

## REFOCUS

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2021

### GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION ANNUAL MEETING

FIRST BAPTIST JONESBORO, GEORGIA

The GBC Annual Meeting is a yearly event to conduct the business of the Georgia Baptist Convention in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Convention. In addition, the Annual Meeting serves to provide inspiration for messengers from the member churches of the Convention as well as provide opportunities for networking among the member church representatives. It provides the opportunity for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff to increase the awareness of the ministries and resources available to the churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

November 8-9, 2021

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro; 142 College St, Jonesboro

For more information visit

[gabaptist.org/events/gbc-annual-meeting/](http://gabaptist.org/events/gbc-annual-meeting/)

CONNECTING YOU TO RESOURCES.

Special Guest:  
Dr. Aslam Masih  
National Mobilizer, NAMB  
Read more about Dr. Masih [HERE](#)

### Ministry Leadership CONNECTION



Deraney's Two City Tavern  
216 Main ST, Barnesville, GA  
November 15th @ Noon

All are invited  
to attend this meeting.

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 monthly meeting is held in various places around the association and all are encouraged to attend.

This month's special guest is Dr. Aslam Masih. He is a National Mobilizer with NAMB and works to help evangelize Muslims through church planting efforts and education within churches. To learn more about his calling click the photo or visit the link below.

[centennialbaptistassociation.com/ministry-leaders-connection](http://centennialbaptistassociation.com/ministry-leaders-connection)

You're invited to the annual Centennial Baptist Association

### Ministry Staff Christmas Fellowship

on the 7th of December  
6:30 in the evening at  
GRITS CAFE, 17 W Johnson ST, Forsyth.

\$20 per couple  
RSVP: 706-647-4959 or [HERE](#)

This annual Christmas Fellowship is for **any ministry staff person and their plus one**. We always look forward to this time of year when we can gather together for no other reason than to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ... Emmanuel... God with us!

This year we will be celebrating at [GRITS CAFÉ](#) in Forsyth. Each ministry staff person and their loved one can enjoy a fantastic meal for only \$20 while surrounded by other like minded ministry duos.

Please RSVP by **November 23rd** to 706-647-4959 or let us know by registering on the website at

[centennialbaptistassociation.com/christmas](http://centennialbaptistassociation.com/christmas)

Rev. Steve Laughman- Associational Mission Strategist  
Rev. Joey Smith- Moderator  
Rev. Eddie Johnson- Vice Moderator

Mrs. Marni Laughman- Ministry Assistant  
Mrs. Gail West- Treasurer

**A Word from Your Mission Strategist,  
Steve Laughman**

This morning I found myself thinking and actually saying out loud, “It’s November already.” When I was a child Christmas vacation could not get here fast enough. I remember my mother telling me not to wish my life away. Given that the passing of time seems to speed up as I get older, I now understand what she meant.

In October I got to have another birthday. In December I hope to celebrate nine years as your Associational Mission Strategist. In a few months Marni and I will be married for 28 years if the Lord wills. Time is a limited resource. Each one of us gets the same 24 hours in each day. We all have the same seven days each week. Some of us will finish this day or this week, and we will be thankful for all that was accomplished during that time. Others will look back and wonder where all the time went.

Scripture reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is a time for everything under heaven. Each season of life may include birth or death, weeping or laughter, mourning or dancing; each at their appointed time. The teacher then reminds us that God has

set eternity in our hearts and that “there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one’s lifetime.” Regardless of our current season, we are to rejoice and do good. James tells us that life is just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Time is a precious resource, and yet we seem to forget that sometimes.



**“Live today as if it is a gift from God, because it is.”**

A wise man named Ferris once said, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” And while his example may not be the best one to follow, there is something to be said for being intentional about how we spend the time God has given us. Take the time today to call a friend you have not spoken to lately. Seek an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus today. Write a note or a text to a church member who needs encouragement. Read your Bible and hear from your Father. Walk around your neighborhood and pray for each household. Enjoy a meal with someone without checking your phone. Choose to

make the most of every minute. Live today as if it is a gift from God, because it is.

