

The associational ADVISOR


April 2018

POBA


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POBA Mission Statement: *The Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association exists to equip, enable, serve, and encourage a cooperating partnership of Southern Baptist Churches to effectively build the kingdom of God through evangelism, missions, discipleship, ministry and prayer.*



Stay Informed!
Sign up to receive event reminders
See page 4



Pastor/Staff Prayer
Tuesday, March 27
POBA Office
11:00 a.m.




VBS Clinic
Thursday, April 12
Sweat Memorial Baptist
7:00 p.m.
Open Orders: March 26-April 9




National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 3




**Cooperative Program
Sunday**
Sunday, April 8




The Gathering
Monday, May 7
10:30 a.m.
Second Baptist
RSVP by May 3, see page 4



GBAMA Conference
For Church Secretaries
April 19-20
See page 7



Mother's Day
Is
Sunday, May 13



S Night
Thursday, April 26
Oak Hill Baptist
RSVP for meal by April 20
See page 3

in this **ISSUE:**

Points From The Missionary's Pen	2
News, VBS, S-Night	3
Missions, remind 101, Gathering	4
Prayer, Piano, Revivals, Missionary Bdays	5
Baptist Village	6
What We Believe, GBAMA, Advance 103	7
Calendar	8

POINTS FROM THE MISSIONARY'S PEN...

Rev. Don Patterson, cell (912) 288-7594

It is fitting for me to say a few words of thanks to the Vacation Bible School Team of our association. Mrs. Nancy Perry has taken the challenge of leading us for this year's VBS promotion and training in the association. She has demonstrated her absolute commitment to VBS by taking our associational team to the clinic presented by Georgia Baptist at Richmond Hill as well as securing the finest of teachers and leaders to lead our own training on April 12 at Sweat Memorial here in Waycross. If you have not RSVP'd for that meeting I encourage you to do so and plan now to have your leaders for VBS at this awesome time of fellowship with churches from all across the association.

Would you agree, "What an awesome association we are blessed to be a part of." Remember you and your church make up the POBA. Working together, we can impact the world for Jesus Christ at home and abroad. VBS is one of the key tools God uses in our association to lead many to Christ. Statistically it has been shown that VBS as a tool for reaching all ages for Christ is the single most influential ministry. Note these statistics on reasons for churches to hold VBS, as compiled by Vicki Hulsey:

*25% of baptisms reported by the SBC come from VBS.

*Every one person trained in VBS results in 1.1 salvation decisions.

*10% of people enrolled in VBS are unchurched.

*2.7 million people enroll in VBS each year.

*72,925 people each year accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

*2,666 people commit their lives to church-related vocations through

VBS.

*56,386 people enroll in Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study as a result of attending VBS.

Let me urge you to read the following article by Melita Thomas, specialist with Life Way in VBS. Please note closely the additional things he makes reference to related to allowing VBS to reach its greatest potential in ministering to our churches and communities.

Back in December as I was preparing for a January meeting with VBS leaders from all 50 states, Canada, and Mexico, and decided to share 11 things I have learned during my 11 years as LifeWay's VBS Ministry Specialist. The challenge was not creating a list of topics, but settling on only 11. After several days of editing the list I arrived at the following:

1. VBS must have a clear purpose
2. VBS must proclaim the gospel
3. VBS must be evangelistic
4. VBS must leave the walls
5. VBS must reach the family
6. VBS must not be complacent
7. VBS must provide training
8. VBS is transformational
9. You must continue learning
10. You are highly contagious
11. The pastor must lead

None of these points are new or surprising, and instead of something I learned they are actually points that have been reaffirmed over and over. They are the points I spoke about the most as I talked with VBS leaders and lead training sessions.

The following are additional things I learned during my 11 years as your VBS ministry partner:

1. Only a small percentage of the community will ever attend a tradi-

tional VBS on a church campus. We must continue looking for opportunities to take the gospel to the community and world.

2. There is great power in the repetitiveness of a three-hour per day, five-day VBS. As churches decrease the number of hours and the number of days there has been a decrease in the number of professions of faith.

3. Morning VBS appears to be more successful than evening VBS at reaching unchurched kids and families.

4. The biggest challenge of VBS continues to be continuing connections/relationships created during the week of VBS.

5. VBS can jump start a declining/dying congregation.

6. A congregation that abandons VBS sends the message that it is no longer interested in reaching kids and families.

7. A VBS director or pastor can not do it alone. He must build a VBS team.

8. Every association of churches has at least one VBS groupie who would be willing to take the lead in coaching and inspiring other churches.

9. VBS can change the world - one kid at a time.

10. VBS is Kingdom work.

11. Themes are like wrapping paper on a box. What is on the inside is much more important than the wrapping. There are many fun themes produced each year that have no evangelistic substance.

