

Appalachee Baptist Association  
"A Family of Churches"

## The Vision

"Where there is no vision, the people will perish" ~ Proverbs 29:18

Vol 13 – No. 1

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Associational Missionary

P. O. Box 1064  
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October & November 2010

## Appalachee Baptists Celebrate Sesqueseptcentennial



October 13<sup>th</sup> was certainly an annual meeting to remember and there was a lot of remembering taking place at the celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> year. The association which is among the early associations constituted in Georgia began as three churches met in the Freeman Creek Baptist Church. Two of the churches are no longer in our association, but Freeman Creek has remained to this day as a part of our family of churches. Rev. Ken Jennings recounted some of Freeman Creek's history in a video presentation to begin the evening session.



Demonstrating the association's commitment to God's Word three different presentations of the Bible were made at various places in the evening's program. The three bibles included in the processions and presentations were significant. One was an antique Bible printed in 1872 in London and presented first to Areta Graham by her brother as a gift. The others were Dr. Graham's first pulpit bible and his minister father's pulpit bible.



Historical vignettes were presented straight from the pages of ancient minutes of our association. Through these snippets of history we were able to share in the struggles and the victories of the past.

The New Life Ministries Baptist Church was unanimously received into full fellowship in our association. "It is significant that this annual meeting included the welcoming of a new church. This demonstrates not only celebrating our past but the fact that we are not dwelling there," commented one of our leaders. "This is in keeping with the theme for the evening: *Greater things shall you do.*"



Words like “incredible,” “fantastic,” “amazing,” and “Wow” were overheard to describe the mass choirs and their musical presentations. Worship leaders from several of our churches met together and planned the music. Thanks to Mike Sarratt, Mars Hill Baptist Church, Jeff Shaw from First Winder and Julian Sims from Social Circle First who presented the best from old standards to contemporary favorites. And a special thanks to the choir members of each of these churches.

Dr. Steve Parr, Vice President for evangelism and Sunday School brought a final challenge. His message dealt with the urgency



of doing what we were commissioned to do—reach people for Christ, especially youth. He pointed out the serious issues that face the churches today that youth are being lost to a secular society. “It is incumbent upon parents and grandparents to share Christ with your children and grandchildren,” he said.

In the photo children from First Baptist, Social Circle presented Dr. Pharr with a Bible and challenged him to “Preach the Word!” And that, he did!



The earlier business session was held at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. This session was also well attended and many significant decisions were made. The budget for the year 2010-2011 was presented and passed. The Constitution was changed to include the correct date for future annual meetings. For the past two years, the messengers had been setting aside the rules in order to accommodate the reporting process for the financial reports and program reports. With the new wording, we will be able to have a full year report rather than an eleven month report of finances.

The report of the associational missionary and the program directors were printed in a book of reports and simply referred to rather than taking the time for a verbal presentation. This is a departure from the traditional program of an annual meeting but helped us reserve the second session for celebration.



A new leadership team was elected during the afternoon session. Left to right are Dr. Jimmy Wilson who was elected moderator; Dr. James Brown, vice moderator, John Carroll, reelected treasurer and Rev. Don Malcom reelected clerk.

One other significant action was the employment of Reverend Eric Buffington as the Assistant Associational Missionary. Eric will continue as pastor of Bishop Baptist Church but will give one day per week to the association as he assists Dr. Graham. This is a significant and appropriate decision in that the association is growing and more activities and opportunities present themselves. Welcome to this new leadership role, Eric!

## Grace Baptist To Host Annual Bible Conference

Grace Baptist Church will be hosting their annual "Winter Bible Conference" Sunday, January 16-Wednesday, January 19, 2011. Services will begin at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday and at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Messages will be brought by Rev. Larry Wynn, Sunday; Rev. Danny Waters, Monday; Rev. Jeff Crook, Tuesday; and Rev. Frank Cox, Wednesday.

## Center Hill, Monroe Observes Margaret Cooper Day



Sunday October 3, 2010 found Margaret Cooper in her usual place, teaching her Sunday school class. This is where she has been for seventy-five years in the Center Hill Baptist Church. Representatives from the Georgia Baptist Convention, LifeWay Christian Resources and the Appalachian Baptist Association joined with



the Center Hill Church to honor Margaret for seventy-five years of continuous service as a faithful Sunday School Teacher. Shown here are the Sunday morning crowd of well-wishers, 3/4ths of which have been in one of Margaret's classes. Dr. Graham represented the Association by presenting Margaret a plaque commemorating her years of service. Close-knit as the Gratis Community and especially members of the Center Hill church are, the day was planned without Mrs. Cooper knowing. It was a total surprise to her until she received her Sunday



Bulletin with her picture printed on the front.

Family members and church leaders had worked tirelessly for weeks in planning for the occasion. Reverend Marion Prather and Mrs. Prather pose with Margaret following the noon fellowship meal. Margaret began her teaching career when she was seventeen.



*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 number.

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

- ~ East Side Baptist  
Pastor Darrell Gilmer
- ~Ebenezer Baptist  
Pastor Don Malcom
- ~ Faith Baptist  
Interim Pastor Daryel O’Barr
- ~ Fellowship Baptist  
Pastor Wilburn Hill
- ~Bethlehem First Baptist

- 14<sup>th</sup> Pre-Session worship-Ga. Baptist Conventions – Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, GA
- 15-16<sup>th</sup> Ga. Baptist Convention – Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, GA.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Men’s Ministry Meeting-Freeman Creek-7:00 p.m. Speaker Larry Dillard, State President, Gideon International.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Bi-vocational & retired minister’s & wives banquet – 6:30 p.m.
- 25-26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving – Office Closed
- 28/12-5 LMCO and Season of Prayer for International Mission  
Continuing Education-every Tuesday – 7-9:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2010**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Minister’s Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Associational Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
- 23/1-3 Christmas Holiday – Office Closed  
Continuing Education – every Tuesday – 7-9:00 p.m.