

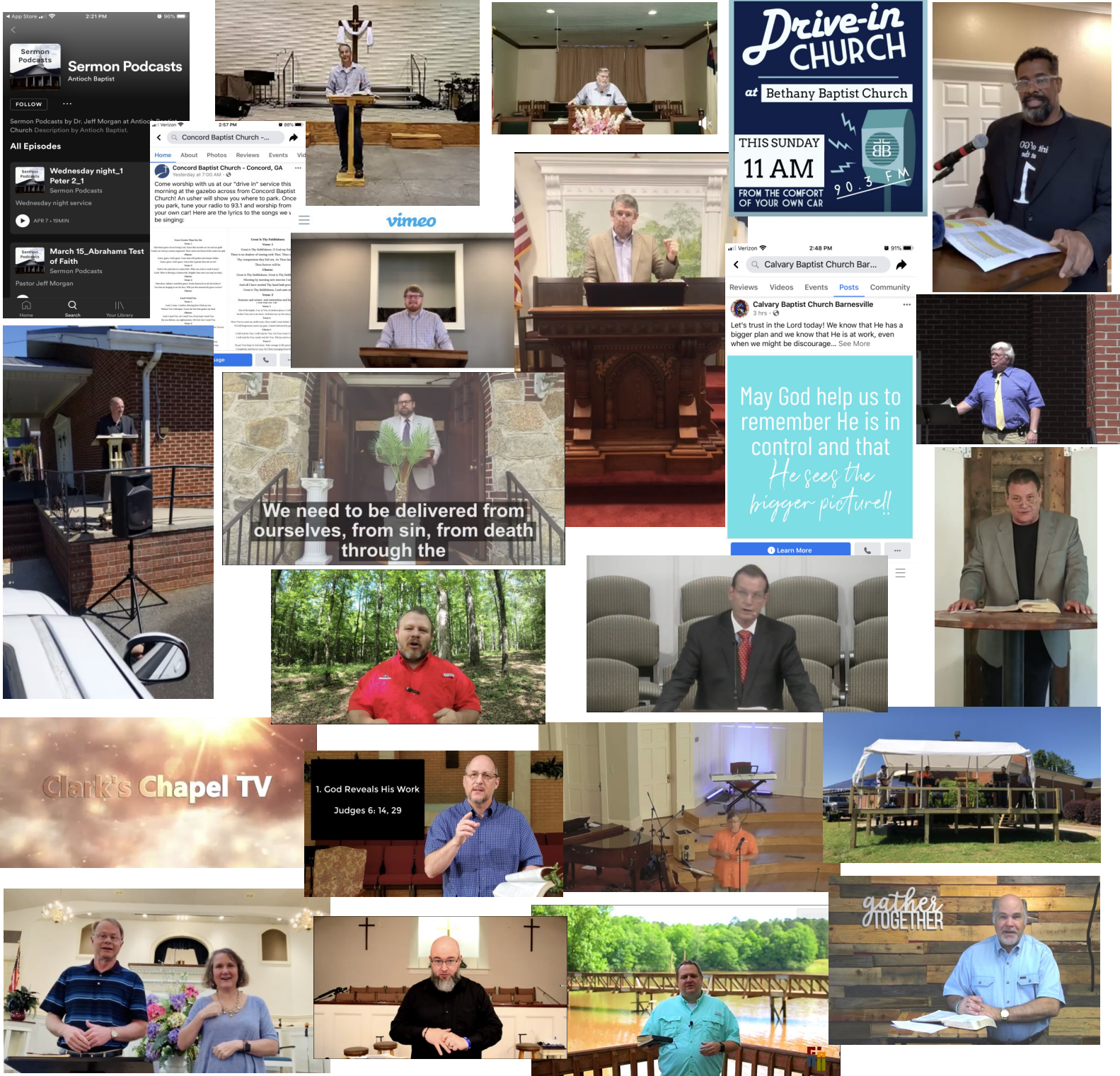
# Centennial

BAPTIST NEWS

Networking churches to make disciples

05/2020

In an effort to continue to meet together, church leaders have embraced unconventional platforms for discipleship and corporate worship, and God has used it for good. Pastors have seen a dramatic increase in online engagement since social distancing has been enforced. While nothing can substitute in-person fellowship, I truly believe that ministry will never be as it once was. Intentionality is a beautiful thing when it ignites a passion to spread the gospel within the heart of the redeemed.



