

VISIONS

Apr/May '03



A Call of Patience and Faithfulness

The journey to pastoral ministry is unique to each individual. For Baptist women who have been called to pastor, the journey can be long and arduous, with direction and support coming from surprising sources.

Georgia CBF is home to four Baptist women pastors: Carolyn Hale Cubbedge of Memorial Baptist in Savannah, Wendy Joyner of Fellowship Baptist in Americus, Bonnie Decuir of Fellowship Baptist in Edison, and Denise Caldwell of Harbor Ministries in McCaysville.

“Often the time and distance between The Call and The Fulfillment for women in ministry is long and lonely. Just because God speaks clearly to women, and women respond faithfully to God’s voice, is no guarantee that doors will be open and women will be welcomed ... with a place of service that matches the call of God,” reflects Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.

When the CBF of Georgia office realized that Memorial was open to calling a woman pastor, Carolyn’s resume was

hand-delivered to the search committee. “My journey took nine years from The Call through seminary, and finally to a church in 1999,” explains Cubbedge.

“As I sought the church where God would have me serve, I was often asked why I did not move to some denomination other than Baptist. I was pursued by Methodists and Disciples of Christ. Both denominations would have received my gifts. I chose instead to remain a Baptist because I believe the theology and I wanted to be around to help other women whom God was calling.”

Denise Caldwell remembers, “I thought I was safely headed into social ministry or education, music and youth ministry. As graduation from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approached and resumes were sent, my eyes were opened to the trends of denominations that did not include women in certain ministry roles. I must admit I spent some precious time reflecting and grieving about the fate of women in ministry.”

From a resort ministry formed for the 1996 Olympics, a church was born, and Denise was hired as ministry coordinator. In December of 1996, she was ordained. Still not feeling called to pastoral ministry, Denise became co-pastor with Scott Raley. “As I began to feel more and more a call to preach, I argued with God. I remember saying, ‘God, I will speak when you want me to. I am already the co-pastor; why irritate religious leaders with being called pastor?’ This struggle went on for some time. The desire, the calling would not go away. *(continued on page 3)*



“Just because God speaks clearly to women, ... is no guarantee that doors will be open and women will be welcomed.”



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VISIONS is published six times a year by CBF of Georgia

Frankly speaking



The members of First Baptist Gainesville did an excellent job hosting the spring meeting. A letter of appreciation has been sent to Dr. Coates, the staff, and membership for the tremendous effort given to the event. We are very grateful.

The move to our new office is almost complete. Our phones and computers are up and running. We still have a few things to do inside, such as hanging pictures and blinds. We will begin work on the outside in May. We need to replace the roof and do some painting.

Most of what we need has been purchased. We still need to order some chairs and tables and a couple of desks. A number of you have purchased a square foot in honor or memory of someone. If you have not done so I hope you will consider it. The purchase and renovation of the building will average about \$40.00 a square foot.

At the spring meeting we approved a budget of \$496,198.00. We also elected nine new members of the Coordinating Council. The Executive Committee will meet soon to fill vacancies on the Missions, Education, and Student Ministries committees.

The three committees function as task groups. They report to the Coordinating Council, and they supervise, in conjunction with the staff, the work we do. They also form subcommittees as needed. Our fellowship is growing and maturing, thanks in large measure to those who serve on these committees.

—Frank Broome, CBF of Georgia Coordinator



Photo left: Lanny Reich (L), Executive Director of the Chamblee-Doraville Ministry Center, is presented a \$1,000.00 check from CBF of Georgia by Jimmy Lewis, Missions Coordinator. The CDMC serves a multi-cultural community by providing spiritual and practical enrichments that demonstrate the love of Christ.



Photo right: CBF of Georgia presented Ron and Melin Green with a money tree for their new daughter at the 2002 CBF General Assembly in Forth Worth, Texas. Included in this mailing, as supply allowed, is a newsletter from the Green family, who work with our adopted people group in Asia. We hope you enjoy learning more about their projects and our partnership with them.



CBF of Georgia Office Contributors

- Juanita K. Adams
- George L. & Mary M. Balentine
- Frank Broome
in honor of Susan Broome
- Jean Buffington
in memory of Bill O'Conner
- Richard A. Epps
- Katie P. Fowler
- E.E. Flournoy
- Ed Galbreath
- Robert and Anne Gardner
- Napp Granade
- William B. Greenhaw
in honor of Mark & Devita Parnell
- Joanne B. Harwell
- James H. Haygood
in honor of Frank Broome
- E. Gordon Jones
- Mary Kalmanson
- Stephen and Juanita Krysalika
- Jack H. and Linda W. Maguire
- Samuel D. Mason
- Harvey J. and Barbara T. Mills
in honor of Barry Kerr
- John & Catherine H. Naylor
- B.D. Ouzts
- Devita B. Parnell
- Milton P. Snyder
- T. Wesley Stewart
- Ronald W. Stone

From Our Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

I've been on the job almost four full months now. When family and friends ask me what I do, I have a hard time explaining it to them. I begin by saying, "Well, my title is Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life." After catching my breath, I then proceed to try to explain what that means.

