

2020
THIRD QUARTER



VISIONS

3
EVENTS
UPDATE

4-5
STATE MISSION
OFFERING

6-8
FOCUS ON
PASTORAL CARE

10-11
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

2020 CBF/GA Virtual State Gathering

CBF of Georgia is happy to invite you to our first ever Virtual State Gathering
Sunday, November 8

*Registration is free and is now open
at www.cbfga/gatherings/*



Schedule for our one-day virtual Gathering:

3:00 pm

Zoom Coordinating Council Meeting

4:30 pm

Business Session

Your registration will give you access to committee reports and the mechanism for voting on the budget, Nominating Committee report, and any other necessary items of business. Registration will also give access to the 6:30 Zoom Round Table conversation.

5:00 pm

Worship video will launch



Worship will feature Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF Global and former pastor of First Baptist Church, Athens. Musical offerings will be provided by First Baptist Church, Rome.

6:30 pm

Round Table conversation via Zoom

In this new and challenging era, we want to hear from you! Some questions we will consider:

- How can CBF/GA best assist your congregation as ministry continues to change and adapt?
- What resources from CBF/GA would be most helpful in your context?
- What have we learned in this new era of ministry that we might want to continue?

Gratitude... First Baptist Church, Rome, was originally scheduled to host our State Gathering, and we greatly appreciate their continuing staff planning and technical support in producing the worship video.

"See" you November 8!

www.cbfga.org/gatherings/

“MAKE LOVE YOUR AIM...” 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1, RSV



In 1965, Burt Bacharach penned a song, set to a lilting waltz tempo, that would become emblematic of the longings of the decade: “What the World Needs Now Is Love.” Originally sung by Jackie DeShannon, the song’s introduction in the turbulent 1960s was no accident. Bacharach wrote in his autobiography that he had the tune and most of the words composed for several years before he could finally assemble the song. The strife that was ripping at the seams of the fabric of our country seemed insurmountable.

Fifty-five years later, societal turbulence has returned, full of force and fury. But we have known this for a few years now. And for a good many of us, the emotional and spiritual fatigue of chaotic and divisive societal times can be overwhelming. Add in the stress of the current global COVID-19 pandemic and you have the perfect Molotov cocktail of anger, discord, and disunity that threatens to burn down relationships, both with others and even within the church.

As the Apostle Paul writes his first letter to the church in Corinth, they, too, were in a difficult place. Competing factions had arisen within the church over a laundry list of controversies: the value of human wisdom versus divine wisdom, the nature and value of spirituality, egregious forms of personal misconduct especially among leaders, marriage and sexual relations, the primacy of social status, how followers of Jesus interacted with other religious groups

especially in regards to hospitality and food, the nature and value of Christian freedom, orderly worship, the value and ranking of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the role of prophetic speech, the functioning of the Body of Christ, the meaning of resurrection, and the use of church offerings for other congregations’ well-being. Any of these controversies sound familiar?



In the midst of addressing these controversies, Paul writes perhaps the most famous chapter in all of the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 13. Thanks to its popularity as a wedding reading, “The Love Chapter” has been embraced by many of us as an example of how we

are to love others, which Paul calls “the more excellent way.” After his litany describing love, Paul reminds us that three key components of life remain — faith, hope, and love — and that the greatest is love. But oftentimes we do not connect the beginning of 1 Corinthians 14:1 to this reading. I really like how the Revised Standard Version translates this beginning, “make love your aim.” Not Christian orthodoxy, not political party affiliations, not social status; no, *make love your aim*.

In this issue of *Visions*, we are telling the stories of sisters and brothers within CBF/GA life who are making love their aim. The roles of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling are often under-utilized and under-publicized in our congregations and communities. Chaplains are those caregivers and spiritual guides we may find in healthcare, workplace, educational, and military settings, who make love

their aim by ministering to Christians of every denomination as well as people from all faith backgrounds, or even those who claim no faith. They are present in the joys of life and also in heart-wrenching moments of sorrow. CBF serves as an endorser of chaplains and pastoral counselors, giving them support and credentialing. Recently, Renée Owen, was named as the endorser and director of CBF’s chaplaincy and pastoral counseling work. You will be introduced to Renée and the good work she is undertaking at CBF. You will also hear from chaplains and pastoral counselors around our state about their work, their experiences, and how congregations can support them.