12. The one essential of VBS is God's Word.

13. Preparation is essential for a transformational event. VBS takes work.

14. Word of mouth is still the best way to promote VBS. Create a great experience and word of mouth will be your most successful source of advertising.

NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- Mt. Calvary has called Rusty Bryan as pastor.
- April 27: Hoboken Baptist will host a Youth Rally featuring guest speaker Clint Burkett and worship by Bridge Community, 6:00—8:30 p.m.
- May 6-9: Waynesville Baptist will host an Every Believer A Witness training/evangelistic revival.
- Offerman Baptist is accepting resumes for a bivocational Youth/Children’s Pastor. Contact James Lightsey (550-6516) for more information.
- Deenwood Baptist has a 1998 GMC 3500 Bus (31 passenger, 47k miles, \$7500) for sale. Contact 283-7168.

S-NIGHT IS APRIL 26



S Night “Souls for Jesus” will be held on **Thursday, April 26, 2018** at **Oak Hill Baptist Church** in Waycross. Oak Hill will be providing supper at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to eat, you must register for the meal by Friday, April 20. You can call the POBA Office or register online at: pobaonline.com. The Oak Hill Baptist Praise Team will

open with praise and worship at **6:45 p.m.** Mark your calendars and make plans to join us!

Emphasis: Revitalization of the church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



(Nancy Perry) Our 2018 VBS Associational Training will be held at **Sweat Memorial Baptist Church** on **Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.** We are "Game On!: Gearing Up For Life's Big Game."

We have started fervently praying for the upcoming VBS training and we will begin soon recruiting teachers to help us at this exciting time of worship and training.

Send your VBS Order Form to the POBA Office between **March 26-April 9** and your VBS materials will be available at the VBS Clinic on April 12. Ordering your materials this way will help the Association and save you the shipping costs.

There will be a dinner of hamburgers and hot dogs at the end of the VBS Clinic. If you plan to eat, please register for the meal by Monday, April 9. You can call the POBA Office or register online at: pobaonline.com.

Please send your VBS dates and theme to: sarah.poba@gmail.com.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Robby Foster. Dr. Foster is the Senior Pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Valdosta, Georgia. He will be sharing with us on church revitalization and connecting church revitalization to new church member orientation and the small group setting of Sunday School. This will be a training event for all of our churches. Robby has proven years of experience in church revitalization and is looking forward to coming our way to share, answer questions and help our churches move off the plateau and declining status. I cannot emphasize enough that this training event is for all size churches. Thom Rainer in his material on revitalization notes that a church that really desires to be turned around and revitalized must have a strong new member orientation process whereby those desiring to be members of the church understand the doctrinal positions of the church, what is expected of the new member as they become a part of the church, should be familiarized with how the church functions with staff and other leadership and must know that there will be certain expectations up front of those who become members of the church. These are the general areas of ministry that each member will be expected to participate in: worship, small group discipleship class, giving, service-oriented ministry, and missions. We often get little out of those who join our churches because we expect so little out of them. Expectations is one of the keys to the revitalization process and clarification of those expectations to those who desire membership in the local church.

THE SENIOR ADULT GATHERING



The Senior Adult Gathering will be held at Second Baptist Church on Monday, May 7, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will immediately be followed by a meal of southern barbeque and all the trimmings.

This year's guest will be The Chuck Wagon Gang. You can learn more about them at <http://thechuckwagongang.net>

Information has been mailed to each church. Please RSVP to the POBA Office by Thursday, May 3. Lunch is \$6/person and can be paid at the door on May 7.

STAY INFORMED!

We have two Remind 101 lists so that we can send quick texts with information about meetings and pastor prayer time.

Remind Lists you can join:

@pobapas: For Pastors only.

@pobaevent: Event Reminders. For anyone.

How to join by text:

Text the List Name (ex. @pobapas) to the number **81010**.

It may ask you to confirm that you would like to send the message. After you will receive a confirmation text that you have joined the list. We hope that this will be a good communication tool for the POBA. You are welcome to share the @pobaevent list information with anyone who would be interested in receiving event reminders.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact Greg Benfield at the POBA Office (912-285-8161) for more information or to sign up for these mission opportunities.



Mexico Partnership Missions
Oaxaca, Mexico
 July 14-21, 2018
 Estimated Cost: \$1,100
 Deposit Due: \$600 - March 7, 2018
 You must have a valid passport by March 23, 2018.

Our Lord has
 written the promise
 of the Resurrection,
 not in books alone,
 but in every leaf
 in springtime.

Martin Luther

APRIL PRAYER FOCUS

This month, please remember these pastors and their families in prayer.

