

VISIONS

3

UPCOMING SENIOR
ADULT RETREAT

4-5

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SUMMIT IN AMERICUS

6-7

UPDATE ON CONGREGATIONAL
MINISTRY GRANTS

9

CBF/GA
MARRIAGE RETREAT

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY GRANTS OFFERED FOR SECOND YEAR

CBF/GA AGAIN IN 2020 is offering churches the opportunity to be creative and expand their ministry into the community through Congregational Ministry Grants. These matching grants of up to \$2000 will be funded through the State Mission Offering.

In 2019, the inaugural year for these grants, ten congregations from across Georgia received matching grants for a wide variety of ministry and mission initiatives. The projects ranged from supporting foster families to the upgrading of a community garden, from referee support for a community basketball league to scholarships for students in medical coding classes. This program has been well-received by our

churches, and we are pleased to offer the grants for a second year!

Priority will be given to CBF/GA churches which did NOT receive a grant in 2019.

While CBF/GA does not have specific projects in mind, we hope that the projects that churches propose will further support the mission and values of CBF/GA.

We have identified four specific categories into which projects should fall:

- Community Partnerships
- Interfaith Initiatives
- Local Mission Engagement
- Young Leadership Development ■



**For more information
and to apply
for a grant,
please visit
[www.cbfga.org/
state-mission-offering/](http://www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/).**

The deadline for applications to be completed is Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Please call the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191 with any questions.



House-building in progress
in Liberia



Studying in medical coding class in Atlanta



Community garden being redesigned
in Cartersville

THE LAST WORD IS ALWAYS HOPE

Lately I've been pursued by and am pursuing the idea of hope. From my travels around our state, in many conversations with church members and pastors and ministers from across our fellowship, the word "hope" keeps popping up in a variety of contexts.

... I hope we'll be able to find our next pastor.

... We're hoping these changes to our church will help us connect to our community and bring more people in.

... I hope I'm making the right decision.

... Life's so very hard right now for our church. It's like all the hope is gone.

And, after listening to the news over these past few years and paying attention to social media, it sure looks like hope is in short supply for a great number of us.

The deepest confession for followers of Jesus, however, is, as Frederick Buechner eloquently writes in *The Final Beast*, "[t]he worst isn't the last thing about the world. It's the next to the last thing. The last thing is the best. It's the power from on high that comes down

into the world, that wells up from the rock-bottom worst of the world like a hidden spring.

Can you believe it? The last, best thing is the laughing deep in the hearts of the saints, sometimes our hearts even.

Yes. You are terribly loved and forgiven. Yes. You are healed. All is well."

The worst isn't the last thing.

When congregations undergo a season of change or decline, it's hard to remember "the worst isn't the last thing." If our ministry efforts seem to be losing ground instead of gaining traction, believing "the worst isn't the last thing" is hard to do. Facing shrinking budget giving and a lagging spirit within your congregation often means that embracing "the worst isn't the last thing" is nearly impossible. Even more, as my mentor John Claypool would certainly tell us, despair is an affront to God because that would mean

that God's power is limited, and that God cannot bring new life from the dead.

Perhaps our hope wanes because even as we confess a deep and abiding faith, we lean too much on our own sight. We may find it hard to hope in something that is not seen when everything we see tells us a story of death and dying. We also may find it difficult to hope because we have been conditioned to believe there is only a certain way in which the church can be the body of Christ in our world, and now we are faced with the real possibility that our church can't live up to that standard.

If this is true for you or your church, take heart and have hope! In the Gospel of John, as Jesus enters Jerusalem, he tells his followers and others, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Maybe this season of change for the church — even your church — is an opportunity for old ways, practices, and customs to die and for new growth and new life to emerge.

In this issue of *Visions*, you'll read stories of new opportunities and ministries at CBF/GA partner congregations, funded at some level by a CBF/GA congregational ministry grant. You'll see announcements of new opportunities for engaging the work of God in our state, including our *Together for Hope* in Sumter County.