“What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of. What the world needs now is love, sweet love. No not just for some, but for everyone.”

Burt Bacharach was correct in the 1960s and he is still correct today: we need love. I am grateful that CBF/GA can partner with and support chaplains and pastoral counselors who are making love their aim in a variety of settings around our state. I am also grateful for the multitudes of partner congregations and individual supporters of CBF/GA who are making love their aim. There is still more of the love of God to spread around our state and world. I hope you will join us in this good Gospel work. ■



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

“Flying the plane while we are building it” aptly describes CBF/GA as we continue to adapt to the realities of life and ministry in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the last issue of *Visions* was published, our hopes and plans were to hold fall events in person, but as the summer progressed, the folly of those plans became apparent.

Guided by wisdom from various planning committees, CBF/GA has reimagined events. Fall events have been moved to online virtual experiences. Some events have been radically restructured, while others could be adjusted within their original frameworks. We are most grateful to the original host churches (FBC Dalton and FBC Rome), which have continued to offer their technical, staff, and musical support as they have assisted in producing the events with us.

Creative plans for future events, including March Mission Madness, are underway. While we hope to be back to in-person events in the not-too-distant future, CBF/GA will continue to adapt and adjust to the realities we face in our current environment.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

While moving online, this retreat continued to embrace the basic elements that have made the event popular in past years. The format remained essentially the same though shortened by a day.

The retreat began on Sunday afternoon, September 27, with a Zoom fellowship time, followed by the launch of a recorded worship that featured music by Joy Huddleston of FBC Jasper and the FBC Dalton music ministry and a message from Katie Faison, Associate Pastor for Children, Women and Senior Adults at Central Baptist in Newnan.



Monday morning, September 28, brought the launch of four breakouts:

- “Writing for Yourself and Others: Telling your Life Story through Journaling and Narrative,” led by Millicent Flake, retired media specialist and author and member of FBC, Dalton
- “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story: An Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing,” led by Erin Clarke, Minister of Music, and Ellee Hilley, Minister of Worship Arts, FBC Griffin
- “Cat-Cow, Pigeon, Eagle, and Warrior: Chair Yoga for Meditation and Exercise,” led by Ann Smith, a Macon spiritual director and certified yoga instructor
- Bible Study, led by Jonathan Barlow, Pastor, FBC Dalton

All events except for the Zoom fellowship time were recorded and will continue to be available for viewing via the CBF/GA website. Stay tuned to www.cbfga.org/adult/.



The Marriage Retreat had the most comprehensive remake, transforming from an in-person weekend at Lake Oconee to an online Zoom event on four consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning September 10.

Sam and Melody Harrell were happy to lead in this format, and by going virtual, we were able to expand the event to attract couples not only from Georgia but also from Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, and Virginia.



The retreat focused on the enneagram and how understanding one another’s personalities can enhance relationships within marriage. The Harrells used the Riso and Hudson book, *Discovering Your Personality Type*, in the retreat, and the first 20 couples to register were supplied with a complimentary copy of the book.

At least thirty couples participated in the retreat in real time.

Since the sessions were recorded, interested couples may continue to register and view the sessions for a period of time through the CBF/GA website. Please contact Jody Long at jlong@cbfga.org for more information.

Stay tuned as we navigate these unusual times together ...

www.cbfga.org



If there is among you anyone in need, . . .

do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.



“Gotcha bags” filled with toiletries support foster children through First Baptist, Griffin’s “Grace 127” ministry project.



Horizon Baptist Fellowship, Summerville, offers assistance for teachers through “Inspiration Stations” in five area schools.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8



The reworked and upgraded community gardens at Heritage Baptist, Cartersville, yield their bounty.

CBF/GA 2020/2021 State Mission Offering

Supporting two specific areas of ministry in our state and world:

- Congregational Ministry Grants
- CBF field personnel with significant connections to Georgia and CBF/GA



Please give generously to support these initiatives of CBF/GA churches!

