

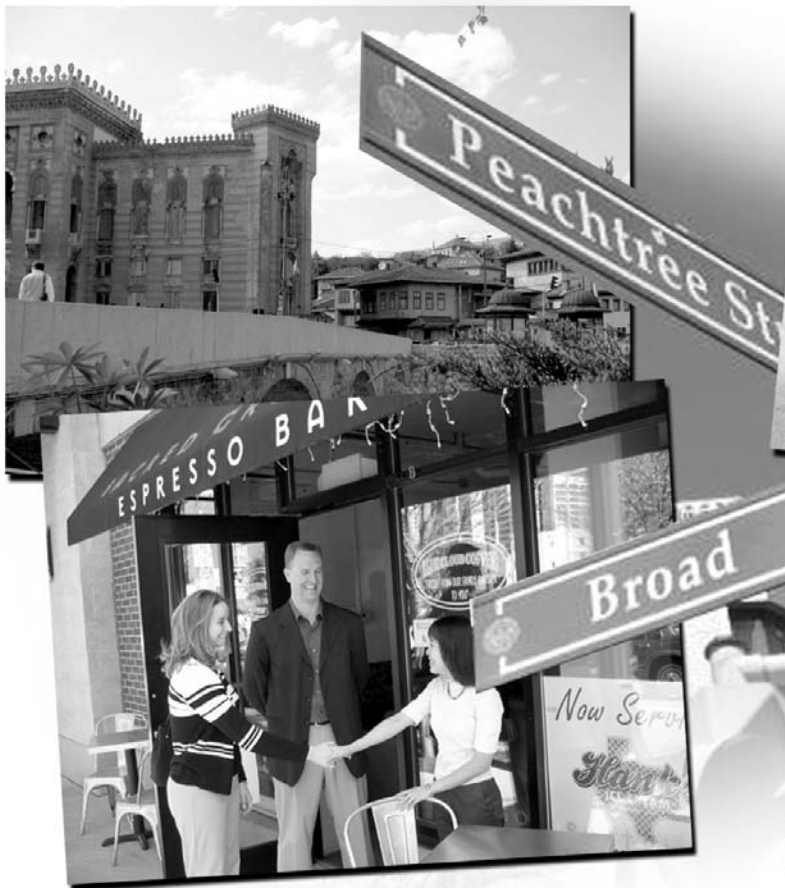
VISIONS

June/July '04



Being the
Presence of Christ
Today...Tomorrow... Together

In Center City...In Bosnia...in Taliaferro County



Our Vision ... Being the presence of Christ in the world.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

P.O. Box 4343, Macon GA 31208-4343
phone (478)742-1191 fax (478)742-6150
website www.cbfga.org
mission website www.cbfgamissions.org

CBF of Georgia Staff
Coordinator

E. Frank Broome • fbroomecbfga.org

Missions Coordinator

Jimmy B. Lewis • jblewis@mindspring.com

Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

Devita B. Parnell • dparnell@cbfga.org

Assistant to the Coordinator

Stacy G. Cox • scox@cbfga.org

Assistant to the Missions Coordinator

Twyla Nelson • tnelson@cbfgamissions.org

Assistant for Communication and Resources

Surelle K. Pinkston • spinkston@cbfga.org

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All questions and comments may be directed to the editor, Surelle K. Pinkston, 478-742-1191 ext 27 or spinkston@cbfga.org.

Frankly speaking



CBF of GA and The Center for Baptist Studies of Mercer University are co-sponsoring a morning conference with Brent Walker of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs on September 9 at Mercer University. We are in an important election year, and we Baptists need to be clear on our convictions regarding church and state, religion and government. I think you will benefit significantly from this brief, free conference.

The details regarding the conference are listed at right.

We really need you to register, if you are planning to attend. To register, either email gourley_bt@mercer.edu or phone Mr. Gourley at 478-301-5467. There is no cost, but we must have a record of those who plan to attend.

I hope you will be able to attend.

—Frank Broome, CBF of Georgia Coordinator

"Church/State Issues in the 2004 Election: A Dialogue with Brent Walker"

A Morning with Brent Walker Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

DATE: September 9, 2004

PLACE: Religious Life Building, Mercer University, Macon

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

9:00-9:45 "Separation of Church and State Doesn't Divorce Religion from Politics: What's a Religious Citizen to Do?"

9:45-10:30 "Special Problems for Local Churches During a Political Campaign: Education or Electioneering?"

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 "Church-State Topics in the 2004 Election: Debate or Demagoguery?"

From our moderator

Jimmy Carter's novel, *Hornet's Nest*, is set in the south, primarily in Georgia, during the revolutionary war. The Georgians in those days were divided in three camps: loyal to the crown; intent on independence; and a large group who just wanted to be left alone to tend their farms and live their lives.