Friends, if there is any good word in our world today it is that the worst things — no matter how bleak or dire, no matter how much change must occur — are never the last things. For indeed, in God's Kingdom, the last word is always hope. ■

...if there is any good word in our world today it is that the worst things — no matter how bleak or dire, no matter how much change must occur — are never the last things.



JODY LONG
Executive Coordinator
CBF/GA
jlong@cbfga.org

2020 SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

Come to the Mountains with Us!

April 26-28 (Sunday evening – Tuesday noon)

First Baptist Church, Dalton

TENTATIVE RETREAT SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 26

6:30–8:00 pm ... Check-in and Fellowship at First Baptist Church, Dalton

Monday, April 27

9:00 am ... Check-in for late arrivers

9:30–11:00 am ... Gathering Time in Chapel, followed by Breakout Session I

11:15 ... Lunch and brief program in Fellowship Hall

Monday afternoon ... Free time to relax or enjoy an excursion to Chattanooga, the mountains, or sites in the Dalton area!

Dinner is on your own. Restaurant suggestions will be provided.

6:45 pm ... Music and Retreat Worship in the chapel, followed by an Ice Cream and Cookies Fellowship

Tuesday, April 28

9:00 am ... Breakout Session II

10:15 am ... Closing Retreat Worship



The Senior Adult Retreat moves to Dalton this year! We hope to see many of our north Georgia CBF friends in this new location.

RETREAT SPEAKER

Katie Faison, Associate Pastor to Children, Women, and Senior Adults, Central Baptist Church, Newnan. Katie grew up in Newnan, Georgia. She has been a member of Central Baptist all her life. She holds a Bachelors in Elementary Education from East Carolina University and a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. Katie loves spending time with her family, traveling, and watching good movies! Katie is married to John Faison, who is a biology teacher at Woodward Academy in College Park, GA. Together they have two children, Emma Grace and Allie.



REGISTRATION

To register online and pay the \$20 retreat fee by credit card, go to www.cbfga.org/senior-adults/. You may also contact Melissa Kremer at the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191 or mkremer@cbfga.org to register.

LODGING

Blocks of rooms are reserved at these hotels in Dalton:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dalton

934 Market St, Dalton GA 30720; phone (706)217-6200; \$119 + tax (Double); code: CBFGA; deadline to reserve is 4/12/2020.

Hampton Inn

1000 Market St, Dalton, GA 30720; phone (706)226-4333; \$104 + tax (Double); code: CBFGA Church; deadline to reserve is 4/12/2020.

Country Inn & Suites

903 W Bridge Rd, Dalton GA 30720; phone (706)278-9700; \$109 + tax; code: CBFGA Group Block; deadline to reserve is 3/26/2020.



CBF/GA Senior Celebrations

Tuesday,
September 29

Tuesday, October 6

Locations to be determined.
www.cbfga.org/senior-adults/

Together for Hope Summits ... May 1-2, Americus

Black Belt RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2020

NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY LEADERS

Friday, May 1, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CLERGY & LAY LEADERS

Saturday, May 2, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

COST: \$20/day

LOCATION:

409 Elm Avenue, Americus, Georgia 31709

REGISTRATION:

Register online at <http://www.cbfga.org/event/rural-development-summit-2020/>.

PRIORITIES OF HOPE:

EDUCATION • HEALTH & NUTRITION

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT • SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

LODGING:

Days Inn Americus

\$75.00/night ... Call 229-924-4001 by 4/15

Hampton Inn Americus

\$104.00/night ... Call 229-924-3890 by 3/30

Koinonia Farms

\$30.00+/night ... Call 229-924-0391 for availability

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Deep Dive into Together for Hope: A Rural Development Coalition ... The key to alleviating poverty in rural communities already exists within the people who live in them. If that is true, then the only question we should be asking is this: how can we walk alongside those in rural spaces in order to bring about transformation? Find out how you can participate!

Facilitator: Jason Coker

The Do's and Don'ts of Mission Engagement in Rural Settings ... Ministry in rural communities is not the same as we might approach it in urban settings. Learn about the realities of rural living from a seasoned practitioner and how these realities affect the way we do missions.

Facilitator: Lane Riley

Patches of Learning: How Lessons Gleaned in Thailand Influence Food Security Efforts in Immokalee, FL ...