To learn more about the State Mission Offering, visit www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/; to donate directly, visit www.cbfga.org/donate.



CBF/GA 2020/21 State Mission Offering

The CBF/GA 2020/2021 State Mission Offering supports two specific areas of ministry in our state and world:

- Congregational Ministry Grants
- CBF field personnel with significant connections to Georgia and CBF/GA

Congregational Ministry Grants

Part of the offering will be used to support Congregational Ministry Grants. Matching grants of \$1000 to \$2000 may be used to support a new ministry or missional endeavor. The four categories under which projects should fall to be eligible are:

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

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, only two churches were able to apply and receive Congregational Ministry Grants, but ministries already supported by the 2019/2020 grants continue in several churches.



CBF field personnel with significant connections to Georgia and CBF/GA

For 2020/2021, the CBF/GA State Mission Offering is continuing to support CBF field personnel with significant connections to Georgia and CBF/GA.

Gifts to the State Mission Offering will support the programmatic work among these Field Personnel in their contexts. They will, in turn, share more of their ministry with CBF/GA through periodic updates along with opportunities for engagement when they are back in Georgia.

The field personnel are:



RESOURCES: This year, our CBF/GA State Missions Offering materials (an 8.5x11 printable poster, a bulletin insert, an FAQ sheet on ways to give, and a letter from the CBF/GA Executive Coordinator) are available on our website, www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/, for you to download and use as your congregation desires. Please contact Melissa Kremer at mkremer@cbfga.org with any questions.



Let us open our hearts and our hands and give generously this year!

Pastoral Care in the Age of COVID-19

As strict limits on family visitation (and the elimination of any clergy visitation in most cases) have taken hold during these months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry of chaplains has taken on special significance.

In most instances, in-person visits by family members in healthcare facilities have been impossible, even in end-of-life situations, and it has often fallen upon chaplains to facilitate whatever contact has taken place. The challenge has been great, as in many facilities and settings, chaplains, too, have been limited in their ability to be physically present with their patients.

Great creativity has been required, as chaplains have been in contact with families mostly by telephone and have found ways to use smart phones and tablets to allow families to be present in some sense in these most difficult times of life, and often, death.

In the last issue of *Visions*, we focused on the ministry of one chaplain, Will Runyan, of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, which was an early hot spot nationally for COVID-19. We realized then that our congregations need to know more about this critical ministry in their own communities, and that we need to find more ways to support these specialized ministers at the state CBF level.

We reached out to several chaplains, and in this article, we share some of what we gleaned from their thoughts and experiences.

More than sixty chaplains and pastoral counselors based in Georgia have either CBF Global endorsement or are related to CBF/GA partner churches. Chaplains and pastoral counselors are endorsed to specific places of service and the CBF endorsement application process usually begins with an introductory telephone conversation with CBF's Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Manager, Renée Owen.

While many work in healthcare settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and hospice care settings, others work in quite diverse settings: in the military, correctional institutions, retirement settings, colleges and universities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, police, fire and rescue departments, and businesses and industries. CBF-endorsed pastoral counselors serve in counseling centers, interdisciplinary settings and on church staffs. In every setting, the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have critical effects.

Chaplaincy and pastoral counseling are specific, specialized ministries that require a commitment to advanced training and endorsement beyond seminary, along with, usually, continuing education requirements.

We wondered how our chaplains came to recognize and accept that call, and their responses vary. While a few reported that they discovered chaplaincy or counseling as a career path after a negative church staff

Recently named CBF Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Ministries Director and Endorser, **Renée Owen**,

has significant Georgia and CBF ties.

Renée most recently has been Executive Director of Spiritual Health for the Wellstar Health System in Marietta. She also brings experience as a staff chaplain in Georgia and California and as a staff minister in several North Carolina CBF partner churches.

A graduate of Campbell University and Duke Divinity School, Owen is only the third person to lead this CBF ministry full-time. The office is responsible for endorsing and nurturing nearly 800 chaplains and pastoral counselors who are related to CBF.



