

*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](http://www.appalachee.org)*

*Rev. Eric Buffington, Associational Missionary*  
*Virginia Mason, Administrative Assistant*

*Vol. 16 - No. 2*

*January, 2013*

*Walker Baptist*

*To Host Annual Senior Adult Revival*  
*February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM*

*VBS Preview*

*February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM*  
*Appalachee Association Office*

Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior!!

We pray that all had a great Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and that you are excited and looking forward, as we are at Walker Baptist, to what this new year will bring from the Father.

We, at Walker, will be holding our annual Senior Adult Revival on Wednesday and Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. This year our speaker will be Dr. Steve Parr from the Georgia Baptist Convention. Those of you that know Steve, know what a bold and exciting preacher of the Gospel he is. Please mark these dates on your planning calendar and be sure to be with us. Once again this year, we will have visiting choirs and serve a meal on Thursday for all in attendance.

We will mail out invitations the first of February to all the churches to get a count of those that will be in attendance for the meal on Thursday, February the 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking forward to hearing from you at that time.

God Bless you,

Gerald Malcolm,  
Director Senior Adults  
Walker Baptist Church

The 2013 VBS preview for Appalachee Association is set for February 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Association Office. Rick Stevens, a representative from your local LifeWay Christian Resources store will be with us to provide a preview of VBS material from LifeWay, Brentwood Kids, Gospel Light, Group and Standard publishing. You will have a chance to look over each listed and ask questions as you consider your options.

Each church will receive a post card from LifeWay with details about the preview in the next few days. In addition, an email was recently sent to our pastors and churches with the VBS 2013 Easy Order Form attached. If you use this form to order your material the Appalachee Association will receive a credit back from LifeWay based on the order amount, it is a great way to get the material you need for VBS and support the work of your Association at no additional cost to you!



**SEND ATLANTA UPDATE:  
Targeting 18 new church plants  
in the Appalachian Association in the  
next ten years!**

*By Eric Buffington*

On Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the five Georgia Baptist Associations that make up the Northeast cluster of Send Atlanta met to discuss strategic plans for church planting over the next 10 years.

As you may recall from the last newsletter, recently the North American Mission Board initiated a new church planting movement called SEND North America. SEND Atlanta is part of that movement. The SEND Atlanta region covers the 20 counties that comprise metropolitan Atlanta. The region was subsequently divided into 5 segments, one of which, the Northeast segment, includes the Appalachian Association.



After meeting with leaders of the SEND movement, the Georgia Baptist Convention, groups of our pastors & community leaders in our area, the need for a baseline of at least eighteen new church starts over the next ten years in the Appalachian Association was identified. I presented the resulting report containing this information to the Northeast Cluster meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

These new church starts include traditional church plants in the Anglo and African-American communities. Other needed

plants include Hispanic churches and other ethnic church starts, mobile home park ministries, intentionally multi-ethnic churches & house churches.

Although 18 new starts in 10 years may seem ambitious, in reality it is only the tip of the spear. As one church planting leader I met with stated, "We could put a dot anywhere on the map of the Appalachian Association for a needed new start." If this is true in our area right now and it is, imagine the needs that will surround us in 10 years.

As we continue on this venture, please be praying about how you and your church can be a part of these new works. Planting new churches will help us reach the lost, build the Kingdom and bring new energy to our existing congregations. God has given us a wonderful opportunity and it is our time for us to seize it!

***"The River" a Church Plant  
Of the Appalachian Association  
Experiences God's Blessing***

*By Eric Buffington*

On Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 'The River' took another leap forward. They launched a new 5:00 pm Sunday service and invited members of the core group to become charter members of the church family. I was excited to be at the service to worship with them as they celebrated this occasion.

Continue to pray for Brian & Joey Brock as the work to build this church plant. Brian has poured his life into getting this new work off the ground, using his leadership skills and musical talents in the process. His brother, Joey, has been beside him, delivering strong biblical preaching and guidance. God is blessing this work and I look forward to watching the church grow in Him.

In addition, I lift up prayers for and give thanks to God for the people of LifeSprings Baptist church for their willingness to share their facilities with this new church plant.

*Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Associational Mission Trip To  
Haiti is set for April 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>  
Are you ready for a mission adventure?*

The dates have been set for our next Associational mission trip with Haitian Christian Outreach (HCO) and there is still time for you to join us! So far, we have eight individuals from the churches of the Appalachian Association ready to go on this life-changing journey. I am praying that God will send us at least three more people. One of those could be you! The total cost for the trip will be \$1800 which includes airfare and all transportation, lodging & food while in Haiti. HCO is a wonderful organization that has evangelism at the heart of everything it does. Requirements for the trip are easy. You need to be 17 or older, in good physical shape overall, and ready to share the gospel with the Haitian people. We are looking for individuals with a heart to go on mission. If you have basic or advanced skills in construction, children's ministry or in a medical field that is a plus but not a necessity. If you are interested please contact the Association office and ask to speak to Eric, or you can call me at 770-540-6134. You can visit the website of Haitian Christian Outreach – [www.haitianchristian.org](http://www.haitianchristian.org) - to learn more about the organization and see pictures of their leadership and the areas of Haiti where they currently are engaged in mission activity.



*Enjoying the Diversity and Worship  
Of Our Appalachian Baptist  
Church Family  
By Eric Buffington*

Like many Associations, your Appalachian Baptist church family is diverse in many ways. We have churches old and young, large and small, contemporary and traditional, and the list could go on. The diversity is wonderful. However, the commitment to the Gospel that I am seeing and hearing as I visit our family of churches is the true delight. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, I was at Ebenezer Baptist in the morning and at The River that night. Each church has its own style but they share a common message centered on Jesus. It was a wonderful day that left me looking forward to the joys ahead as I visit with all of our Appalachian Baptist churches.



**Pastor Don Malcolm leading the choir at Ebenezer**



**Church Planter Brian Brock leading worship  
At The River**

*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.”

- ~Statham FBC  
Interim Pastor Steve Parr
- ~Summit Baptist  
Pastor Jody Hice
- ~ Walker Baptist  
Pastor Jeff Box
- ~ Watkinsville Memorial  
Pastor James Edwards
- “ Winder FBC  
Pastor John Talley
- “ Woodlake Baptist  
Pastor Jerry Grey

**January 2013**

- TBA Appalachee WMU Leadership Meet
- 8 Budget & Finance Meeting  
Office 10:00 am
- 8 Associational Council Meeting  
Office 11:00 am
- 8 Mission Development Team  
Office 2:00 pm
- 10 Executive Committee Meeting  
Office 7:00 pm
- 24-26 Selah Retreat For Leaders of Women  
Pinnacle Retreat Center  
Continuing Education-every Tuesday  
7:00-9:00 pm

**February 2013**

- TBA Lobby Day for CSEC-GA State Capital
- 2 Sisters Who Care Summit-TBA
- 5 Minister's Meeting - 11:00 am
- 5 VBS Preview Lifeway-Assoc.Office
- 11-17 Focus on WMU Week  
Association Churches  
Children Ministry Day  
Association Churches  
Continuing Education-every Tuesday  
7:00-9:00 pm