Immokalee is an agricultural town in Southwest Florida where much of the America's tomatoes, watermelons and other crops are grown. Despite such large-scale food production, various farmworker neighborhoods in the community are classified as food deserts. Explore the challenges of food insecurity with the aid of hindsight from previous experience in Thai hilltribe communities.

Facilitators: Rick & Ellen Burnette

STUDENT.CHURCH AND STUDENT.GO OFFER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES |

This summer, CBF/GA will be using funds from the earnings of the Frank & Susan Broome Endowment Fund to further support students serving in the *Student.Church* and *Student.Go* programs.

If you are interested in learning more about these ministry and mission opportunities, please visit www.cbfga.org/student-dotgo, or www.cbfga.org/summer-semester-internships.

For information about the CBF/GA supplement for the *Student.Church* program, please visit www.cbfga.org/college/. Churches interested in hosting a *Student.Church* summer intern may also find information on that webpage. **CBF/GA churches wishing to access the CBF/GA supplement should contact Jody Long at jlong@cbfga.org.**

Each of these programs provides opportunities for college, graduate and seminary students to serve alongside ministers, CBF Field Personnel, and ministry partners in a variety of settings. Both provide invaluable first-hand experiences for students as they explore a potential calling to ministry and

learn more about serving in a local church or global mission setting.

The deadline for summer ministry through *Student.Go* for 2020 has passed, but there are opportunities for the fall semester, with an application deadline of April 15. Applications for *Student.Church* internships for the summer of 2020 will be accepted through April 30.

For questions about either program, please contact Jody Long at jlong@cbfga.org or call 478-742-1191. ■



2019 participants

To register: www.cbfga.org/event/rural-development-summit-2020/
The registration deadline is April 22. See Registration info on page 9.



OPTIONAL SITE VISITS

Koinonia Farm Tour (Cost \$5)

Koinonia was founded in 1942 by Clarence and Florence Jordan and Martin and Mabel England as a “demonstration plot for the kingdom of God.” This meant a community of believers sharing their lives, work and resources, following the example of the first Christian communities as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Attend a tour and learn the history and current ministry of Koinonia Farm.

Habitat for Humanity Global Village Tour (Cost \$5)

The 6-acre village is a unique way to see life-size Habitat houses from countries around the world without leaving Southwest Georgia. Learn how Habitat for Humanity International works in partnership with families to build strength, stability and self-reliance.

Friends on a Mission Relief Center (free)

See the vision of local change-makers who transformed an old sanctuary into a shelter that became a saving grace for hundreds of people. First, it housed Hurricane Katrina evacuees, but their doors remain open today to continue the work of transformation with the homeless community in Sumter County. The relief center provides job assistance and much more.

SUMMIT FACILITATORS

Melissa Browning is a theologian, ethicist, and activist who studies community-based responses to injustice. She teaches seminary students at Columbia Theological Seminary where she is the Interim Director of Contextual Education and International Partnerships. Browning is committed to helping students, community members and congregations understand the deeper issues surrounding poverty and racism.

Jeremy Lewis serves as the Executive Director of Urban Recipe, a non-profit organization in Atlanta, GA, that runs food co-ops for the food insecure in order to stabilize families and create community. Lewis previously served as the National Coordinator for Together for Hope which focused on the 20 most economically disadvantaged rural counties in the U.S.

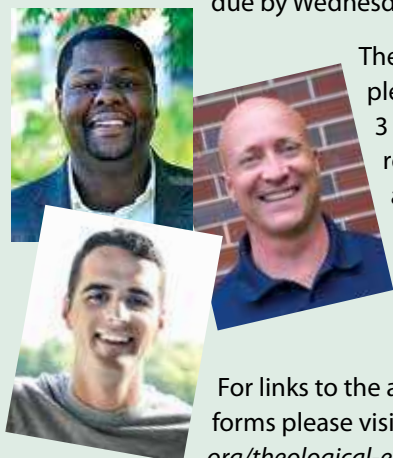
Harold Tessendorf has served as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity sites throughout Georgia in the cities of Savannah, Macon and Milledgeville between 2001-2019. He previously served as the Country Director for Concern Universal in Lichinga, Mozambique, where he managed local economic community development.

