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October 24, 2019

The Messenger

Randy Hagan,
Associational Missionary
Linda Cotton, Ministry Assistant
Sandy Locke,
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Associational Prayer Requests

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

Mountain View, Oldfield, Plainview, Providence, Shelvin Rock, Southside, and Union Springs

Churches with Interim Pastors:
Five Points: Rev. Joshua Bell
Odena: Rev. Trull Hill
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel
Russell Chapel: Rev. Dwayne Shurum

Rev. Mark Stokes, co-leader of Alabama Raceway Ministry, has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for him as he recovers from recent surgery.

The family of **Rev. Tony McGrady**, pastor of Oldfield Baptist Church, who went to be with the Lord on October 7, 2019.

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) at Jacksonville State University as they seek to reach students for Christ and to disciple students. Rev. Gary Brittain is the BCM director.

News from our Churches

Five Points: Five Points has called Rev. Joshua Bell to be their interim pastor. We recently reported his name incorrectly. We are happy to set the record straight.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:
Oct 25-Julie Hibbs, Mignon; Ralph Haywood, New Hope
Oct 28-Evan Patrick, Sylacauga FBC
Oct 30-Susan Smith, Winterboro
Oct 31-Carl Armstrong, Stemley; Jearldine Heath, Mountain View
Nov 1-Rick Deerman, Mignon; Joseph Strickland, Ridgeview
Nov 2-Jeremy Clifton, Oak Grove
Nov 4-Jason Sanders, Sylacauga FBC
Nov 7-Connie Morrow, Oak Grove
Nov 8-Kelsey Files, Immanuel
Nov 9-Calvin Mann, Hepzibah; Hudson Chappell, Fayetteville
Nov 12-Margaret Hill, Odena; Steve Lewis, Sycamore; Jim Burke, Patton Chapel; Kaye Howell, Lincoln
Nov 13-Bryan Taunton, ChristPoint

Notes from the Talladega County Jail Ministry

The spirit of God is alive and moving in the hearts and lives of the inmates at the Talladega County Jail. Every Sunday morning and sometimes Wednesday evening a small group of women and men (teachers, preachers and others whose desire it is to serve God)... gather in the lobby at the entrance of the jail to pray. The prayer is powerful and the petition is for the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon all who are present on that day.

The journey begins when the guards swing open the heavy metal door and ask if we are ready. As we head to our destination we can hear the loud clank of the door closing behind us. We know that we



will leave shortly and return to our lives of freedom, but that sound echoes in our hearts and haunts us. That feeling in that moment, this is the despair that prisoners live with constantly. They are broken people dealing with the consequences of their actions. Some are repentant and humbled, and some continue in the spirit of defiant rebellion. No matter what their attitude may be, they are all made in the image of

God; we are all made in His image. He offers pardon and peace to each one through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. This is God's great gift of love to the guilty. The only hope for these people who are forced to the fringes of human society is the Good News of Jesus Christ. That is what

we preach to them, over and over again.

If you would like to participate in the Talladega County Jail Ministry, a training course is required by the Talladega County Sheriff's Office. You must complete the training before you are allowed inside the jail. The next training will be on December 15th, 2019, at the Coosa River Baptist Association Office. The office is located at, 28344 AL Hwy 21, Talladega, AL 35160. The training will begin at 2:00 pm. For more information contact Angela Minor by email at: ake1minor@gmail.com or by phone at (256) 404-4871.

Angela Minor
First Baptist Church of Oak Grove

Christmas Backpacks

Coosa River Association is a regional collection point for the Christmas Backpacks. Collection week will be next week, **October 28-November 2!**

Now is the time to complete your backpack. This year we will use a new system to mark the backpacks. We will use a preprinted Tyvek band (similar to a wristband that hospitals use) that is colored for the gender and age. These bands are available from Alabama WMU free of charge.

Collection hours will be Monday: 1-7 PM; Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM; Friday: 10 AM to 2 PM; Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM.

Last year Coosa River churches donated 168 backpacks. Our goal this year is to collect **200** backpacks.

Faith & Fellowship Day

Auburn Football is hosting its annual Faith & Fellowship Day on Saturday, November 23 at the football game vs. Samford University. This year they will have an exclusive pre-game speaker to provide their testimony at a facility on campus. Afterward, you can participate in the Tiger Walk among other pre-game activities.



For more information, or to obtain tickets at a reduced rate, contact Daniel Kline, Assistant Director of Ticket Sales, at 334-844-8662. Tickets may be purchased online by visiting aub.ie/faihtday.

Fall Festival

Marble City Baptist Church will have a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 27 from 4-6 PM. There will be lots of free food and fun for all ages. It will be in the parking lot on the corner of Quarry Rd and US Hwy 280 in Sylacauga.

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please, take the time to tell your pastor, and other staff members, how much you love and appreciate their service to your congregation. A kind note, a card, or perhaps a meal would mean a lot to these hardworking men of God and their families.

Don't forget to pray for all the ministers on your church staff and their families on a regular basis.

Office Hours

The Coosa River Association office will be **closed** the week of **November 11-15** so that our staff can attend the Alabama Baptist State Convention. We will reopen on November 18 at 8:30 AM.

We will also be closed **November 27-28** for Thanksgiving as we celebrate with our families.

Tim Change

Remember to fall back 1 hour on Saturday, November 2 as we return to Standard Time on Sunday. You don't want to be late for church on Sunday morning!



Bulletin Board

October 27

Fall Festival at Marble City Baptist Church, 4-6 PM

October 28-November 2

Collection week for the Christmas Backpacks at the association office

November 11-15

Coosa River Association office will be closed for the State Convention

November 12-13

Alabama Baptist State Convention, Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne

November 18-25

Collection week for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Hepzibah and Sylacauga FBC are serving as collection sites. Watch for collection hours in a future edition.

November 27-28

Coosa River office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

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