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The Messenger

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March 28, 2019

Associational Prayer Requests

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

Cartersville, Jenifer, Mountain View, Russell Chapel, Southside, Sycamore, and Talladega Springs

Alabama Raceway Ministry as they begin to prepare for the coming spring race in April. Pray that many souls will be saved at this event.

News from our Churches

Mt. Sharon: Rev. Mike Johnson will retire from the ministry on March 31, 2019. Please pray for this church as they begin to search for another pastor.
Sycamore: Rev. Mike Owens has resigned as pastor of Sycamore. He will be working on the mission field. Pray for this church as they search for another pastor.

Secretary Luncheon

All church secretaries are invited to attend the 2019 Secretary Luncheon at the association office on Thursday, April 18 beginning at 11:30 AM. We will focus on friendship. Invitation letters have been mailed out to each church secretary with the details.



These friends may just make an appearance!

Come and make some new friends! Enjoy a time of fellowship. Door prizes will be given out as well. Remember to make your reservations before April 11th.



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

Mar 30-Stephen Collins, Immanuel
Apr 2-Kim Dulaney, Refuge; Trip Dickson, Sylacauga FBC
Apr 5-Cricket Mullins, Stemley
Apr 6-Debbie Morgan, Blue Eye; Sarah Piper, Odena
Apr 9-Corey Green, Sr, Shelvin Rock
Apr 10-Todd Dean, Oak Grove FBC

Is Your Church A SAFE Place?

I want the churches in the Coosa River Baptist Association to be a sanctuary for everyone. We ought to be able to come to church and be safe, our children ought to be loved, protected and ministered to. The sad truth that we are seeing in all denominations, is that we are infiltrated by sin, and people who would do harm to the sheep. A shepherd's job is to feed and protect his sheep. There is a blight of sexual perversion through pedophiles that use the church to find their victims. We automatically think we would never have anyone in our congregation who would be guilty of such an abominable act.

As leaders in our churches we are charged to guard the flock. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Jesus also said in Luke 17:2, "It would be better for him if a millstone

were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

How do we make our church safe?

- 1) Through background checks for all volunteers, deacon candidates, and pastoral candidates. This makes a statement that "we" the church are serious about loving and protecting our children.
- 2) Our ordination process ought to be a more thorough process into the Biblical requirements.
- 3) Return to the practice of church discipline in accordance with Matthew 18-by law, when sexual abuse is claimed we must report it to the authorities.
- 4) In accordance with church discipline, if one is found to no longer be in good standing with a church, we should return to the practice of "sending letters" that describes the behavior of individuals.

5) Offer membership classes that require new members to attend – this will give time to share your doctrine, methods and expectations of all members so there will be no confusion as to what we believe and how we deal with situations in the church.

These suggestions are not a cure for all problems we might have in our churches. After all, we are a hospital for sinners. With this in mind, there are practical steps each church can do to protect one another from harmful encounters: A) windows in doors, B) multiple teachers with children and youth, C) Adults never alone with children and youth. Again, I ask is your church a SAFE PLACE? Let's keep our eyes on Jesus!

Blessings,
Brother Randy

Revival Services

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church will host Revival Services on April 17, 18, and 19 at 6:30 P.M. Rev. George Hayden, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Graysville, will be the guest speaker.

All friends and church family members are invited to attend. Rev. Randy Roberson is the pastor of Mt. Vernon.

Vacation Bible School Clinics

The time has come to start planning for your 2019 Vacation Bible School! Our association will host **two** clinics to help train your leaders for the 2019 theme "In the Wild".

On Tuesday, April 2 the clinic will be held at Sylacauga First Baptist Church. On Thursday, April 4 the clinic will be held at Talladega First Baptist Church. At each location, dinner will be served at 6 PM and classes will be held from 6:30 –8:30 PM.

So enlist your leaders, choose the location which best suits your needs, and come and learn all about VBS! Our associational team is busy preparing for these clinics. We hope to see you at one of them!

Volunteers Needed

The ARC of North Talladega County is getting for their annual fundraising event, **Sunshine Saturday**, and they are looking for volunteers. The event will be held on Saturday, April 20 at The Family Life Center located on West Battle Street in Talladega.

Volunteers are needed to help operate the games booths and other tasks. They will work 1 of 2 shifts, 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM, or 12:30 PM until 4 PM. This would be a good project for a Sunday School class or a youth group.

If you are interested, call Janie Gable Curtis, Executive Director of the ARC of North Talladega County, at 256-589-6784.

WMU Annual Meeting

The Coosa River WMU Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 11 at Trinity Baptist Church. Grace Thornton, contributor to *The Alabama Baptist* and author of "Unshakable Pursuit," will be our speaker. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing all our church WMU ladies at this event!

Volunteers Needed

Citizens Baptist Medical Center is looking for volunteers to help in the hospital. They are looking for adults (ages 18 or older) with a smiling face and friendly demeanor. Volunteers work at the reception desks, gift shop, surgery waiting rooms, and also do patient escort.

Interested? Apply online at www.brookwoodbaptisthealth.com. Choose the family-visitors tab. Then choose volunteer with us. You may also call 256-761-4293 to speak with a volunteer coordinator.

Bulletin Board

April 2

VBS Clinic at Sylacauga FBC at 6 PM

April 4

VBS Clinic at Talladega FBC at 6 PM

April 11

Association WMU Annual Meeting at Trinity Baptist Church

April 18

Secretary Luncheon at 11:30 AM

April 25

Executive Committee Meeting at the Coosa River office at 6 PM

April 28

Race Day - Talladega Superspeedway

May 12

Mother's Day

May 12

Children's Home Offering

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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