

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

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September 2011

Faith Baptist Church to Host 176th Annual Meeting

Pastor Chris Conner and the Congregation of Faith Baptist Church 1789 GA Highway 11, Monroe, GA has graciously extended an invitation to the Appalachian Baptist Association to hold their 176th Annual Session. Associational leaders are working to complete plans for this meeting. Traditionally, the Executive Committee meets briefly at 3 P.M. and the general session begins at 4. The second session begins at 7:00 P.M. and ends at or before 9. Dinner is served between sessions. Please mark your calendars now for this associational event!

Continuing Education Classes Resume

Reverend Hoyt Johnson, Dean of the Continuing Education Program for the Appalachian Baptist Association announces the beginning of the new fall 2011 Semester at 7:00 P.M. September 6th. Dr. Donald Britt will teach a course on angels beginning at 7. Reverend Ted Tedders will teach II Samuel during the second half at 8. These courses are open to Sunday School teachers or anyone else who is interested in deeper Bible Study. Mrs. Carolyn Malcom is the registrar. Registration begins at 6:30 on the evening of the first class.



Dr. Graham Announces Retirement

In a written statement to the Executive Committee of the association, Dr. J. B. Graham announced his retirement effective at the close of the Annual meeting on October 11, 2011. The timing of this announcement was intentional so that there could be a seamless transition of leadership in the association. He stated that a milestone post of sixty years service in the ministry had been completed earlier this year and he felt that it was time to move toward younger leadership. Quoting the old saw that it is best to leave the party when you are having the most fun. Graham emphasized that this has been a joyous and productive four years.



A search team has already been formed and has met in an organizational meeting. Please pray for them as they begin the work of selecting a candidate for associational approval.

From Where I Sit

J.B. Graham

I heard this story years ago: A young boy approached an aged philosopher and held up his hand tightly clenching a small bird with the question, "What do I have in my hands?" "It is a bird, my son," he said. "Then sir," the boy said, "Is it alive or dead?" Whatever the reply the boy was planning to either release the bird to fly away or to crush it, making the old man's answer wrong. The wise old philosopher replied, "It is as you wish." As an associational missionary, I have the privilege of interviewing several people and reading countless resumes. I'm saddened by the number who are just waiting for any opportunity to come their way in any form. But I am encouraged that some believe they know exactly what God wants them to do. They have their dream and with the outcome of much of our work is as the philosopher said, "as we wish!" This is not because we can simply wish success or wish things into reality. It is because we work to make what we wish for to come true. Fulfilling our dreams may seem natural or effortless simply because we unwittingly are so committed to them, that they occupy our entire waking hours, or they may be fulfilled through arduous labor after several attempts. Either way it is far better to have dreams, to have wishes than to drift along without direction. With the Father's help we can realize our dreams.

Campton Gets Needed Repairs

A group of men from Bold Springs Baptist Church led by Reverend Roy Pierce provided a lot of loving labor to repair and replace windows, doors and other critical areas on the Campton Baptist Church.

Pastor Deland Roberts who recently has had a series of health problems is grateful for the assistance.

The Cheebtsheej Baptist Church meets in Campton's building also. The Hmong congregation Pastor, Zane Danny Her meets on Sunday afternoon. Some of the materials for the repairs were



provided by an anonymous donor through the association.

Two Pastors Face Surgery

Reverend Kenneth Jennings, pastor of Freeman Creek Baptist Church and Reverend James Bolton, pastor at Bold Springs Baptist Church recently experienced surgery. Brother Ken had expected surgery on his back due to an old injury. He reported the procedure went very well, but the follow-up was wearisome. He was told not to do anything for 12 weeks so that the damaged areas could heal.

But for brother Bolton his was a surprise, following an episode of pain on an emergency basis. After several tests he is minus one unhealthy gall bladder and feeling much better. Pray for them for a full recovery!

