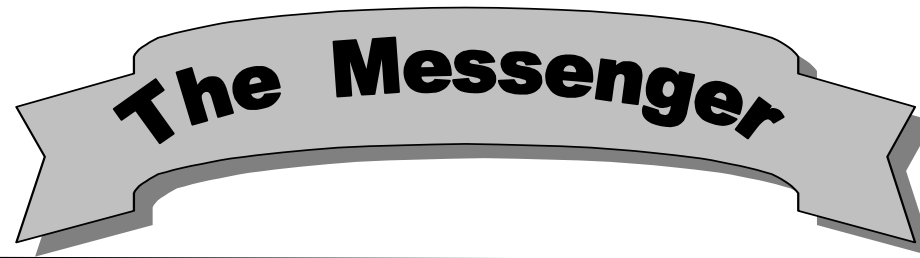


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December 9, 2021



Dr. Stan Albright,
Director of Missions
Linda Cotton, Ministry Assistant
Danny Cotton,
Financial Ministry Assistant

Associational Prayer Requests

Please pray for these churches that are without a pastor. Also pray for their Pastor Search Committee:

Brecon FBC, Chandler Springs, Dry Valley, Mignon, Mt. Ida, Plainview, and Union Springs

Churches with Interim Pastors:

Bemiston: Rev. Jerry Colquett
Cartersville: Rev. Harold Bannister
Oldfield: Rev. Danny Cotton
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel

Rev. David Turner, pastor of Village Street, as he continues to battle an ongoing medical condition.

News from our Churches

Mignon: Rev. Brian Hibbs has resigned as Youth Pastor at Mignon. Pray for Brian and his family during the transition period.

Worship Leader Needed

Odena Baptist Church is seeking a Bivocational Music and Worship Leader to worship and rehearsals for weekly services.

Interested persons should contact Pastor Wesley Johnson (256-493-9575) or Guy Tetreau (Chairman, Personnel Committee) at 985-707-4805.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:
Dec 9-Billy Lipham, Patton Chapel
Dec 11-Peggy Wood, Fayetteville
Dec 13-Sissy Johnson, Munford
Dec 14-Janis Murner, Brecon FBC; Bridgett Milliken, Hepzibah
Dec 16-Josh Henderson, Southside
Dec 17-Kendra Ricks, Shelvin Rock; Vera Calhoun, Central
Dec 18-Kyle Paris, Hepzibah; Dinah Sparks, Stemley
Dec 19-Angie Smith, Munford; Ethan Files, Immanuel; Ashlyn Spates, Mt. Sharon; Alan Powell, Chandler Springs
Dec 20-Rick Patrick, Sylacauga FBC; Scott Limbaugh, Ridgeview
Dec 21-Rickey Mullins, Stemley
Dec 22-Paula Johnson, Odena

As we enter into the Christmas season, this is a good time to ask the question, "What is the church to be doing during these unusual and difficult days? The answer is simple . . . the church should be giving people true hope that sustains them in all circumstances. The church is not to echo the despair of secular society but strive to communicate a message that uplifts and instills hope in their community. You might ask, "How is this to be done?" By proclaiming the grace of God in the forgiveness of sin . . . by introducing the victory of Christ over the defeat of sin. The Bible is a book of hope based on the victorious Christ in His defeat of death and the glory of His resurrection. Jesus is alive and offers eternal salvation and hope for all peoples! This is the answer to the disappointments of these days . . . this

Merry Christ-mas

is the solution to tragedies of life . . . this is hope that will see us through and give us victory in every situation.

Bob Pearle in his book *The Vanishing Church* states, "When Christian churches are faithful in loving people and in proclaiming the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, we will be able to observe a transformation in people. The gospel not only is a powerful witness but is able to rebuild hope in a person's life — hope that liberal theology has stripped from many of our churches."

Wherever Jesus traveled He ministered to all people, and the church must do likewise. People are hurting, marriages are falling apart, violence is growing, addictions are prevalent. Each of these and more, brings discouragement and hopelessness among many in our

communities. It is the Christian church that holds the key to hope for each and every situation — the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

During this Christmas season, seek to give the "Gift of Life" to those in your community who have never heard . . . seek to display the loving hands of Christ to those in need . . . seek to make Christmas ("Christ" "mass" - the worship of Christ) truly about honoring, loving, exemplifying, the authenticity of the true purpose of Christ. Let all you do be an act of worship to the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas! Merry "Christ-worship!"

Blessings,
Stan

Winter Warm Up!

Eastaboga Baptist Church will hold a Winter Warm Up! on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11. It is a free winter clothes give away to anyone who needs them. Hours are Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and Saturday from 8 to 11 AM.

Do you have any clothing that you would like to contribute? Contact the church at 256-831-6449 for instructions on donating. Rev. Jeremy Tuiolosega is the pastor at Eastaboga.

Bivocational Minister/Spouse Retreat

This is a two-day, overnight retreat at Shocco Springs for Bivocational ministers and their spouses. The aim is to promote fellowship, provide guidance and give encouragement and inspiration. This event is sponsored by the Alabama Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

Sessions are held for both the minister and spouses. Contact Ken Allen, in the office of LeaderCare and Church Health, at 334-613-2210 for more information. He may be reached via email at kallen@alsbom.org.

D-Now Weekend

A weekend of discipleship training is being planned for March 11-12 at Shocco Springs for youth in grades 6-12. The reservation deadline is January 30. For more information contact Zack Newsome at 256-519-1286.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee manages the business of the association during the year. It is composed of the pastors of the churches, association officers and an elected lay person from each church.

The committee will meet on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at the association office at 6 PM. Financial reports from the fourth quarter will be examined and reports heard from all ministry teams. All committee members should add this meeting to their calendar and attend if possible.

Christmas Events at Talladega Creek

Talladega Creek Baptist Church will host two events on Saturday, December 18.

The **Children's Christmas Play** will begin at 2 PM. A **Nativity Petting Zoo** will take place from 3 - 5 PM.

The Nativity Petting Zoo will provide an opportunity to interact with about 10 nativity-themed farm animals managed by a team of shepherds. Come contemplate the scene of Jesus' birth over 2000 years ago! This special



time will include a hot cocoa bar, sweet treats, games, gift drawings, Christmas music, and more.

Brother John Monteith is the pastor of Talladega Creek.

Bulletin Board

December 10-11

Winter Warm Up! at Eastaboga Baptist Church

December 18

Children's Christmas Play and Petting Zoo at Talladega Creek

December 23-January 2

Coosa River offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday

January 20

Executive Committee Meeting

February 18-19

Bivocational Minister & Spouse retreat at Shocco Springs

March 5

Minister Wives Fellowship

March 11-12

D-Now Weekend at Shocco Springs for all youth in grades 6-12

Publication Deadline

The Messenger is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Do you have an announcement or event that you would like to have covered in an upcoming edition of *The Messenger*? Contact Linda at the Coosa River office by the **first or third Monday** of each month. Phone: (256) 362-7173 Fax: (256) 268-8803 E-mail: lcotton@crba.org