



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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All questions and comments may be directed to Nancy Copeland, 478-742-1191 ext 27 or ncopeland@cbfga.org.

From our moderator

THE WELCOME MAT
“Come unto me...” Matthew 11:28a (KJ)

Some years ago we were at an elderly aunt’s home for another aunt’s funeral. Suddenly we were aware of a number of neighborhood children who had swarmed through the back gate and were playing, noisily, in the yard. I sent one of my daughters, who has a gift for talking and working with children, to explain that it was not an appropriate time for their intrusion. Most of the children scampered away when they saw our daughter coming, but one little girl lingered, and in response to the request to leave, said, “But it said ‘Welcome’ on the gate.”

Later I thought about how often the welcome mats in our churches are out, but if those who enter do not conform to our ideas of how things ought to be, we tell them, either in word or deed, to find somewhere else to play. We sometimes prefer not to have our sacred halls echo with new ideas or what we consider to be inappropriate intrusions into what we think of as our private preserve. May God give us the grace to live out the words on our welcome mats.

—Sarah Powell, CBF of Georgia Moderator



opportunities & reports

Opportunities

YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND

Leading Strategic Planning in the Church
April 11, 2005 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
McAfee School of Theology
Mercer University, Atlanta Campus

A Workshop for pastors and lay leaders exploring strategy planning for their church

Registration at the door is \$59. Advanced registration by March 15 is \$39 (lunch included).

The conference will be led by McAfee Network Consultants and pastors experienced in strategy planning.

The Strategy Planning Process:

- How Do We Get Started?
- Using Consultants in Planning
- Realistic Outcomes for Our Church

How to Receive Workshop Details:

1. Send a request by mail to Dr. Larry McSwain, McAfee School of Theology, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341
2. Email mcswain_ll@mercer.edu
3. Call 678-547-6442, leave message

Financial Picture

2004-2005 year-to-date as of November 30, 2004

Budget Requirement \$278,850.00
Undesignated Receipts..... \$282,539.00
Designated Receipts..... \$115,599.00

In Memorium

Sympathy is extended to **Craig Williamson**, First Baptist Church, Manchester, for the death of his father, **Foy Williamson** of Dublin.

Frankly Speaking

continued from page 1

Courtland Street adjacent to Georgia State University.

Opportunities related to Baptist life in general and CBFGA in particular are growing. I hope you will make the effort to join in.

—Frank Broome,
CBF of Georgia Coordinator

CBF of Georgia...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.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
GEORGIA

P.O. Box 4343
Macon GA 31208-4343



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CBF GA coming up!

February 21-23, 2005

The William L. Self Preaching Lectures
McAfee School of Theology
Call 678-547-6470 for additional information

February 23-26

current Retreat...pause—A retreat in Asheville, NC
First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC
For young Baptist ministers, leaders, and divinity students
\$100 registration (Fee covers break-outs, parties & fellowship, worship leaders, four meals, and a t-shirt.)

Lodging available at Renaissance Hotel (across from First Baptist, Asheville) by calling 800-468-3571 (special rate for FBC Asheville/current Retreat - \$79.00). For additional information contact Mary McCoy at 770-220-1637 or mmccoy@thefellowship.info.

March 4

CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council Meeting
10:00 a.m. First Baptist Church, Rome

March 4-5

CBF of Georgia General Assembly
(See front cover and inside poster for details.)
First Baptist Church, Rome

Dr. Chuck Poole, featured preacher; Theme: *Reading the Bible and Speaking the Truth*

March 7-9

True Survivor...Annual gathering for Christian educators

Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX
Cost: \$50.00 per participant
Monday, March 7, registration 8:00-9:00 am.; concludes Wednesday, March 9, 11:30 am
Leaders: Diana Garland, Dave Odom, and Bo Prosser
Contact Toni Draper at 770-220-1654, 1-800-352-8741, or tdraper@thefellowship.info.