There is a striking parallel, at least to me, to the folks in many of our churches: a group quite loyal to the traditional Baptist convention; a group of moderates; and some large groups who just want to come to church, worship, and not worry about the "controversy."

It is easy to get "weary in well-doing" in attempting to educate those who are not interested in being educated, in fending off the attacks from those who disagree so strongly with the stand we in CBF have taken, in working to get CBF and CBF of Georgia included in



budgets, in encouraging pastors to instruct their congregations when it

may put their callings to the test - well, the list goes on and on.

It is not in my nature to be a fighter, and being "a contrarian" is difficult for me. However, if we will follow the leadership of the Spirit of God, if we will be sensitive to the opportunities we have, we can make a difference.

Just as the Georgians in the 1700s had to take a stand eventually, whether they wanted to or not, Georgia Baptists of the 2000s will, too. Let's do our part to make sure their choices are based on knowledge, with prayer and God's Word behind them.

—Sara Powell, CBF of Georgia Moderator

Memos from the missions coordinator



Sunday I worshiped with the Bannister Creek Church. It was a marvelous experience to worship and feel the energy in the room. I sat there and thought about the call of God to be creative to the world. New church starts is a way we can be a part of the call of God to be creative.

New churches are the best tools for reaching new people. New churches will reach new members better than older existing churches. There are more places for a new member to find a place of service in a new church.

There are at least ten priority-areas in Georgia for new churches. The challenge is to find the prayer support, church planters, and money (\$50,000), needed to start these churches. Quite honestly, prayer is the crucial element to a good church starting enterprise. We ask our church

planters to secure a prayer team as a first priority.

On September 13-14, 2004, there will be a conference to help church planters design ministries to reach new people. The conference is being led by Phil Hester, Associate Coordinator for New Church Starts for CBF, and will be at Morrow First Baptist Church. Phil is experienced in helping churches create new ministries to reach people based on solid research. The following topics will be addressed:

- **Demographic Study:** Using research and data interpretation to identify, describe and define population targets for successful new ministry formation that will result in missional CBF churches.

- **Focus Groups:** Utilizing research and data interpretation to identify community and individual needs, issues and interests that will serve decision making designed to result in new congregation formation and member growth apart from the “me-too” program orientation of many denominations and conventions.

If you are interested in this new opportunity to minister to people and would like to attend this conference, call Jimmy Lewis toll free at 1-866-245-5240, or email jblewis@mindspring.com. This would be ideal, not only for new churches, but for churches that have reached a plateau and want to reach new people.

—Jimmy Lewis,
CBF of Georgia
Missions Coordinator

From our associate coordinator for congregational life

It is estimated that 10,000 small groups from a variety of denominations and locales have experienced *Companions in Christ* since its release. The transforming impact this resource has in congregations caused one clergy to say, “This resource may be the future of the church.”



A growing number of people across the Fellowship are talking about and trying to engage in spiritual formation as a way of living faithfully on the Christian journey. To support this growing interest, the Congregational Life area of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is launching a Spiritual Formation Network. As part of this new initiative CBF, nationally and in Georgia, continues to partner with Upper Room Ministries.

I would like to suggest two different ways for you to learn more about this partnership with Upper Room, as it relates to an excellent small group resource, *Companions in Christ*. Already church and clergy groups across the Fellowship are finding this resource to be extremely deep and meaningful as they have opened themselves to the transforming presence of God.

Taste and See Luncheons will provide the curious clergy or lay person an opportunity to learn more about *Companions*. During our time together participants will be introduced to the resource, given a chance to ask questions about how the resource works, and hear an invitation to become a part of a clergy or church group. Also, ideas will be shared on how to broaden the Spiritual Formation Network in Georgia.

Monday, July 12, Heritage Baptist Church, Cartersville

Thursday, July 15, FBC Athens

Tuesday, July 20, FBC Macon

Cost: Free

Deadline for registration: July 7

(continued on page 5)

Do You Speak Missions?

March Mission Madness 2004 brought the largest group of madness participants ever! A total of 723 people from 45 churches registered, and others from the host churches of the First Baptist churches of Hartwell and Forsyth participated. Each host church offered wonderful hospitality and care to their guests, and all involved performed about 4,500 hours of community service.

Serving at 35 mission service sites, participants painted a dozen homes, worked at nursing homes, cleaned yards, and worked at a city park, high school, hospital, local ministry centers, home for mentally disabled residents, housing authority, and an after school program! In addition to serving the communities of Forsyth and Hartwell, the participants worshiped, played, made new friends, got to know their church group better, and had loads of fun!