(continues on page 9)

CBF/GA SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD OPEN THROUGH APRIL 8 |

CBF/GA is pleased to offer scholarship assistance for students in MDiv or other graduate theological programs.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted for the 2020-2021 academic year. All applications and references are due by Wednesday, April 8.



2019 recipients

The application is to be completed online and requires 3 references: a CBF/GA reference, a professor or an employer reference, and a personal reference. References should also be submitted through the online form.

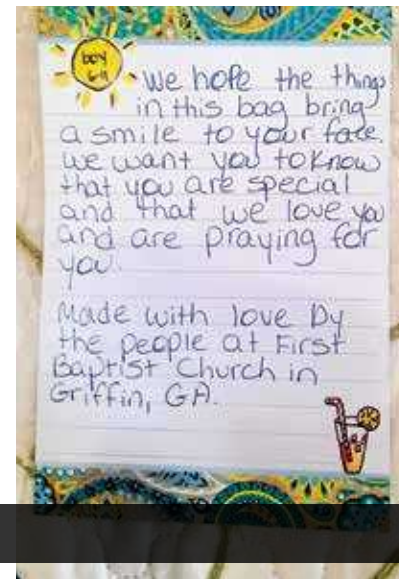
For links to the application and reference forms please visit, please visit: www.cbfga.org/theological-education-scholarships/.

For more information, please contact Jody Long at jlong@cbfga.org or 478-742-1191.

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:

- Be currently enrolled in a master's level degree program or higher at an Association of Theological Schools accredited institution (not restricted to Baptist institutions)
- Demonstrate a connection to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia
- Show potential for leadership within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Not have been a recipient of a CBF/GA scholarship in previous years for the current degree program.

Applications and references are due by Wednesday, April 8.



"Gotcha bags" for foster children in Griffin

Congregational Ministry

GRACE 127

First Baptist Church, Griffin

First Baptist Church, Griffin, requested a grant to assist with Grace 127, which exists to support foster and adoptive families in Spalding County and to help our congregation be the hands and feet of Jesus to some of the most vulnerable residents of our community. The primary way that this ministry currently functions is in the collection and assembly of "gotcha bags" for children coming into the foster care system.

Many children enter into custody with very few resources. These gotcha bags are handmade and contain toiletries, a stuffed animal, toy, coloring book, a new blanket, and a handwritten note of encouragement. These bags are given to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to distribute when children are taken into custody.

Our clothes closet also provides bags with shirts, pants, underwear, socks, and pajamas for every size which are kept at DFCS in case children come into care with few or no clothes. Regardless of how long the child is in care, these items become theirs to keep.

Grace 127 also seeks to support foster families by providing social settings where parents can meet and share ideas. These are provided at no cost to the foster families to encourage interaction and to provide children in foster care a place to relate to others who are in a similar situation as themselves. This past summer we invited foster families to join our church family at High

Falls Water Park at no cost to them. We had three foster families join us.

Grace 127 also supports Fortify, an organization here in Griffin that provides resources for foster families. Our volunteers work at their resource center the second Saturday of every month, which is the designated "shopping day" when foster families can come and choose items like furniture, clothing, toys, and other donated items. Our church members also donate supplies to Fortify, and more than twenty-five of our youth helped with a sorting day this summer.

DINNER CHURCH

Hardwick Baptist Church, Milledgeville

Hardwick Baptist Church is located less than three miles from downtown Milledgeville. When Central State Hospital was going strong, Hardwick was right in the thick of things. The church is located between town and the old hospital campus. As the hospital drastically downsized its property and buildings, along with the decentralization of federal mental health services, the demographics of Hardwick slowly but surely changed.

Many of the neighbors near Hardwick Baptist have suffered from the neglect that is south Milledgeville. Two neighboring congregations moved to the north side of town in sort of a "white flight" congregationally. But Hardwick Baptist made a choice to stay.

