

**CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation**  
**Baptists in the**

# New Millennium

**November 14-15, 1999**  
**Macon First Baptist Church**

*Child care available at Macon First Baptist for preschoolers.  
 Sunday 6 - 8 p.m.; Monday 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
 Reserve child care by November 8 by calling 912-742-6485.*

Theme Interpreter - Daniel Vestal      Speakers - Buddy Shurden & Joel Snider  
 Music - Stanley Roberts                      Missionaries - Jonathan & Tina Bailey

**Sunday, November 14**

6:00 p.m.      Worship, Music and Drama  
 Music - Stanley Roberts  
 Speaker - Buddy Shurden

8:00 p.m.      Fellowship

**Monday, November 15**

7:30 a.m.      Ministers Breakfast at Highland Hills Baptist Church  
 Speaker - Loyd Allen

8:30 a.m.      Coffee and Donuts at Macon First Baptist Church  
 Exhibits

9:00 a.m.      Business Session  
 Missionary Speakers - Jonathan and Tina Bailey  
 Music

10:30 a.m.      Break

11:15 a.m.      Worship Service  
 Speaker - Joel Snider

12:15 p.m.      Dismissal

12:30 p.m.      Youth Leaders Luncheon at Macon First Baptist  
 Reservations are not required, but it would be helpful if you could let us know if you plan to attend. You can contact us at Broome\_ef@mercer.edu, 912-301-5926, or www.CBFGA.org.

**Hotels**

Best Western, 1044 Riverside Drive, 912-746-1461

Crowne Plaza, 108 First Street, 1-800-227-6963

Hampton Inn, 3680 Riverside Drive, 912-471-0660

Fairfield Inn  
 4011 Sheraton Drive  
 912-738-9007

Holiday Inn Express  
 2720 Riverside Drive  
 912-743-1482

Howard Johnson  
 2566 Riverside Drive  
 912-746-7671

Comfort Inn  
 2690 Riverside Drive  
 912-746-8855



**COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**  
**GEORGIA**



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**CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council**  
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 Moderator-Elect • Becky Matheny, Athens  
 Past Moderator • Carolyn B. Massey, Tifton  
 Treasurer • Ruth DuCharme, Macon  
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**National CBF "Al Large"**  
 Nancy Burke, Milledgeville      Becky Matheny, Athens

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# VISIONS



Sept/Oct'99

## Leading Us into the Year 2000

### The CBF of Georgia Executive Committee



**Gary L. Abbott, Sr., Moderator** has said, "I want to be involved in things that bring people together, overcoming race, politics, social standing and religion." The Scripture says, "So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) These statements define what motivates Gary Abbott, pastor of First Baptist Church, Milledgeville. A Doctor of Ministry Degree, earned at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, launched his quest to preserve Baptist principles of faith, liberty and freedom. Gary is husband of Billie Abbott, a counselor at Baldwin County High School, and father of Louis, 24, and Russell, 21.

**Becky Matheny, Moderator-Elect**, Alabama raised, educated and ordained, Becky began her ministry in church music and served churches in Alabama, Maryland, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky. In 1978, she became Baptist Student Union campus minister at the University of Georgia. Almost twenty years later, Becky left that position to be a stay-at-home-mom and wife minister. With two teenage daughters, she has not questioned her decision. We are pleased that she has taken a lead position with CBF of Georgia.

**Carolyn Massey, Past Moderator**, was born in Buckhead, Georgia, and grew up in a family of active Baptists. Committed is a word that best describes Carolyn. She is committed to her husband, Charles, their two sons and their families. She is committed to her church, First Baptist of Tifton, where she has taught every age and continues to serve through Sunday School, WMU, choir, and several committees. Carolyn is active in the civic life of Tifton, serving on several community boards. She has demonstrated her commitment to CBF by serving on the National CBF coordinating council and as moderator of CBF of Georgia.

**Ruth DuCharme, Treasurer**, left hometown Newnan to achieve degrees in church music from Tift College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ruth is now Minister to Children at Highland Hills Baptist Church in Macon. She serves on staff along with her Minister of Music husband Cass. Their two children are Caitlyn, age 6, and Chase, age 3. We are delighted that this busy minister finds time to take an active part in the life of CBF of Georgia.

