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October 8, 2020

# The Messenger

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Director of Missions  
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## Associational Prayer Requests

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

**Alpine, Brecon FBC,  
Mt. Ida, Oldfield, and Union Springs**

**Churches with Interim Pastors:**  
**Cartersville:** Rev. Harold Bannister  
**Mignon:** Rev. Mike Owen  
**Rocky Mount:** Rev. John Vogel  
**Shelvin Rock:** Rev. Mike Johnson  
**Talladega Creek:** Rev. Trull Hill

**Local schools, teachers and students** as they return to school for the new school year. Pray for the Lord's protection from COVID-19 for the students, teachers, and administrators.

## News from our Churches

**Five Points:** Five Points Baptist Church has called their interim pastor, Rev. Joshua Bell, to be their pastor. We welcome Brother Joshua and his family to the Coosa River family.

**Mignon:** Mignon Baptist Church has called Rev. Mike Owen to be their interim pastor.

**Mountain View:** Mountain View Baptist Church has called their interim pastor, Rev. Roger Singleton, to be their pastor. He began his pastorate on September 27.

**Southside:** Southside Baptist Church has called their interim pastor, Rev. Josh Henderson, to be their pastor. We welcome Brother Josh and his family to the Coosa River family!

**Shelvin Rock:** Shelvin Rock has called Rev. Mike Johnson to be their interim pastor.

**Talladega Creek:** Talladega Creek Baptist Church has called Rev. Trull Hill to be their interim pastor.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:  
**Oct 8-**Marsha Smith, Providence; Bill Pruitt, Dry Valley; Joshua Bell, Five Points

**Oct 10-**Mac McCaleb, Marble City  
**Oct 12-**Carson Heath, Mountain View; Ronnie Forbus, Calvary

**Oct 13-**Randie Heaslett, Eastaboga; Milton Smith, Winterboro

**Oct 16-**Ruth Roberts, Refuge; Roy Strickland, Winterboro

**Oct 18-**Jan Heaslett, Eastaboga; Judith Pruitt, Dry Valley

**Oct 20-**Nancy Porter, Stemley

**Oct 21-**Anita Corbin, Hepzibah

## NO LITTLE PLACES – pt. 1

Over the next several issues of our newsletter, I want to share some reflections from an outstanding, small book entitled, "No Little Places," by Ron Klassen and John Koessler. Klassen and Koessler state in their introduction, "Whatever your church's size, location, or circumstances, God can do great things there. Because with God, there are no little places."

Klassen and Koessler identify "Five Myths of Ministry Success." In this issue we will take a look at the first two:

1. **To Be Significant, A Ministry Must Be Big.** The reality is that God "judges" our ministry not by its size, but by its quality. First Corinthians 3:13 says that

when God judges our ministries, He will "test the quality of each man's work." Big numbers are great, but Scripture calls us to servanthood, humility, faithfulness, and right motives. It does not call us to produce big numbers as God's ultimate accomplishment.

2. **To Be Significant, My Ministry Must Be In A Big Place.** Wherever God has called you to minister is an important place! John the Baptist's pulpit was in the desert. Paul's imprisonment actually helped to spread the gospel (Philippians 1:12-13). John Bunyan's great ministry was also from a prison cell. Francis Schaeffer once stated, "We all tend to emphasize big works and big

places, but all such emphasis is of the flesh. To think in such terms is simply to hearken back to the old, unconverted, egoist, self-centered 'me.'"

Dr. Warren Wiersbe often stated, "In the eyes of God there are no small churches, nor are there big preachers." Klassen and Koessler conclude, "How much God can use you has nothing to do with whether He sends you to a large metropolis, a small town, or a prison cell. It depends on your faithfulness and, even more, on His sovereignty."

We will look at the final three "Myths" in our next issue.

Brother Stan

## Bivocational Banquet

We are just days away from the Bivocational Minister Banquet. The banquet will take place on Saturday, October 10 at Eastaboga Baptist Church at 5:30 PM. All Bivocational ministers are looking forward to a time of fellowship, good food, and inspiration.

## Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 18 will take the place of the Annual Meeting this year. The meeting will be held at Ridgeview Baptist Church at 3 PM.

The committee will hear reports from all ministry teams, look at the proposed 2021 association budget, and elect officers for the new year. All members of the Executive Committee are encouraged to attend. Members include the pastors of the churches, all association officers, and an elected representative from each church. Please add this important meeting to your calendar.

## Santa Claus is available

Does your church need Santa to come to an event this year? Call Mike Morrow at (256) 493-8748 to arrange to have Santa come and meet your children. Mike is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church in the Munford area.



## Thank You!

**Thank you** to the following 37 churches who returned their Annual Church Profile before the extended deadline on October 1: Bemiston, Bon Air, Brecon FBC, Browns Chapel, Calvary, Cartersville, Central, Chandler Springs, Cragdale, Eastaboga, Fayetteville, Five Points, Hepzibah, Immanuel, Marble City, Mignon, Mt. Ida, Mt. Sharon, Mt. Vernon, Munford, New Hope, Oak Grove FBC, Odena, Patton Chapel, Providence, Ridgeview, Shelvin Rock, Southside, Sylavon, Talladega Creek, Talladega FBC, Tallasahatchie FBC, Trinity, Village Street, Westside, Westview, Winterboro

Thank to all who have returned their profiles. It is not too late to return your profile.

## Christmas Backpacks

Christmas backpacks will be collected at the Coosa River office the week of October 26-29. Collection hours will be 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. Other hours by appointment.

These backpacks will be sent to compassion ministry sites and church plants in at least 4 states along the Mississippi River. Help a child receive a Christmas gift who would not otherwise get one. For more information on what to pack, contact Alabama WMU at AlabamaWMU.org/christmasbackpacks.



## Bulletin Board

### October 10

Bivocational Banquet at Eastaboga

### October 18

Executive Committee Meeting. We will receive a Disaster Relief offering for churches affected by Hurricane Laura in Louisiana

### October 24

Ministers' Wives Fellowship at the home of Joanie Albright.

### October 26-29

Collection week for Christmas Backpacks. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Evening hours and Friday hours by appointment.

### October 27

Samford MTI class begins at 6 PM, The Gospels, taught by Heath Walton

### November 26

Thanksgiving Day-Coosa River Association office is closed

## 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