The church has had a bus ministry for local children and youth for many years. Last year, we discerned that our next steps in missional faithfulness involved engaging the adults in our neighborhood. Several of our neighbors



Dinner Church in Milledgeville



Community youth basketball action in Macon

Grants *in Action*

appear to be hesitant — for a variety of reasons — to visit a largely white congregation for traditional Sunday morning worship. We started making plans for a Dinner Church model for outreach.

Dinner Church is a quite simple concept — one might even say it is going back to Jesus’ model of building relationships around a meal and table fellowship. We decorate the fellowship hall nicely, so that it feels more like a restaurant than a cafeteria. We prepare and serve the food; then we join folks by eating with them around the table. A Table Host from Hardwick Baptist is assigned to each table.

After the meal, there is a brief “Jesus Story,” which serves as the message. Table Hosts lead in discussing questions related to the message and pray for any concerns shared around the table. Communion is served, a couple of hymns are sung, and we are dismissed.

Again, it is quite simple — yet elegantly beautiful as strangers eat, worship, pray, and sing together. The folks who attend are grateful for the meal — but all of us are grateful for the sense of authentic conversation. Even as the bread is broken for communion, the brokenness of life that we all share reminds us of our common humanity.

Currently Hardwick Baptist is planning and preparing one Dinner Church gathering each month. We hope to get to twice monthly soon. We are grateful for the grant from CBF of Georgia which helped us get off the ground. We are blessed to partner with missionally-minded brothers and sisters across the state.

COMMUNITY YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE Vineville Baptist Church, Macon

Vineville Baptist Church in Macon requested a congregational ministry grant to allow the church to pay referees for the high school games in a youth basketball league. The league includes about 125 middle and high school youth on twelve teams, representing primarily churches and neighborhood ministries.

Says Richard Kremer, pastor of Vineville Baptist and organizer of the league, “Financial assistance from CBF/GA has been essential in helping underwrite our ministry to the young people of Macon, empowering us to create a youth basketball league which is open to middle school and high school students from all economic strata. Macon has very few low-cost recreational opportunities for young people outside of school athletics, so this league provides a place to play for those who would otherwise have no opportunity.”

Church volunteers referee the middle school games, keep the scorebook and run the clock and scoreboard, and serve in the concession area.

This outreach effort has enabled Vineville Baptist to bring people together from communities across the city of Macon who would otherwise not have contact with each other. The league runs in the church gym on Saturdays in January and February, with tournaments in March. ■

Would you like to see your church participate in Congregational Ministry Grants? Details on page 1.

Open Hearts, Open Hands

WENDY PEACOCK, CBF/GA Moderator, wendyjpeacock@gmail.com

“MY HOPE IS THAT IN OUR WORK, both the projects that are large and the gestures that are seemingly small, we will demonstrate that we have open hearts and open hands with which to embrace and serve our neighbors.”



This week, I had the privilege of leading the memorial service for my friend, Joyce Holsey. Joyce had been a member of our church for many years, and her absence will be felt by us in a multitude of ways. She was a person of great joy, deep faith, and resilient hope.

As I prepared my remarks for the service, I remembered one of the most beautiful things that Joyce would do as we gathered for worship on Sunday mornings. Joyce often served as an usher and helped take up the offering. As we sang the last stanza of the offertory hymn, she would come down the center aisle and would reach her place in front of the communion table. She would then take a step sideways and place her arm around the person who was helping collect the offering. She would stay there, holding them in her embrace, as I prayed the offertory prayer.

One day, Joyce shared with me about this practice. She said, “Pastor Wendy, do you know why I put my arm around the other people taking up the offering? It’s so that people can see that we love one another.” She believed that regardless of background, race, national origin, creed, or economic status, we were one in Christ. In this seemingly small gesture, Joyce was proclaiming what she knew to be central to her faith and to our life as a community of believers. She knew how important it was to demonstrate our love for one another.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus is in the midst of teaching his disciples for

the final time. He shares a meal with them, knowing that his death is imminent. It is here we find some of the words that are at the very heart of what it means to be Jesus’ follower. He says, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” When Jesus had just a few hours left to be with his closest followers, he distilled his understanding of God’s calling into this commission — love one another.