Owen finds it refreshing to move into a faith-based, non-profit arm of ministry and is happy to be back in her own faith base in CBF. In addition to being passionate about chaplaincy, Owen brings a wealth of administrative and leadership experience which she says has helped prepare her to be a chaplain to the chaplains and pastoral counselors in CBF.

Since pastoral care is a non-revenue-generating department, chaplains in particular have often struggled to find ways to advocate for themselves and to show quantitatively their value to hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Owen's experience in strategic planning, coaching, and mentoring chaplains in her previous position will be invaluable in this area. Her efforts at helping organizations realize the value of chaplains and counselors will be a strength, as she has worked successfully with projects that let chaplains collect and translate data that can help show their added value to an organization.

CBF/GA joins in welcoming Renée Owen to the CBF Global staff!

CBF Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Requirements

- Submit a completed application received from the CBF office
- Submit a current head and shoulder photograph
- College degree from an educational institution which is accredited by one of the six regional accreditation organizations
- Theological degree, from an ATS accredited seminary or divinity school, with at least 72 hours of completed coursework
- Ordination by a Baptist church
- Personal interview with a CBF representative (likely by phone)
- Written autobiographical narrative
- Written essay on your relationship with CBF
- Good moral character and reputation, including relationships with finances
- Complete a Background Check
- Pay the required application fee
- Review and approval by the CBF Council on Endorsement



cbf.net/chaplaincy

chaplaincy@cbf.net

770.220.1617

Chaplaincy and Pastoral
Counseling
160 Clairemont Ave., Suite 500
Decatur, GA 30030

experience, others were drawn to the work through early exposure to CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) offered or required as part of their seminary experience. For several, the call to ministry had never been to “church” ministry, and pastoral care became a viable option. Pastoral care has also become over many years a good avenue for women to fully exercise a call to ministry when some church possibilities have not been readily available to them.

Overall, respondents cited the high value placed on compassion and empathy in pastoral care ministry, the opportunity to work in diverse places non-judgmentally with people from all backgrounds, and the chance to “meet people where they are as a companion on their journey” as motivating factors.

As Jessica Prophitt said, “Chaplaincy calls you out of your tradition to see the face of God in those of all religions and to serve and support others of all faith (or no faith) groups.” These are the elements that bring pastoral care providers fulfillment and purpose as they minister to people in often the darkest moments of their lives.

What distinguishes chaplaincy for Tommy Deal is “meeting people where

they are during life’s crises and encouraging them in their journey of faith.” Christie McTier adds, “Being a hospice chaplain is mission work. I am going out – I am meeting people where they are. I attempt to bring Jesus to those who need His love and peace.”

When asked what they wish people in the pew would know about pastoral care ministry, these ministers responded thoughtfully:

“Chaplaincy and pastoral counseling are the parts of ministry that one does not see from the pulpit. It is the caring for and shepherding the flock.” – Tommy Deal

“We both give and receive by engaging others in spiritual care. We also care for staff as much as patients and families, which has been especially important during the pandemic period.” – Beth Jackson-Jordan

“I would want parishioners to feel safe and know that chaplains and pastoral counselors are vetted and background-checked and are a resource to them when needed.” – Deb Walters



Captain Jessica Prophitt,
Chaplain,
United States Air Force



Tommy Deal,
Board Certified Clinical Chaplain,
Hamilton Hospice,
Hamilton Healthcare System,
Dalton

(continues on page 8)



Beth Jackson-Jordan,
Director of Spiritual Health
for Emory DeKalb Operating Unit,
Atlanta

“We care, listen, and advocate for patients and their families – we can be ‘their person’ on the healthcare team, ... helping the team see a whole person rather than a diagnosis.” – Beth Jackson-Jordan

Most everything about pastoral care and counseling has been affected by the pandemic. Chaplains and counselors alike describe having to “reframe” and “redefine” how to carry out ministry. As Renée Owen said, ordinarily chaplains “run to the crisis” to be both physically and spiritually present with others. Jessica Prophitt aptly describes her work as “a hands-on sport” – and that is impossible in these days.