MMM participants did not arrive empty-handed for the weekend. Food and clothing items were brought and donated to local service organizations. Milledgeville FBC and Carlton BC were the two top givers in Hartwell with more than 3,200 and 2,944 items respectively. New Life Christian Ministries of Marietta and Americus FBC were the top givers in Forsyth with 606 and 142 items respectively.

This year's madness worship services centered on one question, "Do you speak missions?" Participants heard about the diverging and converging of languages in the tower of Babel and Pentecost accounts. Event preacher Erin Walker challenged worshipers to consider how God has gifted them to serve. *(continued on next page)*



“March Mission Madness was an A+ experience...”





“It has energized our own congregation to go out and do mission projects.”

—quotes from Darrell Watson, pastor, FBC Forsyth

Embracing the diversity of specialties, gifts, or languages present within the group, participants imagined ways to serve God and build the kingdom of God by serving others in their own special way. Finally, all were challenged to continue their quest for developing the “languages” they currently speak while exploring new possibilities, seeking innovative and fresh ways to serve and “speak missions.”

March Mission Madness 2005 will be held in Americus on March 11-13 and March 18-20. The event will involve special opportunities to experience the historically significant Koinonia Farms, Rylander Theatre, and Habitat for Humanity International’s Global Village.

—Scott Ford, MMM Coordinator

From Devita Parnell *Continued from page 3.*

“In a world becoming ever more filled with how-to books for spiritual formation, it is a pleasure to lift up a resource ...”

To make a reservation for lunch, contact the CBF of Georgia office at (478) 742- 1191 or dparnell@cbfga.org.

One-Day Training Event is designed to give a more in-depth look at *Companions in Christ*. Throughout the training, participants will experience a mini-week of the resource and will

receive guidance in starting and leading a group in their local congregation or another setting. Any interested individual is encouraged to attend.

Saturday, August 21, 2004 (in conjunction with Church Leadership Academy – see ad on page 6), Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon, GA, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

For more information about *Companions in Christ* or additional training dates, visit www.companionsinchrist.org. To register, call 1-800-491-0912.

Please share these opportunities for growth with friends, family, congregations or others who share your concern

for the Christian spiritual journey.

—Devita B. Parnell,
Associate Coordinator
for Congregational Life

“Please share these opportunities for growth with friends, family, congregations or others who share your concern for the Christian spiritual journey.”

'04 Church Leadership Academy

Sponsored by CBF National Resource Center and CBF of Georgia.

Saturday, August 21

Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon

Includes a Companions in Christ One-Day Training Event

Saturday, September 11

Marietta First Baptist Church

The Schedule

8:30 a.m.....Juice/Coffee
9:00 a.m..... Gathering and Introductions
9:30 a.m.....Workshop I
10:45 a.m..... Snack Break
11:10 a.m..... Workshop 2
12:20 p.m.....Snack Lunch
1:00 p.m.....Workshop 3
2:15 p.m.....Optional 4th Workshop
3:45 p.m.....Adjourn

Registration and Fees

To register for Church Leadership Academy ONLY
(Macon or Marietta), call 478-742-1191, ext. 21.

Fees: \$15 includes snack lunch.

*Macon location only: Registration for
Companions in Christ begins at 8:15 a.m.
Training runs concurrently with Leadership
Academy from 8:45 until 3:45.

To register for Companions training,
call 1-800-972-0433.

Fees: \$75 Early Bird (by July 23)
\$100 Regular Fee
\$85 Regular Fee for each additional registrant
from the same congregation

Fees include a set of
Companions in Christ
resources: participant's
book, leader's guide,
Journal, Getting
Started Guide and
poster.



Workshops

Preschool and Children's Leaders

- Jazzy Teaching Ideas with Preschoolers
- Children and Conversion – When Can a Child Believe?
- Snazzy Teaching Ideas with Children
- Recruiting Willing Workers
- The Rotation Model
- Children's Music

Youth Leaders

- Snazzy Teaching Ideas with Youth
- Worship with Youth
- Safety and Security

Adults Leaders

- Understanding How Adults Learn
- The Community Organization for Sunday School
- Sunday School Teaching – More Than Sunday Morning

For All Church Leaders

- The Characteristics of Effective Worship
- The Missional Church: Blending Tradition and Innovation
- Strengthening Deacon Ministry in the 21st Century
- Klesis: Unleashing Servant Leaders for Ministry
- Introduction to Spiritual Formation
- Technology and Learning in the Classroom
- Missions Education – Enhancing the WMU Model

Resource Fair and Bookstore

- includes *Baptists Today*, Baptist Center for Ethics, Smyth & Helwys, and the Alban Institute.

