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May 9, 2019

# The Messenger

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## 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, and Sycamore**

**Churches with Interim Pastors:**  
**Rocky Mount:** Rev. John Vogel

**Lee Ann Ward**, retired Financial Secretary, has had a recurrence of her cancer.

**Southern Baptist Convention** being held in Birmingham, AL on June 11-12, 2019. Pray for the leaders as plans are being made.

**Rev. David Shafer**, pastor of Union Springs, is currently hospitalized.

## News from our Churches

**Central:** Central Baptist Church has called Rev. Jason "Bo" Hamilton to be their pastor. He began his pastorate on May 5, 2019.

**Cragdale:** Cragdale Baptist Church will have their Homecoming on May 19th. Crystal River will be the guest singers for the day. All are invited to come and worship. Lunch will be served as part of the celebration. Rev. Sam Walker is the pastor.

**Hepzibah:** Hepzibah ordained their youth pastor, Tyler Neloms, to the gospel ministry on April 28, 2019.

**Talladega Springs:** Blake Barnes, pastor of Talladega Springs Baptist Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Calvary Baptist Church in Coosa County.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:  
**May 10**-Jeff Thomas, Bon Air  
**May 12**-Jim Brock, Dry Valley; Miriam Griffin, Tallasahatchie FBC  
**May 13**-Melissa Matson, New Hope; Jim Griffin, Tallasahatchie FBC  
**May 14**-Jeff Harris, Browns Chapel  
**May 15**-Taylor Martin, New Hope  
**May 16**-Carol Russell, Calvary  
**May 17**-Shelia Anderson, Central  
**May 20**-Mary Leigh Freeman, Dry Valley  
**May 21**-Carolyn Thomas, Bon Air  
**May 22**-Christy Mitchell, Oak Grove

What are you good at? I mean we all have some things we do better than others. I have a lot of "used to be good at" things. In my mind, I can do those tasks, but my body says, "not so fast". We all go through changes and we know things change whether we like it or not. I know my reflexes are not as sharp as when I was a teenager. Thus, my driving skills are not as good as when I was a young man. So now I drive more carefully and slower.



Why all the talk about

## Serve the Lord with Gladness

things changing and our skill set winding down? God has a plan for us in our mature years to keep using us for His glory. So, what you were good at when you were young many have changed to other things. I think that our senior adults have lessons they can offer the younger adults. God can use you to mentor and/or disciple others who are younger in their Christian walk.

So, adjust, adapt, and be flexible with how God uses you. He gives the

gifts and does not expect us to do what we can't do. You may be ahead of me here. He does expect us to do what we can do, what we are called to do. And we are expected to do it well. What I am good at may never win an award on this earth, but please know what we do for Jesus, He never overlooks nor misses.

Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye."

For the Glory of God,  
Brother Randy

## "CROSSOVER BHM"

Each year on the Saturday prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board leads an intensive door-to-door outreach campaign known as CROSSOVER in the convention's host city. Birmingham is hosting the convention. The dates are June 11-12.

On Sat. June 8 we want to touch 20,000 homes across the seven metro associations with the gospel. That is a daunting but also doable task if we have your help. We need Alabama Baptists and folks from all over the SBC to join with us in touching these homes with the Gospel. You can go online to CROSSOVERBHM.com and register. (Do not spell out Birmingham, that will take you to the wrong site!)

You will be asked to choose a hub church with which to work on Saturday. Training on how to Share Jesus Without Fear will be offered on Wednesday thru a great simulcast rally and from each hub church on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. **PLEASE NOTE:** For security purposes, NAMB requires that everyone must register and attend one session of the training. There is no charge for either. Your participation is critically important to the success of this mission opportunity. For more information you may contact the Office of Evangelism at the State Board of Missions (800-264-1225) or me personally at 334-590-1079 or [mstokes@alsbom.org](mailto:mstokes@alsbom.org). Praying for a great harvest!

Mark Stokes, Office of Evangelism  
Alabama State Board of Missions

## Graduate Edition

The Coosa River Association will honor all high school and college graduates in the next edition of *The Messenger*. All church secretaries and/or youth pastors should send the names of all graduating students and the name of the school from which they are graduating to the Coosa River office. Names should be submitted in writing to Linda at [lcotton@crba.org](mailto:lcotton@crba.org). They may also be faxed to 256-268-8803. All names should be received **before May 13, 2019.**

## Snacks Needed

Our association will once again collect snacks for the Camp of Champions, the yearly camp of the Alabama Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. This camp will take place on June 7-9, 2019 at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center.

Letters were sent out to all WMU Directors recently with a list of suggested snacks. If you would like to receive a list of



suggested snacks call Linda at 256-362-7173. You may also request one via email at [lcotton@crba.org](mailto:lcotton@crba.org).

Snacks should be individually wrapped (no large bags of chips or cookies). They should be brought to the association office by **4 PM on May 23, 2019.**

Thank you in advance for helping with this project!

## Bulletin Board

**May 12**

Mother's Day

**May 19**

Homecoming at Cragdale

**May 23**

Last day to bring snacks for the Camp of Champions

**May 27**

Coosa River office will be closed for Memorial Day

**June 7-9**

Camp of Champions at Shocco Springs

**June 8**

CROSSOVER BHM, see article at left for details

**June 9-10**

WMU (SBC) Annual Meeting, B'ham

**June 11-12**

Southern Baptist Convention, B'ham

## 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. Phone: (256) 362-7173 Fax: (256) 268-8803 E-mail: [lcotton@crba.org](mailto:lcotton@crba.org)