

2021  
THIRD QUARTER



# VISIONS

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God's  
next...

Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
now it sprouts up;  
don't you recognize it?  
I'm making a way in the desert,  
paths in the wilderness.

ISAIAH 43:19  
(Common English Bible)

## Come to Gainesville November 7-8

Join us November 7-8 at First Baptist, Gainesville, for the CBFGA State Gathering!

We look forward to hearing from our guest preacher Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, of Candler School of Theology, as she speaks to the theme "God's Next...!". As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage in our world, no subject could be more appropriate for our churches and our members.



In addition to Dr. Brown's addresses, we look forward to the inspiring breakouts:

**God's Next... Church Plants in a New Era,**  
with Nathan and Carrie Dean

**God's Next... Growing Young Congregations,**  
with Andy Jung

**God's Next... Investing Now to Endow the  
Future,** with Shaww Chin Capps

**God's Next... Steps for Dealing with Conflict  
in Congregations,** with Harold  
Tessendorf

**God's Next... Women in Church Leadership,**  
with Meredith Stone

*(continues on page 7)*



REGISTER now at [cbfga.org/events](http://cbfga.org/events) • SCHEDULE along with other details on page 7.  
*We hope to see you in November in Gainesville!*

# We've Come a Long Way, but ...

## John Smyth. Thomas Helwys.

Roger Williams. William Carey. Luther Rice. Billy Graham. Martin Luther King, Jr. All of these names are deeply embedded in our Baptist consciousness. But what about Catherine Scott? Sarah Wright? Mary Webb? M.A. Brannen?

The small Baptist church in which I grew up and was nurtured in the faith did not have official, ordained women ministers. Anyone who was paying attention, though, knew that the women of the church made most events and gatherings possible. From Sunday school teachers to children's church leaders; from the annual church fish fry to the annual church-wide camping trip; from church plays and cantatas to bereavement groups to casseroles and meals after a death; in all of these moments and so many more, the women of the church were bona fide leaders. It's not that men didn't work or were apathetic to the cause, because those guys certainly loved their church. It's just that the women of the church were also true leaders in the life of the church.

But the two places where women were not welcomed were in the pulpit to "preach" on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights, and in the Deacons' meetings held once a month. Now, when one of my female friends in the youth group would share a testimony from a particularly moving week at youth camp, that wasn't preaching. At least in the minds of most. But that proclamation of the Good News of God found in the life of Jesus of Nazareth and in the power of God's Spirit was as authentic a sermon as any that had ever been preached at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. And while women did a great deal of the work in the life of the church, they were certainly not welcomed to come to the Deacons' meetings where the

business and administration of the church were conducted. No, "real" sermons and by extension, "real" church leadership, were reserved for men. I know I am not alone in these experiences from my formative years. In fact, most of the congregations within the CBFGA and even the broader CBF family were probably run like this 40-something years ago. Thanks be to God, however, that's no longer the case.

Almost all of our congregational partners affirm women in church leadership and in Gospel ministry. There are a few of our partner churches that do not have women as deacons, but I suspect those numbers will continue to decline as more churches realize that women can and should be leading.

Where we have much, much work to do, however, is in encouraging, promoting, and installing women as pastors of congregations. CBF and CBFGA like to pride ourselves on being open and encouraging to women in ministerial positions and leadership, but unfortunately, for all our cheerleading, there are only 3 women currently pastoring CBFGA partner congregations. We have about 90 congregational partners, so 3.33% is a fairly sad percentage for women pastors in Georgia.

When I consult with congregations who are in the midst of pastoral transitions, one of my first questions for search committees is whether they will strongly consider a woman as their next pastor. While I sometimes receive an affirmative answer, too often I receive an answer that goes like this: "We support women in leadership and we have women deacons. But, unfortunately at this point, we don't think our church is ready for a woman pastor."

Another scenario that plays out far too often is that many medium-sized to larger congregations do not feel that a woman could be an effective pastoral leader, and so women who feel a deep and abiding call from God to pastor are relegated to smaller or even dying churches with the charge to help revitalize the congregation. Sadly, when that doesn't happen – often because of factors beyond any pastor's control – folks come away saying, "She was nice and all, but it's apparent that she's not ready to be a pastor yet."