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## A Word from Your Mission Strategist, Steve Laughman

In Numbers 21 God provided a cure for a plague. Serpents were biting and killing the people. God told Moses to make a serpent on a standard and to raise it up for the people to see. If they were bitten, they could look at the bronze serpent, and they would be healed. I have always thought this story was strange. God's second commandment was not to make any graven images, and yet here He was instructing Moses to make a bronze serpent. It is not until Jesus talks with Nicodemus in John 3 that we understand how the bronze serpent foreshadows His crucifixion.

As with the Israelites, one truth is clear for us, as well: God provides the cure. While we should all be praying for and cheering on scientists and medical professionals, we must also cry out to God for the cure to disease, whatever form it takes. My prayer is this grand disruption in our lives causes us to focus more on God and our need for Him. He alone holds our lives and the lives of those we love. May our trust in Him grow stronger even as we look toward getting back to a new normal.

Speaking of the new normal, many of our churches plan to gather again soon for worship. We will all need to make decisions based on the leading of the Lord and the wisdom He gives. I trust that these decisions are not being made lightly. Whether your church is resuming corporate gatherings or waiting, understand that many are still being cautious and will stay away for a while. Continue to minister to them through online services and pastoral contacts. The move back to normal will be gradual and will probably take more time that we expect. Be patient with each other.

Like you, I would never have asked for this challenge, but I believe we can always learn from whatever experiences we have. Here are a few things I have learned:

**Our pastors are extremely resourceful.** Not only are they preparing sermons and continuing to minister in difficult times, but now they are navigating the digital world. If you have not told your pastor how much you appreciate him lately, please do so. This also includes all the wonderful staff members who keep things going.



*"Our world has changed forever, and we will have opportunities and challenges because of it..."*

**A time of rest was overdue.** Many of us were burning the candle at both ends before circumstances forced us to take a break. The Bible is clear that we need to balance work with rest, and we generally do a poor job of this. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of the opportunity to rest some.

**Not everything we do as a church is necessary.** Not gathering in a building has forced us to prioritize what matters most when it comes to ministry. We can all agree that the preaching of the Word has been the focus lately. Perhaps when we can gather again, we will be more mindful of how we spend our time and resources.

**God's people yearn to be together.** I have missed worshipping together. I have missed sitting down with a cup of coffee across the table from a group of pastors. We were built for community, and it is a good sign of health that we desire to be together again.

**There is more than one way to "do church".** Your approaches to maintaining connection and ministering to one another have been as diverse as the number of churches. It is refreshing to see that we do not have to be the same to accomplish the same goals. **Church is so much more than a building.** While we are thankful for the resources God gives us to do ministry, the real church is the people. I knew this before the pandemic, and so did you. But it has been good to see how this truth has become more pronounced during this time.

**Prayer is often an untapped source of power and peace.** Crisis drives us to our knees. This should not be the case, but it is. My hope is that our prayer lives will never be the same after this.

Know that I have been praying for your church and your pastors. This is not just something we are getting through together. Our world has changed forever, and we will have opportunities and challenges because of it. I am thankful for each of you. I am also thankful that I get to quarantine with the most capable and awesome wife a man could ask for. Your Associational Ministry Assistant stressed over putting together a newsletter when nearly everything has been cancelled or postponed. It may be a little different than usual, but I think she did a great job, as always!

In just a few short months, Centennial will be hosting missionaries from around the globe to connect with you for a ONE DAY missions event ...  
**FOCUS 2020!**

Sunday morning, September 20th, missionaries will speak in CBA churches. That afternoon, Mountain View, 2569 Jeff Davis Road, in Thomaston will host our Family Event & Celebration Service.

Important (new) dates to remember:

- July 27 Confirm Missionary speaker(s) for your church
- August 17 Recruit and Confirm Host home(s) for our missionaries
- August 30 Collect honorarium for missionaries' love offering
- September 20 FOCUS 2020 Missionaries in CBA churches
- September 20 FOCUS 2020 Family Event
  - \*Meet Missionaries
  - \*Community Choir
  - \*Missions Scavenger Hunt for the children
  - \*Q&A with Missionaries
  - \*Celebration Worship

Other dates to look forward to??... Choir practice, ya'll!

Save these dates!

We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, any questions you may have can be answered by the office or may be found [here](#).

We are happy to help you spread the word!

