor of gardener to explore care and counseling in congregational and other community settings. She offers a wealth of theory, theology, and practical help for ministers. The reading and resources section at the end of each chapter is worth the price of the book.

Web Sites

- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education: <http://www.acpe.edu>
- American Association for Pastoral Counselors: <http://www.aapc.org>
- Society for Pastoral Theology: <http://www.geocities.com/societyforpastoraltheology>
- Association of Professional Chaplains: <http://www.professionalchaplains.org>

Brochures available through CBF/National

- Partners in Prayer: Praying for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors
- Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors of The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Labor Coupled with Reward

(continues from page 12)

any significant consistent contact. Upon initially entering the military, most personnel could not even articulate why they have a chaplain. By the end of their first tour, however, they will know their chaplain as someone willing to expel blood, sweat, and tears right alongside of them.

Military Chaplaincy could not be more

fulfilling! All ministers help those in need. More often than not, however, the person who enters a church is seeking God. Military personnel do not always come to the chaplain seeking God. They come seeking solutions. The chaplain then has the opportunity to share God with them. Often the military member will not even see the challenge they face as spiritual in nature. Thus, it is most gratifying to reveal God's relevance in

every aspect of the member's life. Part of this opportunity is facilitated by the duality in the chaplain's role. While a fully licensed minister of the gospel, the chaplain is also a fully commissioned officer. Military personnel have been trained to go to officers for resolutions to their problems and that includes chaplains. The only difference is the book with which we choose to find the answer. ■

Opportunities / Updates / Reports

People and Places

Robert B. Setzer, Jr., senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Georgia, was honored by the congregation at a reception on August 27, 2006, celebrating the tenth anniversary of his pastorate.

Financial Picture

2006-2007 Year-to-Date
June 1-August 31, 2006

Budget Requirement	\$174,607.02
Undesignated Receipts	\$134,655.48
Over/<Under>	\$<39,951.54>
Designated Receipts	\$ 15,729.33

Lotz to Speak at Mercer

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE
General Secretary, Dr. Denton Lotz will speak at Mercer University on Saturday morning November 18, 2006.



Join us for this special opportunity at 10 a.m. at the Religious Life Center to hear one of the world's foremost Baptist leaders address Gospel work around the globe, cooperation among Baptist and other Christian organizations, and the missions and evangelism road ahead. You will be inspired, and uplifted and challenged.

This rare opportunity to have Dr. Lotz in our area is open to Mercer University & McAfee Seminary faculty, staff, and students, area pastors, ministers and laypersons. Q&A to follow. Light refreshments will be served.

Frankly Speaking

It's Been a Demanding Year

THIS HAS WITHOUT A DOUBT been the most demanding year for the CBF/GA office since I became your coordinator. We have had our plates full most of the time. It started with the Tsunami in Asia and really hit home with Katrina. When something like that happens the phone lines light up and the emails begin to flow. Pastors, staff members, and lay leaders want to know what is needed and how they can help. When the disaster is limited in scope it is usually possible to get answers and set up procedures of response within a matter of weeks. However, when the storm is so strong and the devastation so serious that the infrastructure is gone, getting answers quickly is almost impossible. I found myself on the hot seat more than once with leaders who had crews ready and trucks loaded and no specific way to determine where to land. Those who had not wanted CBF to look or act like a denomination were now wishing we did. It was a confusing and demanding time.

In time most churches found a way to connect. A lot of them found informa-

tion posted on our website. Others found it by reaching out to friends and family in nearby states. Most of our churches had good experiences. A few found that they ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The experience of Katrina has shaped our understanding of disaster response. We now understand we must become more proactive in dealing with potential disasters. That means developing a plan to assist our sister states if they are hit as well as developing a plan for Georgia if we are hit. Conversations are going on between CBF state offices and between those same offices and CBF/National. Eventually we will have an understanding of who does what when and how. Of course all of this rests on what the local church is willing to do and willing to give. If I have one fear it is what I call the "fad of the day." Disasters tend to evoke an intense and immediate response. People want to do something right now. However, it often takes weeks and months to get the mechanisms in place to adequately respond to the need. By that time many individuals

and churches have moved on to something else. I hope this is not going to be the case with Katrina.

