

The Vision

Of

The Appalachian Baptist Association

A family of churches on mission

P.O. Box 1064, 124 W. Spring St., Monroe, GA 30655

770-267-8278 - www.appalachee.org

Dr. J.B. Graham, Missionary-Rev. Eric Buffington, Associate Missionary
Virginia Mason, Administrative Assistant

Vol. 13 - No. 6

May 2011

HE IS NOT HERE FOR HE
IS RISEN AS HE SAID. GO
QUICKLY AND TELL...

Associational Spring Meeting to feature Church Planter Artist



Kerry Jackson, pictured here will be our featured speaker at the Spring Meeting of the Appalachian Baptist Association. The meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. at the Bold Springs Baptist Church. Rev. Jackson is ministering to

the art community in Atlanta through the establishment of a new church plant. He believes this is a way to reach a culture with the gospel who might be overlooked otherwise. The main purpose of our "Spring Meeting" is for worship and fellowship. Following the events of the evening we will have a "build your own ice cream Sundae" in the fellowship hall. Rev. James Bolton is the host pastor.



From Where I Sit

J. B. Graham

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

On Resurrection Sunday, April 24th, churches all across Christendom will celebrate our Lord's victory over sin and death. No other religion or philosophy can approach this dramatic historical event! Among other things the crowning difference is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are also some other marked differences we hold dear as His disciples. While other religions have some moral and ethical value, at best they are futile attempts to answer man's longing for God whom they do not know. There is something latent in man that searches for completion. It is the need for God's forgiveness lost in the Garden of Eden and individually demonstrated by man's inability to live righteously. For Christians the difference is that God loved and still loves sinful man and gave his unique and only Son (John 3:16). He was born of a virgin, divine and human and lived a sinless life. No other prophet or religious leader can claim either. He died a horrible, shameful death in our place. Other prophets have died for a cause. Their death was commendable, perhaps, but their followers must earn "salvation" through works. These "prophets" and founders of various religions died and are still dead and anybody can visit their graves. But not Jesus! He Rose Again, was seen by witnesses, ascended into Heaven and promised to return. Anybody can visit the place where they say He was buried, but if it is the right place even when you find it you will find an empty tomb. That's the difference!

Mission Center Hosts Associational

Bible Drill

More than sixty drillers (participants), parents, judges, Bible Drill Leaders and well wishers assembled at the associational office to participate in the associational Bible Drill. Pictured below are children drillers who won their associational medal and will go on to regional and hopefully state competition.



From Left to right in yellow shirts are: Maggie Dyer, Madison Griffith, Will Schramm, and Brady Parham from FBC Winder. Wearing green are: Emily Sanders, Ian Malcom, and Kyle Brannen from FBC Monroe. This is the first year of participation for Winder children. Monroe FBC has participated in the Bible Drill Program for several years. The Youth division was represented well. All were winners and prepared for the next level.



Pictured from left to right are: Mariah Sanders, Gloria Briscoe, Elizabeth Smith and Zach Ware from FBC Monroe. Some of the skills the drillers were required to demonstrate are: Locating the books of the bible in ten seconds, memorize 25 scripture verses and recall them. Youth drillers have only 8 seconds to locate books of the Bible and memorize thirty verses.

Appalachee Association Goes “Plastic” in Response to Georgia Baptist Children’s Home Ministry

Appalachee Baptist Association has been one of the top responders in the “truck loading ministry” for the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home for several years. Our family of churches has always graciously provided cartons of non perishable food. The Associational center has been the collecting point. **This Year is different!** While the truck loads will be welcomed from other associations we have been asked to provide Wal-Mart Gift Cards. This will help the children’s home purchase perishable food stuffs and other emergency items that the children need through a local Super Wal-Mart store.

Mission Groups, Youth Groups, Sunday School Classes and Churches may encourage individuals to purchase gift cards from Wal-Mart or collect money and designate someone to make the purchase. The mission center will begin receiving the cards on May 2nd and continue until Friday June 24th. The Mission Center will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 3:00 and on Friday from 8:00 to 12:00.

The gift card idea will provide more flexibility for the Children’s Homes and less back ache for us! Let’s respond in the generous tradition we have already established!