It is sometimes easy for us to lose sight of what is central for us in the life of faith. We can become distracted by the minor things and forget the most important thing — that the call of Jesus for the church is to witness to him through our love for one another. Brian McLaren has done some powerful work on this theme in his book, *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World’s Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*.

McLaren writes, “Any form of religion, any system of beliefs,

“... do you know why I put my arm around the other people taking up the offering? It’s so that people can see that we love one another.” [Joyce Holsey] believed that regardless of background, race, national origin, creed, or economic status, we were one in Christ. In this seemingly small gesture, Joyce was proclaiming ... how important it was to demonstrate our love for one another.

any hierarchy or institution that’s not marked by love for our neighbor and love for the earth we share is, from the start, misguided and false” (p. 46). We are reminded that Jesus’ way is the way of love, and that the church is to be a people of love.

As we continue to serve together through CBF/GA, my prayer is that all we do and all we say will be guided by the call of Jesus to love one another. My hope is that in our work, both the projects that are large and the gestures that are seemingly small, we will demonstrate that we have open hearts and open hands with which to embrace and serve our neighbors. May we serve like Joyce, trusting that people who are watching will be reminded that we do indeed love one another. ■





Marriage Retreat Planned for September

Registration for the retreat opens online May 1 at www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/

BECAUSE OF EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO OUR FIRST CBF/GA MARRIAGE RETREAT in the fall of 2018, a second retreat is planned for **September 18-20**, at **The Lodge on Lake Oconee**, near **Eatonton, Georgia**.

Registration opens online May 1 at www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/, with a deposit of \$150 per couple due at time of registration. Registration will end July 15.

Melody and Sam Harrell are leading this retreat, during which they will guide participants to use the Enneagram tool to explore how to bring greater awareness to marriage and family relationships.

The Enneagram is a model of the human psyche which seeks to define nine personality types

that are represented by the points on a geometric figure called an Enneagram. Understanding one's personality type and how different personality types connect and interact is considered to be one way of deepening relationships and encouraging deeper spirituality and self-understanding.

Sam and Melody Harrell have extensive training and experience in leading groups in the study of the Enneagram, and we are excited that they have agreed to lead us in this retreat. They both were born to missionary parents in East Africa and have spent most of their lives working in that context. In the last twenty years,

working under the auspices of CBF's Global Missions, they have engaged the Kenyan context through the ministries of Africa Exchange, a non-profit organization they founded in 1998 which continues under joint local direction today.

Melody currently works as a certified Spiritual Director, and Sam serves as Associate Coordinator for Global Missions at CBF Global. ■



Melody and Sam Harrell, retreat leaders

Together for Hope Summits ... (continued from page 5)

The Rev. Dr. K. Jason Coker is the National Director of Together for Hope (TFH), the Rural Development Coalition of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Coker is originally from the Mississippi Delta. Having escaped the grinding poverty of the Delta, he felt compelled to connect resources with the needs in his home region. In 2013, Coker founded Delta Hands for Hope (DHH), which is a partner organization with TFH.

REGISTRATION

www.cbfga.org/event/rural-development-summit-2020/

The registration deadline is April 22, 2020, but please register ASAP so we can begin preparations. ALL are welcome on both days since they will cover different material. You do not have to fit into a particular category of leadership to attend any portion of the event. Both days will offer extensive training on the subject of community development, specifically in rural settings.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, May 1

- 10:30 am Registration Opens
- 11:00 am Introduction to Together for Hope
- 12:00 noon Health & Nutrition (Eat while we meet!)
- 12:45 pm Housing & Environment
- 1:30 pm Break
- 1:45 pm Education
- 2:30 pm Social Enterprise
- 3:15 pm Networking Session - choose one Priority of Hope
- 4:00 pm Adjourn OR optional site visit 4-6 pm

Saturday, May 2

- 9:30 am Doors open (registration for those who did not attend on 5/1)
- 10:00 am Together for Hope/Community Development 101
- 11:00 am Priorities of Hope Panel (Eat while we meet!)
- 12:00 noon Workshop Offerings
- 1:00 pm Workshop Offerings

2020 CBF/GA STATE GATHERING

November 8-9 • First Baptist, Rome

Mark your calendars now for the CBF/GA State Gathering in Rome Sunday evening thru Monday, November 8-9! First Baptist, Rome, will be the host church.