In the past several weeks I have had conversations with individuals in New Orleans, Louisiana, Pearlinton, Mississippi, and Bayou La Batre, Alabama. The issues of lodging, work places, and time schedules are being solved. We are in a much better position to help a local congregation find a place of service. The stream of volunteers to those places has dropped off considerably. Yet our ability to place volunteers has improved. There is a crying need for help in October and November. I hope you will consider taking a group from your church during that time.

One of our future issues of *Visions* will be dedicated to the aftermath of Katrina. We will do some articles on what our churches have done. If your church has something to share we hope you will send us a report.

Frank Broome
Coordinator, CBF/GA
fbroome@cbfga.org



CBF/GA Reference and Referral

“I don’t recognize the face, but the name is familiar!”

USUALLY, we stammer, “I don’t recognize the name, but the face is familiar,” when we see someone we are supposed to know, and are trying to avoid embarrassment over not knowing him or her. Well, at CBF/GA, it’s the other way ‘round! CBF/GA has a new “face” on its web page, www.cbfga.org. This “face” may not be familiar to you, but the name, CBF/GA, certainly is.

The same is true for Churches Seeking Ministers and Ministers Seeking Churches. You know to go to the familiar website, but you may not recognize what to do then because the process is now simpler.

At the top of our CBF home page, you will see the word, “Vocations.” Simply move your cursor over the word, “Vocations,” and a menu will appear. You may then click on the appropriate category for your needs and fill out the appropriate form.

Please let Reference and Referral hear from you. Churches, we have “beaucoup” résumés and would like to assist you in your search. If you go to our website and fill out the Church Information Form, we can do a much better job assisting you in your search. Ministers, the same is true for you. Please fill out that Minister Information Form and help us help you. Now, it’s even easier!

Alan Mitchell

Assistant to the Coordinator
for Reference and Referral, CBF/GA
amitchell@cbfga.org



Ministers on the move:

Amedeo Tritto is Minister of Music at Haddock Baptist, Haddock, GA.

Andrew (“Drew”) Prince is Pastor of FBC Shepherdville, KY.

Brian Johnson is Minister to Students at Ball Camp BC, Knoxville, KY.

Daniel Peavy is Associate for Children/Youth at FBC Swainsboro, GA.

Danny Vancil is Minister of Music at Smoke Rise BC in Stone Mountain, GA.

Greg Steele is Minister of Music, FBC Covington, GA.

Jeff Mathis is Minister to Students, FBC Chattanooga, TN.

Jim Tippins is CPE Chaplain, Baptist Medical Center, Fernandina Beach, FL.

Mark Greene is Minister of Music, FBC Avondale Estates, GA.

Mark Parnell is Pastor of Jewell BC, Jewell, GA.

Michael D. Roper is Pastor of Valley Brook BC, Decatur, GA.

Phil Smith is Assistant Chaplain & Director of Spiritual Life, Elon University, Burlington, NC.

Ron Handlon is full-time Associate Pastor at Buckhead BC, Atlanta, GA.

Stephen Cook is Pastor, FBC Danville, VA.

Tom Allen is Pastor, Midway BC, Midway, KY.

Tom Tucker is Pastor of FBC West Point, GA.

“Acompañada en la jornada”

Ruth Cuellar, Pastor of Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor, Newnan

CUANDO LLEGUE a Newnan para comenzar el ministerio entre la comunidad latina a través de Rainbow of Love Ministry, traje conmigo una maleta llena de sueños, esperanza y energía. Al comenzar esta nueva jornada y tratar de relacionarme con iglesias bautistas hispanas,



Ruth Cuellar

pronto comprendí que había una pared impenetrable donde las mujeres llamadas por Dios para servirle como pastoras o ministros no eramos bienvenidas. No obstante continúe mi caminar todavía con mi equipaje lleno de más sueños, confiando en Dios y sabiendo que un día oí claramente Su voz para trabajar por y para Su Reino.

La iglesia Central Baptist Church de Newnan y su pastor Dr. Joel Richardson, han sido y siguen siendo la ventana que Dios abrió, para extender Su Reino en la comunidad latina en este pueblo sureño de Georgia.

Frank Broome, nuestro coordinador de la CBF de Georgia, me hizo sentir bienvenida desde nuestra primera conversación. Alcance a comprender, que en la gran misericordia de Dios y confirmando Su propósito en mí, la CBF de Georgia es el lugar donde el género no cuenta para apoyar y entender el llamado de aquellos que como yo, hemos sentido la necesidad de compartir y extender el Reino de Dios en nuestro rededor.

