



# VISIONS



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Nov. 4-5, Savannah

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## 2007 Fall Convocation • Savannah Nov. 4-5, First Baptist Church Savannah \*

### SUNDAY

4:00 p.m. Coordinating Council  
5:30 p.m. Food and Fellowship  
6:45 p.m. Pre-Service Music  
7:00 p.m. Worship  
*Text: John 4:7-15*  
*Message: "Being Transformed in the Deepest Places"*  
8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception

### MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Baptist Heritage Council Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Meet the Staff  
10:15 a.m. Break  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
*Text: 2 Cor. 13:1-5a*  
*Message: "Doing Transformation in the Difficult Places"*  
12:30 p.m. Mercer and CBF/GA lunch /  
15th anniversary celebration of CBF/GA  
(at Savannah Hilton DeSoto) \*

\* REGISTER ONLINE for the Convocation at [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org). While online, don't forget to buy your lunch ticket to the Mercer and CBF/GA lunch celebrating CBF/GA's 15th anniversary.

*More Convocation details inside!*

Standing **UP**  
on the **Inside**



## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

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### CBF/GA Coordinating Council

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Moderator-Elect • Gwen Colwell, Macon

Past-Moderator • Renée Bennett, Macon

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Tom Hill, Canton

Gerry Hutchinson, Atlanta

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Deedra Rich, Alpharetta

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John Williamson, Mercer University

### CBF/National Coordinating Council Georgia Members

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Al Shauf, Cordele

Gwen Colwell, Macon

Joanne Carr, Augusta

Sara Powell, Hartwell

Bill Ross, Athens

Bill Self, Alpharetta

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be directed to ElizaBeth Copeland,  
478-742-1191 ext 23  
or [ecopeland@cbfga.org](mailto:ecopeland@cbfga.org).



## General Information

Theme: "Standing Up on the Inside"

Text: Matthew 5: 5-14

## Dates/Times

**November 4 & 5**

*See schedule on front page.*

## Location

First Baptist Church Savannah

223 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31401

912-234-2671

## Speaker

**Charles Bugg**, Professor of  
Church Ministry and Leadership  
at M. Christopher White School  
of Divinity, Gardner-Webb  
University

## Special Lunch

Mark your calendars now for a special lunch on November 5th with Mercer University and CBF/GA. Along with a program by Mercer, we will celebrate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia's 15th anniversary. The lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. at the Savannah Hilton DeSoto. The cost is \$15.00 per plate. To purchase tickets, visit the CBF/GA website ([www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org)) or call Suzanne Powell at 1-877-336-6426 ext. 21.

## Childcare

If you need childcare for Fall Convocation, please email Janis Lewis at First Baptist Church-Savannah at [janis@fbc-sav.org](mailto:janis@fbc-sav.org). Childcare Deadline: Monday Oct. 29. Please include in your email to Janis the following information:

- parent's name,
- cell phone number,



- child's name,
- age,
- any allergies,
- diet constraints,
- medical information,
- if your child is potty-trained or not (Parents will need to supply disposable diapers if they are not),
- the date & times you will need childcare.

## Directions to FBC-Savannah

### FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

First Baptist Church is located at 223 Bull Street in Savannah's Historic District.

The sanctuary faces Chippewa Square at the corner of Bull Street and McDonough Street.

The educational building is behind the sanctuary at the corner of Whitaker Street and W. McDonough Street. The church offices are at 102 W. McDonough Street.



### FROM I-75 North

Take I-75S to exit 165 on left for I-16E/Jim L Gillis toward Savannah. Merge onto I-16E. Take I-16E to exit 167B, merge onto Montgomery St. toward Savannah/Civic Center/Downtown. Take right at W. Oglethorpe Ave. Take right at Bull St. Take right at W. Hull St. Take left at Bull St.

### FROM I-75 South

Take I-75N to exit 165 on left for I-16E/Jim L Gillis toward Savannah. Merge onto I-16E. Take I-16E to exit 167B, merge onto Montgomery St. toward Savannah/Civic Center/Downtown. Take right at W. Oglethorpe Ave. Take right at Bull St. Take right at W. Hull St. Take left at Bull St.

### FROM I-16

Take I-16E to exit 167B, merge onto Montgomery St. toward Savannah/Civic Center/Downtown. Take right at W. Oglethorpe Ave. Take right at Bull St. Take right at W. Hull St. Take left at Bull St.