A Mission Saga

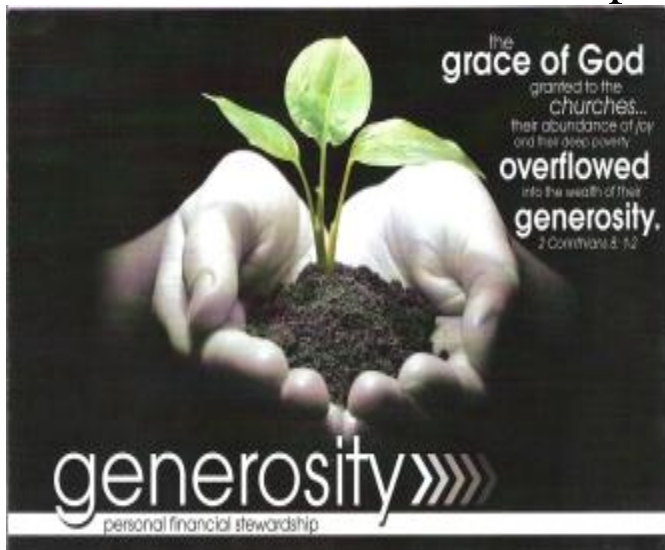
If you ever doubted the value of cooperative missions read this:

I was appointed a Home Missionary in 1966 as pastor-director. I was to pastor a church start and serve as an associational missionary. The wife of my volunteer worship leader was a Jewess who attended with him every Sunday. She experienced deep conviction every Sunday but wouldn't make a profession of faith. During the course of our experience there a boy was born to them named Mark. Areta and I visited with them often and attended social events with them as well. After a few years I was called to another assignment. I left there heavy hearted that Norma had not yet trusted Jesus. But we kept praying. Years passed and then we learned that she had been saved and joined the church. Praise The Lord!

More than two decades later (this summer) Areta and I attended the WMU meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas. Areta heard a missionary named Mark speak about his experiences in serving as a journeyman in Russia. Yes, it was baby Mark whose mother struggled so long with her decision to become a believer! Mark will be commissioned as a career International Missionary in mid September in Orlando.

Home missions planted, others watered, but God gave the increase. Support Cooperative Missions.

Association to Hold Third Conference on Stewardship



September 22nd is the date set for the third conference on personal stewardship. This is a date that every family should mark on their calendar. This conference is designed to help individuals and families with their personal management of money. This is a must for families during these economic times. Participants will learn what God's word says about money management. Even those families who are doing a fair job (not in crisis mode) of dealing with finances will benefit by attending.

The First Baptist Church, Monroe, will serve as host to the association. Dinner will be served first at 5:30 followed by two conferences. The featured speaker is Dr. Frank Page.

The title of this pilot project with the association and the Georgia Baptist Convention was selected from the bible passage in 2 Corinthians 8:12, *"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God granted to the churches of Macedonia, during a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity."* It is amazing how similar that passage about the churches of Macedonia and the church family of the Appalachian Baptist Association really is!

Both conferences will feature a free booklet for every family in attendance. The conferences and the materials are entitled, "Managing Your Money for the Master," led by Buck Burch; and "Unlimited: God's Grace and God's Glory," led by Dr. John Bryan. This conference will focus on how churches can plan wise stewardship emphases among members who are wise money managers. Both leaders are former missionaries and veteran church leaders.

Activities for the evening will begin with registration and dinner promptly at 5:30. After registering, participants will go directly through the buffet line for their meal. At 6:05 (or before) participants are to move to their assigned conference room for the first conference which will begin at 6:10. The second conference will be held from 6:50 to 7:30. Conferees remain in their room and the conference leaders will move. At 7:30 conferees will have a ten minute break. The general conference with Dr. Page will begin at 7:40 in the Fellowship hall.

Child Care for toddlers and pre-school children will be provided. Pre registration is required. Call the Association Mission Center at 770-267-8278 by September 14th. Parents are also asked to provide an appropriate snack for children with special diet needs.

You certainly will not want to miss hearing Dr. Frank Page. Dr. Page is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. As a beloved pastor and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he has a heart for God and His Kingdom work. His message will be inspiring and informative.



176TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE APPALACHEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 11TH @ FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH @ 4:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

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

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

- ~ Ceebtsheej Baptist
Pastor Danny Her
- ~ Center Hill-Loganville
Interim Pastor J.B. Graham
- ~ Center Hill - Monroe
Pastor Marion Prather
- ~ Connecting Point
Pastor Tim Hunter
- ~ Church at the Grove
Pastor Russ Butcher
- ~ East Side Baptist
Pastor Darrell Gilmer

AUGUST 2011

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 6th Minister's Meeting ó 12:00 p.m.
- 16th Hearts Called to Pray Retreat ó Camp Pinnacle
Continuing Education.-every Tuesday ó 7:00-9:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2011

- 3rd Minister's Meeting ó 12:00 p.m.
- 4th ABA/WMU Leadership Team ó 6:30 p.m.
- 8th Hearts United Ministry Day
- 11th 176th Annual Meeting ó 4:00 p.m.
(Executive Committee Meeting 3:00 p.m.)