As the Christian church, and especially our CBFGA partner churches, emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is much change afoot for a great number of churches. Now is the time for churches to reconsider their identity and their values. Now is the time for churches in transition strongly to consider calling a woman as pastor, for women's presence in the pulpit and in leadership is vital to this next era of congregational life and well-being. Now is the time for us to live into our words of affirmation of women's gifts and callings by allowing them to lead us with our full, unflinching support.

This issue of *Visions* features an article by my friend and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone, Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry. The work of BWIM is still as needed and vital as it was nearly 40 years ago, when 33 women gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, to begin advocating and supporting Southern Baptist women who felt a call by God to be ministers. Read and



JODY LONG  
Executive Coordinator  
CBFGA

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(continues on page 10)



Pre-BWIM, Carolyn Weatherford, a founding mother of BWIM, addresses a large gathering of Baptist women in Birmingham.

*This is the third of four articles in a series commemorating the 30th birthday of CBF. In this issue, we focus on the beginnings and development of Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) alongside CBF.*

## THE FOUNDING OF THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

# The Genesis of Baptist Women in Ministry

MEREDITH STONE

**O**n March 20-21, 1983, thirty-three women from twelve states attended a planning meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, which is considered the origin-point of the organization now called Baptist Women in Ministry. Momentum from the March 1983 meeting progressed toward the creation of an independent organization to provide support for women called by God to a vocation defined as minister. In its first few years, the organization, first named WIM, SBC, elected leaders, created a Center for Women in Ministry which published a newsletter (*Folio*) and provided support services for women in ministry, and

planned gatherings for each June just prior to the SBC Annual Meeting.

When the organization hosted its second June meeting in 1984, over 250 people attended. However, with support for women in ministry gaining energy, just a few days after the June 1984 meeting the SBC adopted a resolution titled, "On Ordination and the Role of Women in Ministry." The final line of the resolution concluded, "...that we encourage the service of women in all aspects of church life and work other than pastoral functions and leadership roles entailing ordination."

*(continues on next page)*

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## Genesis of BWIM ... (continued from page 3)

The resolution did not discourage the organization from continuing its work, but rather its adoption led to even more congregations and leaders being committed to their belief that God calls women and men for Christian ministry, and that the Baptist doctrine of local church autonomy meant individual congregations could decide who they would ordain and call into leadership.

In 1986, the group voted to change its name from WIM, SBC to Southern Baptist Women in Ministry (SBWIM). Also, in the early years of the organization, similar groups and meetings began to arise in various states, with Georgia Baptist Women in Ministry becoming formally organized in 1985.

Then, the late 1980s and early 1990s led to changes in the broader Baptist landscape as groups of people began to separate from the SBC, resulting in the formation of the Alliance of Baptists in 1987 and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in 1990-91. Women who were a part of the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry movement began connecting with these new groups rather than the SBC, thus another name change was needed. In 1995, the organization voted to change its name to Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM).

### Relationship to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

From the earliest days of CBF's formation, women in ministry sought to have a home among the CBF family. With soul freedom, Bible freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom at the foundation of CBF's organization, it seemed new freedom for women called by God would also be found among CBF's congregations. While cooperation between CBF and BWIM was not always seamless, two of BWIM's founding mothers served as the second and fourth moderators of CBF (Patricia Ayers and Carolyn Weatherford

Crumpler respectively), and CBF became one of Baptist Women in Ministry's largest financial contributors in the 1990s.

But detractors noted that while there appeared to be theoretical support for women in ministry among the CBF, progress in practice was slow in coming. Measuring progress for women in ministry is difficult to quantify, especially among church-freedom-Baptists. While many congregations may be ordaining women to the gospel ministry and calling women to serve as associate pastors or staff ministers, a mechanism does not exist that requires reporting of such information in freely cooperating associations such as CBF.

Therefore, the best information that is available, and which may reflect the broader culture for empowerment of women in ministry, is the number of women pastors. Through the fastidious record-keeping of Sarah Frances Anders, a professor of sociology and Baptist leader during the late 20th century, and Pamela Durso during her leadership of BWIM, the number of women pastors and co-pastors among various Baptist groups was traced from 1997 to 2015. While not all of the congregations represented affiliate with CBF, the number of women pastors and co-pastors among Baptists grew from 85 in 1997 to 174 in 2015. These figures represent a 105% increase in women pastors among Baptists during those 18 years, which is certainly a reason to celebrate.