## Hotel Information

### Savannah Hilton DeSoto

15 East Liberty St., Savannah GA 31401

*It is important for reservations to be received by the Reservations Department no later than Friday, October 5, 2007.*

In-House Reservations office hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Local: 912-232-9000, Toll Free: 1-800-426-8483

## CHARLES B. BUGG

B.A. Stetson University; M. Div., Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Additional study: Princeton Theological Seminary; Candler School of Theology, Emory University; College of Preachers, Washington, D.C.; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.



Dr. Bugg currently serves as Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership at the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. He has served as Dean of the Divinity School as well as the Kenneth Chafin Professor of Preaching at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He also held the Carl Bates Chair of Preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Among churches which Dr. Bugg has pastored are First Baptist Church, Deland, Florida, First Baptist, Augusta, Georgia, and Providence Baptist, Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition, he has served as Interim Pastor or Preaching Minister at over twenty churches.

He is author of seven books plus many articles. For two years, Dr. Bugg served as editor of the Abingdon Preaching Manual.

Dr. Bugg frequently speaks at conferences, conventions, and churches. Areas in which he leads conferences include preaching, worship, and leadership.

His hobbies include exercise, reading, and spending time with his family. Bugg is actively involved as a board member of the Boiling Springs Y.M.C.A. and was a member of the Shelby, North Carolina, Rotary Club.

Dr. Bugg and wife, Diane, and son, David, reside in Boiling Springs. Their daughter, Laura Beth, who received her Doctorate in Theology at the Harvard Divinity School, lives with her husband, Brian, and son, Finn, in Sydney, Australia. Brian is an astrophysicist at Sydney University, which has helped Bugg to be a better listener since he has nothing to say on the subject of astrophysics.

# Disaster Relief Efforts

Charles Ray serves with CBF National and CBF of Arkansas as Disaster Response Coordinator for the United States.

**A**mericans have always known the fury of storms. In most years, several hit us, and our local churches responded along with other groups. On August 29, 2005, the country became aware that a hit and miss method of helping others was not sufficient. Katrina changed more lives than those in the storms path.

Three of our states were in trouble. Thousands were homeless and looked to the rest of us for help. In addition to the 200,000 evacuees who fled the storm, your CBF office responded with life saving supplies, all of which came from you. Overnight we all became aware of who our Biblical neighbors were.

By November of that year, we had full time members working in the North Shore area of Louisiana and in Pearlington, Mississippi. These efforts were made possible by your generous gifts of manpower and money. In the first 16 months after Katrina, more than 2,000 responders worked in these two locations and provided in excess of \$2,000,000 in FREE labor. In January 2007, CBF National named me the National Coordinator for Disaster Response. Your state helps pay my salary.

Through the combined work of Georgia and National CBF, we have acquired several debris removal trailers as well as shower trailers. In addition, we have generators, a satellite phone, and mobile communication units. What

we do not have are adequate volunteers to respond to a problem in each state.

That's where you can help. Are you willing to commit a few days, in the event of a local disaster, to go with your equipment and Disaster Coordinator? Our volunteers are covered by special insurance and never placed in harm's way. To learn more you simply need call your CBF office and speak to Scott Ford. You will make a difference!

A volunteer helps feed the workers. Photos courtesy of Tim Adcox.



## Challenge in Pascagoula

Tim Adcox, Minister of Missions and Recreation, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, [Tima\\_smoke@mindspring.com](mailto:Tima_smoke@mindspring.com)

WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OF KATRINA, we found ourselves sleeping on air mattresses in Pascagoula. We were looking for a church partner to provide help to a community devastated beyond recognition. We were surrounded by yellow hats, white hats, and blue hats from disaster relief groups all over the country. Everyone was in constant motion and there was a feeling of a military operation. Around the dinner table, exhausted workers told stories of the work they had done that day and of the families they had encountered. Some were obviously seasoned workers and for others, this was their first disaster. We fit in the rookie category. We were very impressed with the amount of help including the volume of food going out to workers and disaster victims.

We received a list of churches and pastors that had suffered damage from the storm. It was a challenge to travel to some of the churches. A greater challenge was to make contact with pastors suffering from exhaustion to meet the basic survival needs of their own family, as well as their congregation. After visiting several pastors and their churches, we met with Bill Renick, pastor of Lemoyne Blvd Baptist in Ocean Springs. Late one evening in the dimly lit sanctuary, we pulled up muddy chairs where four feet of water had been. Within the first few minutes of our conversation, we were impressed with his kind heart and his interest in helping the community as a whole, beyond his church membership. This was the key element in our decision to partner with this church.

