



REFOCUS is an association-wide missions event engaging churches with missionaries who are currently or retired from serving with the International Mission Board (IMB), North American Mission Board (NAMB), and Georgia Baptist Mission Board (GBMB).
April 30– May 1, 2022.
For more details visit:
centennialbaptistassociation.com/refocus

Saturday, April 30 - Orientation Meal for Missionaries with Pastors and Wives @ Mountain View
Sunday, May 1 - Missionaries speak in our Churches (AM services)
- Celebration Service, Q&A with Missionaries (PM service) @ Mountain View

Bring your Sunday School class, your missions groups, your senior adults, basically everyone in your church. How often do you have the chance to speak to those who are serving all over the state, the nation, and the world? We hope to have 40+ missionaries sharing what God is doing through the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptists. Our mission team is working hard to make this event something that will both engage our churches in missions and bless our missionaries.

We want every missionary to leave this experience knowing that the people of the Centennial Association support and love them. Make your plans now to join us.



What can you do now to prepare for REFOCUS?

- Mark April 30 & May 1 on your personal and church calendars.
- Contact the CBA office to let us know that your church is participating and wants a missionary speaker. We will need to confirm this as soon as possible so we make sure to have the right number of missionaries with us for REFOCUS.
- Begin praying for our missionaries as they prepare to travel to be with us.
- Pray for your mission team as they organize this event.
- Collect a love offering (honorarium) and send it to CBA to be given to the missionary speakers. We ask that you send it to us rather than giving it to the missionaries, so that we can make sure that each speaker receives an equal amount, no matter what church they get to speak at.
- If your church meets regularly for Sunday night services, we ask that you move your services to this combined gathering of churches. This may also mean that you will need to promote the change for several weeks ahead of time, so your folks are informed.



If you would like to participate in the Celebration Service at Mountain View, there will be a community choir that evening. Please contact Keith Johnson at [706-648-6224](tel:706-648-6224) for more information.



Ladies, Maynard Baptist in Forsyth will be hosting a packing party for anyone interested in stuffing the hospitality bags for our participating missionaries. Mark your calendars for April 11th from 6-7 PM. Please RSVP to jgrogers85@gmail.com by April 4th because they are providing dinner for everyone that attends.

Rev. Steve Laughman- Associational Mission Strategist
Rev. Eddie Johnson- Moderator
Rev. Mark Harris- Vice Moderator

Mrs. Marni Laughman- Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Joan German- Treasurer

A Word from Your Mission Strategist,

Steve Laughman

After much anticipation Centennial will finally be able to host missionaries from around our state, nation, and world. Your mission team began planning FOCUS 2020 in the summer of 2019. The uncertainty that came with the pandemic caused us to reschedule several times. Unless the Lord returns or something crazy happens, we expect to host REFOCUS on April 30 and May 1, 2022. Praise the Lord!

Most of the information you need is on the front page of this newsletter, so I will not repeat it here. But I do want to emphasize that this only happens every five (or eight) years. Your mission team has worked very hard to make sure this is a worthwhile experience for not only our churches, but also our missionaries. We have two stated goals: 1) to show our churches how God is using our partnership in missions to reach the world, and 2) to be a blessing to the missionaries we invite to be here. We want them to know how much we love and appreciate them and the work they are called to do.



"Perhaps there are some in your own church whom God is calling. This may be the spark that starts the journey for them. ."

Every church in the Centennial Association has been given the opportunity to have a missionary speaker in the Sunday morning service on May 1. Be sure to support them as they come to share their stories. Then on the evening of May 1, we will all join together in a Celebration of Missions worship service at Mountain View. We hope your church will plan to join us that evening for a time of worship, testimonies, and Q&A with the missionaries.

I am so thankful that God is still calling people to missions. Perhaps there are some in your own church whom God is calling. This may be the spark that starts the journey for them. We are the Church, and if we are not going or sending, then who will? My prayer is that REFOCUS will help us prioritize missions in our churches, in our families, and in our individual lives. May the Lord find us diligently working when He returns.



The Executive Committee voted to enter into a 2-3 year partnership with John and Cheryl Blackmon in Bangkok, Thailand. CBA now has a designated account set up to receive and send money to help financially support the Blackmons. Please begin praying about giving beyond your regular tithes and offerings to help support this former Centennial pastor and his family as they serve at Calvary International Baptist Church. As an association, we will send \$750 each month in addition to your contributions. After two years, the Mission Team will reevaluate if the partnership needs to extend to a third year. We will also collect a love offering for the Blackmons at REFOCUS 2022 on May 1st during the evening Celebration Service at Mountain View in Thomaston. Our hope is for God to begin planning future mission trips to Thailand through this association to further support this family. Please clearly mark all financial support sent to PO BOX 210, Thomaston, GA for "Thailand Missions".

