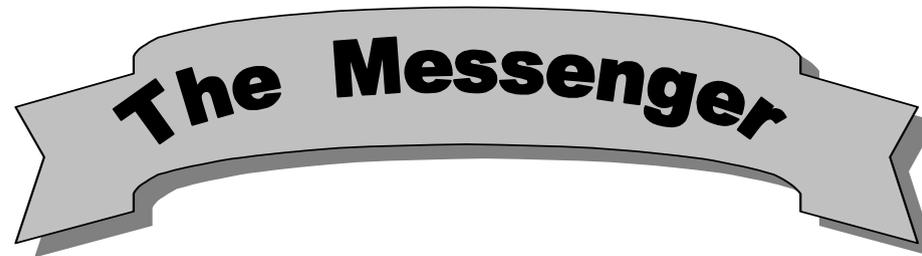


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May 28, 2020



Rev. Mac McCaleb, Moderator
Rev. Jeff Weathers,
Moderator-Elect
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:

Brecon FBC, Mignon, Oldfield, Shelvin Rock and Union Springs

Churches with Interim Pastors:
Cartersville: Rev. Harold Bannister
Five Points: Rev. Joshua Bell
Mountain View: Rev. Roger Singleton
Odena: Rev. Trull Hill
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel
Southside: Rev. Josh Henderson

Dr. Stan Albright as he begins his ministry as Director of Missions on June 1, 2020.

Rev. Tommy Strickland's granddaughter, Tobie Lynn Strickland, was born prematurely on January 10, 2020. Pray for Tobie Lynn, her parents, Joseph and Jessica, and her big brother, Sammy. Brother Tommy is the pastor of Ridgeview Baptist Church.

News from our Churches

Stockdale to host concert

Stockdale Baptist Church will host an outdoor concert on Sunday morning June 7 beginning at 10 AM, weather permitting. Danny Funderburk will be the guest artist. He spent many years singing with the Cathedrals.

Rev. Kevin Jones, pastor of Stockdale, invites all friends and sister churches to attend this outdoor concert.



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

May 29-James Coffman, Providence
May 30-Barbara Heath, Brecon FBC; Danny Posey, Friendship; Van DuPriest, Browns Chapel
May 31-Brenda Davis, Browns Chapel
June 1-Cindy Armstrong, Stemley
June 2-Anita Jenkins, Oak Grove
June 7-Robert Brewer, Friendship
June 8-Sarah McGrady, Tallasahatchie FBC
June 9-Delores Catchings, Odena
June 10-Tim Roesch, Eastaboga; Shelia Limbaugh, Ridgeview; Jennifer Weathers, Sycamore

Memories

Memory is a funny little thing, isn't it? We tend to hold on to the good ones while trying to forget the bad. As an adolescent child, my past was filled with fighting. With two older brothers there was no way around it. Quarrels frequently began over the most trivial matters. Whether it was the direction of a box fan or the last helping of lasagna, there was always something to tussle about. What I wouldn't give to have a few more moments with my brothers. I don't seem to recollect many of those brawls. What do I recall? How much I love them both. That is what I

remember about my childhood.

In a decade from now, I wonder how we will remember COVID-19. Throughout the years, we have been granted moments like this. Having lived through Nation-defining moments like World Wars, planes colliding into buildings or this global pandemic, these moments compel us to reconsider and reevaluate our priorities.

Have they been easy? No. But they have refined us.

In fact, if the Apostle James were here, he would advise us to consider this moment as joyful. "Be glad you are walking through

this time of uncertainty," he would say. Why? Because in moments like this, one can grow! Therefore, embrace them as an opportunity to mature in our walk with the Lord. (James 1:2-4)

Thinking back on those times growing up with my older brothers, I recognize how the Lord molded me and shaped me into the person I am today. COVID-19 will be no different. If we will listen to the Lord, we will come out of this moment stronger than ever before.

Jeff Weathers
Sycamore Baptist Church

Graduate Edition

Coosa River Association will once again honor all high school and college graduates in the next edition of *The Messenger* on June 11. We need each church to send the name of each graduate and the name of the school they are graduating from to the association office by **June 1, 2020**.

We prefer to have these names in writing so that we may check the spelling. You may send it by email to lcotton@crba.org, or by mail it to Linda Cotton, PO Box 516, Talladega, AL 35161. You may also send a fax to 256-268-8803. Thank you for your help in honoring these graduates.

Churches Regathering

Governor Kay Ivey has lifted the ban on the number of people who can gather together. Several churches have once again started meeting inside their sanctuary. Some have decided to continue with drive-in worship a little while longer and others are still doing online services. All are abiding by the restrictions placed by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Families are asked to sit together and space at least six feet from other families. Some are wearing masks inside. No one is shaking hands or passing an offering plate.

Whatever your church is doing, support it with your tithes and offerings. Pray for your pastor, staff, deacons and other leaders as they find the best way for you to meet as a church body. Remember to also pray for your sister churches, especially those without a pastor.

Annals are ready

The annals from the 186th Annual Meeting were completed in February and are now ready to be picked up. We are still holding annals for the following churches: Berea, Blue Eye, Calvary*, Cragdale, Fayetteville, Five Points; Lincoln*; Mountain View; Munford, Odena*, Pleasant Grove, Providence, Ridgeview, Southside, Stemley*, Stockdale*, Sycamore, Sylacauga FBC, Trinity, Westside* (An * indicates that payment is needed).

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM. Call Linda at 256-362-7173 if you have any questions.

Jail Ministry Training

The quarterly Jail Ministry Training will not be held on Sunday, June 21 as previously scheduled. The volunteers are still not allowed inside the Talladega County jail at this time due to restrictions placed on visitors because of the COVID-19 virus.

Ministry leader Angela Minor reports that the ministry is still active even though they can't get inside the jail. They are sending Bibles to inmates who request them and correspond with inmates who write to them. Calls are returned with inmates who reach out by telephone. Please continue to lift this ministry up in prayer.

We hope to be able to have a training session in September. Watch for details later in the summer.

Bulletin Board

June 11

Graduate Edition of *The Messenger*

June 21

Father's Day

July 13-16

Collection week for school supplies for the Friendship House in Oxford

July 16

Executive Committee Meeting at the association office at 6 PM

August 6

Clerk Conference at the association office. Watch for details soon.

September 14

WMU Annual Meeting at Stockdale Baptist Church

October 18

187th Annual Meeting at Eastaboga Baptist Church

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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