Since that time, we have seen thousands of volunteers come to work in partnership with Lemoyne Blvd. First Baptist of Augusta and Smoke Rise Baptist have partnered on this ministry project. Between our churches, we have sent a team on a consistent monthly basis in the rebuilding effort. As a result, the Smoke Rise coordinator of the partnership has moved his motor home to the parking lot of Lemoyne Blvd. and is living there full time to help coordinate the work of volunteers.

The crucible of this disaster has brought opportunities to share the love of Christ with those trying to rebuild their lives. It has brought the volunteers closer to God, closer to each other, and closer to those who are hurting.

## Bricks and Mortar and More

Reed Gary and Jan Turcotte Gary, Biloxi Partnership Coordinator, FBC Augusta, [reedgaryii@aol.com](mailto:reedgaryii@aol.com)

*Due to space limitations, excerpts of this article are published. The full article is available on our website.*

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DISASTER on TV and wondered what you could do to help? Being a native daughter of Mississippi, that's exactly what I thought when I saw the pictures from the Gulf. As a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia, I was so very proud when Rev. Tim Adcox (our Minister of Missions) led a small team of people down to see what they could do to help. The goal was to find a church that wanted to help their community as well as help their own congregation; LeMoyne Boulevard Baptist Church was to be that host church. In October 2005, Smoke Rise Baptist Church sent their first mission team to LeMoyne to aid the rebuilding process.

Soon afterwards, I was talking on the telephone with the man who was to become my husband (Reed Gary – formerly of Smoke Rise Baptist and now First Baptist Church of Augusta). I asked him if FBC was doing anything to help the Katrina victims and he shared that they were in the planning phase. I suggested to Reed that perhaps First Baptist Augusta



*Teamwork in action*

*Continues to page 6.*

## Observations from a Rooftop

Greg Everett, Biloxi Partnership Coordinator, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, [geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net)

I SAT ON THE PEAK OF THE ROOF on that windy November day and repaired a ridge vent that someone had installed so that the rain could be pushed into the attic if the wind blew in just the right direction. We took an oversize ridge vent and after some discussions and a phone call to a roofer-contact back home, made what turned out to be a pretty good correction that to this date does not leak a bit.

While on the roof, I observed the family that owned the house and was living in their FEMA trailer in the driveway. It was pure Americana – married couple with 2 kids, a boy and a girl, a dog – and a nice one-level ranch house. The father had worked at the hospital the day of the storm, so they were unable to evacuate as instructed, and rode the storm out at the hospital. The house had 8' of water in it, a total loss. The dad did what I would have done, got his tools out and started demolishing the sheetrock and other damaged parts of the home. To his credit, he probably got farther than I would have. He had finished all the demo work, and started replacing siding, and the story I heard was, one day he simply laid down his tools, went in the FEMA trailer, and stared at the wall. His wife was familiar with Lemoyne Boulevard Baptist Church, and she contacted

Jim Huston there to see if there was a way they could pitch in to help. Jim put them on our list, and today they are living in their renovated house. This family touched me because I would have done precisely the same thing this husband did, and would have eventually needed the same help that this family got. I am thankful we were able to help.

I have made five trips to Biloxi with fellow members of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. We have a monthly trip that starts on a Thursday morning and returns everyone on Sunday night to the church parking lot, I call it entry-level mission work. To borrow from O'Neil Williams, one of my favorite outdoor TV show hosts, if you're too busy to donate 4 days occasionally to a mission project, you're just too busy. Call us and be a part of this needed mission work.

Responding to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, First Baptist Church of Augusta and Smoke Rise Baptist Church of Stone Mountain committed to sending teams to the Gulf Coast once a month for an extended period of time. Several other CBF/GA churches have joined them in this effort that continues even now. For more information about this partnership, contact one of the writers or Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions, at [sford@cbfga.org](mailto:sford@cbfga.org) or 478-742-1191 ext. 28.

## Disaster Relief *(Continues from page 5.)*

could partner with Smoke Rise and recommended he call Tim Adcox to discuss the possibility. Phil Bennett and Tim Adcox were thrilled with the prospect and the planning for a partnership began.

January 2006 was to be FBC Augusta's first Katrina trip with Smoke Rise Baptist Church. It was truly a blessing that the combined volunteers totaled about 35 and that Smoke Rise had a new motor coach. It was an added blessing that our driver (Jimmy Huston) was a paramedic and firefighter professionally trained to drive the longer hook and ladder trucks. We planned a 4-day mission trip, Thursday and Sunday were to be travel days, and Friday and Saturday were to be workdays.