Casting a missional vision.
Providing opportunities for engagement.
Praying for the harvest.

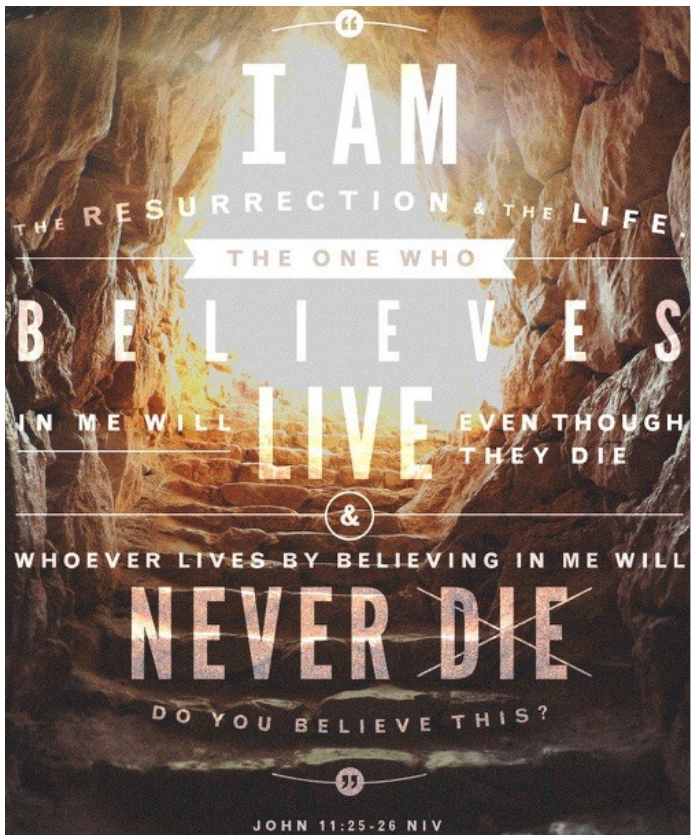
APRIL 18
Mountain View Baptist Church
6:30 PM

Mission Team Meeting



We would like to formally welcome FBC High Falls to the Centennial Association of churches. At the February Executive Committee Meeting held at Trinity in Thomaston, the Membership Committee presented FBCHF's application for membership with unanimous support to recommend this

fellowship of believers to join our association. Those in attendance agreed with this committee and now we are an association of 42 churches. Please pray for FBCHF as they are searching for a Pastor. Jim Milirons is currently serving as Interim there. We are thankful to serve another like-minded church and look forward to cooperating for ministry and missions.



“Many North American cities could reasonably be called pre-Christian. Even in the traditional “Bible Belt” Christianity is being pushed to the margins. In the midst of this, God is bringing the nations to our shores and offering unprecedented opportunities for the gospel. At the North American Mission Board, we see a mission field that needs the hope of the gospel. With your partnership, we’re committed to taking this hope to cities, small towns and college campuses.”
 anniearmstrong.com



ANNIE ARMSTRONG
 EASTER OFFERING®
 anniearmstrong.com

CONNECTING YOU TO RESOURCES.

Special Guest:
 Dr. Marcus Merrit
 Director of Ministry Relations &
 Student Recruitment
 Read more [HERE](#)

Ministry Leadership CONNECTION

LUTHER RICE
 COLLEGE & SEMINARY

Deraney's Two City Tavern,
 Barnesville
 May 16th @ Noon & 6:30 PM

All are invited
 to attend this meeting.

STUDENT MINISTRY ROUNDTABLE
 APRIL 7TH. 6:30 PM
 THE PIE,
 THOMASTON

MONROE-LAMAR ROUNDTABLE
 MAY 3RD. 10 AM
 NEW PROVIDENCE
 BC

UPSON-PIKE ROUNDTABLE
 MAY 5TH. 10 AM
 GATHERING
 GROUNDS

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE
 MAY 5TH. 8 PM
 GoToMeeting code
 CBARoundtable

Pastor Roundtables
 WHERE IRON SHARPENS IRON

The **Ministry Leadership Connection** is designed for all people in the local church not just those who are on staff. The goal is to connect those of you giving your time to ministry to other like minded ministry leaders. This meeting is held in various places around the association, and all are encouraged to attend.