However, the 2015 *State of Women in Baptist Life Report* also included a definitive picture of each church's affiliation, which meant only 6.5% of CBF churches had a woman as their pastor or co-pastor (117 of 1,800 churches). While 6.5% is far more than when CBF began, it is still a long way from representing equal opportunity for women called by God to use all of their gifts in service of the church.

### Present State of Women in Ministry in CBF Life

Since the earliest days of CBF, and even since the last *State of Women in Baptist Life Report* in 2015, progress has certainly been made for women in ministry. Increasingly more women are hearing God's call, entering seminary, and serving in various ministry and leadership roles throughout Baptist life.

Furthermore, in the recent Toward Bold Faithfulness process that was undertaken in 2019, women in leadership was defined as one of the most important gifts of CBF. But even with the progress made, and support of women being a defining element of CBF life, one would be hard-pressed to find women ministers in the Fellowship who do not still experience being demeaned, disrespected, or disadvantaged due to their gender.

< Sarah Frances Anders kept records of women in pastoral roles in Baptist life.



> SBWIM officers elected in 1987 included: Anne Rosser, Elizabeth Bellinger, Diane Hill, and Marilyn Prickett.

Unfortunately, the phrase that I hear most often from congregations is, “We support women in ministry, but we’re just not ready yet.”

Because of the frequency with which I hear this expression or women’s stories which represent its sentiment, I am convinced that the present challenge for congregations among our Fellowship is moving from verbal and intellectual affirmation of women in the leadership of the church, to translating those words and thoughts into action.

Indeed, change in an institution like the church is difficult and tends to happen slowly. But as we’ve seen in the past year and a half, change can also happen quickly and can sometimes even reveal opportunities. In March 2020, all of our churches had to make changes or be forced into hibernation. For many of us, these changes uncovered new areas of ministry which are allowing us to reach people who we may not have reached previously.

So, in the midst of it all, perhaps this moment is an opportunity for the church to find an expansion of leadership and grow toward the elevation and full affirmation of women’s gifts and callings.

## What Now?

If your congregation is one that is somewhere between theoretical support of women in ministry and putting it into practice, a place you might choose to begin is by creating a congregational culture that empowers all women within your church body. Women in ministry and senior leadership in Baptist churches will become much more commonplace if women who are members feel equally as empowered to use all of their gifts in service of the church.



Here are a few suggestions of places to start.

**Examine your congregation’s policies and procedures.** Read through the constitution and by-laws of your congregation to ensure that the foundational documents do not contain or create any roadblocks for women to serve in leadership. Review and create procedures that intentionally protect space for women on the church’s lay leadership councils and committees.

**Listen to women leaders in your congregation.** Ask women who are leaders in your church about their experiences. Was it difficult to become a deacon? Does the structure of church council meetings empower them or encourage them to be silent? How do they feel about volunteering for various ministries of the church? Do they feel safe when they volunteer? Do they feel respected when they teach or speak out?

**Make women visible in every aspect of corporate worship.** Ask women to pray, read scripture, sing, play instruments, take the offering, pass out bulletins, and serve communion. Empower women on staff to preach, baptize, and preside over the Lord’s Supper. Preach and teach about women in the Bible and use sermon illustrations that center women and women’s experiences.

Consider using inclusive language for people and expansive language for God.

In Luke 10:2, Jesus says that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Empowering women leaders, both among clergy and laity, allows the church of today to share more widely Christ’s grace, hope, and reconciliation with a world in need. When we remove the obstacles that any person in our Fellowship faces in being able to join in the work of the Christ at any level, we can better participate in God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

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Research mentioned in this article was found at [www.bwim.info](http://www.bwim.info), *The State of Women in Baptist Life* (BWIM, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2015), and Elizabeth Flowers, *Into the Pulpit* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012).

*Meredith Stone, Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry since August of 2020, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (B.A., M.A.) and earned a Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. She may be reached at [meredithstone@bwim.info](mailto:meredithstone@bwim.info).* ■



# God's next...

Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
now it sprouts up;  
don't you recognize it?  
I'm making a way in the desert,  
paths in the wilderness.

