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November 25, 2021

The Messenger

Dr. Stan Albright,
Director of Missions
Linda Cotton, Ministry Assistant
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Associational Prayer Requests

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

Brecon FBC, Chandler Springs, Dry Valley, Mignon, Mt. Ida, Plainview, and Union Springs

Churches with Interim Pastors:
Bemiston: Rev. Jerry Colquett
Cartersville: Rev. Harold Bannister
Oldfield: Rev. Danny Cotton
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel

Rev. David Turner, pastor of Village Street, as he continues to battle an ongoing medical condition.

Pray for **churches** who have recently been affected by Covid-19.

News from our Churches

Central: Central has called their interim pastor, Rev. Ricky Clark, to be their pastor. He began his ministry on November 7, 2021. We welcome Brother Ricky and his wife, Mimi, to the Coosa River family!

Mignon: Rev. Joseph Morris Jr, has resigned as pastor of Mignon. Pray for this church as they begin to search for another pastor.

Happy Thanksgiving

from the Coosa River Association staff

Brother Stan Albright
Linda Cotton
Danny Cotton



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:
Nov 28-Tommy Strickland, Ridgeview
Nov 30-Judy Gaither, Talladega FBC
Dec 1-Darren Anglin, Stemley
Dec 2-Patricia Johnson, Talladega Creek; Randy Roberson, Mt. Vernon
Dec 5-Brian Hibbs, Mignon
Dec 6-Tonya Hendrix, Hepzibah; James Smith, Providence; John Vogel, Rocky Mount

For many people (including myself), Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. If you “google” the internet about Thanksgiving you will find hundreds of posts concerning “why” or “why not” Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. Indulge me for a few moments with “why” Thanksgiving is so special to me.

1. **THE FOOD!** - Yes, it is amazing! At Thanksgiving it seems as though our taste buds have awakened from the long year’s nap to the excitement of all kinds of goodies. And what’s even better, you get to “graze” all day long! Ha!

2. **THE FELLOWSHIP** - You can’t really enjoy the food without the fellowship. Thanksgiving is the busiest travel time of the year because folks want to be with others that are special to them. It is a time to “catch-up” on all the news in other’s lives and relax around the comfort of those you love.

3. **NO PRESENTS!** - Hahaha! Yes, I know what you are thinking. But, seriously, don’t you get tired of

Happy Thanksgiving!

attempting to find the “right” present for everyone? The best present for Thanksgiving is the love that flows from kindred hearts.

4. **THE WEATHER** - What a glorious time of year! The trees have exploded with all their Autumn glory. The sticky humidity has taken a respite. And the cool air brings a new sense of refreshment to the soul.

5. **FAMILY** - This one is related to number 2, but not quite the same. When Joanie and I were serving as missionaries in Washington and New Mexico, we would make major financial sacrifices to fly our children and their families to celebrate Thanksgiving with us. There are few things in this world that are sweeter than the presence of your family gathered around the Thanksgiving table laughing, telling stories, and giving thanks for the Lord’s blessings.

6. **FAITH** - For many, 2021 has been a difficult year. Unemployment,

seclusion, sickness, and death have been common themes. In some ways, our struggles have been akin to those of the early Puritans in 1621 at Plymouth. After an entire year of living on-board their ship, and with the gracious help of the local Native American tribe, these religious refugees from England knew it was time to give “thanks” to their God for His loving provision and protection.

Let me challenge you this Thanksgiving to enjoy the food, participate in the fellowship of others, rejoice that there are no presents to give, glory in the freshness of a new Autumn season, hold your family close with unconditional love, and give “thanks” to your loving, sacrificial Savior who has paid the ultimate price for your eternal reward. For when we are faithless, He is faithful (2 Timothy 2:13).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Stan & Joanie

Worship Leader Needed

Odena Baptist Church is seeking a Bivocational Music and Worship Leader. This person will provide the leadership to ensure the Choir and other Church resources enhance the quality of our worship and create a loving, enthusiastic and vibrant experience of praise to our Lord. The Music and Worship Leader will lead rehearsals for weekly services including Sunday morning, possibly Sunday and Wednesday evenings and special events. Interested persons should contact Pastor Wesley Johnson (256 493-9575) or Guy Tetreau (Chairman, Personnel Committee) at 985-707-4805.

Winter Warm Up!

Eastaboga Baptist Church will hold a Winter Warm Up! on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11. It is a free winter clothes give away to anyone who needs them. Hours are Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and Saturday from 8 to 11 AM.

Do you have any clothing that you would like to contribute?

Contact the church at 256-831-6449 for instructions on donating. Rev. Jeremy Tuiolosega is the pastor at Eastaboga.



Operation Christmas Child

Collection week for Operation Christmas Child is now concluded but was still underway at press time.

We want to thank all Coosa River churches who participated in this wonderful act of love. We will report on the total number of shoeboxes received at each of our collection sites in the next newsletter.

Holiday Office Hours

The Coosa River office will be closed on **November 25-26** so that our staff may spend the Thanksgiving holiday with their families.

We will also be closed from **December 23 through January 2, 2022** so that our staff may celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families. We look forward to serving you in 2022!

Disciple Now Weekend

A Disciple-Now weekend (D-Now) is being planned for all youth in grades 6-12 for the weekend of March 11-12. The event will take place at Shocco Springs Conference Center.

The speaker for this event will be Cole Limbaugh who serves as the area director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

The cost of \$100 per student covers housing, all meals, and conference materials. The fee is due by January 30, 2022. For more information contact Zack Newsome at 256-519-1286 or zack@marblecitybaptist.com.

Bulletin Board

November 25-26

Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 28-December 5

Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 2

Christmas Banquet at Shocco Springs

December 10-11

Winter Warm Up! at Eastaboga Baptist Church

December 23-January 2

Coosa River offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday

January 20

Executive Committee Meeting

March 11-12

D-Now Weekend at Shocco Springs for all youth in grades 6-12

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