The job description is a mile long. It covers Christian education, Sunday School, local church health, leadership and staff development, church music, family ministry, student ministry (children, youth, college), networks with staff ministers, networks with state and national organizations, and finally "other duties as assigned."

In an almost apologetic manner, the search committee said, "The job description is really just a starting place." Although they didn't want me to feel overwhelmed, I'm afraid it didn't work! If I approach it as a starting place, then I'm defeated before I get started.



As I've thought through the responsibilities of my job, I am more convinced the committee's description is not a starting place, but an ending place. It is a vision. It is what CBF of Georgia hopes to be about. With that in mind, I am able to approach the work before me with excitement and energy.

To that end, I look forward to strengthening the relationships I have with many of you across the state in our CBF churches. I also look forward to meeting many more of you as I travel, listening to your needs and the needs of your church.

Give me a call at the office or email me at dparnell@cbfga.org if you would like to work *together* on making your church a healthier place! I don't promise to have all the answers. What I promise is to understand your situation as best I can and help you envision the possibilities.

—Devita B. Parnell, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life

A Call of Patience and Faithfulness *(continued from page 1)*

"Feeling humbled, honored, and scared to death, I became the pastor of Harbor Baptist Church. I don't worry so much about what others think of me as a woman pastor. I don't have time to worry about it or dwell on rejection. Our little church has more important things to be doing!"

Wendy Joyner received support from an unexpected source when she became pastor of Fellowship Baptist in Americus. She received a call from a member of a neighboring Baptist congregation, former President Jimmy Carter. He invited her to his house in nearby Plains. "He was so gracious. He really just wanted me to know he was supportive of me," recalls Joyner.

Carter asked about her background and goals, and then said, "You can do weddings now, can't you?" She said yes, although she never had. "I did my first wedding through a referral from President Jimmy Carter," marvels Joyner.

The biggest influence in her pastoral ministry has been the Pastor Emeritus of her congregation, Frank Kirkland. Joyner explains, "He has been in ministry for over 50 years, and has taught

me so much about what it means to be a pastor. I couldn't have gotten through those first years without a mentor like him."

Bonnie Decuir began her training for ministry thinking her calling was to hospital chaplaincy. "Pastoring a church was not on my radar during those first two years," says Decuir, "then I took my first course in preaching. To my great surprise, I loved it! I was startled at the visions of ministry that began to fill my mind."

During her final year at seminary, she sent hundreds of resumes to Baptist organizations and churches. In the midst of the process, someone asked if she would consider church positions other than pastor. "I had to think and pray hard about that," says Decuir. "I felt because God was calling me to serve as a church pastor, I could not consider something else, though it limited my possibilities. I knew if God wanted me to be a pastor, God already knew the church that was right for me."

One day Decuir received an email from Clarissa Strickland of the CBF national office inquiring if she would consider serving a church in rural Georgia. In early October 2002, she traveled to the Deep South to preach a trial sermon and immediately fell in love with the congregation. "Their openness to consider a brand-new pastor right out of seminary and their genuine concern for my welfare and adjustment to small town life made the decision easy," explains Decuir. "God had brought us together and an exciting new adventure was beginning."



Camp pastor Wendy Joyner (L), and Associate Pastor of Milledge Avenue BC, Athens, Jana Kennerley ham it up at New Horizons Camp 2001.

In the News

Highland Hills Baptist Church in Macon celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 23. Jim Dant is pastor.

Jenny B. Britt was named the 2003 Distinguished Church Woman of the Year by the Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia at their annual spring meeting on April 5.



Jenny has served as Minister of Music and Education at Memorial Baptist Church in Savannah for 22 years. She previously served as coordinator of New Horizons Camp, a CBF of Georgia summer mission camp for children.

Rachel Gunter Shapard was ordained to the Gospel ministry on April 27 by the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, where she serves as Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach.

Scott Ford was ordained to the Gospel ministry on April 27 by First Baptist Church of Williams, Alabama. He is Minister of Education and Youth at

Haven Fellowship in Conyers. Scott serves as coordinator of March Mission Madness, the annual CBF of Georgia mission weekends for youth.