ISAIAH 43:19  
(Common English Bible)

## 2021/2022 CBFGA State Mission Offering



Supporting two specific areas of ministry:

- Congregational Ministry Grants
- Collegiate Ministry



Collegiate ministry, Macon, spring 2021



FBC Griffin's ministry project "Grace 127"



Heritage Baptist, Cartersville, community gardens

Please give generously to support these CBFGA church initiatives!



To learn more about the  
State Mission Offering, visit  
[www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/](http://www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/).

Donate directly at [www.cbfga.org/donate/](http://www.cbfga.org/donate/).



## ◀ 2021/2022 CBFGA State Mission Offering

**This year** the CBFGA 2021/2022 State Mission Offering will support these specific areas of ministry:

- **Congregational Ministry Grants ...** CBFGA matches grants of \$1000 to \$2000 to support a new church ministry or missional endeavor. Projects should fall under one of these categories:
  - community partnerships,
  - interfaith initiatives,
  - local mission engagement,
  - or young leadership development.
- **Collegiate Ministry ...** Megan Doud, our new Associate Coordinator for Young Baptist Ministries, is restarting college student ministry, beginning with Mercer University in Macon and then partnering with some CBFGA churches which have ongoing college ministries. Some of the State Mission Offering monies for 2021/2022 will be used to enhance this ministry and will help fund a spring break collegiate mission trip to New York City planned for March of 2022.

Available resources are on our website, [www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/](http://www.cbfga.org/state-mission-offering/), for you to download and use as your congregation desires:

- an 8.5x11 printable poster (see left);
- a bulletin insert;
- an FAQ sheet on ways to give;
- and a letter from the CBFGA Executive Coordinator.

Please contact Melissa Kremer at [mkremer@cbfga.org](mailto:mkremer@cbfga.org) with any questions. ■

Come to Gainesville November 7-8 ... (continued from page 1)



See you at the  
**CBFGA 2021  
State Gathering!**

**November 7-8  
FBC, Gainesville**

### SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, November 7**

- 3:00 – 4:45 p.m. – Ministry with Children Workshop with Harrison Litzell
- 4:00 p.m. – Onsite Check-in Opens
- 5:00 p.m. – Bylaws Committee Presentation - Listening Session and Q and A on proposed Bylaws changes
- 6:00 p.m. – Fellowship Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. – Pre-Service Music
- 7:15 p.m. – Worship
- 8:30 p.m. – Dessert Reception

#### **Monday, November 8**

- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. – Breakout Session #1
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. – Breakout Session #2
- 11:00 a.m. – Business Meeting, followed by Worship
- 12:30 p.m. – Lunch/Network Meetings
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Ministers' Meeting with Teresa Fry Brown

### LODGING

Hotel information and links to hotels may be found at [cbfga.org/events/](http://cbfga.org/events/).

### REGISTRATION

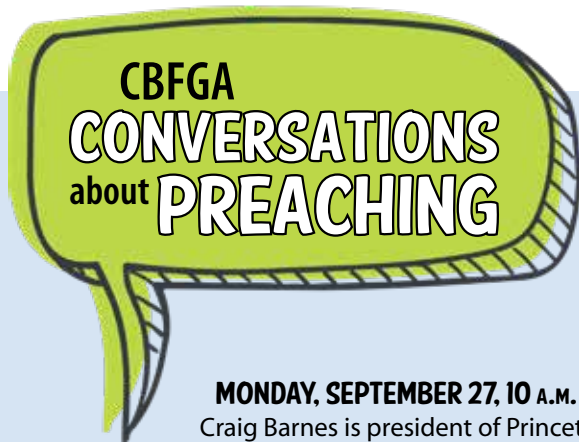
**STATE GATHERING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT [cbfga.org/events/](http://cbfga.org/events/).** A \$25 registration fee per person, payable online when you register, helps cover Sunday's supper and Monday's lunch, along with the reception and snacks.

Online registration ends Friday, October 29.

## 2021 Senior Adult Retreat

Because of increased cases of COVID-19 in Georgia and to protect the health of our senior adults, the retreat planned for September 25-27 has been cancelled.