Hephzibah: Johnny Ware (Frances)

Hickox: Jamie Giddens

Hoboken: Ben Glosson (Vian)

Jamestown: Billy Atkins (Betty)

King Memorial: Tim Rowell (Donna)

Laura Chapel: Daniel Harris (Debra)

Lees Chapel: Greg Delk (Sonia)

Liberty: Matt Tuttle (Jennifer)

Lulaton: Steve Beal (Melanie)

Manor: Rip Snow (Becky)

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

Beulah

Spring Hill

Bristol

Youmans Chapel

Crawford Street

PIANO SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS



Auditions for the 2018 Piano Scholarships will be 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

For full eligibility and music requirements, contact the POBA Office.

Entry Deadline

All applications must be submitted by April 29, 2018. Applications may be submitted to your POBA music minister or the POBA office.

REVIVALS IN THE POBA

If your church has planned a spring revival, please send information (date, church, and speaker) to Sarah at sarah.poba@gmail.com.

Dates	Church	Speaker(s)
April 15-18	Hacklebarney	Jimmy Thrift
April 29-May 2	Offerman	Brad Waters, Herb Reavis, Kenny Grant, Mike Stone
April 29-May 4	Hickox	
May 6-9	Hoboken	Jerry Johns
May 6-9	Waynesville	Paul Monroe

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS:

The following IMB missionaries from Georgia have birthdays during the month of April. Please remember to pray for them throughout the month. Please remember to pray for Last Frontier Personnel that we are unable to list here.

Rev Steven D Riddle (Retired), General Evangelism

Mrs Alice B Hardy (Retired), Church/Home Outreach Evangelism

Mrs Angelle K Wilson (Retired), Secretarial Support

Mr Thomas E Brown (Retired), Community Outreach/Encounter

Rev Glenn M Borders, European Peoples Regional Office Support

Mrs Dorothy B Evans (Retired), Community Outreach/Encounter

Rev James M Palmer (Retired), Church/Association Development

Mr Larry C Verlander (Retired), Financial Administration

Mrs Elizabeth A Lewis, Southeast Asian Peoples Community Outreach/Encounter

Rev W. K Sorrell, American Peoples Strategy Associate

Mrs Betty F Boatwright (Retired), Church/Home Outreach Evangelism

Mrs Devra G Morris, Global Strategic Advance Church/Home Outreach Evangelism

Mrs Sarah J Davenport, South Asian Peoples Regional Office Support

Mrs Nada Williams (Retired), Theological Education

Mrs Helen H Veatch (Retired), Secretarial Support

OUR ASSOCIATIONAL AREA IS HOME TO ONE OF GEORGIA BAPTIST'S OLDEST & BEST MINISTRIES: BAPTIST VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

By: Dr. J. Eric Mathison, Baptist Village, Vice President of Administration & Advancement

In January 2003, I left the Atlanta area (my home for the first 43 ½ years of my life), and moved our family to Waycross, to become Pastor of FBC. For more than twelve years I drove through the gates of Baptist Village as a pastor to visit residents, and to serve as a Trustee. It quickly became obvious that the ministry of Baptist Village Retirement Communities was unique and exemplary, and it was a professionally competent ministry/business organization. I saw nurses, CNA's, and associates in all areas, providing great care and assistance. I saw Baptist Village to be the best retirement and caregiving ministry of its kind.

Now I drive through the gates of Baptist Village as an associate, as Vice President of Administration & Advancement. My role is to be an ever faithful staff member, and an ambassador for this community that makes life better for senior adults and their families. Interestingly, my position is the only thing that has changed, for the story I tell of Baptist Village is the same – this is the best retirement and caregiving ministry of its kind.

A great part of the equation that led me to this position at Baptist Village, was that my doctoral dissertation (1994 Doctor of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) focused on the physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual adjustment necessary for retirement and aging. Preparing for retirement, potential long-term care needs, and aging sooner or later impacts all of us.

More than 60 years ago Georgia Baptist believed preparing for aging was important because they approved the start of a ministry with the primary focus to provide housing for senior citizens. After consideration of several locations, Waycross, GA was selected. In April, 1958, five residents came to live on the Waycross campus. The growth of Baptist Village from facilities accommodating five residents to facilities in three locations providing retirement living for over five hundred senior adults shows the continued commitment of Georgia Baptists to minister to the needs of God's "older children". The vision of Baptist Village Retirement Communities continues to be Serving God by Providing Excellence in Retirement Living.

As we celebrate 60 years of ministry Baptist Village has

been, and continues to be, in the business of *Providing quality housing and healthcare for senior adults, demonstrating the love of God through the care of His older children and doing so in a manner that honors God.* As we strive to make life better to Senior Adults and their families three ministry options are available depending on a resident's level of need: Independent Living offers homes and duplexes/villa (Waycross & Macon), Personal Care offers assistance in daily activities (all locations), and Skilled Nursing or Nursing Home Care where residents are under constant medical supervision, in need of assistance with daily living and are not capable of living independently (Waycross – J. Olan Jones Health Care Center).