NOVEMBER 15  
**STUDENT  
MINISTRY  
ROUNDTABLE**  
The Pie in Thomaston @ 6:30

Anyone working in Student Ministry is encouraged to attend this Roundtable. This informal dialogue gives you a chance to contribute to an associational discussion where everyone brainstorms ideas about how best to evangelize and disciple all students.

Come for encouragement, new ideas, planning, and pizza.

**Pray**  
*Pray for missions.*  
*Week of Prayer*  
**November 28 – December 5, 2021**  
Every day, 155,473 people enter eternity without the hope of Jesus. Please join us as we observe the Week of Prayer for International Missions, where Southern Baptists pray for IMB missionaries, their ministries and the unreached people and places they serve.  
**JOIN US**

This 8 day prayer initiative helps to connect you to your International Missionaries. You can sign up to receive email updates that will be sent right to your inbox. These reminders will serve as a gateway to connect you to those out on the mission field where you can see your Lottie Moon dollars at work and learn how to pray for the spotlighted missionaries featured in this year’s [Week of Prayer for International Missions!](#)



# ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT

Please make sure to do your part and help church leadership fill this report out accurately and return it by **November 15th**. You may contact the office for help. The link to the report is below: [gabaptist.egnyte.com/fl/Bj7mUBbtRs](http://gabaptist.egnyte.com/fl/Bj7mUBbtRs) We say this all the time, but this is an example of how **we are stronger** together on a global scale.



## The Gathering:



All Georgia Baptist Mission Board Pastor Wives are invited to attend this annual retreat. If your husband is the lead Pastor/Elder or serves as Pastor/Elder to students, children, mature adults, music or administration, you are invited to attend. This retreat is designed with **you** in mind. Many have made plans to attend.

To register visit [gabaptist.org/events/pastors-wives-retreat/](http://gabaptist.org/events/pastors-wives-retreat/) Because of Covid restrictions space is strictly limited. Make your reservations now because you won't want to miss

## He Sees Me

**Pastor Roundtables**

**UPSON-PIKE ROUNDTABLE**  
DEC 2ND. 10 AM  
GATHERING GROUNDS

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**WHERE IRON SHARPENS IRON**

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**VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE**  
DEC 9TH. 8 PM  
GoToMeeting code  
CBARoundtable

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**MONROE-LAMAR ROUNDTABLE**  
JAN 11TH. 10 AM  
NEW PROVIDENCE BC



Worship Leaders: Mark your calendars now for **January 29th at 8:30 AM**. This workshop is designed to help you plan, craft, and execute a Spirit-filled worship service. Come and learn to do this effectively while surrounded by others that are called to do the same.

[centennialbaptistassociation.com/worship-workshop](http://centennialbaptistassociation.com/worship-workshop)



REFOCUS 2022 will be a two day event where you and your church will hear from IMB, NAMB, GBC, & CBA missionaries. Set aside **April 30– May 1, 2022** to attend this associational missions event. There are more details to come in the January 2022 newsletter or visit

[centennialbaptistassociation.com/refocus](http://centennialbaptistassociation.com/refocus)

**Income for September 2021**

	<b>Sept 2021</b>	<b>YTD 2021</b>
Checking Interest	4.91	60.83
Antioch	1,618.71	7,639.98
Bethany	666.66	2,999.97
Beulah	212.00	1,807.00
Calvary	0.00	0.00
Clark's Chapel	100.00	900.00
Concord	100.00	1,000.00
Culloden	0.00	450.00
East Thomaston	291.84	2,876.79
Elkins Creek	0.00	0.00
Emory's Chapel	0.00	0.00
FBC Barnesville	5,904.08	8,944.40
FBC Forsyth	200.00	900.00
FBC Thomaston	1,266.90	8,490.69
Fellowship	0.00	806.70
Garden Hill	75.00	675.00
Grace Community	0.00	0.00
GracePoint	0.00	0.00
Hendricks	0.00	0.00
Jeff Davis	25.00	200.00
King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	0.00	1,200.00
Maynard	722.36	7,534.33
Meansville	250.00	2,250.00
Milner	459.18	4,503.08
Mount Olive	3,165.86	14,243.44
Mountain View	1,870.00	19,383.00
Mt. Pleasant	0.00	300.00
Mt. Zion	0.00	113.00
Neal	50.00	450.00
New Bethel	50.00	450.00
New Harmony	40.46	441.98
New Hope Zebulon	503.33	2,935.20
Pritchett Memorial	107.23	1,744.26
Russellville	68.21	705.48
Shiloh Lamar	250.00	1,540.00
Shiloh Upson	50.00	450.00
Silvertown	153.36	1,252.56
The Rock	374.98	1,158.90
Trinity	300.00	2,700.00
Valley Grove	477.83	4,620.31
Yatesville	175.00	1,575.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>19,527.99</b>	<b>107,241.07</b>