**CANCELLED**

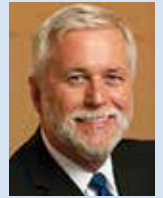


Usually on Monday mornings at 10 A.M., CBFGA hosts conversations among ministers about upcoming Revised Common Lectionary texts, the craft of preaching, and the art of worship. Occasionally we have a guest preacher, usually from outside of our CBF sphere.

Join us for the conversation!

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10 A.M. • M. Craig Barnes**

Craig Barnes is president of Princeton Theological Seminary. Earlier, he was Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary while also serving as pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Craig is deeply committed to the theological formation of pastors to lead the church in changing times. His most recent book is *Diary of a Pastor's Soul* (2020).



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 10 A.M. • Jaime Clark-Soles**

Jaime Clark-Soles is Professor of New Testament and Altschuler Distinguished Teaching Professor at the Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University. Ordained by the American Baptist Churches, USA, she is an incisive commentator on the biblical text, especially in the Gospel of John and Johannine Literature. Her book, *Reading John for Dear Life: A Spiritual Walk with the Fourth Gospel* (2016), is an excellent resource for pastors and laity alike.



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 10 A.M. • Otis Moss, III**

Otis Moss, III is pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and also serves as Visiting Professor of Preaching at the McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University. He recently was recognized as one of Baylor University's "12 Most Effective Preachers in the English-Speaking World." In 2014, Otis returned to his alma mater, Yale University, to present the Lyman Beecher Lectures. His edited lectures became the book *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair*, published in 2015.



**PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD: PREACHING ADVENT 2021**

A Pastor-to-Pastor Conversation: Preaching the Four Sundays of Advent

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 10 A.M. • Michael L. Ruffin**

Michael L. Ruffin is a curriculum editor with Smyth & Helwys Publishing, an adjunct professor at Mercer University, a newspaper columnist, and a poet. He posts opinion pieces on the blog "On the Jericho Road" and poems on Instagram (@michaell.ruffin). A former pastor of CBFGA partner congregations, he still preaches when and where he's invited. He's the author of *Praying with Matthew: 365 Days of Gospel-Shaped Devotions* (2020), *Prayer 365*, and the Smyth and Helwys Annual Bible Study *Luke: Parables for the Journey*.



To receive ZOOM log-in information, please contact Jody Long at [jlong@cbfga.org](mailto: jlong@cbfga.org)



**These Georgia CBF churches participated in PASSPORTkids at Rock Eagle Conference**

Center, near Eatonton, in July. PASSPORTkids is a 4-day, 3-night children's camp filled with fun faith-building programming and hands-on missions education for students who have completed 3rd – 6th grades.

- Central Baptist Church, Newnan
- First Baptist Church, Augusta
- First Baptist Church, Dalton
- First Baptist Church, Gainesville
- First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon
- First Baptist Church, Rome
- Haddock Baptist Church, Haddock
- Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta
- Parkway Baptist Church, Duluth
- Second Avenue Baptist Church, Rome



Group leaders, PASSPORTkids, Eatonton



# · CBF GA MONTHLY WEBINARS ·

CBFGA is again hosting FREE monthly webinars on a variety of topics ranging from missions to ministry to best congregational practices.

**Monday, September 20, 10:00 a.m.**

## *Using Worship Arts in Ministry with Tom Eggleston*



Tom Eggleston serves as Minister of Music at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia. Tom intentionally includes different worship arts elements to bring more people and personalities into the worship service. Tom will explore how he continues to use a broad range of arts media in worship as well as talk about the worship arts festival that Milledge Avenue Baptist Church hosts.

**Wednesday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.**

## *Youth Ministry Roundtable with Emily Harbin, John Uldrick, and Annie Westbrook*



Emily Harbin



John Uldrick



Annie Westbrook

Youth Ministry is a vital link in spiritual development, bridging the gap from childhood to young adulthood, and yet the challenges of good youth ministry continually mystify many within local congregations. Three youth ministers will join us to explore the challenges of youth ministry but also the deep hope and promise that adolescents bring to the church and our world.

**Wednesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.**

## *Field Personnel Report from Lesley-Ann Tommey in New York City*

Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey, CBF Field Personnel in Hell's Kitchen in New York City as Ministries Coordinator for Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries. RMM serves persons from varying cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds, many on the margins of society. Interactions happening there are life-giving examples of God's grace available for all. Lesley-Ann provides support and leadership for RMM programs and invests in the lives of veterans experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and students seeking educational opportunities.



**Wednesday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.**

## *Educational Advocacy with Angel Pittman*

Angel Pittman has served in educational ministries for fifteen years at CBF's partner ministry, Touching Miami with Love. The Pittmans have invested deeply in the Overtown area of Miami, where educational outcomes lag and inequities soar. As an Educational Advocacy Specialist, Angel engages families, congregations, and organizations in speaking out for equitable educational opportunities and assists congregations in developing partnerships with local public schools.



To register for any of these free webinars, go to [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org)  
Contact Jody Long, [jlong@cbfga.org](mailto:jlong@cbfga.org), for questions or details.

# Student Ministry Events on the Horizon

MEGAN TURNER DOUD, CBFGA Coordinator for Young Baptist Ministries, [mdoud@cbfga.org](mailto:mdoud@cbfga.org)



**As the school year begins**, CBFGA is offering some wonderful service and worship experiences for our youth and college students.

**WYS, January 14-16, 2022** • Our first big event is in January – the Winter Youth Summit (WYS)! This is a weekend where church youth groups from across the Southeast come together to worship, learn, and grow at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama. This event will take place MLK weekend, January 14-16, 2022; registration is open now and can be accessed on our website at [www.cbfga/youth/](http://www.cbfga/youth/). The theme for this year is: “DWELL – in Me, in Us, in the World,” based on the 84th Psalm. “Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself...Lord Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you” (from Psalm 84:1-4). WYS 2022 will feature the preaching gifts of a dynamic preacher duo, the Reverends Chelsea and Darian Waites. Chelsea and Darian both are graduates of McAfee School of Theology and both serve on the staff of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, which is, of course, the historic home congregation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Chelsea currently serves as their Associate Pastor for Children and College and Darian serves as their Associate Pastor for Youth and College. WYS happens only every two years, so you will not want to miss out on bringing your group of students in January 2022!

**NYC College Mission Experience, March 5-12, 2022** • In March, our college students will have the opportunity to learn from one of our partner field personnel, Lesley-Ann Tommey, by being a part of the Urban Immersion program she has created in New York City. The Urban Immersion program is designed to offer groups a chance to learn, listen, and serve alongside one another in that quintessentially urban environment. The goal is not only to offer volunteer opportunities, but also to challenge participants to ask difficult questions.

and explore together how our faith fits into this experience. This opportunity will be open to all college students.

Please contact me to find out more information.

**MMM, March 18-20, 2022** • March Mission Madness is BACK! We will be back in person serving and worshipping together March 18-20 in Atlanta at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church. Our speaker this year is James Blay. James is a graduate of Mercer University and McAfee School of Theology and is currently working for PASSPORT Camps serving as their Kids’ Team Coordinator. This year for MMM we will be in one location, one weekend, and I can’t wait to worship together and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in Atlanta! Registration will open November 1

**Oasis, February 8-11, 2022** • I am excited to announce that the OASIS 2022 planning team, of which I am a part, is well on their way to planning the next spiritual retreat for youth, college, and children’s ministers, set for February 8-11, 2022! And we are excited that there are new faces at the planning table! We welcome representatives of the CBF Children’s Ministry Network as well as the CBF College Ministers Network to help us expand our retreat to reach all those who minister to children, youth, and college students! Go ahead and mark your calendars for February 8th-11th at Montreat Retreat Center! Our speaker this year will be Rev. David Woody. Worship will be led by our own CBF Georgia partner field personnel Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey and Monica Hix. This is one of my favorite weeks of the year, and I always return from the retreat renewed in my calling.

I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to get to know our students and ministers better in our state. Please reach out to me if you have questions about any of these upcoming experiences.

Peace, Megan ■

## FROM OUR COORDINATOR: **We’ve Come a Long Way, but ...** (continued from page 2)


respond to Meredith’s call for action among our congregations to fully invest in and call women into pastoral leadership positions.