If **Sarah Brown Withers, Clerk**, looks familiar it's because she's here, there, and everywhere. After earning her degrees, raising four children, serving Georgia churches with her pastor husband for 44 years, and educating Georgia children for 31 years, Sarah has conquered new territories in her three years of retirement. We are fortunate that her nine grandchildren are allowing her to bring her energy and enthusiasm, tempered with experience and wisdom, to CBF of Georgia. Residing in McDonough, she is a deacon, Sunday School teacher and choir member at the First Baptist Church of Morrow.

## coming up!

### 1999

**October 21-22**  
**New Church Start Conference**  
**First Baptist Church, Morrow**

The CBF of Georgia is hosting this conference led by "church planting coach" Jim Griffith, at Morrow First Baptist, 1647 Lake Harbin Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260. Registration is \$25.00 which includes dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday. The Drury Inn will provide a continental breakfast. Rooms have been reserved at the Drury Inn, less than two minutes from First Baptist. Each person is responsible for making reservations. A rate of \$73.00 has been confirmed. Call the Drury Inn at 770-960-0500 and mention #1021 New Church Start Conference. The conference begins at 1:00 p.m. on October 21 and concludes with lunch on October 22. For additional information contact Jimmy B. Lewis at jblewis@mindspring.com.

**November 1-4**  
**Harbor (a spiritual retreat for youth workers)**  
**St. Meinrad Monastery, Indiana**

Harbor is put on by the folks at Passport. Georgia folks can fly into Louisville and Passport provides transportation to and from the Monastery. Joe Phelps, pastor of

Highland Baptist in Louisville, is guest speaker. The retreat is slow paced, with lots of personal reflection time. There are games, round table discussions, opportunities to celebrate Mass with the monks, and more. Cost is \$200 with a \$50 deposit required ASAP. Space is limited. For more information call Brian Abel, retreat coordinator, at 409-892-4251.

**November 14-15**  
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**First Baptist Church, Macon**  
 See page 5 for program, map and accommodations.

**2000**  
**January 10-13**  
**The 2000 Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry**  
**Forum I, Mt. Hermon CA**  
**"Life Together: Practicing Faith with Adolescents"**  
 The Princeton Theological Seminary offers ecumenical, non-degree theological education for pastors, Christian educators, youth ministers, and volunteers who meet to develop strategies for taking ministry into the mission field of adolescence. Brochures available; email iym@ptsem.edu.

**March 3-4**  
**CBF of Georgia General Assembly**  
**First Baptist Church, Decatur**

**April 25-28**  
**The 2000 Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry**  
**Forum II, Princeton NJ**  
 See January 10-13 above.

**June 29-July 1**  
**CBF General Assembly**  
**Orlando FL**  
 Make your reservations through Connections, official housing service of the 2000 General Assembly, 1-800-262-9974, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

**November 12-13**  
**CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation**  
**First Baptist Church, Savannah**

**Visions Deadlines...**  
 November 8, 1999  
 January 3, 2000  
 March 6, 2000

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.



**Daniel Vestal**  
**Coordinator,**  
**Cooperative Baptist**  
**Fellowship**



**Walter B. Shurden**  
**Chair and Professor**  
**of Christianity,**  
**Mercer University**



**Jonathan Bailey**  
**International**  
**Coordinator working**  
**in Southeast Asia**



**Tina Bailey**  
**International**  
**Coordinator working**  
**in Southeast Asia**



**Loyd Allen**  
**Associate Dean and**  
**Professor of Church**  
**History and Spiritual**  
**Formation at Mercer**  
**University McAfee**  
**School of Theology**



**Joel Snider**  
**Pastor**  
**Rome First Baptist**  
**Church**

## Frankly speaking

**A**s your coordinator I am responsible for helping the various avenues and their committees function. Let me give you an update on the work of some of these.

Moderator-elect Becky Matheny is chair of the **Convocations** Committee. The members have planned the fall meeting in Macon and are working on the spring meeting in Decatur. The committee is even looking ahead to the fall of 2000 in Savannah and the spring of 2001 in Augusta. You will be pleased with their plans.