<b>Disbursements for September 2021</b>	
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>16,693.65</b>
Designated Accounts Expenses	1,550.75
<b>Monthly Surplus/Shortfall</b>	<b>2,834.34</b>

**Opportunities & Church News** (Full job descriptions and other positions are listed [HERE](#))  
**Shiloh Upson** seeks a **PT Music Director**. Send resumes to [shilohbaptist1@windstream.net](mailto:shilohbaptist1@windstream.net).  
**Bethany** is seeking a **PT Children's Director**. For more information or to apply contact the church office at 478-974-0002.  
**FBC Thomaston** is seeking a full-time **Financial Secretary** with other responsibilities to work 30hrs a wk. Contact Ted Kandler at [kandler@gmail.com](mailto:kandler@gmail.com)  
**Concord** is seeking a full-time **Minister to Students and Family**. Send resumes to: [jeff.yearwood@fnf.com](mailto:jeff.yearwood@fnf.com)

**November 2021**

8-9	GBC Annual Meeting	FBC Jonesboro	All day
11	Virtual Steering Committee Mtg	<a href="#">GoToMeeting</a>	6:30 PM
15	Ministry Leadership Connection	<a href="#">Deraney's Two City Tavern</a>	12 Noon
15	Student Ministry Roundtable	<a href="#">The Pie, Thomaston</a>	6:30 PM
23	RSVP deadline for Ministry Staff Christmas Fellowship		All day
25	Thanksgiving		All day
28-5	Week of Prayer for International Missions	<a href="http://imb.org/pray/week-of-prayer/">imb.org/pray/week-of-prayer/</a>	All week

**December 2021**

2	Upson Pike Roundtable	Gathering Grounds	10:00 AM
7	Ministry Staff Christmas Fellowship	<a href="#">GRITS CAFÉ, Forsyth</a>	6:30 PM
9	Virtual Roundtable	<a href="#">GoToMeeting</a>	8:00 PM
11	Preaching/Teaching Practicum	The Rock	8:30 AM
25	Christmas Day		

**Shepherd Stories**

I was talking with two good friends who are also pastor wives the other day on the steps of a church after a funeral. All three of us felt the same exact way... This is too much. It feels like all we have done the past year and a half is walk beside precious friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one. It's just too much. Our hearts are heavy because mourning is deeply sorrowful and painful for us all.



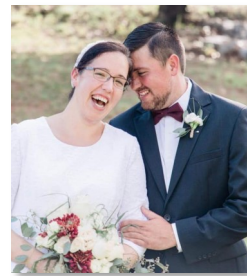
As many of you may already know, Pastor/Associational Missionary/Music Director/Friend Joe Allen

passed away last week. His service was held at Silvertown where he served as Pastor for many years. His wife, Reba, planned a beautiful service that Joe would have loved and that honored his life of service to the Lord. We will all miss him greatly!

Years ago, I learned that when God created us with eternity set in our hearts, that meant we lack the capacity to grieve separation. Death is quite literally the opposite of the way we were

created to exist on this earth. Therefore, we are incapable of dealing with death's separation. That's why it "stings" as Scripture states. However, Revelation 20:14 foretells Death and Hades are the last thing to be thrown into the lake of fire just before Christ rules for all of eternity. What a glorious day that will be. We will live as we were created with eternity as our reality and Death will be no more!

Steve and I worship at The Rock Church. This week one of our own, Julia Gillette, a newly wed of only three months, will bury her new husband, Dylan. He was an Elder at Agape Christian



Fellowship in Michigan. I told the Lord last night that I would wait with great expectation for Him to "work this out for the good". I choose to believe Scripture is true and that He can. Extend grace with one another. We are all hurting in some way or another.

Your Associational Ministry Assistant,  
Marni Laughman