A reproducible pdf of this ad is available at www.cbfga.org.

People

The following have recently been called as pastor:

- Drew Corbitt** – Garden Lakes Baptist Church, Rome
- Ray Sullivan III** – Cordele First Baptist Church
- Steven Wright** – Montezuma First Baptist Church

These have been called to the following positions:

- Jody Anderson** – Associate Pastor of Students and Young Adults, Royston Baptist Church
- Laurie Bowe** – Director of Youth Ministries, Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon
- Art Bruce** – Minister of Music, Bainbridge First Baptist
- Justin Hartzell** – Director of Youth Ministries, Milledgeville First Baptist Church
- Tori Kelly** – Co-Minister to Children and Families, Cornelia First Baptist Church
- Jody Long** – Minister of Youth, Macon First Baptist Church of Christ

Ordinations:

- Reeda Allen** was ordained by Claxton First Baptist Church where she serves as Minister of Youth.
- Patricia Heys** was ordained by Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta.

In Memoriam

CBF of Georgia mourns with former CBF of Georgia moderator **Jim Ross**, his wife, **Ann**, and family in the loss of their oldest son, **Patrick**, on May 5, 2004.

Awards

CBF of Georgia Scholarships Awarded for 2003-2004

Candler School of Theology

- Jeff Davis**, Madison
- Jeremy Lewis**, Atlanta

CBF Leadership Scholars from Georgia Named

The 2003-2004 CBF leadership scholars include 12 students from Georgia. This financial support is given to outstanding students preparing for ministry in local congregations or missions.

Candler School of Theology

- Jeff Davis**, Madison
- Sarah Doepfner**, Atlanta
- Mary Catherine Foster**, Atlanta
- Jeremy Lewis**, Atlanta

McAfee School of Theology

- Mark Basehore**, Chamblee
- Patrick DeVane**, Conyers

- Laura Domke**, Atlanta
- Linda Mitchum**, Fairburn
- Daniel Nance**, Atlanta
- Andrew Smith**, Atlanta
- Julie Whidden**, Atlanta
- Angela Yarber**, Atlanta

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Announce 2004 Recipients

- The Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship - **Bonnie Oliver**, Candler School of Theology
- The Distinguished Churchwoman of the Year - **Renee Bennett**, Macon

Preaching Honor

LeAnn Gunter has received the 2003 Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching from Baptist Women in Ministry.

Michael Helms of Moultrie was named second place winner in the 2004 Baptist History and Heritage Preaching Contest for his sermon, "Thoroughly Baptist Since 1953."

Opportunities

Help! Vehicles Needed!

To transport the children of Morningstar Treatment Services

- to doctors' appointments
- to physical therapy
- to family visits
- to activities

Please consider donating your used (in good condition) vehicle to Morningstar. We especially need a sedan to transport children with physical handicaps. Minivans are very useful. Call Rena Henderson at 912-267-7583.

Financial Picture

2003-2004 year-to-date as of May 31, 2004

Budget requirement	\$496,148.13
Undesignated Receipts	\$549,399.19
Designated Receipts	\$286,997.16

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

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CBF GA coming up!

July 13-16

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP

Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center, Covington

New Horizons Camp offers a personal experience for children to learn and grow in Christ. Camp director Dixie Ford may be contacted at 678-413-1145 or dixieleeferd@mac.com.

July 18-22

Soulfeast

Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Upper Room Ministries spiritual formation conference for all ages. Call 1-800-972-0433 or visit www.upperroom.org/soulfeast.

July 26-30

Preaching Workshop with Craddock, Taylor and Long

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta

Contact OCME@emory.edu.

August 17

CBF OF GEORGIA COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

CBF of Georgia, Macon, 10:00 a.m.

August 21

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon

Please see page 6 for details.

September 9

CHURCH/STATE ISSUES IN THE 2004 ELECTION: A DIALOGUE WITH BRENT WALKER

Mercer University, Macon

Religious Life Building, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Contact Bruce Gourley at 478-301-5467 or gourley_bt@mercer.edu to register.

September 11

CHURCH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Marietta First Baptist Church

Please see page 6 for details.

September 13-14

CBF Church Planters Conference

Morrow First Baptist Church

Phil Hester, CBF Associate Coordinator for New Church Starts, leader. Contact Jimmy Lewis toll free at 1-866-245-5240.

September 26-28

Mercer Preaching Consultation

King and Prince Resort, St. Simons Island

To register, contact Sharon Lim at 800-837-2905.

November 14-15

CBF OF GEORGIA FALL CONVOCATION

Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, College Park

Carolyn Gordon, speaker.

events, dates,
times & places