Upon arriving, Jimmy Huston drove us through the neighborhoods adjacent to our host church; all were silent as they saw the devastation first hand. Tim Adcox led us in prayer and suggested we remember that the local people we encounter may be in grief or tears and a "serving attitude" would be crucial. God was already preparing us for His work.

Lemoyne Blvd. Baptist Church experienced significant damage, but Pastor Bill Renick greeted all with a broad smile and hearty handshake as he thanked each of the volunteers for coming. Bill added that it took Katrina blowing down the walls of his church for Lemoyne to literally see the needs of their community and the outreach ahead.

I was assigned to a team working on "Buddy's house" and we were greeted by a towering man and wife (Edna) who were apologetic that they needed our help, Buddy was physically disabled from a bad work related accident and he was standing on the front porch of a house he had built with his own hands.

Our team of volunteers got to task and began the sheetrock and mudding work throughout the ground floor of Buddy and Edna's home. When I ran out of mud, I walked to a large mud bucket on the front porch to replenish my mud tray. I didn't think much of it as Buddy followed me. He began talking and talking about his family, his grand children, and his home. I was leaning over the mud bucket and found myself thinking... I do

want to be polite, but I need to hurry this up and get back to my assigned tasks. I felt the hand of God physically pull back my left shoulder so firmly that I stood upright again.

I remembered Tim Adcox's words to the volunteers. I stopped myself, dropped my mud tray, and I listened to Buddy. I could tell this man was very depressed and feeling a lot of emotional pain. He questioned why God let him survive Katrina. For the next four hours, Buddy and I talked, walked around his property, and cried together. In addition to his physical disability, Buddy had recently lost a very young grandchild in a tragic accident just before Katrina arrived and severely damaged his home.

The volunteers have seen that "bricks and mortar" (or sheet rock and mud) is not all that is needed in the gulf. The light of The Lord can shine brightly through his workers. We have been blessed to see the visual change on the faces of adults and children alike as they regain HOPE. Some of these people's faith was tested, others were disenfranchised, and still others had never had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The volunteers have shared more than just their amateur construction skills. The volunteers have hugged these people, broken bread with these families, played with their children, offered their personal testimonies, and witnessed countless teenagers and adults accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The partnership between Smoke Rise Baptist and First Baptist Augusta has helped 100+ families remake their houses into their homes. Our driver's parents (Jim and Ruth Huston – Smoke Rise) have relocated from their home in metro Atlanta into a motor home on Lemoyne's parking lot. The Huston's are applying their "gifts" 24/7. Ruth can often be found with those all-important cooks, and Jim continues to coordinate work projects with volunteers arriving from across the USA.

This partnership ministry has been blessed with volunteers from many other churches who have joined our trip teams: First Baptist Church of Greensboro, North Carolina, Faith Presbyterian Church, Guilford College in North Carolina, First Baptist Church of Eatonton, Georgia, First Baptist Church of Tucker, Georgia, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, Wieuca Road Baptist Church Of Atlanta, Georgia, Covenant Presbyterian Church of Augusta, Georgia, and, the US Army Chaplains of Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Do you feel called? Would you like to partner with us?

Your church is invited to join other CBF of Georgia churches. The only "skills" necessary are a caring heart, helping hands, and, flexibility.

Come join our mission partnership teams! Remaining 2007 trips are Oct. 4-7, Nov. 1-4, and Dec. 6-9. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fbcaugusta.org> OR <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org>. CBF/GA

Are you or someone in your church sometimes able to leave town at a moment's or a few weeks' notice? Could you spend 4-7 days coordinating the efforts of others who want to help and serve disaster victims? The CBF/GA Missions Committee is interested in putting together a team of people with organizational, construction, and/or administration skills to respond in the event of a disaster. If you would like to serve as a responder, please email your contact and personal information to Scott Ford, Associate Coordinator for Missions, at [sford@cbfga.org](mailto:sford@cbfga.org).

# Touching Taliaferro with Love

Ann Peisher

The CBF/GA Initiative Touching Taliaferro With Love was begun in 2002. The effort is a partnership between CBF/GA, the local Taliaferro County Collaborative, the Taliaferro County Schools, and Touching Taliaferro With Love, Inc., the local non-profit that guides the community ministry beyond the day camps.