CBA Financials for February 2022

	Feb 22	Jan - Feb 22
Checking Interest	1.05	2.19
Antioch	857.10	1,822.50
Bethany	0.00	333.33
Beulah	326.00	631.00
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Clark's Chapel	200.00	300.00
Concord	100.00	200.00
Culloden	0.00	150.00
East Thomaston	294.26	698.44
Elkins Creek	0.00	0.00
Emory's Chapel	0.00	0.00
FBC Forsyth	100.00	200.00
FBC of High Falls	0.00	1,445.05
FBC Thomaston	739.14	2,214.38
Fellowship	0.00	700.70
Garden Hill	75.00	150.00
Grace Community	0.00	0.00
GracePoint	0.00	0.00
Hendricks	0.00	0.00
Jeff Davis	0.00	25.00
King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	150.00	300.00
Maynard	721.24	1,552.98
Meansville	250.00	500.00
Milner	554.01	1,009.14
Mount Olive	1,395.68	2,923.88
Mountain View	2,372.00	4,264.00
Mt. Zion	0.00	40.00
Neal	50.00	200.00
New Bethel	50.00	100.00
New Harmony	51.01	51.01
New Hope Zebulon	399.14	860.69
Pritchett Memorial	212.50	402.35
Russellville	114.82	114.82
Shiloh Upson	50.00	100.00
Silvertown	130.59	275.44
The Rock	0.00	321.42
Trinity	300.00	600.00
Valley Grove	494.14	1,293.46
Yatesville	175.00	350.00
Total Receipts	10,161.63	24,131.78
Disbursements for February 2022		
Total Budgeted Expenditures		10,062.63
Designated Accounts Expenses		2,000.00
Monthly Surplus/Shortfall		100.05

Opportunities & Church News (Full job descriptions and other positions are listed [HERE](#))
Bethany is seeking a **PT Children's Director**. For more information or to apply contact the church office at 478-974-0002.
Concord is seeking a full-time **Minister to Students and Family**. Send resumes to jeff.yearwood@fnf.com
Oak Hill is seeking a **full-time Children's Minister**. Contact Chuck Johnson to submit resumes and for more information. chuck@oakhillchurch.com
Meansville is seeking a **full-time Pastor**. Please send resumes to meansvilleresumes@att.net
Valley Grove is seeking a full-time Associate Pastor for Students and Worship. Please send resumes to pastor@valleygrovechurch.org

April 2022

1	App. deadline for Cliburn Scholarship	Centennial office	
7	Student Ministry Roundtable	The Pie, Thomaston	6:30 PM
11	Refocus Hospitality Bag packing	Maynard	6:00 PM
17	Resurrection Sunday		
30	REFOCUS Orientation Dinner	Mountain View	6:00 PM

May 2022

1	REFOCUS missionaries in churches	Centennial Churches	AM services
1	REFOCUS Celebration Service	Mountain View	6:00 PM
3	Monroe-Lamar Roundtable	New Providence BC	10:00 AM
3	Steering Committee Mtg	The Rock	6:30 PM
5	National Day of Prayer		
5	Upson-Pike Roundtable	Gathering Grounds	10:00AM
5	Virtual Roundtable	GoToMeeting	8:00 PM
16	Ministry Leaders Connection		Noon & 6:30 PM

Shepherd Stories

I have only ever called two men Pastor.
 Pastor Bill Barber announced his retirement from FBC Thomaston this past February, and his last Sunday in the pulpit as Senior Pastor will be June 5th. He has served this congregation and the surrounding area over 20 years. Our family called FBCT home for about six of those years, and I can honestly say he is one of the best preachers I have ever sat under. I am the harshest of critics when listening to messages. After all, I have been married to a preacher for almost 28 years. I unashamedly proclaim that Pastor rightly divides the Word of God. He does not use the pulpit as a weapon to hurt people or to preach an agenda; nor does he cower when hard passages arise in our Sacred Text. He preaches from a place of repentance. On numerous occasions I have heard him say while studying, God convicted him personally. This humility is rare, and those listening can't help but be engage. Misery loves company after all. Growing up my father would give a hardy "Amen!" every now and again in church. As a child, I remember being so embarrassed. It wasn't



until I began to study the Word myself that I understood. Now, I am sure that I have mortified my children just like I was embarrassed as a child. And I don't care! **When the Word of God is spoken to the people of God the Spirit of God moves and we should respond.** I miss sitting with my friend Mrs. Agnes Woodall. We would always comment on what a wonderful sermon Pastor Bill had shared. God's people love to hear the Word rightly divided. We crave it, and we need it!
 Since our time at The Rock, I have missed Michele, Pastor's wife. She and I 'get' one another. I am sure she and their boys are looking forward to this next phase of life. Pastor has expressed a calling to transitional pastoring. I know first hand how vital this ministry can be to churches, and I am confident God will use him while fellowships ready themselves for their next Pastor.
 I will miss hearing you preach, Pastor. I would love to read a book you might publish one day, or subscribe to your podcast in the future.
 I know I am not alone.
 Your Associational Ministry Assistant,
 Marni Laughman