Working to reduce the added anxiety that visitation restrictions have brought for patients and families has been foremost. All of the pastoral care givers report learning to use telechaplancy and telecounseling with patients and with support groups. They have depended on phone calls, video calls, emails, and texts instead of physical presence, and many have found this avenue of ministry to be surprisingly fruitful! They have also learned innovative ways to be present and also safe – standing in hospital room doorways to pray with and for patients, learning to use personal protective equipment (PPE) to stand with families at a distance as they visit their loved ones at end-of-life, and offering virtual services via social media and teleconferencing platforms.

Care to staff has become even more essential as healthcare staff deal with their own anxieties, exhaustion, and worry about taking COVID-19 home to their families. Pastoral caregivers themselves worry about endangering their families if they are not working solely from home during the pandemic. There has often been “a sense of helplessness and caregiver fatigue,” says Deb Walters. Trying to “be present” when you cannot be near is a huge challenge.

Chaplancy and pastoral counseling can sometimes be overlooked as rather hidden

Thank you, chaplains and pastoral counselors, for the good and sacred and hard work that you are doing, particularly in this time of pandemic, but also in ordinary times of crisis that will always be part of our shared human experience.

forms of ministry, but in the situations in which we find ourselves in 2020, their value and vitality come to the forefront. When asked what would help them in their ministries, these specialized ministers nearly all said that knowing that they are prayed for and remembered by their own congregations and by CBF and CBF/GA is a huge support to them.

Tangible, intentional “care for the caregiver” is appreciated, whether through a friendly phone call or email, a basket of snacks on the job, a card, or even social media contact. One military chaplain, far away from a CBF congregation, said that regular personal contact from a church representative would be especially helpful in staying connected.

Several pastoral caregivers emphasized that educating congregations on what a day in the life of a chaplain or counselor looks like, and helping people in the pew understand the unique challenges of these ministries, would be helpful.

There is much that we as CBF/GA can do to help these ministers sense that their abilities and calling are valued and appreciated at the congregational level and in our communities.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors, thank you for the good and sacred and hard work that you are doing, particularly in this time of pandemic, but also in ordinary times of crisis that will always be part of our shared human experience. ■



Debra Walters,
Travel Trainer and Support
to Psych Social Departments
of Aseracare, an Affiliate
of Amedisys Hospice



Christie McTier,
Chaplain and Bereavement
Coordinator,
SouthEast Hospice,
Augusta

Sharing the Load

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

Our church prayer request time seems to ebb and flow like the tide. Sometimes as we gather, we have only a few prayer concerns to lift up before the members of our congregation. Other times, like the last two weeks, it seems as if the list of individuals, families, illnesses, heartbreaks, natural disasters, and other concerns goes on and on. It is on those days that I am most aware of the brokenness and pain that surround us. However, it is also on those days that I am most aware of the ways that we are doing the work of the church. In chapter six of the book of Galatians, we read these words: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

In this season of life, I am reminded that we are called to be people who bear one another’s burdens. Our lives as people of faith are meant to be lived in community. As we share together, we begin to reveal all that we carry on our minds and in our hearts. We openly discuss our successes, our fears and anxieties, our hopes, and all of the places that we see the need for healing and restoration. Some of these situations are as close as our very homes, and some of these needs reach across the globe. Yet, I believe that as we share these concerns, we begin to help each other shoulder the weight of these burdens.

In the sharing, we are no longer alone. In the sharing, we know that our friends are interceding on our behalf, seeking God’s help in prayer. At times, we also know their care through words and actions of service. The writer of Galatians says that when we bear one another’s burdens in this way, we are fulfilling the law of Christ. We are indeed loving God and loving neighbor when we walk together in these ways.



I am thankful to be a part of a congregation that helps bear our community’s burdens each day. I am thankful to be a part of CBF/GA life, where individuals and churches seek to help others carry the weight of life’s heavy loads. I see it in so many places. I see it in the pastors’ lectionary call each week, where we discuss not only sermon texts but share personal prayer concerns and struggles. I see it in Coordinating Council meetings, where we seek to support churches and ministries as they do the work of God in a world where the sailing is sometimes rough. I see it in the ways that we pray for and financially support our field personnel as they share the love of Christ in diverse places around the world. I see it in the online worship services that so many of our churches are offering, sharing the good news of God’s love to people who are safer worshipping at home. I see it in the gathering of children’s ministers, music ministers, youth ministers, and education ministers, sharing ideas and supporting one another during a challenging time of ministry.

