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UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT

September 20, 2018

Watchword

“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for Him is worthwhile.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, CEV)

REPORTS OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Planning Meeting

Four members of our associational WMU Leadership Team met on June 23rd for our annual planning. Anne Churchwell introduced the new emphasis theme, “UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT” and this served as our devotional. We rejoiced over what was accomplished during the last year and laid plans for the new year. Delicious salads were shared as we fellowshiped after the meeting.

Special VBS Project

In July, a mission team from Huntsville came to Talladega and served with CrossPointe members to conduct VBS in two local parks. ChristPoint Community Church and Mt. Sharon each provided lunch for them. Also, we were blessed to have Burger King, Jacks and Custom Pizza help with lunches!

Pounding for Oxford Children’s Home

It has been a tradition for many years for our association to provide cleaning products and school supplies for the Oxford Friendship House Children’s Home. This year, this location was blessed to receive most needed cleaning products from another source. We were asked to concentrate on school supplies. Pat McCutchen and Anne Churchwell, from Mt. Sharon, served as our delivery service! In addition to supplies, \$300 was donated. Members of these 16 churches participated in the project this year: Bon Air, Cragdale, Five Points, Lincoln, Marble City, Mt. Sharon, Mt. Vernon, New Hope, Oak Grove First, Odena, Oldfield, Shelvin Rock, Sylavon, Talladega First, and Trinity. Thanks to each one who shared; you blessed a lot of children!

EQUIP ... for Missions, for Ministry, for Life

God richly blessed all attendees at this event in late July! We experienced corporate worship, meaningful Bible study, and special emphasis conferences. A highlight of Equip was the launching of a new missions opportunity called **Pakistan Prayer**. The prayer initiative is called **10.1@1**. Starting October 1, 2018 at 1 pm and the days following, participants will receive texted prayer prompts for a full year. To be a part of this journey of faith, text **PakistanPrayer** to 555888.

Nearly 200,000 million people live in this area of the world and only 3% are considered Christian with many of those identified as “cultural Christians.” The need is great! Pray!

School Prayerwalk

Our children are most precious to us and we want to keep a hedge of God’s protection around them at all times! This is one reason we hold an annual Prayerwalk at each public school in Talladega County. Churches reporting number of participants were: Lincoln, Fayetteville, Russell Chapel, Mt. Sharon, Sylavon, Village Street, Talladega First, Central, Talladega Creek, Bemiston, Childersburg First, Pleasant Grove, Calvary, Immanuel, ChristPoint, Tallasahatchie First, and New Hope. Per your reports, 187 participated! Please keep our schools in your prayers!

ENHANCE Training

Pat Ingram from Alabama WMU, who is well loved and highly respected by many in our association, led a training session for adult leaders. Training for children’s leaders was led by Crystal Pomeroy and Lisa Compher. Thanks

to WMU Director Peggy Smith, Pastor Cal McIntire, and all others at Mt. Olive for hosting this event and for the delicious refreshments enjoyed by the 23 who attended.

BNF Greeters

Members of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship from around the US arrived at Shocco on September 7th for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth. Greeting them were Linda Cotton, Jan Floyd, Pat McCutchen and Anne Churchwell. BNF was celebrating their 35th birthday and each attendee received a goody bag of chocolates from these greeters. Our own Charlene Cleveland was among members present and Tommy Strickland, Pastor at Ridgeview, served as worship leader all weekend and as speaker for their Sunday morning worship time. All of us felt so appreciated!

Women on Mission Meeting

Theme for this September 10th meeting was “Prayer As A Lifestyle.” Trish Jackson from Alabama WMU was our special speaker and used great Bible examples to challenge us to better incorporate prayer as a vital part of daily life.

The event was hosted by Mt. Sharon. Pastor Mike Johnson welcomed everyone and led our opening prayer. Linda Cotton made announcements and Pat McCutchen shared our missionary prayer calendar and our Week of Prayer for State Missions Day 2 emphasis. We were blessed as Janice Byars sang **Daystar**, a beautiful prayer in song, just before Trish brought our message.

Lisa Compher challenged us to participate in the back-pack project. She is quite a bargain hunter and brought along 52 bargain-priced backpacks! These were quickly purchased by some who left with a renewed excitement to provide for children served by Mississippi River Ministries.