March 11-13, March 18-20

March Mission Madness 2005

Americus
Contact Scott Ford at robertscottford@mac.com or 770-860-0473 to register.

March 15

Application deadline for the Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship
Contact Bonnie Oliver at bonnieoliver@bellsouth.net.

Application deadline for the Distinguished Churchwoman of the Year Award
Contact Renee Bennett at 478-746-9868 (office) or 706-773-2298 (cell).

April 11

Leading Strategic Planning in the Church (See page 5 for details.)
9:30 am-3:30 pm, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta Campus
Contact Dr. Larry McSwain at mcswain_ll@mercer.edu OR call 678-547-6442.

April 22

Judson-Rice Award for Leadership with Integrity
Dr. Walter B. Shurden, recipient

6:30 pm Loudermilk Conference Center, 40 Courtland Street (adjacent to Georgia State University), Atlanta. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 and reservations can be made by calling 1-877-752-5658.

June 12-18, June 19-25, June 26-July 2

Youth Mission Opportunities in Taliaferro County
Kingdom Builders Ministries, Inc.

Registration is currently open online at www.kbministries.org. Visit the website for more information or contact Joey Fennell at 912-489-7908.

June 29-July 2

PassportKids! Wesleyan College, Macon

Summer camp for children completing grades 3-6. For more information or to register a group visit www.passport-kids.org or contact 1-800-769-0210.

June 30-July 1

CBF National General Assembly

Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
Auxiliary events offered Wednesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 2.

VISIONS



Feb/Mar '05

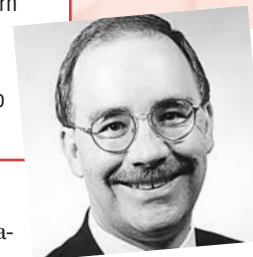
Special Guest Speaker Announced for the 2005 CBF of Georgia General Assembly

Dr. Charles E. Poole, LifeShare Community Minister, and former Georgian, will offer his insight into this year’s General Assembly theme: *Reading the Bible and Speaking the Truth*. The two-day CBF of Georgia General Assembly will begin on Friday, March 4, 2005, at First Baptist Church of Rome. Dr. Poole will share two sermons with the group during the event. See the inside of this issue for details.

The LifeShare Foundation (www.lifesharefoundation.org) was established in April 2000 as a non-profit, private foundation designed to give children a share of life’s blessings that have eluded them through poverty or disease. Dr. Poole serves as the foundation’s “hands and feet,” walking alongside some of Mississippi’s families who are most in need of help and hope. Dr. Poole has also authored

The 2005 General Assembly

will provide time and space on Saturday morning for Ministry Networks. Pastors, chaplains, student ministers, music ministers, children’s ministers, and others will enjoy this opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another’s experiences. Ministerial spouses will also gather for fellowship and encouragement.



five books: *The Flute Beneath the Gold* (2002), *Beyond the Broken Lights* (2000), *The Tug of Home* (1997), *Is Life Fair?* (1996), and *Don’t Cry Past Tuesday* (1991). Additionally, Dr. Poole has served as a visiting preacher and lecturer on the campuses of Mercer University, Furman University, Mississippi College, Duke University, and The Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.



Dr. Charles Poole

Dr. Poole was born in Macon, Georgia, and graduated from Mercer University. He is also a graduate of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina. Dr. Poole has served for twenty-six years as a Baptist pastor. He and his wife, Marcia Smith Poole, originally of Augusta, Georgia, have two children, Joshua and Maria. ■

Frankly speaking

serves as pastor of Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Other presenters include Karen

Massey and Larry McSwain from the faculty of McAfee. The event begins at 6:30 pm on Monday the 21st with a reception in the Trustee dining room. Additional sessions are on Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, call 678-547-6470.

