

## Association to celebrate 175 years

The Appalachee Baptist Family of churches will celebrate 175 years at their annual fall meeting October 12th. The gala will be held at the Mars Hill Baptist church which itself is an historic organization having been established in 1799. The association executive committee will convene at 3 pm for a brief meeting prior to the 4:00 o'clock session of the annual association. It is the goal of meeting planners this year to conduct the entire business portion in the earlier session. Then following our fellowship meal, the entire evening will be for celebration.

Various historical vignettes will be introduced during the evening. A mass choir made up of several of our churches will present some of the classic old standard hymns of the faith as well as some of the newer favorites. Dr. Steve Parr, Evangelism and Sunday School/Small Group Vice President from the Georgia Baptist Convention will be our featured speaker. Freeman Creek Baptist Church, where the Appalachee Baptist Association was constituted, will bring a brief history during the celebration.

## Continuing Education Starts Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>



Appalachee Association has one of the longest continuous continuing education ministries in the convention. New classes will begin for the Fall Semester the first Tuesday in September.

Two courses will be offered. Dr. Donald Britt will teach a course titled "What is God Doing?" at the 7 p.m. session. The second session begins at 8 p.m. Rev. Ted Tedders will teach I Samuel. The cost is \$20 per course. Registration begins at 6:30 on the first class night.

## APPALACHEE HOSTS REGIONAL WMU LEADERSHIP MEETING



One hundred thirty-two people from seventeen churches represented by fourteen associational WMU organizations attended a regional leadership conference Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at Bethlehem First Baptist Church. Despite thunderstorms and gloomy weather the conference was first class in every way. Linda Buckalew, Northeast Georgia Area Missions Mobilizer planned the meeting along with other leaders from the various associations. As many as seventeen conferences were offered in two break-out sessions. Featured



speakers were Janet Hill, Judy Murray, Beth Ann Williams, and Elaine Brown.

## Ministry Center Facelift Nearing Completion

The offices of the Appalachian Baptist Association ministry center are taking on a new look, thanks to a host of hard working volunteers. Just a few more touch-up issues are to be done to the office portion and we are ready to concentrate on furnishings and window treatments. The large area where we hold classes in continuing education and many of our larger meetings, has served as “storage” while the offices were renovated. Our next move is to move out the stored and unwanted items from the large hall and prepare for the opening of the Continuing Education classes by September 7th. This redecorating-refurbishing project was more involved than anticipated. However, the outcome was also more pleasing.



There were so many volunteers we couldn't begin to name them all. Plans are being made to have a “grand opening” where we honor them properly and “show off” their work. This will be sometime this fall. There is still some work to be done, especially in the continuing education room which needs paint and the carpet cleaned.

In the process of refurbishing the office we created a work room, moved the administrative assistant to the front office, created a larger office with a conference space for the associational missionary, opened up another bathroom, created a pass-through window and counter in the kitchen to provide for food service, built new cabinets and rearranged the appliances.

We now have a library that is quiet and comfortable with reading tables, chairs, adequate space for research and preparation of church related programs. In reorganizing some of the volumes we discovered old documents and some volumes dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The library will also serve us well for small conferences and small team meetings.

Some of our immediate needs are seven round tables for dining, seventy chairs, window treatments and some office furnishings. It has been suggested that churches, or Sunday school classes, men's ministry groups, WMU groups or others might take responsibility for an office or an area's furnishings.

## Wading Through Molasses

*From Where I Sit*

*J. B. Graham*

Have you ever been waist deep in water and tried to wade fast? If so can you imagine what it would be like to do the same if you were waist deep in molasses? That seems to be the picture I get these days as a believer who tries to deal with the environment both in the secular community and in the Christian community.

We are continually reminded of the bad economy both by the media and within our own experiences. There is obvious political unrest within the national scene as well as locally.

We brag about our advanced technology and must admit that as a society we are becoming “technoids” who are devoid of wisdom. It seems to be the nation's responsibility now to protect us from ourselves. I am still incensed that in a dispute with a credit card the bank wouldn't talk to my wife without my permission.

Can you imagine school teachers or administrators changing kids' test scores? This was wrong, but understandable since federal money depends on the scores and teachers evaluations depend on them too.

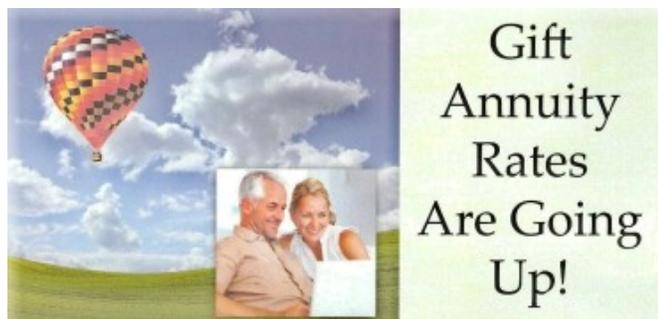
Last week a popular talk show host quit because she had been censored over language she apologized for. Evidently her first amendment rights didn't matter to the media group who went after her. Conservative Christians are accused of intolerance when they voice Scriptural truth, even in love, as being intolerant.