We are early in the planning process, but we are pleased to announce that our **keynote speaker will be Paul Baxley**, Executive Coordinator of CBF Global.

A **Ministers' Meeting**, focusing on worship ideas and styles, led by Dr. Nate Myrick of the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University, will follow on Monday afternoon.



WINTER YOUTH SUMMIT | A good group of CBF/GA churches enjoyed a wonderful weekend of learning, fellowship, and worship at the Winter Youth Summit at FBC, Huntsville, Alabama in January.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Community Baptist Church,
Milledgeville | FBC Dalton |
| FBC Athens | FBC Rome |
| FBC Columbus | Haddock Baptist Church, Haddock |
| FBC Commerce | Johns Creek Baptist Church,
Alpharetta |

Shaun King, pastor of Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta, was the featured speaker for the weekend. This event takes place biennially and is jointly sponsored by several state CBFs.

Make plans now to take part in the January 2022 event!



FORMING
BOLD FAITH

2020
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COOPERATIVE
BAPTIST
FELLOWSHIP

June 22-26, 2020 | Atlanta, Ga. | Hyatt Regency Atlanta

www.cbf.net/assembly Now open for registration!



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF GEORGIA

P.O. Box 4343, Macon, GA 31208-4343
phone 478-742-1191
www.cbfga.org

CBF/GA Staff

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR
Jody Long
jlong@cbfga.org

ASSISTANT TO THE COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES
Melissa Kremer
mkremer@cbfga.org

ASSISTANT TO THE COORDINATOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAMMING
Rachel Greco
rgreco@cbfga.org

CBF/GA Coordinating Council

- MODERATOR • Wendy Peacock, Americus
- MODERATOR-ELECT • Ron McClung, Haddock
- CLERK • Glenda Kessler, St. Simons Island
- FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR • Jennifer Jindrich, Carrollton
- TREASURER • Neil Heath, Macon
- Lamar Barden, Rome
- Jeremy Colliver, Stone Mountain
- Joe Davis, Dalton
- Cindy Folendore, Milledgeville
- Paula "Pete" Frost, Lyons
- Jake Hall, Macon
- Gail Hammock, Griffin
- John Paul Harris, Summerville
- Tom Hill, Alpharetta
- Suzanne Hooie, Dalton
- Howard Hooper, Columbus
- Jennifer Jindrich, Carrollton
- Beth McQuaig-McIntyre, Fitzgerald
- Will Runyon, Americus
- Norma Rushing, Atlanta
- Laure Smith, Marietta
- Todd Smith, Macon
- Becca Springfield, Newnan
- Sarah Timmerman, Cairo
- Betty West, Hawkinsville
- Student Representatives*
- Heather Franklin, McAfee School of Theology
- Kent Russell, McAfee School of Theology

VISIONS is published four times a year by CBF/GA. All questions and comments may be directed to Melissa Kremer at the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191, ext. 4.

Graphic design and layout by Donna Jackson
donnabjackson@gmail.com

CBF OF GEORGIA ON THE ROAD:

November 2019 — January 2020

In each issue of *Visions*, we'll try our best to keep you updated as to the travels and visits of the CBF/GA staff throughout our state and with our partners in ministry.

If you'd like Jody Long or any of our staff to speak, preach, teach, consult, lead, or minister with your congregation, please contact the CBF/GA office.