También tengo una historia que compartir con todos, al igual que la tuvo la reina Ester, María Magdalena o Pablo y Silas, una historia de llamamiento y entrega donde se cumplen las palabras del Apóstol Pablo: “No hay varón ni mujer porque todos somos uno en Cristo.”

Por dos años he recibido una beca para participar en Mercer Preaching Consultation. Pude sentir el llamado de Cristo en cada conferencista y Su presencia en sus ministerios fue de gran inspiración. También la CBF de Georgia estuvo presente con la participación de Suzanne Powell, en la primera ordenación de diaconos y diaconisas en nuestra iglesia, dos mujeres y dos hombres. Devita Parnell también ha sido un apoyo incondicional, actualizándose con información acerca de la vida congregacional.

Debo decir que en esta jornada, tengo hermanos y hermanas, compañeros y compañeras en Cristo quienes me animan y me ayudan a seguir llevando mi equipaje todavía lleno de sueños cumplidos y por cumplir, con la seguridad que da el llamamiento divino y la esperanza de seguir siendo un instrumento suyo en un mundo necesitado.

Gracias, CBF de Georgia por acojermme bajo sus alas y hacerme sentir que podemos volar juntos.

Gracias

Coming Up!

Oct. 8-10

Candler School of Theology

Fall Conference "Faith, Politics, and Policy"

For more information visit www.candler.emory.edu/ABOUT/fall_conference06/.

Oct. 12-13

Conference on Ethics in Ministry

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

Speaker: Tony Campolo

For more information, email frazier_d@mercer.edu.

Oct. 20-21

GA Baptist Women in Ministry Fall Retreat

"Joining Hands, Joining Hearts," McCaysville

For more information and to download a registration form visit www.cbfga.org/calendar.

Oct. 26

"Negotiating Conflict in the Congregation"

Mercer University, Macon

Cosponsored by McAfee Institute for Healthy Congregations, The Center for Baptist Studies, and CBF/GA. For more information and to register visit <http://theology.mercer.edu/calendar/specialevents.html>.

Nov. 5-6

CBF/GA Fall Convocation

First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon

"A Gift Too Good to Keep!"

Speakers: Rob Nash, CBF/National Global Missions Coordinator and Bill Underwood, Mercer University President

Dec. 29, 2006-Jan. 02, 2007

Antiphony

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta

Conference created for graduate and undergraduate students with a focus this year on "Call and Response." To register visit www.antiphonyonline.org from Aug. 15 until Nov. 15.

2007

Jan. 8-10

Spiritual Formation Regional Pastors' Retreat

Ignatius House Retreat Center, Atlanta

To register visit <http://www.thefellowship.info/CL/FF/TrainingEvents/Registration.icm>. For information, email rbennett@thefellowship.info or call 770- 220-1605.

Feb. 2-3

Now Serving 2007

McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta

A collegiate missions event cosponsored by McAfee School of Theology and CBF/GA. More information to come!

Feb. 7-10

Current Retreat "Let Justice Roll"

First Baptist Church of Austin, TX

Registration cost is \$110 for ministers and lay leaders, \$55 for seminary students. For more information, visit <https://www.thefellowship.info/current/current.icm>.

Feb. 19-20

William L. Self Preaching Lectures

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

Speaker: Tom Long

For more information, email frazier_d@mercer.edu.

March 2-3

CBF/GA General Assembly

Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain

Speaker: Anna Carter Florence, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary

March 16-18

March Mission Madness 2007

FBC Eatonton

A missions weekend for youth. Participants will stay at Rock Eagle Retreat Center. More information to come! Contact Scott Ford at robertscottford@mac.com.

March 19-20

Urban Mission Workshop

McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta

Workshop Leader: Ray Bakke

For more information, email frazier_d@mercer.edu.

March 23-25

March Mission Madness 2007

FBC Columbus

More information to come!

Check the website (www.cbfga.org) for more information and events.

CBF/GA...enabling the people of God who are committed to historic Baptist principles to carry out the Great Commission under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a fellowship where every Christian has the freedom and the responsibility to exercise God's gift and calling.

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