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January 9, 2020

The Messenger

Randy Hagan,
Associational Missionary
Linda Cotton, Ministry Assistant
Sandy Locke,
Financial Ministry Assistant

Associational Prayer Requests

Please pray for these churches that are without a pastor. Also pray for their Pastor Search Committee:

**Cartersville, Mountain View,
Oldfield, Providence, and
Shelvin Rock,**

Churches with Interim Pastors:

Five Points: Rev. Joshua Bell
Mountain View: Rev. Roger Singleton
Odena: Rev. Trull Hill
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel
Southside: Rev. Josh Henderson
Union Springs: Rev./Charles
Bradshaw

Please be in prayer for the **Director of Missions Search Team** as they begin to search for the next Director of Missions: Robert Klotz, Kevin Jones, Mike Snyder, Max Buttrum, Skip Parvin, Mac McCaleb, Lisa Compher, Tommy Strickland

Change

Change is not a bad word. I just had you do the changing and not me. We all must go through change. It starts as an infant and doesn't stop until the last change we make, the move from this life to eternal life. When we marry, we see a change in life. Then as children come into our family, we couldn't believe the change this makes. We change jobs, move, and new people come into our lives. Nothing ever stays the same. This is harder for some than others.

When I was young, I looked forward to change, new things, new job, new church, new friends, and the surprises that came with these changes. As I have grown older, change comes harder to me. Maybe I am more settled than when I was young, maybe I am more set in my ways. Mary Alice says I can be a grumpy old man. I know my

patience seems to be weaker and I do grumble more.

I see January 1, 2020 as a change in my life. At the end of the month I will retire from the best job I have ever had. This change is hard, but I do it with a peace and know its time. As the Lord allows, I will continue to preach till I can't. That will be a real tough change. Ok, I will stay positive here. I am ever grateful that I have been allowed to preach for 51 years. I never dreamed that I would have such an opportunity to preach for the 66 churches in the Coosa River Baptist Association. I have pastored nine churches in my ministry (possibly moved too often) and loved all of them. They have ministered to my family and loved on us even when I made mistakes.

Change can be a good and encouraging if we allow it to be. I

am looking forward to where God leads me to go from here. I am believing He will allow me to be a Bivocational pastor again. My change in this current ministry as your Director of Missions will affect you. Things will change around the office as you call a new Director of Missions. He will do things different, may change some things. Work with him and pray for him and his family. I believe this is one of the best associations in the state. I believe God is doing a work in and through our churches.

Things never stay the same, we all change. One morning you may wake up and discover that you are old. Not all bad, because hopefully you are wiser and more experienced in life. Use your changes to bring glory to God. Happy New Year!

Praying to finish well,
Brother Randy

News from our Churches

ChristPoint Community:

Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Bryan Taunton on the marriage of their daughter, Lauren, to Andy Layton on Saturday, December 28, 2019.

Union Springs: Union Springs Baptist Church has called Rev. Charles Bradshaw to be their interim pastor. He began on December 22, 2019.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:

- Jan 9**-John Locke, Talladega Creek
- Jan 10**-Rachel Crowe, Hepzibah
- Jan 11**-Stephanie Roberson, Mt. Vernon; Marie Cardwell, Mountain View; Emily Davis, Westside
- Jan 12**-David Turner, Village Street
- Jan 14**-Randy Dobbs, Pleasant Grove; Terri Ferguson, Talladega Creek; Barry Owens, Ridgeview
- Jan 15**-Bobby Freeman, CrossPointe
- Jan 16**-Joe Pomeroy, Hepzibah; J. W. Garrett, Stemley; June Thompson, Brecon FBC
- Jan 18**-Rachel Van Gieson, Chandler Springs; Rebekah Acheson, Eastaboga
- Jan 19**-Joshua Bell, Sycamore; Charlotte Vanzant, Fayetteville
- Jan 21**-Anne Churchwell, Mt. Sharon, Debbie Blackburn, Talladega FBC; Belva Forbus, Browns Chapel

You are invited!

You are invited to attend the retirement reception for Randy and Mary Alice Hagan on Sunday, January 26, 2020. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Talladega First Baptist Church from 2 until 4 PM.

All members of Coosa River Association churches are invited to come and say goodbye to Brother Randy and Mary Alice as they leave our association. So mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Pioneer Missions Offering

The Pioneer Missions offering is used by our Carpenters for Christ to help build church buildings each summer, usually outside of Alabama. The offering helps buy materials for the construction site.

This offering will be received by the Coosa River Association Sunday, January 26, 2020. Materials to help collect this offering have been mailed to each church. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to this worthwhile cause.

Scholarship Applications

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama administers more than \$500,000 in scholarship awards each year. The application period opened on January 1, 2020 and will close on March 31. Applications are being accepted online only and can be accessed at <http://tbfa.org/scholarships/> For more information call (334) 394-2000 or email at scholarship@tbfa.org.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee will meet for their quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Coosa River office at 6 PM. The committee is composed of all association officers, the pastors of the churches, and an elected lay representative from each church. The committee conducts the business of the association during the year.

Please add this important meeting to your calendar.

Vessel of Honor Women's Conference

Marble City Baptist Church will host the Vessel of Honor Women's Conference on Saturday, January 25 from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Allison Wilks for One Step Ministries in Prattville, Alabama will be the speaker. April Scott will provide the music. Register online at www.marblecitybaptist.com/events.

DOM Resumes Wanted

The DOM Search Team is now accepting resumes for the Director of Missions position. If you feel the Lord leading you to apply for this position, send your resume to DOMsearchteam@crba.org. You may also mail it to DOM Search Team, PO Box 516, Talladega, AL 35161.

Missions Celebration

Save the date for the Missions Celebration, February 24, 2020!

Bulletin Board

January 16

Executive Committee Meeting at the Coosa River office at 6 PM

January 21

Samford's Ministry Training Institute begins its spring semester at 6 PM

January 26

Retirement reception for Randy Hagan.

January 25

"Vessel of Honor" Women's Conference at Marble City Baptist Church, 10 AM to 2 PM

January 26

Pioneer Missions Offering will be received by the churches of the Coosa River Association to help churches in a pioneer area.

February 24

Missions Celebration at Marble City Baptist Church at 6:30 PM

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.
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