These are the places we have been November 2019 - January 2020:

- Atlanta-area CBF Pastors' Peer Learning Group
- CBF Day at McAfee School of Theology
- CBF Global offices – Decatur
- Dahlonega Baptist Church
 - FBC Athens
 - FBC Carrollton
 - FBC Cornelia
 - FBC Dalton
 - FBC Decatur
 - FBC Fitzgerald
 - FBC Gainesville
- FBC Griffin
- FBC Hawkinsville
- FBC Rome
- Harry Vaughn Smith Lectures in Christianity at Mercer University
- Highland Hills Baptist Church – Macon
 - Milledge Avenue Baptist Church – Athens
 - Smoke Rise Baptist Church – Stone Mountain
- Union Baptist Church – Warthen
- William L. Self Preaching Lectures at McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University

Financial Report

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

Operating Budget Gifts: \$113,071.73
Operating Budget Expenses: \$97,115.90

Designated Gifts: \$64,904.91

Proceeds from sale of former CBF/GA office building: \$164,763.70
(deposited into the Frank & Susan Broome Endowment Fund)

YEAR-END REPORT 2019

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019

Total Gifts: \$898,136.89*
Total Expenses: \$519,453.87*

*Please note: The end-of-the-year Gifts/Expenses includes proceeds from the sale of the former CBF/GA building as well as earnings from the Endowment Fund.

FRANK & SUSAN BROOME ENDOWMENT

4th Quarter Gifts: \$1,910.00
2019 Total Gifts: \$5,315.00

ENDOWMENT BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019:
\$1,040,340.43

2019 DONORS TO THE ENDOWMENT:

Frank & Susan Broome • Gwendolyn H. Cottrell • John W. Rigdon, Sr
Bob & Mary Elizabeth Smith • Norma J. Thompson
First Baptist Church, Carrollton • First Baptist Church, Griffin



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

P.O. Box 4343
Macon GA 31208-4343

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS GA
PERMIT #11

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH 13-15, 2020

March Mission Madness
Athens First Baptist Church
Athens, GA

www.cbfga.org/march-mission-madness/

MARCH 20-22, 2020

March Mission Madness
Carrollton First Baptist Church
Carrollton, GA

www.cbfga.org/march-mission-madness/

APRIL 8, 2020

**Application period closes
for CBF/GA Congregational Ministry Grants**
www.cbfga.org/missions/

APRIL 8, 2020

**Application period closes
for CBF/GA Theological Education
Scholarships**
[www.cbfga.org/
theological-education-scholarships/](http://www.cbfga.org/theological-education-scholarships/)

APRIL 21, 2020

Coordinating Council Meeting
TBA

APRIL 26-28, 2020

Senior Adult Retreat
First Baptist Church, Dalton
Dalton, GA
www.cbfga.org/senior-adults/

MAY 1, 2020

**Registration opens
for CBF/GA Marriage Retreat**
www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/

MAY 1 & 2, 2020

Together for Hope Regional Summit
Americus, GA
[www.cbfga.org/event/
rural-development-summit-2020/](http://www.cbfga.org/event/rural-development-summit-2020/)

JUNE 22-26, 2020

CBF General Assembly
Atlanta, GA
www.cbf.net/events

JULY 15, 2020

**Registration closes
for CBF/GA Marriage Retreat**
www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/

JULY 21-24, 2020

PASSPORT Kids Camp
Rock Eagle 4-H Center
Eatonton, GA
www.passportcamps.org

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2020

CBF/GA Marriage Retreat
The Lodge on Lake Oconee
Eatonton, GA
www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2020

CBF/GA State General Assembly
First Baptist Church
Rome, GA
www.cbfga.org/gatherings/

THE INTERACTIVE VERSION OF VISIONS IS HERE!

We are pleased to announce that you can now read *Visions* directly online, complete with enabled links to websites for information and registration for events! The link to the interactive *Visions* will be posted on the CBF/GA website, at www.cbfga.org/news/.

While *Visions* in print form will continue to be produced and mailed, our hope is that over time, the interactive online *Visions* will help us to save printing and postage costs, while making CBF/GA news even more easily available to our readers.

If you are a subscriber to our monthly e-newsletter, *ReVisions*, soon you will be receiving an email with a link giving you access to the online *Visions*. If you try out the online *Visions* and decide that you want to receive news in that manner rather than through a printed copy, just let us know, and we will make that change.

Contact Melissa Kremer at mkremer@cbfga.org, or call the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191 for help with this change in subscription.



Keep up to date with events at www.cbfga.org