

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

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

Vol. 16 –No. 3

March 2013

***Bethlehem FBC:
Experiencing God's Blessing***

I recently had the opportunity to sit and talk with Jason Britt, Pastor of Bethlehem FBC. After that discussion, I asked Jason to send the Association a brief description of what has taken place over the last 18 months in that church body. That description follows:

Bethlehem FBC has been a happening place in this past season. Our rich heritage and vision for influence in our community has led the church to undergo many changes over the last 18 months in order to be poised to carry the Gospel forward in our ever growing and ever changing community. The mission of the church is "to bring glory to God by leading people to discover the life they were intended to live." Fueled by the story Jesus tells of the Prodigal Son, Bethlehem desires to be a place that has the heart of the father. Our desire is to be a place of "younger brothers." When the "younger brother" came to his senses, the father was there with open arms welcoming him back into fellowship. Our heart is to display that love to people in whatever stage of life they are in or whatever spiritual roots they have.

Bethlehem FBC believes wholeheartedly that we are missionaries in our world, right here in Barrow County. The location of the church has given us a regional draw. Being located at Hwy 316 and Hwy 11 intersection God is bringing together people from Barrow, Walton, and Gwinnett Counties weekly. The church has undergone a major renovation project by

transitioning unused education space into state of the art children's ministry space. The sanctuary and lobby areas have undergone changes that allow more people to engage in the ministry as well. The church in January of 2013 began a third service as well. Our worship times are 8:30, 9:45, and 11:15 am. Each week more than 1,000 adults and children attend on Sundays.



***Appalachee Baptist Association
Spring Meeting
May 2nd, 7:00 at Bethlehem Church***

The Spring Annual Session of the Appalachee Baptist Association will have a new focus this year. Our theme is 'Future Generations'. Our prayer for the evening is that God will fill the Bethlehem church with people of all ages filled with a desire to see the gospel go forward to the Glory of God. Brian Widmer, Youth Pastor at Walker Baptist, Christian Learning Center teacher and leader of Athletic Impact Ministries will be speaking. Please extend a special invitation to youth, college & young adult groups to be with us at the event.

***Appalachee Baptist Association
WMU Spring Mission Celebration
Sat., March 16th at Harmony Baptist***

Appalachee Baptist Association WMU extends to you an invitation to their Spring Mission Celebration – ‘New Beginnings’. The event will be held at Harmony Baptist church in Monroe, GA from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on March 16th. Registration and Prayer Time will begin at 8:30 AM. Guest speakers will be Maryam Rostampur and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. Born in Iran to Muslim families, these women are now devout Christians. You will want to hear their testimony, which includes a period of 259 days of imprisonment in Iran for believing in Christ and sharing their faith. In addition, there will be breakout sessions where you can learn more about WMU opportunities. The registration fee for the event is \$10.00 per person and includes a Chick-Fil-A lunch. You can register by email at TUCKERVP@Yahoo.com or come by the Association office to pick up a registration form. When registering by email please include your name, church affiliation, phone number, number registering and each person’s choice of an original chicken sandwich or garden salad. Make checks payable to Appalachee Baptist Association WMU and mail to Vivian Tucker, 630 Frost Road, Monroe GA, 30655. Please register by March 10.

***Walker Baptist to host the GBC
2013 Sunday School Training Workshop
On August 3rd, 2013***

It’s time to get your calendar and set aside Saturday, August 3rd for the 2013 Sunday School Training Workshop sponsored by the GBC and Appalachee Association. There will breakout sessions for preschool, children, youth, adults, pastors and Sunday School directors at the event. Early registration is \$10 per person and can be completed online at sssg.gabaptist.org or through registration forms available on that website. If you have any questions please call the Association office. Also, be on the lookout for more information here, by email & snail mail.

***Alcovy Mountain Baptist to
Host Revival March 10th to 13th***

Everyone is invited to join Alcovy Mountain Baptist Church for their upcoming revival. Services will begin at 6:00 PM on Sunday and 7:00 PM during the week. Evangelist Bill Saye will be preaching a message of repentance, forgiveness and restoration found only in Jesus. His testimony is a witness to these powerful truths. He was saved from a life of crime, violence, drugs and illegal wealth while in jail by reading from a Gideon New Testament taken from the chapel. According an August 16, 2001 an Alabama Baptist newspaper article. Saye likes to say “That Testament is the last thing I ever stole.”

***It’s Time for the FISH 4 KIDS
Annual Golf Tournament***

The Annual ‘FISH 4 Kids Stone Mountain Pecan Golf Tournament’ is planned for Tuesday, June 4th, 2013, beginning at 9:30 am at The Providence Golf Club. FISH helps families in need and is sponsored by 53 Christian churches in Walton County. The purpose of the golf tournament is to raise money to help provide meals for underprivileged children in Walton County. These children receive daily meals at school and FISH fills the void during the summer, serving more than 2,000 daily sack lunches. This early heads up is to offer affordable & tax deductible sponsorship opportunities as FISH operates as a non-profit with 501 (c) 3 status.