Fellowship Baptist Church in Americus celebrates its 30th anniversary on May 18, with Daniel Vestal as speaker. Wendy Joyner is pastor.

Opportunities

Newly-formed CBF church in Milledgeville, Georgia, seeks a pastor

who is a seminary graduate. We are a small congregation with a contemporary worship style. Submit resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Merritt Massey, 3006 Heritage Rd., Suite D, Milledgeville GA 31061.

www.evergreenbaptistmilledgeville.com

First Baptist Church of Corbin, Kentucky seeks an energetic pastor

to lead moderate congregation in the growth of spiritual maturity and Christian commitment. This church has historically maintained a strong emphasis on meeting the spiritual and

opportunities reports

physical needs of not only our own members, but the surrounding community. Salary and benefits package is negotiable, commensurate with academic preparation and experience. Persons interested should address inquiries to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 N Laurel Avenue, Corbin KY 40701.

In Memoriam

The CBF of Georgia family mourns the death of **Ron Jackson** on April 3. Ron was the husband of Donna Jackson and worked with her at 119 Design producing CBF of Georgia printed materials and many CBF national and other state materials.

Financial Picture

2002-03 year to date as of March 31, 2003
Budget requirement.....\$409,497.40
Receipts.....\$424,255.72

IT'S TIME! Being the Presence of Christ

The 2003 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Related Events June 26-28, Charlotte NC

Wednesday, June 25

20th Anniversary Celebration of Baptist Women in Ministry Banquet and Concert, Westin Hotel, 6:00 p.m.

Banquet features focus on women in ministry and Kate Campbell in concert. Contact Susan Miller at 913-321-6864 or bwim@bwim.org.

Companions in Christ Training Event

St. John's Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This training equips leaders to introduce and lead small spiritual formation groups. \$75 cost includes materials and lunch, after May 28 cost is \$100. Contact Eileen Campbell-Reed at eileencr@mindspring.com.

Thursday, June 26

Congregational Leadership Institute

Westin Hotel, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"Leadership for the Church on the Other Side" led by Brian McLaren. Registration \$45 per individual, \$40 for three or more from one congregation, \$40 for full-time students. Contact Terry Hamrick at 770-220-1600 or thamrick@cbfnet.org.

CBF of Georgia State Gathering

Charlotte Convention Center, Room 213A, 3:45 p.m.

David and Ana D'Amico, CBF representatives to the United Nations, will speak. Sara Powell reports from Touching Taliaferro with Love Summer Day Camp.

Thursday, June 26 through Saturday, June 28

"Being the Presence of Christ"

The 2003 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

A celebration of new and creative ventures within the fellowship network. Participants will be equipped, encouraged, connected, and welcomed. Recording artist Kate Campbell to perform at each of the general sessions.

For accommodations, go to www.cbfonline.org/community/ga. If you need assistance, call CBF toll-free at 866-748-3055.

"Same Print, Different Ground" CBF Youth Assembly

Are you ready to meet youth from all over the U.S. and around the world? Are you ready to hang out with Tony Campolo, take your shoes off, worship, get messy, study and party at Paramount's Carowinds? Are you ready to share in an amazing experience that will challenge you to be Christ in your world? Then IT'S TIME to register! Go to www.cbfonline.org, cost \$100, deadline May 31, grades 7-12 (completed).

Day Care, Day Camp and Children's Assembly

\$75 (\$65 for each additional child from same family). Obtain registration form at www.cbfonline.org. Registration deadline is May 31.

It's Time!

memos from the missions coordinator



We are making progress in our initiative to begin "Touching Taliaferro with Love, Inc.," a corporation formed to do work in Taliaferro County. TTL Inc. is in partnership with CBF of Georgia and the Taliaferro County community. The first project planned for this partnership is the construction of a community center.

The organization is now a registered corporation in the state of Georgia and is awaiting approval of 501c3 status. We've had our first board meeting. We have a completed a boundary and topography survey, title search, and environmental phase 1 study. The appraisal is being done this month.

Gary Parker, our architect, has been with us as we met with parents and youth and let them share their ideas. Their ideas have helped us to see a greater vision, with the addition of a playground for children, ballfields, and places for families to gather. These ideas will be included in a site plan, which will give direction to the steps we take to realize this dream. The project will require time to develop and complete.

Plans are well underway for the June 16-27 Touching Taliaferro with Love Summer Day Camp and the first Baseball Camp in the county. Several supplies are needed to accomplish this first baseball camp. (See list at right.)

If you or a group in your church can provide these, please call the CBF office in Macon at 478-742-1191 ext. 21, or email tnelson@cbfgamissions.org and let us know. These can be shipped to the Macon office.