Dealing with this is like wading through molasses for hour upon hour through the day. Many times this results in the loss of passion and the subsequent silencing of the Christian message through the church. I am sure the twelve disciples

felt like they were wading through molasses when Jesus announced to them that he was going away (John 16:5), But all this changed later in verses 19 —22 when he assured them that their sorrow would turn to joy and rejoicing when “I [Jesus] see you again.” So be encouraged, my friend, and wade hard, there’s a great day of rejoicing coming!

**Here’s a stewardship idea worth notice!**

You’ve worked hard and been a good steward of your earnings and your blessings. So have you thought about what will happen to your church, your charities, or the Baptist Association after you are gone? Well, here’s an idea you may consider.



**Gift Annuity Rates Are Going Up!**

**(Gift Annuities = Fixed Payments At High Effective Rates)**

With a gift annuity, you make a gift to charity and receive benefits like fixed income with rates based on your age, a charitable deduction and possible tax-free income. The effective rate (total benefit) of your gift annuity is actually higher than most other types of payouts! Best of all, you receive benefits for making a gift to charity. For more information on the benefits of a gift annuity, call us or visit our website.

For more information call Doug Couch at 770-366-0815 or visit him at [www.gbfoundation.org](http://www.gbfoundation.org).

**New communication tool**



The Appalachian Baptist is a weekly news note that is sent out as an e-mail attachment from the Associational Ministry Center. We should say it is a “try-weekly” because we try to get it out every week. News that missed the newsletter and urgent items will be included. To receive this news sheet just call the office or e-mail your request to [jbgraham@appalachee.org](mailto:jbgraham@appalachee.org)

**School of Evangelism to be held at Hebron Baptist Church**

October 16, 2010 is the date of the 2010 School of Evangelism to be held at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula Georgia. The keynote worship leader is Dr. Emir Caner with special guest leader, Dr. Kenneth Hemphill. More than twenty small conferences are planned in two breakout sessions. Early Bird Registration is \$10 per person on or before October 13th. The registration fee includes continental breakfast, seminars, and conference materials. For ten or more persons from one church the church pays no more than \$100. For a single person registering at the door the cost is \$15. Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 am and conferences begin at 9. Georgia pastors, church staff, lay leadership, associational leaders, GBC leadership, Sunday School leaders as well as men’s/women’s ministry leadership should attend. You can register on line at [evan.gabaptist.org](http://evan.gabaptist.org) or call 770-936-5232 or 1-800-746-4422 (ext.232)

**School of Evangelism**

October 16, 2010

Hebron Baptist Church  
202 Hebron Church Road  
Dacula, GA 30019  
770.962.3671

Keynote Worship Leader: Emir Caner  
Special Guest Leader: Ken Hemphill

*The Vision* is published monthly except for **July & August**. The Vision's purpose is to inform, encourage and share the story of the Appalachian Baptist Association of churches. Please share your Church's noteworthy activities and news items. Information should be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. You can send information by e-mail at [administration@appalachee.org](mailto:administration@appalachee.org) or mail to Appalachian Baptist Association, P.O. Box 1064, Monroe, Ga. 30655. The Vision is mailed free by request. If you wish to receive it, simply contact us and give us your name, church and mailing address.

***The Vision***

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The Apostle Paul put it simply in  
I Thessalonians 5:25,  
“Brethren, pray for us.”

- ~ Campton Baptist  
Pastor Deland Roberts
- ~Center Hill Baptist-Loganville  
Pastor David Dills
- ~ Campton Baptist-Monroe  
Pastor Marion Prather
- ~ Connecting Baptist  
Pastor Tim Hunter
- ~Church at the Grove  
Pastor Russ Butcher

**AUGUST 2010**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> No Minister's Meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prayerwalk in ABA Association – TBA
- 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas in August/Church WMU
- 10<sup>th</sup> Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Associational Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
- 14<sup>th</sup> GASS Equipping Tour, NE Region, TBD (Athens Area)
- 21<sup>st</sup> GASS Equipping Tour, NE Region, TBD (Gainesville)
- 21<sup>st</sup> WMU Regional Traing-9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Bethlehem FBC

**SEPTEMBER 2010**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Labor Day – Office Closed
- 7<sup>th</sup> Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 17-18<sup>th</sup> Hearts Called to Pray Retreat – Camp Pinnacle  
Continuing Education-7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.-every Tuesday