Mary Etta Sanders is chair of the **Education** Avenue. They have been busy addressing such issues as New Horizons Camp for children and March Missions Madness for youth. They also have responsibility for directing scholarship funds we award to students at Mercer University McAfee School of Theology and Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and for providing educational resources for local churches.

Joy Carter is chair of the **Missions/Ministry** Avenue. This committee is working on such issues as new church starts, mission trips, and support for Morningstar Baptist Treatment Services and the Chamblee-Doraville Ministry Center.

Caroline Galloway chairs the **Fellowship** Avenue. At the present moment it has one main responsibility. The committee is planning the Georgia fellowship meeting in Orlando at the 2000 National CBF General Assembly. Additional responsibilities for this Avenue will come as we develop the regional aspects of our work.

Joel Richardson chairs the **Partnership** Avenue. This committee has determined a procedure for churches that choose to be listed on our webpage. They will also keep a current list of our partnering organizations. Requests for support from partner organizations are channeled through the Partnership Committee.



Jim Ross is chair of the **Finance** Committee. The four avenue chairs mentioned above serve on this committee, along with the Executive Committee. We will work during the fall and present a proposed budget to the Coordinating

As you can see, we are making progress.

Not only are we gradually growing but, more importantly, we are maturing.

We are slowly, but surely, developing the infrastructure necessary for a healthy organization.

Council in January of 2000. The Coordinating Council responds to what is given and presents a budget to the General Assembly at the spring meeting.

Bill Scarborough is chair of the **Constitution and By-Laws** Committee. His committee will be working this fall on a statement of organizational policies. These policies will help clarify the work of the committees and the relationships among them. They will also give guidance to future leaders.

As you can see, we are making progress. Not only are we gradually growing but, more importantly, we are maturing. We are slowly but surely developing the infrastructure necessary for a healthy organization. A great deal of credit should go the Moderators, both past and present, and to the past and present Coordinating Council. They have led us well.

—E. Frank Broome  
Coordinator, CBF of Georgia

## people / resources / opportunities / etc.



Alisha Wynn Walker is showered with words of encouragement following her ordination at Peachtree Baptist, Atlanta, on August 8, 1999.



Coordinator Frank Broome shares a laugh with Barbara White and family at the dedication of her new Habitat Home in Tifton.



Tifton Habitat House is dedicated on July 18, 1999 with owner Barbara White, past CBF of Georgia moderator Carolyn Massey, Tifton First pastor Wayne Roe, Habitat representative Perri Ross, and Frank Broome in attendance.



Campers listen intently to directions given by their counselor during New Horizons Camp, July 27, 1999. New Horizons Camp, near Savannah, is held annually for children who have completed grades 3-5.

### resources

*Encounters with the Living Christ*, a book by **Bob Setzer**, pastor of Macon First Baptist, has been published by Judson Press. The book examines the Gospel of John through an exploration of the major stories and themes found in the Gospel while incorporating tales from Setzer's life. Through these examples, he wants readers to know that Christ is "a presence with us still, and we can know him in a personal way."

*The Baptist Observer* website provides news, insight and other resources—including church website design helps and a free email newsletter—to Baptist churches, organizations and individuals. Log on to [www.yellowstone.net/baptist](http://www.yellowstone.net/baptist).

*Being Baptist* is a five-part video series exploring the five distinctives of our Baptist faith. Produced by CBF's Baptist Principles Ministry Group, these videos provide an insightful and practical resource for laypersons and ministry staff. Parts are: "Priesthood of All Believers" with Bill Leonard; "Authority of the Bible" with Gary Parker; "Religious Liberty" with Carolyn Blevins; "Local Church

Autonomy" with Lloyd Allen; and "Believer's Baptism" with Charles Wade. Cost: \$6.95 each or \$28.95 for set. Order at 1-888-801-4CBF(422).