In this confusing healthcare environment where the need for short-term rehabilitation is ever-increasing **many senior adults and their families are seeking caregiving they can trust in an environment where they are afforded the opportunity to attain an improved condition of physical function.**

The J. Olan Jones Health Care Center at Baptist Village offers rehabilitation services for a wide variety of health care needs—from accidents and injuries such as fractured hips and strokes—to elective surgeries like knee replacements, and other debilitating illnesses. Our entire rehabilitation team is committed to providing innovative techniques and individualized therapy to help each resident attain their highest functional ability. Our collaborative team is led by nurses; physical, occupational and speech therapists skilled in rehabilitation, orthopedic care and pain management.

The J. Olan Jones Health Care Center at Baptist Village also offers Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy Services. Occupational therapists help residents improve their ability to keep up activities of daily living. Physical therapists help residents reach their highest level of independent mobility, helping to prevent injury. Speech therapists assist patients achieve improved quality of life with communication ability. Admission for these therapy services is contingent on referral by a physician and evaluation by the therapist.

Continued on page 7

WHAT WE BELIEVE AS SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

Each month we focus on a different topic in the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM). You may obtain a copy of the BFM (in print or by email) by contacting our office.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

CHURCH SECRETARY WORKSHOP



This year's GBAMA (Georgia Baptist Association of Ministry Assistants and Secretaries) Conference is going to be held on St. Simons Island on April 19-20.

Get all the details here:

<https://gabaptist.org/event/gbama-2018/>

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONTINUED...

Along with Baptist Village Retirement Communities President/CEO, Delos Sharpton, our Board of Trustees, and all Baptist Village Associates, I want to thank Associational Missionary, Don Patterson, and all the churches of the Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association for your prayers and support. Baptist Village wants our community to know we're here to be of help. Who better for area Georgia Baptists to call when on in a time of need than a Georgia Baptist agency.

Dr. J. Eric Mathison
Baptist Village Retirement Communities
Phone: 912-283-1234
Email: emathison@gmail.com

advance 103

Advance 103 is a strategic initiative by IMB missionary teams to partner with Southern Baptists and national Baptist churches to engage 103 unreached people and places in the Americas and strategic global locations by 2020. The goal for 2018 is to engage 34 of the 103 people and places.

// Church Partnership Opportunities

There are two unique ways your church can partner in this initiative:

PRAY: Your church will become a prayer partner for a specific unreached people or place. You'll also support the church and IMB missionary team as they engage this group.

ENGAGE: Your church, in partnership with an IMB missionary team will take ownership of developing a comprehensive strategy plan to engage one of the 103 unreached people and places. This will include multiple short-term trips annually, a prayer strategy, evangelism, and discipleship that leads to the planting of healthy churches that reproduce.

Interested in learning more or exploring the 103 unreached peoples and places further? Take the next steps by choosing a group of people and places to explore and then starting a conversation with our church success team. Details online: <https://info.imb.org/advance103>



Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

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Phone (912) 285-8161, Fax (912) 816-4902

CALENDAR

April

- 26-9 LifeWay VBS Orders
- 1 Easter
- 8 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 9 Meal Reservation Deadline for VBS Clinic
- 12 VBS Clinic
- 17 Administrative Team Meeting
- 19-20 GBAMA Conference, St. Simons
- 20 Meal Reservation Deadline for S-Night
- 24 Pastor/Staff Prayer
- 26 S-Night

May

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 3 RSVP Deadline for The Gathering
- 6 Senior Adult Sunday
- 7 The Gathering
- 13 Mother's Day
- 15 Administrative Team Meeting
- 20-27 Associational Missions Emphasis Week
- 20 Piano Scholarship Audition
- 28 Memorial Day, office closed
- 29 Pastor/Staff Prayer

June

- 9 SBC Crossover
- 10-11 SBC Pastor's Conference
- 12-13 SBC, Dallas TX
- 17 Father's Day
- 19 Administrative Team Meeting
- 23 WMU Summer Brunch
- 24 Mission Dignity Sunday
- 26 Pastor/Staff Prayer



Celebrating in April

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Bryant Bishop—4
- Donna Murray—5
- Sarah Rozier—6
- Tim Corey—10
- Ben Smith—12
- Barbara Chase—19
- Ida Thrift—19
- Dana Smith—20
- Michelle Spears—21
- Adam Walker—21
- Tim Hall—26

Anniversaries

- Trent & Jimmy Nell Long—5



Download *The Associational Advisor* at pobaonline.com
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