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PASTORS' ROUNDTABLE

UPSON-PIKE ROUNDTABLE  
MAY 28. 10 AM  
GATHERING GROUNDS

WHERE IRON SHARPENS IRON

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE  
MAY 7. 8PM  
From the GoToMeeting App or website, enter meeting code CBARoundtable.

MONROE-LAMAR ROUNDTABLE  
JUNE 23. 2 PM  
NEW PROVIDENCE BC

Quarterly Fellowship Lunch  
Hendricks • May 14 • 12 Noon

**CANCELLED**

Centennial Baptist Association exists to network churches through equipping them and encouraging them to make disciples.

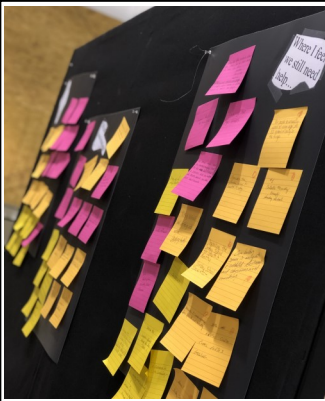
CONNECTING YOU TO RESOURCES.

GBMB EAST CENTRAL DISCIPLESHIP CONSULTANT  
Matthew Gibbs



MINISTERS CONNECTION

Virtual GoToMeeting  
Code: CBARoundtable  
May 11th at Noon



Yatesville, Trinity, and FBC Thomaston have been participating in a Sunday School Mentoring workshop sponsored by CBA and the GBMB. March 9th, Ted Kandler facilitated the 6 Month Check-Up for these churches. Since 2018, each of these churches committed to meet regularly for the purpose of examining their Sunday School/ Small Groups and evaluate its effectiveness on the life of their church. They willingly scrutinized

their physical space, overall approach, discipleship curriculum, outreach efforts, class size, promotion, and more. The goal is to better understand what visitors see when they walk onto their campuses and to get back to the heart of what Sunday School is all about. This process is eye opening and affords the participating churches excellent feedback if they are willing to make some changes. Self evaluation is a hard thing to do if the heart is not willing to see areas that need attention. These churches are in the process of making strides toward better seeking to serve the lost and hurting.

For the latest Coronavirus Resources & Updates from the GA Baptist Mission Board visit <https://gabaptist.org/covid19>

Steering Committee Meeting • May 5 • 6:30 PM



Visit the GoToMeeting app or [www.gotomeeting.com](http://www.gotomeeting.com) and join this virtual meeting by entering the code: CBARoundtable

MAY DAY PRAY DAY

Maynard in Forsyth will virtually host

MAY DAY PRAY DAY

this Saturday, May 2nd. This Facebook Live event is for all who wish to participate in a call to prayer. At 9AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, and 8PM you will be prompted to pray for specific areas of concern. Set a reminder on your phone or calendar so that you won't miss this event. Consider sharing this event on your personal page to broaden the scope of those the message will reach.

2020 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



KATHY BRANZELL WILL GRAHAM NICK HALL MICHAEL W. SMITH HARRY JACKSON ANDREW PALAU



ALONG WITH OTHER LEADERS FROM ACROSS AMERICA!

NATIONAL BROADCAST  
MAY 7TH, 8 to 10 PM ET  
ON GODTV, DAYSTAR, FACEBOOK LIVE,  
MOODY BROADCASTING, AND MORE

PRAY GOD'S GLORY  
Across the Earth



**Income for March 2020**

	<b>Mar 2020</b>	<b>YTD 2020</b>
Checking Interest	7.82	22.41
Antioch	0.00	2,246.82
Bethany	333.33	1,000.00
Beulah	180.00	328.00
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Clark's Chapel	200.00	300.00
Concord	0.00	0.00
Culloden	0.00	150.00
East Thomaston	307.31	1,004.38
Elkins Creek	0.00	0.00
Emory's Chapel	0.00	0.00
FBC Barnesville	1,197.09	4,500.87
FBC Forsyth	0.00	0.00
FBC Thomaston	864.08	2,908.05
Fellowship	0.00	50.00
Garden Hill	75.00	225.00
GracePoint	0.00	0.00
Hendricks	0.00	0.00
Jeff Davis	25.00	75.00
King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	0.00	300.00
Maynard	780.46	2,259.79
Meansville	250.00	750.00
Milner	435.84	1,441.32
Molena	0.00	0.00
Mount Olive	0.00	4,082.17
Mountain View	0.00	6,404.00
Mt. Pleasant	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	81.00	127.00
Neal	100.00	150.00
New Bethel	100.00	200.00
New Harmony	42.97	115.27
New Hope Zebulon	163.92	571.53
Pritchett Memorial	189.36	500.21
Russellville	74.59	284.15
Shiloh Lamar	0.00	0.00
Shiloh Upson	0.00	150.00
Silvertown	203.15	313.58
The Rock	0.00	184.75
Trinity	300.00	900.00
Valley Grove	0.00	2,050.13
Yatesville	175.00	525.00
<b>Total Church Receipts</b>	<b>6,085.92</b>	<b>34,097.02</b>