VOLENTEERS NEEDED

A volunteer to sort and organize some books and other materials in the media center. A volunteer to remove clutter that has collected over the years and paint the continuing education classroom.

Harmony Baptist Announces VBS

Harmony Baptist Church Monroe will hold their Vacation Bible School in the evenings beginning Sunday, June 5th through Friday, June 10th. Activities begin each evening at 6:30 P.M.



Men's Ministry Event Well Attended



Fifty Seven men from several churches in the Appalachian Baptist Association gathered at 7 p.m. at the Annie Mary Baptist Church for their quarterly Men's Ministry Meeting. The Men's Ministry (formerly Brotherhood) of the Annie Mary Church provided a dinner of Barbeque, Brunswick Stew and delicious deserts. During the program several men's groups reported on their ministries. Kenneth Jennings, Pastor of the Freeman Creek Baptist Church and Men's Ministry director for our association led in this discussion. Our speaker for the evening was Rev. Glen McCall, Men's Ministry specialist from the Georgia Baptist Convention. He emphasized the "Hank Parker and friends outdoor spectacular" planned for Saturday June 25th, Noon to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available on line at mens.gabaptist.org. The cost is \$10 per ticket. This is a family event which includes youth, children, and spouses. Drawing for prizes include a Ranger Z21 bass boat with a 250 mercury engine. A Honda 4-wheel ATV, and a one-week vacation getaway for two. The main reason for the event is to share the gospel with people who ordinarily would not come to a church house. Please pray for this event, buy tickets to give to your lost friends, and attend with them. McCall also shared some organizational principles regarding local church men's ministry structure and purpose.

Two Appalachian Association Churches in top hundred!

The Georgia Baptist Convention Sunday School & Open Group ministry has just completed research on the fastest growing Sunday Schools between the years 2007 and 2010.

According to Dr. Tim Smith the criteria for the research included net growth in average and percentage growth in attendance, net growth and percentage growth in enrollment, total baptisms, baptism ratio, worship attendance, and percentage gain in the number of Sunday School Classes.

The churches from our association that made the top 100 list were **First Baptist Church of Monroe** that ranked 12 in their category and the **Annie Mary Baptist Church**, ranking 3rd in theirs. Drs. Glen Money and James Brown have received letters of congratulations from the Georgia Baptist Convention and certificates of recognition.

We join the Georgia Baptist Convention in congratulating these churches, pastors and staff for a job well done!



SURVEY

This newsletter is available in two forms: Second Class Mail and Electronically. We are interested to know just how (what form) you prefer to receive the newsletter. If you do not wish to receive regular mailings through the post office, then you can access the information on our web page at www.appalachee.org. The trade off for electronic presentation through the web page is that it is delayed a few days before being posted. The reason we would like to know your preference is an economic one. The fewer pieces we mail the less it costs. If you have a preference please call Virginia Mason between 8:30 and 3:00 on week days.

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 21st of each month. You can send information by e-mail at 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

P. O. Box 1064

Monroe, Ga. 30655

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Monroe, Ga. 30655
Permit #19



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

~ Alcovy Mtn. Baptist
Pastor John King
~ Annie Mary Baptist
Pastor Buster Brown
~ Bethabara Baptist
Pastor Rob Bray
~ Bethel Baptist
Pastor Aaron Arledge

MAY 2011

3rd Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
17th Missions Development Team – 10:00 a.m.

JUNE 2011

7th Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
14th Budget & Finance Committee Meeting –
10:00 a.m.
14th Associational Council Meeting – 11:00
a.m.
21st Evangelism Team – 7:00 p.m.

JULY 2011

1 & 4th Office Closed for the 4th
13-16th BLUME, Orlando, FL.
21st Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
23rd ABA WMU Leadership Team Annual
Planning – 9:00 a.m.
30th WMU Assoc. Leader Training – Warner
Robins, Ga.

AUGUST 2011

2nd No Minister's Meeting
9th Budget & Finance Committee Meeting –
10:00 a.m.
9th Associational Council Meeting – 11:00
a.m.
16th Missions Development – 10:00 a.m.