We are pleased to report this was a well attended meeting, with 41 from 12 different churches represented. An offering totaling \$145 was received and designated for the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering.

Thanks to all at Mt. Sharon for the delicious refreshments and for hosting this event!

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

According to the 2017 Annual Church Profile, these Coosa River Association churches gave a total of \$26,263 to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering: Bon Air, Central, Childersburg First, ChristPoint Community, Cragdale, Dry Valley, Fayetteville, Five Points, Hepzibah, Jenifer, Lincoln, Marble City, Mignon, Mt. Sharon, Mt. Vernon, New Hope, Oak Grove First, Odena, Patton Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Providence, Ridgeview, Russell Chapel, Shiloh, Stockdale, Sylacauga First, Sylavon, Talladega First, Tallasahatchie First, Trinity, Village Street, and Westside.

Sylacauga First is listed among the top 50 churches giving to this offering in 2017.

We have just completed our Week of Prayer for State Missions. This offering supports five different ministries, among which is Disaster Relief. People whose lives are disrupted by hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters are so blessed when our yellow-shirted volunteers are there to lend a helping hand! Last year, Alabama Baptists gave \$1,142,514.61 to this offering, plus another \$500,000 designated for Disaster Relief.

State-wide goal for 2018 is \$1 million! As we each pray and seek God’s direction, we will exceed this and reach that hallelujah goal of \$1.25 million!

Tea Party for Marion Aldridge

Childersburg’s Circle of Love went all out to honor Marion Aldridge with a tea party on September 11th. Marion has been leading this circle for many years and is well loved by all, but has moved out of the area. Three different courses of food were served by ladies wearing black aprons. All sorts of flavored teas were available for each guest to enjoy. The room was decorated with, you guessed it, tea pots of every

color, size, and description! Guests brought monetary gifts and placed them on a cute money tree! And, to top it off, members brought gifts for Sylacauga’s Resources for Women! Several expressed their appreciation and love for Marion, including Pastor Skip Parvin, who happened to be the only man in attendance!

COMING EVENTS

Christmas Backpacks

This is the fourth year our association has participated in this ministry by providing backpacks for the poverty-stricken in eight states along the Mississippi Delta. Our goal is 200 and we should be able to easily reach this number!

Coosa River Association is participating in an even bigger way this year by serving as the collection site for churches in District 3. Collection week is October 29th to November 3rd. Hours of collection:

Monday: 1-7 pm

Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Thursday: 5-7 pm

Friday & Saturday: 10 am—2 pm

If you could spare some time during these hours, contact Linda Cotton to volunteer, 256 362-7173.

Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer

On Monday, November 5th, Baptist women from around the world will meet together to pray. We encourage women in each church to plan to meet for prayer on that special day!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Shoeboxes for the annual Operation Christmas Child will be collected during the week of November 12-19. We are blessed to have Hepzibah and Sylacauga First serving as drop-off locations. Members of these two churches have faithfully served in this capacity for many years. In addition, Sylacauga First has served as a collection site for other areas. Hours will be published in *The Messenger* as we near collection week.

Week of Prayer Observance

National WMU is again hosting a special observance on Thursday during the Week of Prayer for International Missions. This is scheduled at 10 am on December 6th at the WMU Building on Missionary Ridge.

Leadership Team Prayer Requests

Pray for Charlene Cleveland who is scheduled for knee replacement on Oct. 1st. And, pray for Debbie Pearson whose husband is now in a nursing home. Pray as we seek a lady to serve as Adult Consultant, the position vacated by Marion Aldridge who has moved out of the area.

FUTURE EVENTS

Sep 21-22 ABIDE experience for women in their 20s & 30s

Oct 5-6 International Friends Retreat

Oct 12-13 or 19-20 Fall Missions Festival for Children

Oct 21 Associational 185th Annual Meeting at Talladega First. See *The Messenger* for times

Oct 23 Fall Missions Festival for Adults @ WorldSong

Oct 29– Nov 3 Collection Week for Christmas Backpacks

Nov 4 Association’s WMU Leadership Team meets at the association office at 2 pm

Nov 12-19 Collection Week for OCC Shoeboxes

Dec 2-9 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Emphasis

Dec 2 Open House for Friendship House Children’s Home in Oxford, 2 pm