<b>Disbursements for March 2020</b>	
Administrative Expenses	828.17
Associational Programs	399.95
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00
Organizational Expenses	0.00
Pastorium Maintenance	191.40
Salaries and Allowances	7,181.58
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>8,601.10</b>
Designated Accounts Expenses	0.00
<b>Monthly Surplus/Shortfall</b>	<b>(2,515.18)</b>

**Opportunities & Church News**

**Molena** is seeking **volunteers to serve in their Music ministry**. Contact Pastor Terry Murphey at [murphey1@bellsouth.net](mailto:murphey1@bellsouth.net)

**Concord** is seeking someone to oversee all aspects of **music and worship**. Contact Bob Hurd at 770-656-5447 or email [bobhurd5@gmail.com](mailto:bobhurd5@gmail.com).

**High Falls Baptist Church** is seeking a **pianist** for Sunday services. Compensation is negotiable. Contact 478-733-1955.

**Neal** is seeking a **Children & Youth Minister** to grow those ministries. Please submit resume, statement of faith and recommendation from current pastor/church to [nealbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:nealbaptist@gmail.com).

**May 2020**

5	Steering Committee	GoToMeeting	6:30 PM
7	Virtual Roundtable	GoToMeeting	8:00 PM
7	National Day of Prayer		
10	Mother's Day		
11	Ministers' Connection	GoToMeeting	12 Noon
28	Upson-Pike Roundtable	Gathering Grounds	10:00 AM

**June 2020**

21	Father's Day		
23	Monroe-Lamar Roundtable	New Providence	2:00 PM

**Shepherd Stories**

Vimeo, Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, YouTube Closed Captioning, AM and FM Radio, Drive-In Church, ASL Interpreting, Podcasts, Blogs, Television Broadcasts, Video Chats and others. You name it... your local church leadership teams have looked into it. They desire to reach you and be relevant during social distancing while making sure they have not compromised preaching the Word. Church staff and lay members have become technology gurus, and I believe the kingdom is better for it. Technology is one of the avenues God is choosing to use to broaden the efforts of the local church to reach all peoples with the Gospel. The task is great, BUT GOD is greater. Make sure you are personally engaging in all of the platforms your local body of believers is making available to you, and the silver lining is you can also be involved in discipleship and Bible study with other like minded fellowships. I encourage you to explore online and virtual resources made available to us during social distancing. Participate in a Bible study on a Zoom call with believers in Texas. Worship with an SBC church plant in Japan. Kneel down with like minded strangers during a virtual National Day of Prayer livestream. We dedicated the front cover of this month's newsletter to showcase just a few of the churches doing the work to continue the

preaching of the Word. Would you take the time to thank God for broadening the reach of the Church as a whole? Will you also thank Him for those that are making sure each service is recorded, posted, uploaded, livestreamed and edited to the glory of His Great Name. Can you commit to encouraging your leadership in the efforts they are making to continue in these unprecedented times? Will you ask God to reveal to you a fresh idea to engage the lost? You are valued above all of His creation and although we are physically distanced from others, we are never separated from our Father.

As I age, I am even more convinced that all believers should physically go on mission abroad. At present, that is not possible. But with a bit of intentionality and creativity, you could be across this massive planet in a few clicks. Make no mistake... God IS very active during Covid-19. This world-wide pandemic did not surprise Him or set Him back on the Kingdom calendar. You have had a moment to accept it. Now, it is up to you to accept His call to action. If you are breathing, God has a plans to prosper you and not to harm you. These plans are for your good and His glory. Trust His promise to never leave you as you commit to be on mission even now.

Marni Laughman  
Your Associational Ministry Assistant