Touching Taliaferro With Love day camps are a unique mission effort. Directed and run for six years by CBF churches and individual members across Georgia who are committed to stable, long-term relational ministry. Individual churches and members have returned year after year, forming and continuing relationships that transform individuals, institutions, and the community as Christ is shared and invited to be the guiding force.

Churches providing the leadership in 2007 have been involved in some way for six years: Milledge Avenue Baptist Church (Athens, Georgia); First Baptist Church of Athens, Georgia; Harbor Ministries (McCayesville, Georgia); Northside Drive Baptist Church (Atlanta, Georgia); Crown of Life Community Baptist Church (Powder Springs, Georgia); and The Oaks Baptist Church (Lyons, Georgia). CBF/GA



## Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant

Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator

A couple of months ago Mercer University President Bill Underwood asked me to serve as one of several co-chairs of the communication committee for the Celebration of the New Baptist Covenant meeting. To be honest I wasn't looking for something else to do. Those of us at the CBF/GA office have plenty on our plate. However, I accepted because I think this meeting will be significant.



More than 30 Baptist organizations will come together for a new era of cooperation on a variety of issues facing our world. Organizers have expressed a desire to see sustained action come out of this event around such issues as mission and

evangelism projects, health care initiatives, poverty eradication efforts, and promotion of religious liberty.

I can hear our critics already. Some will say it is a political meeting because the likes of Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore will be there. To that, I will say so will Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator Charles Grassley. Other speakers include Marian Wright Edleman, Bill Moyers, Joel Gregory, Julie Pennington-Russell, Charles Adams, Tony Campolo, and William Shaw. What these individuals have in common is not a political agenda. They do not agree with each other on a variety of issues. They are, however, Christians who have identified with the Baptist family. Each of them has something to say, and we should listen.

A special web site ([www.newbaptistcelebration.org](http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org)) has been designed to answer the basic questions of registration, housing, plenary sessions, and workshops for the January 30- February 1, 2008, meeting at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. I encourage you to register and make hotel reservations as soon as possible.

No one knows for sure where all of this will lead. I plan to go with an open mind and joyous heart desiring to see what the Spirit has in store for the Baptist part of God's family.

In the end, God's Spirit will lead.



## Both/And versus Either/Or

Darrell Watson, CBF/GA Moderator

Dr. Joseph Godwin earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It has been one of my highest honors in life to have Dr. Godwin as both my psychology professor and pastor while attending Mars Hill College. Dr. Godwin pastored Pleasant Gap Baptist Church, a small community church tucked away in the mountains above Spruce Pines, N.C. After serving at Pleasant Gap for several years, one of the older men in the church posed him a question as he exited worship, "Are you a God-called or one of those educated ministers?" Dr. Godwin simply replied, "Yes." For Dr. Godwin being a God-called and an educated minister was a both/and rather than an either/or.



At the end of June, I attended the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. It was well worth my while. I found the breakout sessions to be engaging and challenging, introducing me to ministry ideas and literature options that I hope to integrate into the life of my church. Yet, there was one aspect of our

meeting which I found to be alarming. At both a plenary session and a breakout session, I heard what seemed to be an either/or versus a both/and mentality. The issues being pitted against one another were church growth and ministry. Perhaps you see these two issues as polemical, but not me. Church growth and ministry are two sides of the coin of growing the Kingdom. Moderate churches have a tendency to err on the side of ministry, while more conservative churches have a tendency to err on the side of church growth. Yet, I want to suggest that it is much healthier for our churches, regardless of our theological bias, to adopt a both/and versus an either/or mentality regarding ministry and church growth.

We certainly should not strive to grow our churches for reasons that are self-aggrandizing. We should not seek to grow our churches through acts of manipulation via the sermon, "If you died today, do you know where you would spend eternity?" or music, "Let's just sing one more stanza of 'Just As I am.'" The church roles should not be propped up by re-baptizing people annually. Yet, we need to grow our churches so that the gospel of grace can be shared consistently with a world that desperately needs to know

*Continues to next page.*



## Both/And

(Continues from page 8.)

Jesus as Savior and Lord of life. Did Jesus not love people where they were and invite them to “follow me?”

