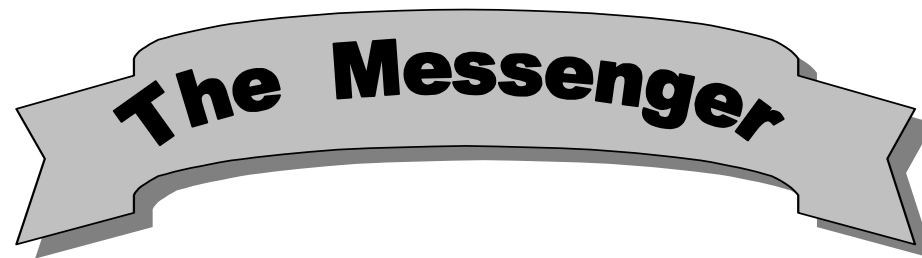


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December 23, 2021



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.

Pray for **Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois** areas that were devastated by tornadoes earlier this month. Pray for the families that lost their homes and loved ones during this Christmas season.

Worship Leader Needed

Odena Baptist Church is seeking a Bivocational Music and Worship Leader. This person will provide the leadership to ensure the Choir and other Church resources enhance the quality of our worship and create a loving, enthusiastic and vibrant experience of praise to our Lord. The Music and Worship Leader will lead rehearsals for weekly services including Sunday morning, possibly Sunday and Wednesday evenings and special events. 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 24-Vickie Fain, Dry Valley
Dec 26-Necie Hazel, Dry Valley
Dec 27-Judy Maness, Russell Chapel
Jan 3-Linda Brazier, Oldfield
Jan 4-Randy Martin, New Hope
Jan 5-Jacky Morgan, Blue Eye
Jan 6-Peggy Freeman, Brecon FBC; Tiffany Gill, Munford
Jan 7-Nelda Vogel, Rocky Mount
Jan 8-Heriberto Villagrana, Plainview
Jan 10-Rachel Crowe, Hepzibah
Jan 11-Stephanie Roberson, Mt. Vernon; Marie Cardwell, Mountain View
Jan 12-David Turner, Village Street

Christmas is a very special time for people all across the world. Most every culture has their special ways to celebrate this festive occasion. Some will decorate trees, use lights of many various forms, eat way too much delicious food, conduct celebrations with singing and fireworks and football games, and give gifts to their friends and loved ones. The tragedy of these happy times is that most do it in fulfillment of personal rewards or even selfish gratifications.

Unfortunately, even various Christian cultures, will celebrate looking at a ceramic baby in a manger with porcelain statues of stoic on-lookers with little regard to the incredible significance of this blessed event. Their joy is not

The Reason for the Season

found in the fulfilled promise of a covenant-making God who has come to this earth in human form. They do not understand the magnitude of this unusual action to demonstrate the guarantee of eternal and unconditional love to all who would place their faith in Him.

My point is not to discourage us from gathering with family, giving heart-felt gifts, and eating till we are about to pop! The Lord desires us to be joyous people. My point is to ask “for whom” or “for what” do we truly celebrate this blessed season?

The word “Christmas” is made from two Latin words . . . “CHRIST” meaning “Messiah - the anointed One of God” and, “MASS” meaning “celebration of

communion.” So, the word “Christmas” means the “celebration of the Messiah, the anointed One of God, by remembering His sacrifice for our sins through communion.” WOW! There is so much more that could be said but let me simply encourage each of us this holiday season, in the middle of all our “different” celebrations, let us not forget the authenticity of the purpose of why we gather this Christmas.

Jesus Christ is truly the Reason for the Season!

Merry “CHRIST” “MASS”!
Stan

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.

Minister Wives Fellowship

Beginning in 2022 our Minister Wives Fellowship will begin meeting every other month. All ministry wives are encouraged to attend this time of Bible Study and fellowship.

Our schedule of speakers for the next few meetings will be:

January 22-Courtney Newsome

March 5-Joanie Albright

All meetings will be held at the Coosa River Association office on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM. Please invite other ministry wives to join us for this wonderful fellowship.

Merry Christmas

The Coosa River staff wishes that all of our churches would have a blessed Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

Dr. Stan Albright
Linda Cotton
Danny Cotton

Holiday Office Hours

The Coosa River office will be closed **December 23 through January 2, 2022** so that our staff may celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families. We look forward to serving with you in 2022!

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, 2022 at Shocco Springs for youth in grades 6-12. The topic will focus on the Grace of God through the life of Noah.

The cost is \$100 per student which includes lodging and meals. The reservation deadline is January 30. For more information contact Zack Newsome at 256-519-1286 or via email at zack@marblecitybaptist.com.

Bulletin Board

December 23-January 2

Coosa River offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday

January 9

WMU Leadership Team meeting –2 PM

January 10

Financial Team meeting at Coosa River office at 1 PM

January 20

Executive Committee Meeting

January 22

Minister Wives Fellowship

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