

The Vision
Appalachee Baptist Association
“A Family of Churches on Mission”
June 2017 Newsletter

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:4-7)

The testimony of the Christian life is that even in the midst of trials, challenges, and unexpected circumstances, we can rejoice! The Apostle Paul was in prison as he wrote the letter to the church at Philippi. Yet it contains some of the most beautiful and encouraging passages in the Bible regarding our relationship to Jesus Christ and our relationship to each other. I am challenged to share with you today that we need each other in the Body Of Christ perhaps as much as any time in the history of the church. We need to encourage each other, we need to pray for each other, and we need to work together to reach an increasingly lost and hostile world with the Gospel.

Perhaps you have seen the results of the Annual Church Profile from 2016. Here is a quote from Baptist Press showing just what is happening in Southern Baptist Churches across the land: “Although the number of cooperating Southern Baptist congregations grew, reported membership of those churches declined by 77,786, down 0.51% to 15.2 million members. Average weekly worship attendance declined 6.75% to 5.2 million worshippers. Southern Baptist churches baptized 280,773 people in 2016, a 4.89% decline from the 295, 212 reported in 2015. The ratio of baptisms to total members was one baptism for every 54 members.”

The question being asked more often than any other in these days is: How can we reverse this decline and see kingdom growth in our churches and across our denomination? Can the churches in the Appalachee Association have a part in reversing this trend? If it happens it will be because we began to look beyond our personal agendas and preferences and seek with all our hearts to be obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be because we are willing to “seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness!” Some may say that numbers do not matter and those empty places in our sanctuaries do not matter. I simply remember the challenge of Jesus to His disciples: “Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.” The Gospel still works and people need the Lord!!!

I know that in many of our churches great things are happening and kingdom growth is taking place. At the same time I know that we still have a long way to go to reach Walton, Barrow, and Oconee counties with the Gospel. In this day we need each other—church to church; pastor to pastor; man to man, woman to woman—joining hearts and hands to fulfill our mission here on earth. This newsletter is simply a way to make you aware of opportunities to do just that!

Allen



GREAT REPORTS COMING IN AS VBS MAKES AN IMPACT!

What a great way to start the summer by reaching children and youth through Vacation Bible School. May the Lord continue to bless as these young people are taught about God’s love for them and His purpose for their lives. Please let our office know of how God has blessed your church this summer!

SUNDAY JULY 9 - 3:00 PM - CAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION FOR REV. DELAND ROBERTS.

Rev. Roberts has served in ministry for 41 years and has faithfully ministered to the Campton Baptist Church for the past few years. You are invited to attend this gathering to thank God for Rev. Roberts life and ministry . At the same time we will be acknowledging the presence of Tshaj Moo Baptist Church and Rev. Cha Yer Her as they will be worshipping at the Campton BC site in the years to come. Please come and join us for this very special occasion.

JULY 13 - 11:00 AM - PASTORS AND MINISTERS PRAYER TIME

**AUGUST 10 - 10:30 AM - FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR’S ROUNDTABLE**



MERGE 2017

JULY 29, 6:00PM,

MONROE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

APPALACHEE YOUTH UNITE

Theme: “Giving Hope to the Hopeless”



This is a student led youth event to prepare our youth for the upcoming school year and to equip them to share the gospel with their friends and classmates. Bill Jessup, former missionary to Iceland and staff of Global Youth Camps will give the message. Worship will be led by REVIVE WORSHIP from First Baptist Loganville. Start now encouraging your Middle and High School students to attend.



August 18 – 19 - GO Georgia: A Total Church Leadership Equippng Event Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta. Register at the following web site: <http://gogeorgia.net/>

August 28 - Common Thread Prayer Conference “Rebuilding the Foundations of Prayer”

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM with lunch provided.

Grace Baptist Church in Monroe.

This will be a special Prayer Conference with guests Mark Mirza, Dr. Gerald Harris, Dr. John Waters, and Rhon Carter.

**COMMON
THREAD
MINISTRIES**

September 7 - 11:00 AM - PASTORS AND MINISTERS PRAYER TIME
Join us for prayer, fellowship, and lunch as we seek the Lord’s favor on our ministries, our churches and our families.

September 26 - Church Revitalization Conference
“Flickering Lamps”

Prince Avenue Baptist Church

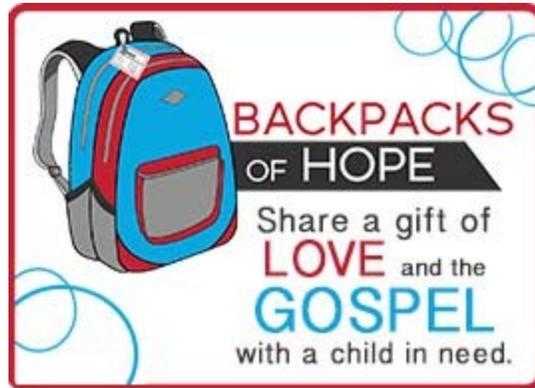
Schedule: 9:30 to 4:00.

\$10.00 Registration includes lunch. Led by Dr. Richard Blackaby and Dr. John Mark Clifton. Register at the following link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/55qj85>

Coming in October:

October 17 - Appalachian Association Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church in Social Circle. More information coming soon!

October 26 - Annual Pastor's Appreciation Banquet hosted by Women's Missionary Union. Great time of food, fellowship and blessing.



The churches in the Appalachian Association have been very generous the past three years in providing backpacks for the children in Appalachia. There has been a name change this year and this is explained below.

Q: Why did the name change to *Backpacks of Hope*?

A: Because this project is expanding to include other areas in addition to Appalachia. This year, the project expanded to include the children and youth in the most poverty stricken counties in Southwest Georgia.

Q: What's the goal for 2017 for Georgia Baptists?

A: **35,000!** We encourage you to set a goal for your church and/or association.

Q: What's the goal for 2017 for Appalachian Association Churches?

A: **600!** We encourage each church to set a goal for this year and our Association will adopt 2 or 3 locations in Appalachia to share backpacks and the Christmas Story with this year.

Full information and resources can be found at the following web site:

<http://missiongeorgia.org/backpacks-of-hope/>

Resources include bulletin inserts and flyers for your church as well as a guide on "How to Pack a Backpack." We look forward to another great year in ministering in Appalachia through **Backpacks of HOPE.**