Let me challenge you to do a study of your church’s statistics over the past 50 years. I wonder how many churches who partner with the CBF have grown over these 50 years versus those who have declined in membership. It is my belief to the point of profound conviction that the moderate movement’s grasp of grace is our greatest asset. Let’s love people where they are, let’s be engaged in the ministry of justice and mercy, but for the sake of the kingdom, let’s not ignore the importance of growing the local church. We moderates have a story to tell to the nations. Isn’t the best place to share that story within the context of our local church on a weekly basis? Let’s lose this either/or mentality and for the purpose of growing God’s kingdom for God’s name’s sake engage in both ministry and church growth. Either/or versus both/and, the later is the better choice! CBF/GA

## Nikki Hardeman: CBF/GA’s Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

Nicole C. Hardeman has been named Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia by CBF/GA’s Coordinating Council. She is also serving as the president of Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia. Nikki served as Pastoral Resident at First Baptist Church in Rome, GA, a position she held until June. Nikki will begin her new position on September 17, 2007. The unanimous vote was taken at the CBF/GA Coordinating Council meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.



Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator, says, “Nikki is a great fit for the position. She has excellent people skills, a keen intellect, and an ability to communicate in a way that will help congregations in the areas of education and leadership development. We are blessed to have her.”

A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, GA, Nikki received her master of divinity degree in 2005 from Mercer University’s McAfee School of Theology.

“I am really looking forward to coming on board at CBF of Georgia and working with its partner churches,” says Hardeman. “I believe the local church is one of the clearest ways we can communicate the love of Christ to the world. I am excited about helping to strengthen our churches as we all work together to figure out the best ways we can show the world Christ’s love.”

As Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, Nikki will assist church congregations in the areas of spiritual formation, educational curriculum, and peer learning opportunities. She will also be involved with the Cooperative Student Fellowship at Mercer University. At the General Assembly in the spring, Nikki will be coordinating the workshops for congregational development. Nikki will also help coordinate deacon and chaplain ministries.

Nikki is married to Daniel and they have a three-month-old named Natalie. They expect to relocate to Macon this fall. CBF/GA

## Area Laity Network Meetings

Nancy A. Copeland, Assistant to the Coordinator for Program Management

On February 22, 2007, CBF/GA began the first of the CBF/GA Area Laity Network meetings. The network meetings have been a goal of CBF/GA for some time.

The vision for the gatherings is to have in place a membership of laity from area churches throughout Georgia who can serve



as liaisons with CBF/GA and their own church and congregation. The first meeting was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Macon. Subsequent meetings have been held at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta,

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, First Baptist Church in Columbus, and First Baptist Church in Rome. At the time of the deadline for this article, plans were in place to meet at First Baptist Church of Dalton and Central Baptist Church of Newnan. This will complete 7 of the 12 initial area meetings. Plans will continue after the first of the year to complete the meetings in the remaining 5 areas. You can review the area network map of the CBF/GA breakdown by visiting our website at [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org); use the pull down “About Us”; “Churches”; then “Map”.

The meetings are set up first with a CBF/GA church in each area willing to serve as the host site for the meeting. Pastors from all other churches in the area are then asked to submit two laity names and email addresses. These laity members (and their spouses) who are willing to attend as a representative from their local church congregation are contacted. The meeting is structured as a “working lunch” meeting. CBF/GA provides a box lunch, and the meeting format is an informal discussion with Frank Broome, CBF/GA Coordinator. The overriding purpose of the initial meeting is to begin the process of establishing a network of liaisons throughout Georgia. These members are asked to

*Continues to page 10.*

## Missions Together

Scott Ford, Associate  
Coordinator for Missions

Cooperative...

Baptist...Fellowship...

it's a beautiful

name, isn't it?! Our

Baptist Christian

identity is central

with *cooperation* and

*fellowship* standing to the left and the

right. Put another way, our *freedom*

in Christ is central with descriptors of

*action* and *love* on each side.



Reporting to you on the state of CBF/GA missions, I'd just like to say: I am very excited about the existing and emerging opportunities for cooperation in mission service!

The submission deadline for this edition of *Visions* happens to fall on August 23; my one-month anniversary with CBF/GA, and... it has been quite a month! I have experienced a wonderful whirlwind of introduction to the life and ministry of CBF/GA churches and individuals. Since my last *Visions* article, which highlighted the missions and ministries of Haven Fellowship Church, I have only begun to scratch the surface of the multitude of your local church ministries and mission service efforts. What you are doing in your community, across the state, and around the world, is simply amazing.