I am also reminded today of all the times that burden-bearing is invisible to all but the Lord and one or two others. For their efforts, too, I am thankful. I am thankful for silent prayers offered in earnest, for casseroles baked, for phone calls and socially distanced visits, for gifts given out of scarcity or abundance, for listening ears and for quiet presence. This is the sacred work of the church, caring for others in ways large and small. Thank you for all that you are doing to walk beside your neighbors and to offer the hope of Christ to the world. May we continue to be a community of burden bearers, fulfilling the law of Christ. ■

Congregational Ministry Grants

For the past two years, CBF/GA has offered partner churches the opportunity to apply for matching Congregational Ministry Grants of up to \$2000 each. In the first year, ten congregations applied for and received grants of either \$1000 or \$2000. For 2020, because of COVID-19 and its complications for outreach ministries, only two churches requested grants, and both

have been approved by a committee drawn from the Coordinating Council, in the amount of \$2000 each.

First Baptist Church of Tucker received a grant that allows them to partner with the DeKalb Police Department in an ongoing youth ministry project with at-risk youth. The church plans to use the money to let the police use their building and also to fund a summer Church Ministry

Intern to assist with the project. They hope to birth an ongoing partnership with the police or other community organizations seeking to provide community youth with options that will lead to a life of purpose and meaning.

Peachtree Baptist Church in Atlanta requested matching funds to assist with what they hope will be an ongoing ministry to parents of young children. *Babies at Work* will be

a co-working space that helps parents balance working remotely or in launching their own entrepreneurial visions. The aim is to provide a safe workspace that has flexible care for children in the earliest seasons of their lives, and in doing so, they invite families to see what the love of Christ looks like. The CBF/GA funds are being used to create and organize this space. ■

Scholarship Recipients

CBF/GA is pleased to offer theological education scholarship assistance each year. For the 2020-2021 academic year, scholarships in the amount of \$2000.00 (divided over the two academic semesters), have been awarded to seven students in Georgia CBF-related institutions and/or who have significant CBF/GA connections.



John Callaway

John is a Co-Pastor of First Baptist Church of Savannah. John was born and raised in Boiling Springs, South Carolina. He completed an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in education at Clemson University and then completed as MDiv through the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. He is working on a DMin

through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Having worked with churches across the Southeast preaching, teaching, and leading music, John feels called to help others recognize the "burning bushes" in their lives and to help them grow along their faith journeys.

David Hughes is in his ninth year of ministry. Before accepting the call to ministry in 2011, David worked for six years for nonprofits in Greenville, South Carolina, and Patagonia, Chile. He now serves as Minister to Students at First Baptist Church of Augusta. Previously, he served in the same

David Hughes



capacity at the Easley First Baptist Church of Easley, South Carolina. A graduate of Furman University, David earned an MDiv from Erskine Theological Seminary and is currently working on his DMin in Church Leadership and Administration at McAfee School of Theology.



Victoria Lawson

Victoria Lawson graduated from Samford University and is an MDiv student at McAfee School of Theology. She serves as Children's Ministry Intern at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. While at Samford, she participated in a program called Samford Sunday which afforded her the opportunity to preach in various

churches throughout Alabama. While Victoria is not certain where ministry will lead her, she has enjoyed internships and volunteer experiences that she has had working with children and teens, and she is exploring Clinical Pastoral Education as a ministry avenue as well.

Jacob Roberts currently serves as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church, Eatonton, and his ministry objective is to help people continually grow in faith. Jacob was born and raised in Florida, where he met his wife, Sara. He is pursuing an MDiv through Liberty University. Since moving to Georgia, he has been

Jacob Roberts



involved in state and national CBF gatherings, and he has taken part in March Mission Madness. Jacob has come to appreciate the focus in CBF of affording churches and people of all walks of life the opportunity to hear and experience the love of Jesus Christ.