On Friday, April 22, 2005, *Baptist Today* will present the annual Judson-Rice Award for Leadership with Integrity to Walter B. Shurden, noted author, historian, and executive director of the Center for Baptist

The William L. Self Preaching Lectures are scheduled for February 21-23, 2005, at the McAfee School of Theology. This year Joanna M. Adams will be the guest speaker. She is a highly respected leader in the Presbyterian denomination and

Studies at Mercer University. The dinner is open to the public and will be held at the Loudermilk Conference Center in Atlanta. Tickets are \$25 and reservations can be made by calling 1-877-752-5658. Dr. Shurden will speak following the award presentation by Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. The Loudermilk Center has excellent parking and is located at 40

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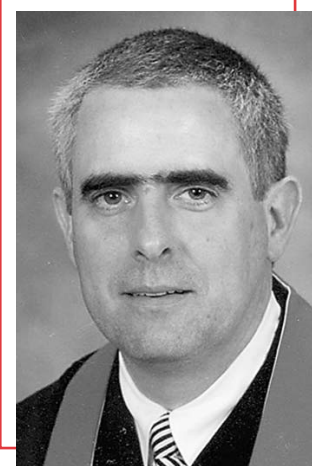
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 4-5, 2005

First Baptist Church of Rome

100 E. Fourth Ave. • Rome, GA •
706-291-6850 • www.fbcrome.com •

Directions to FBC of Rome: Exit I-75 at Exit 290. Follow Georgia 20 West to Rome (watch carefully for Georgia 20 turn signs). In downtown Rome, turn left at the CVS Pharmacy onto E. First Street. FBC is located at the intersection of E. First Street and Fourth Avenue.



Guest Speaker:

Dr. Charles E. Poole, LifeShare Community Minister,
LifeShare Foundation, Jackson, MS

Sermon Titles:

Friday Evening, "Central Standard Time" Matt. 22:34-40
Saturday Morning, "We Ordain Women Because We Baptize Girls" Gal. 3:23-29



- FRIDAY, MARCH 4
- 12:00 Registration
 - 1:00 *Speaking the Truth* Seminars I
 - 2:30 Break
 - 3:00 *Speaking the Truth* Seminars II
 - 5:00 Dinner in the fellowship hall (\$6 per person at the door)
 - 6:00 Business Session
 - 7:00 Worship with Dr. Poole
 - 8:30 Fellowship & Refreshments
- SATURDAY, MARCH 5
- 8:30 Continental Breakfast
 - 9:00 Ministry Networks
Speaking the Truth Seminars
 - 10:15 Fellowship & Refreshments
 - 10:45 Worship with Dr. Poole
 - 12:15 Dismissal

Child care provided. Advance notice appreciated. Please call First Baptist Church by March 2.

HOTELS..... **HOLIDAY INN SKYTOP**
20 Highway 411 E.
Rome, GA 30161
706-295-1100
Ask for the CBF of Georgia Special Rate of \$69.00. DEADLINE is Feb. 14.
Please contact the hotel for directions.

HAMPTON INN
21 Chateau Dr.
Rome, GA 30161
706-232-9551
Ask for the CBF of Georgia Special Rate of \$66.00. DEADLINE is Feb. 14.
Please contact the hotel for directions.

- SEMINARS.....
- Speaking the Truth* about ... Judaism
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Lay Led Church Starts
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Doing Missions in Difficult Settings
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Multi-Family Housing Communities
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Scripture
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... CBF of Georgia
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Discovering Your Call and Counting the Cost
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Our Baptist Heritage
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... The Most At-risk Children and Families in Georgia
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Wrinkles and Graying
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... The Role of the Pastor
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Healthy Congregations
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Church Conflict
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Excellence in Ministry: How to Support Your Pastor
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Creative Worship Planning
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... The Spiritual Journey of Children
 - Speaking the Truth* about ... Church Ministry to College Students

MINISTRY NETWORKS.....

- Children
- Pastors
- Ministerial Spouses
- Students
- Chaplains
- Music

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Reading the Bible and
Speaking the Truth*



For additional information,
contact the CBF of Georgia office
478-742-1191 ext. 21
or e-mail fbroome@cbfga.org.