Recently I shared with two wonderfully bright Cooperative Student Fellowship students a little about my experience with campus ministry in college. When I arrived at college and attended a meeting with over 100 enthusiastic Baptist Christian students, I remember thinking, "Well maybe I'm not the only Christian young person in the world?!" (my youth group growing up was a rowdy bunch, to say the least). Before and during these early days with CBF/GA, I knew other churches were doing great ministries

in their areas and beyond, but I'm surprised even more to know how tremendously much you all are doing! This awareness was further reinforced in my first Missions Committee meeting when each person shared just a portion of his/her missions experiences and backgrounds. What a great group of people!!!

Exciting things are happening. And I can't wait to see what all is coming next. If there is anything I can do

to help you or your church be more effective in loving your neighbors as yourselves, call or email me anytime. Also, please be sure to visit the missions' pages at [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org) to read about the latest opportunities.

Grace and peace to you, my brothers and sisters of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia. I appreciate the identity we share, our spiritual fellowship, and our service together. CBF/GA

## Network Meetings *(Continues from page 9.)*

inform their church congregation of CBF/GA events, issues, and updates as well as asked to keep CBF/GA informed on how we can best serve their particular congregation and church.

CBF/GA would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pastors, church staff, and especially the laity members who have participated thus far in these area meetings. Your participation is of great importance to the well-being of the CBF/GA organization. Your time and involvement is deeply appreciated.

If you are interested in serving as a laity representative from your church, please email Nancy A. Copeland at [ncopeland@cbfga.org](mailto:ncopeland@cbfga.org). CBF/GA

## Distinguished Churchwoman of the Year

EACH YEAR, Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia honors a woman from our state as Distinguished Churchwoman of the Year. Qualifications for this award include significant contributions to ministry by a Baptist woman who has experienced a call to ministry and is fulfilling that call in a salaried and/or non-salaried position. Nominations for this honor are reviewed, and the final selection is made by the Steering Committee of Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia. Nominations by persons throughout the state are welcomed and should include a brief written summary of the woman's call, qualifications for ministry, and a letter of recommendation.

All nominations should be received in writing by March 15. Nominees for the award are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrates faithful commitment to the development of her ministry;
- Exhibits the characteristics of a mentor of women in ministry;
- Exemplifies qualities of gifted leadership and redemptive service;
- Maintains an active role in the ministry of her local church;
- Displays support for the goals and visions of BWIMGA.

The recipient of the award will be honored during the annual spring meeting of Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia.

Please mail all nominations to [deedra13@gmail.com](mailto:deedra13@gmail.com), or to:

Deedra Rich  
322 Valley Brook Crossing  
Decatur, Georgia 30033.



## Openings, Reference and Referral

Alan Mitchell, Assistant to the Coordinator for Reference and Referral

**WANTED** The **Senior Pastor** position is open at First Baptist Church, Clayton. First Baptist Church, Clayton, North Carolina, has just completed a survey of its membership and is ready to move forward in accepting résumés of interested candidates. You may send your résumé to [mdesherbinin@earthlink.net](mailto:mdesherbinin@earthlink.net) or Alan Mitchell at [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org) or Reference and Referral, CBF of GA, PO Box 4343 Macon, GA 31208-4343.

**WANTED** Emerywood Baptist Church, 1300 Country Club Drive, High Point, North Carolina 27262 is announcing an opening on their ministerial staff. The position title is **Minister of Music, Fine Arts, and Worship**. The Minister of Music, Fine Arts, and Worship is responsible for coordinating and promoting a balanced ministry to worship through music and other fine arts. She/he serves as the church's primary resource in its effort to plan, conduct, and evaluate comprehensive programs in worship, church music, and the fine arts. If you are interested, please contact [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org) for the complete position description.

**WANTED** Shadnor First Baptist Church of Union City, Georgia is currently seeking a part-time **Minister of Music**. Competitive salary. Please forward your résumé to Tom Pitts, [tpitts30132@yahoo.com](mailto:tpitts30132@yahoo.com) or PO Box 495, Union City, GA 30291. You can contact Tom at 770-364-6765.

**WANTED** A large CBF church in the greater Athens, Georgia area is seeking a full-time **Minister of Children and Education**. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org).

**WANTED** A small church in a small town near Athens, Georgia is seeking a **Pastor** on a permanent part-time or bi-vocational basis. The church would like for the Pastor to live in their parsonage. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org).