### professional opportunities

**First Baptist Church of Manchester** seeks full time Associate Pastor to Students. Great opportunity to work with a progressive Baptist church in a community wide open to good Christian youth ministry. First Baptist is a stable, dependable congregation with a new, but seasoned moderate pastor. Send resumes and inquires to Personnel Committee, POB 528, Manchester GA 31816, or contact Craig Williamson, pastor, at 706-846-2061 or [firstbaptist@inetnow.net](mailto:firstbaptist@inetnow.net).

**First Baptist Church of Evans** seeks Minister of Music and Education. Total compensation \$38,000, church affiliation CBF and SBC, church budget \$227,000, average attendance in Sunday School 80/worship 150, seminary degree preferred but will consider other possibilities, 3-5 years full time ministry experience preferred but will consider other experience, age 26-56 preferred, male or female considered. The church will provide

a loan to assist in the purchase of a home. FBC is in an urban location approximately five miles outside of Augusta, in rapidly growing Columbia County. Contact pastor Steve Spencer, at FBC Evans, POB 159, Evans GA 30809-0159, or 706-863-1228, or [pastorst@gateway.net](mailto:pastorst@gateway.net).

**Here's your chance to do something.** The CBF of Georgia nominating committee is gathering suggestions and information to fill avenue and committee slots for 2000-2001. If you would like to serve, or if you wish to nominate someone to serve, please contact Bob Buchanan at Parkway Baptist Church, 5975 State Bridge Road, Duluth GA 30097, 770-476-4441, fax 770-495-0474, [Rbucpbpc@aol.com](mailto:Rbucpbpc@aol.com), or contact Frank Broome at the CBF of Georgia office.

### financial picture

#### Monthly Budget Requirement

\$20,580.16

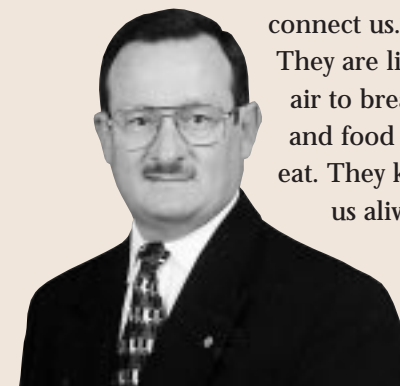
#### 1999 Budget Receipts

June	\$20,295.57
July	\$21,676.55
August	\$20,120.18

#### Habitat House

Receipts	\$9,297.60
Goal	\$30,000.00

**T**here is something about relationships. They nurture, sustain, encourage, enhance, and connect us. They are like air to breathe and food to eat. They keep us alive.



They help us see ourselves and others. They give us identity, and that is very important in a day and age when so many are not sure of who they are or where they are going, or even when someone else may be trying to tell them who they are and where they should be going.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is about relationships. Relationships

are fluid. They change. They expand. They are characterized by their ability to modify and adjust. They are alive; though often full and rich, they can be strained and stretched—and sometimes misunderstood. They never seem to be complete, because they are constantly growing. They can grow together or they can grow apart, but they grow.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is about relationships. Relationships are free. They are not forced. They are open. They allow us room—room to search, question, affirm, doubt, reject, mess up, cry, be angry, celebrate, start over. They are rooted in acceptance, respect, trust, and hope. They are there in the good, bad and ugly. They let us be who we have

been, who we are, and who we are becoming. They don't require us to be exactly the same. They permit that, but they are aware that opposites can attract for mutual benefit.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is about relationships. Relationships are about sharing. They don't depend on completeness. They don't require complete knowl-

edge or understanding. They happen amidst incompleteness. They happen very much like the process of putting together an airplane as it is actually flying. Friends don't know everything. Spouses don't know everything. They take a chance, a leap of faith.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is about relationships. A lot of Baptist

Christians do not understand relationships. They are too loose for some. Some folks want firmness, fixture, rules, sharp definitions. They want a bottom line connection with no room for variables. Their idea is that God has made us all alike. Their idea is that they have all the answers; everything is figured out and clearly defined. They have it, whatever it is. And those

who don't have it irrevocably fixed are...well, lost. They are more about rules than relationships.

I think God is more interested in relationships than rules. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is about relationships.

—Gary L. Abbott, Sr.  
Moderator, CBF of Georgia