William Scruggs

William Scruggs is an MDiv student at Harvard Divinity School. William first experienced CBF as a student at Mercer University. He attended First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon, helping to lead Kids on Mission and organizing, along with his wife, a growing group of the church's college students. While his specific ministry path is a work in progress, William has used his abilities in writing as an editor at Smyth & Helwys, and he plans to continue to write as one avenue of ministry. He prizes the influence CBF has had in shaping his identity, particularly in CBF's understanding of freedom and how individual soul freedom is tied to communal freedoms.

Tiffany Stubbs

Tiffany Stubbs is grateful to have been nurtured through God's word throughout her life, and her journey has led her to pursue an MDiv through McAfee School of Theology. She is passionate about spiritual formation and wants to be an advocate for spiritual growth and education. Tiffany has experienced CBF through her time at McAfee and believes in the mission of CBF as it endeavors to spread the Gospel, to bring a balance to the ethics of daily life, and to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.



Elizabeth Swett

Elizabeth Swett is an MDiv student at Duke Divinity School and calls First Baptist, Gainesville, home. She has spent college summers working with youth ministry there. While she is still discerning where her call to ministry will lead, she feels a strong call to youth ministry, especially to creating a safe space for youth to ask hard questions, to helping youth realize that they can find God in searching for answers to those questions. Elizabeth is a participant in CBF's Youth Ministry Network, and she has used those resources in her work at FBC Gainesville. ■



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, Carrolton
- 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, Carrolton
- Beth McQuaig-McIntyre, Fitzgerald
- Will Runyon, Americus
- Norma Rushing, Atlanta
- Laura Smith, Marietta
- Todd Smith, Macon
- Becca Springfield, Newnan
- Sarah Timmerman, Cairo
- Betty West, Hawkinsville
- Student Representative*
- 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.

Visions and i-Visions
graphic design and layout
Donna Jackson
donnabjackson@gmail.com

Quarterly Financial Report

APRIL - JUNE 2020

Operating Budget Gifts: \$85,484.82
Operating Budget Expenses: \$68,444.83
Gain/(Loss): \$17,039.99

Designated Gifts: \$81,022.00

(includes the annual disbursement from the Frank & Susan Broome Endowment)

FRANK & SUSAN BROOME ENDOWMENT

April - June 2020 Gifts: \$146,006.20
(includes the proceeds from the sale of the former CBF/GA office building)
Balance as of June 30, 2020: \$1,154,195.25



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

2020

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 1, 2020
7:30 pm Thursdays
CBF/GA Virtual Marriage Retreat
You may continue to register and view sessions online after the retreat is completed.
Information available at www.cbfga.org/marriage-retreat/

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2020
CBF/GA Virtual Senior Adult Retreat
Worship and breakout sessions may be viewed at any time.
Information at www.cbfga.org/adult/

NOVEMBER 8, 2020
CBF/GA Coordinating Council Meeting
via Zoom, 3:00 pm

NOVEMBER 8, 2020
CBF/GA Virtual State Gathering,
4:30 - 7:30 pm
www.cbfga.org/gatherings/
(see front page)

2021

**march mission
MADNESS**

[www.cbfga.org/
march-mission-madness/](http://www.cbfga.org/march-mission-madness/)

MARCH 2021
March Mission Madness
(format to be determined)

Creative plans for future events such as March Mission Madness are underway.

While we hope to be back to in-person events in the not-too-distant future, CBF/GA will continue to adapt and adjust to the realities we face in our current environment.



With hurricane season in full swing, remember that the most effective way to respond to disaster relief through CBF at this time is through prayer and by donating to the Disaster Response fund of CBF Global. Volunteer teams are now being organized to assist in Lake Charles, LA. For more information, go to www.cbfga.org/dr-volunteer.



2020 CBF/GA Virtual State Gathering
www.cbfga.org/gatherings/

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



CBF Global offers a weekly Tuesday night time of fellowship, music, a devotional, and stories from field personnel around the world. Tune in of CBF's Facebook page Tuesdays at 7 pm Eastern Time! Catch up on past episodes of the CBF Gathering at www.cbfga.org/gathering.