**WANTED** First Baptist Church of Ft. Myers, Florida is seeking a **Senior Pastor**. They are in the initial stages of developing "Trinity Village," a shared campus for their church and two churches of other denominations. Each church will maintain its own identity and sanctuary, but other facilities will be shared. Their website, [www.fbcfortmyers.org](http://www.fbcfortmyers.org), provides more information. The church follows historic Baptist principles such as priesthood of the believer, soul competency, and separation of church and state. C. William Carlson is chair of the

search committee, PO Box 780, Fort Myers, FL 33902, or email [search@fbcfortmyers.org](mailto:search@fbcfortmyers.org).

**WANTED** A church in a small town between Atlanta and Athens is seeking part-time **Associate Pastor for Youth and Children**. Minimum education level is 2 years of college. Interested persons, please contact CBF Reference & Referral at [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org).

**WANTED** First Baptist Church of Athens, Georgia, is seeking a part-time **Director of Children's Ministries**. Job provides leadership for children's ministry from birth through fifth grade and their families. Seminary background is preferred. However, someone with a degree in child development or related field with a passion for Christ, education, and children is welcomed to apply. Detailed job description is available upon request. Please forward resumes with references to: Search Committee, Director of Children's Ministries, 355 Pulaski Street, Athens, Georgia 30601. Applications accepted until position filled.

**WANTED** A historic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship church in East Central Florida serving a regional congregation seeks an experienced **pastor** to lead growth into its second 50 years. A seminary degree, preaching and counseling skills, and demonstrated leadership in faith development and spiritual growth are required. Send resume by September 30 to: [Mooredot2@aol.com](mailto:Mooredot2@aol.com) or Pastor Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, 142 Fairview Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114.

**AVAILABLE** We have some wonderful résumés of Associate Pastors and Ministers of Education (Christian Formations, etc.) looking for places of service. If you know of churches looking for these, please let us know at [amitchell@cbfga.org](mailto:amitchell@cbfga.org).

## Financial Picture

### Budget Receipts as of 08/31/07

Year to Date.....	\$140,267.63
Requirement.....	\$166,300.02
Over/Under.....	<\$26,032.39>
Month to Date.....	\$42,895.33
Monthly Req.....	\$55,433.33
Over/Under.....	<\$ 12,538.00>

# COMING UP

## ■ October 15, 2007

### Worship in Your World: Enabling and Encouraging Those Who Plan and Lead Worship in Small Congregations

— Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama  
8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. For more information, email [resource@samford.edu](mailto:resource@samford.edu).

## ■ Nov. 4-5

### CBF/GA Fall Convocation — FBC Savannah

Speaker: Charles Bugg, Professor of Church Ministry and Leadership at M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University

## 2008

## ■ Jan. 18-20

Georgia Youth Choir Festival — The Calvin Center, Hampton

## ■ Jan. 29-30

Current Retreat — FBC Decatur

For more information contact Ryan Clark at [clark\\_ra@mercer.edu](mailto:clark_ra@mercer.edu).

## ■ Jan. 30 – Feb. 1

Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant — Atlanta, GA

For information visit <http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org>.

## ■ Feb. 15-16

Now Serving: Atlanta

For more information contact Ryan Clark at [clark\\_ra@mercer.edu](mailto:clark_ra@mercer.edu).

## ■ Feb. 29 - Mar. 2

March Mission Madness — Highland Hills Baptist Church

## ■ March 3-5

True Survivor VIII — First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC

For all Christian Educators. Sponsored by CBF National, Congregational Life. Contact Toni Draper at [tdraper@thefellowship.info](mailto:tdraper@thefellowship.info).

## ■ March 7-9

March Mission Madness — FBC Augusta

## ■ April 4 – 5

CBF/GA General Assembly — First Baptist Church, Decatur

## ■ June 19-20

CBF National General Assembly — Memphis, Tennessee

**We apologize for the oversight.** The following churches were not included in the list of Georgia Churches Giving only to National CBF in the August/September *Visions*.

First Baptist Church - Buena Vista

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church - Suches

Northwoods Baptist Church - Chamblee

## Welcoming Serving Growing



The purpose of CSF is to continually build a Christian community that welcomes others, serves others, and develops the whole person in relation to God.

## Mercer Cooperative Student Fellowship

[www.csfmercer.org](http://www.csfmercer.org)  
email: [csf@cbfga.org](mailto:csf@cbfga.org)

CSF is an officially recognized student religious organization at Mercer University.

We are proudly supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia (CBF/GA) and local CBF/GA churches. For more information about CBF/GA visit [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org).

COOPERATIVE  
BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

GEORGIA

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Macon GA 31208-4343



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