Registration is \$75 per person with sponsorship opportunities for teams of four at:

\$400 – Community Sponsors / Team & Hole Ad

\$600 – Presenting Sponsor / Sponsors 10 kids

\$1200 – In Name Sponsor / Sponsors 20 kids.

For More Information call:

Aaron Arledge at **770-280-7811**

Please make check out to **FISH 4 KIDS.**

And return your registration by May 10th, 2013

**To FISH 4 KIDS * P.O. Box 1838
Monroe, GA 3065**

All golfers will receive Lunch and Goody Bags!

***SEND Atlanta Launch Celebration
Set for March 21st at 10:00 AM***

The reports are all in and the maps are completed for the start of the SEND Atlanta church planting movement. It is time to have a launch celebration and you are invited to join us for that event on March 21st at 10:00 AM at Clairmont Hills Baptist church in Decatur, GA. People will be gathering from all four of the SEND Atlanta regions. With 612 SEND church planting sites identified for the next 10 years and 1,800 sponsors needed for those sites, SEND Atlanta will need the full cooperation of all our Atlanta area SBC churches. Please join us in praying that God will bless this effort to penetrate the overwhelming lostness in the Metro-Atlanta area. Also be in prayer that God will bless all of the SEND Atlanta partners: SBC, NAMB, GBC, local Associations, local churches and church planters as they work together on mission. To God alone be the glory!

***UPDATE on the Haiti Mission
Journey of the Appalachian Baptist
Association – April 20th to 27th***

Prayer will be the key to success for our upcoming Associational mission trip to Haiti. Please set aside a special time over the next few weeks to lift up those going on this trip and the people of Haiti living in the village of Perado. Ten people, a mix of young and mature believers, from three of your sister Association churches will leave out on Saturday morning April 20th for this mission journey. It will be a life changing event for those on the trip and hopefully for those in Haiti to whom we will reach out to with the message of the Gospel. While in Haiti, we will be joining the work of Haitian Christian Outreach. Our team will be engaging in various mission activities including children's ministry, medical missions, construction, and evangelism as a part of everything we do. A trip highlight will be the worshipping with the people of Perado. We believe God is going to richly bless our journey.

***Prayer Request for Our Association
Churches Searching for Pastors***

Rev. John King, Pastor of Alcovy Mountain recently announced his retirement after nearly a decade of wonderful ministry to that church family. Easter Sunday will be his last service as pastor of the church. Also, Rev. Jim Bolton recently let the folks at Bold Springs know that he was planning on retiring. Rev. Bolton has served that church family with excellence during his years as pastor. Both Rev. King & Rev. Bolton will be deeply missed by the congregations to whom they have ministered. Lift up these churches and the additional five churches in our Appalachian Association that are searching for either interim pastors or pastors.

***BCM Mission Team From
Georgia Perimeter College to work
at Conestoga MHP on March 6th***

God is continuing to bless your ministry at the Conestoga Mobile Home Park. Recently, the Georgia Baptist Convention provided \$2000 from the World Hunger Relief Fund for use in feeding the people in the Conestoga MHP. On March 6th a team of students from the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at the Georgia Perimeter College campus in Social Circle, will be at the park for a day of ministry and mission.

***A Quick Note from your
Associational Missionary***

As you can see from this edition of the Vision, the days ahead will be filled with ministry events in our association and community. God is on the move in our Association. For this, I am thankful. Many of our churches are being richly blessed; our Association is growing closer and we have seen a steady increase in giving to the Association. During January and February I had the opportunity to attend several training events with more in the month ahead. I am thankful for all of these blessings and lift all the praise to God.

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.”

~Alcovy Mtn. Baptist
Pastor John King
~Annie Mary Baptist
Pastor Buster Brown
~Bethabara Baptist
Pastor Rob Bray
~Bethel Baptist
Interim Pastor Frank Johnson
~Bethlehem FBC
Pastor Jason Britt
~Bishop Baptist
Interim Pastor Parrish Myers

March 2013

3-10 Week of Prayer for NAMB-Association Churches
5 Minister's Meeting-Office-11:00 am
16 Appalachian WMU/WEM Spring Meeting TBA
15-16 Journey-Acteens-TBA-GA WMU
30-31 Office Closed for Easter
Continuing Education-every Tuesday
7:00-9:00 pm

April 2013

2 Minister's Meeting-Office-11:00 am
9 Budget & Finance Meeting-Office
10:00 am
9 Associational Council Meeting
Office-11:00 am
9 Mission Development Meeting
Office- 2:00 pm
11 Executive Committee Meeting
Office-7:00 pm
14 Associational Bible Drill-Monroe FBC
2:00 pm
19-20 GA Women's Spring Event-Callaway
Gardens-(WMU Mission Encounter)
25 ABA Spring Meeting-Bethlehem FBC
TBA Appalachian WMU Leadership Team