In addition, there are several opportunities for volunteers in other areas. Listed at right are the volunteers needed.

If you feel God can use your gifts to fill these needs, call Jimmy Lewis toll free at 1-866-245-5240 or email jblewis@mindspring.com.

Thank you for your support in doing the work of the Kingdom through CBF of Georgia.

—Jimmy Lewis, CBF of Georgia
Missions Coordinator



Children and young adults were eager students at "Touching Taliaferro with Love" 2002 summer day camp.

Items needed for Baseball Camp

- 24 tuff-lite baseballs
- 48 regular baseballs
- 36 plastic whiffle balls
- 10 batting tees rubber
- 3 rubber throw down bases
- 1 home plate
- 10 small aluminum bats
- 4 water coolers and cups
- 5 five gallon buckets

Items needed for Day Camp

- Bibles (You may donate the Bibles or donate money for purchase.) We would like to provide a Bible for each camper.
- 25 *The Rhyme Storybook Bibles*
- 25-30 *Holy Bible: Children's Illustrated Edition, Contemporary English Version*
- 50 *The Adventure Bible for Young Readers*
- 75 *The Student Bible NRSV*
- 50 good, used bicycles (24"-28") for boys and girls
- 50 bicycle helmets (Bicycles and helmets will be used for a bicycle maintenance and safety class.)
- 2000 Nutri-Grain cereal bars (We will provide breakfast to the children each morning.)
- 2000 individually packaged Rice Krispies Treats (We will provide snacks each day of camp.)

Volunteers needed

- A person to catalog books at the CBF National mission office in Atlanta.
- A person to organize a prayer movement for CBF of Georgia missions initiatives: church planters, our four families in Sumatra, and our partners in mission. Contact Jimmy Lewis at jblewis@mindspring.com or write him at POB 149, Toccoa GA 30577.
- A person to work with the World Vision Gift in Kind "GIK" program.
- People to pray for the Touching Taliaferro with Love initiative.
- A person to pick up and deliver materials to Taliaferro County.
- A person with grant writing experience to write private grants for CBF of Georgia mission initiatives.
- A person to supervise the construction of the community center in Taliaferro County.
- Persons to lay concrete block.

Needed

- Portable sound system for new church starts.

CBF of Georgia...enabling the people of God who are committed to historic Baptist principles to carry out the Great Commission under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a fellowship where every Christian has the freedom and the responsibility to exercise God's gift and calling.

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GEORGIA

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CBF GA coming up!

May 19-23

Preaching Conference: Preaching in Difficult Times

Barbara Brown Taylor, Tony Campolo, Walter Brueggemann and others

Peachtree Road UMC, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and High Museum of Art

Cost: \$260. Contact www.sermons.net, call 1-800-866-8631, email dhowell13@earthlink.net.

June 5-8

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, theologian and author, speaks in Atlanta.

For information, contact David Jenkins at 404-727-4161 or dojenki@emory.edu.

June 16-27

CBF OF GEORGIA TOUCHING TALIAFERRO WITH LOVE SUMMER DAY CAMP

Day camp for the children of Taliaferro County in grades K-12.

To volunteer, contact Jimmy Lewis toll free at 1-866-245-5240 or jblewis@mindspring.com.

June 26-28

CBF General Assembly Charlotte NC

See page 4 for details and related events.

July 15-18

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP NORTH

Dogwood Retreat Center, Chattanooga TN

A missions camp for children who have completed grades 3-5. Contact Jana Kinnerlesley 706-354-0090 ext. 204 or janask@milledge.org.

July 22-25

CBF OF GEORGIA NEW HORIZONS CAMP SOUTH

New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA

Contact Jana Kinnerlesley at numbers listed above.

September 16-19

A Celebration of Preaching

with Fred Craddock, Teresa Fry Brown, Gail O'Day and others

Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Call 404-727-0714 or visit www.candler.edu/ACADEMIC/OCME.

September 28-30

The Center for Baptist Studies and McAfee School of Theology Preaching

Consultation with Tom Long

King and Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island. Call Truett Gannon at 678-547-6457.

October 17-18

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Fall Retreat

Religious Life Center, Mercer University, Macon

To register contact Devita Parnell, 478-742-1191 ext. 28, or dparnell@cbfga.org.

October 27-28

McAfee School of Theology Bible Study Preview Conference

with Charles Talbert

Cecil B. Day Campus, Atlanta on October 27. Mercer University, Macon on October 28.

November 9-10

CBF OF GEORGIA FALL CONVOCATION

Columbus First Baptist Church

events, dates, times & places