Oh, one last thing: Catherine Scott persuaded Roger Williams to go public with his Baptist views in the 1630s, transforming Baptists in America

and around the world; Sarah Wight was a sixteen-year-old Baptist whose visions and dreams of God calling her to preach were memorialized in a book in the 1640s; Mary Webb, a Baptist from Boston, formed the first women’s missionary society in 1800, which became a forerunner of the Triennial Convention which laid

the groundwork for Baptist missions over the past two centuries; and, M.A. Brannen is regarded as the first Baptist woman ordained to the Gospel ministry, in 1876 in Pennsylvania. These saints, among so many other women, should be names that we keep in our Baptist minds, too. ■



JANUARY 14-16, 2022



# WYS DWELL

in ME. in US. in the WORLD.


**SPEAKERS** ▶  
Chelsea & Darien Waite


**WORSHIP LEADER**  
▲ Charley Lowry

GET THE DETAILS: [www.alabamacbf.org/wys2022](http://www.alabamacbf.org/wys2022)  
LOCATION: Huntsville, AL  
REGISTRATION OPENS: June 15

EARLY BIRD RATE	REGISTRATION RATE	LATE RATE
\$79 June 15-August 13	\$89 August 15-October 13	\$99 October 15-November 13




cbf Student Ministry



February 8-11, 2022

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


a Spiritual Retreat for those who work with Children, Youth and College Students




COMMITTEE FEE:	SHARED ROOM:	SINGLE ROOM:
\$175	\$370	\$400

\*scholarships are available

[www.cbfgmn.org/oasis2022](http://www.cbfgmn.org/oasis2022)



**SPEAKER/PROCLAIMER**  
Rev. David Woody



**MUSICIANS**  
Rev. Lesley-Ann Hix Tomney & Rev. Monica Citty Hix

MONTREAT RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
Montreat, North Carolina

A partnership between CBF children, youth and collegiate ministries

## Financial Report

### SECOND QUARTER 2021 (4/1/2021 - 6/30/2021)

Operating Budget Gifts Received: \$100,834.26

Operating Budget Expenses: \$89,305.45

Designated Gifts: \$44,514.35 (includes final disbursement of the CBF's Anniversary Grant to State and Regional Organizations)

### FRANK & SUSAN BROOME ENDOWMENT

Balance as of June 30, 2021: \$1,415,644.32



### COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF GEORGIA

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**VISIONS** is published four times a year by CBFGA.

All questions and comments may be directed to Melissa Kremer at the CBFGA office at 478-742-1191 or [mkremer@cbfga.org](mailto:mkremer@cbfga.org).

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Keep up to date with all CBFGA events at [www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org)

## On the Calendar

**NOVEMBER 4-6, 2021**

CBF Regional Women's Retreat  
Gulf Shores, AL

**NOVEMBER 7-8, 2021**

CBFGA State Gathering  
First Baptist Church  
Gainesville

**JANUARY 14-16, 2022**

Winter Youth Summit (WYS)  
Huntsville, AL

**FEBRUARY 8-11, 2022**

OASIS Retreat for Ministers  
of Children, Youth,  
& College Students  
Montreat, NC

**MARCH 5-12, 2022**

College Immersion Experience  
New York City, NY

**MARCH 18-20, 2022**

March Mission Madness  
Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church  
Atlanta



***MARCH MISSION MADNESS is back!***

March 18-20, 2022 (one weekend and one location for 2022)

Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta

Registration opens online at [cbfga.org](http://cbfga.org) on November 1, 2021.

## CBFGA ON THE ROAD, IN PERSON & ONLINE

May - August 2021



CBF/CBFGA Clergy Retreat, Callaway Gardens,  
Pine Mountain

Celebration Church, Hoschton

Fellowship Baptist Church, Americus

First Baptist Church, Gainesville

First Baptist Church, St. Simons Island

First Baptist Church, Warm Springs

Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon

Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta

McAfee School of Theology

North Broad Baptist Church, Rome

Parkway Baptist Church, Duluth

Passport Camp - Eatonton

Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta

Vineville Baptist Church, Macon

**If you would like for Jody Long or any of our staff to speak, preach, teach, consult, lead, or minister with your congregation, please contact CBFGA.**

“Our mission: Being the presence of Christ in the world.”