



Becky Matheny

David Sapp

David Childers

Robert Franklin

THE CHURCH in the PUBLIC ARENA

CBF OF GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 3-4 First Baptist Church of Decatur

308 Clairemont Avenue • Decatur GA 30030 • 404-373-1653

child care provided • visit www.fbcdecatur.com for map

Theme Interpretation - David Sapp

Music - David Childers

Speakers - Robert Franklin, Rob Nash

Convocations Coordinator - Becky Matheny

Friday

1:00 p.m. Registration/Resource Fair Open

2:00 Opening Session

PANEL Robert Parham, Founder and Executive Director of the Baptist Center for Ethics; Cynthia Tucker, Editorial Page Editor of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, syndicated columnist, frequent commentator on *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*; Ron Johnson, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Mission, McAfee School of Theology; Alan Culpepper, Dean of McAfee School, Moderator

3:30 Breakout Session 1

4:40 Breakout Session 2

5:45 Dinner (\$10)

6:45 Pre-session Music

7:00 Worship

SPEAKER Robert Franklin, President of the Interdenominational Theological Center;
THEME INTERPRETATION David Sapp, Pastor, Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church;
MUSIC David Childers, Minister of Music,
First Baptist Church of Decatur

8:30 Fellowship

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Ministers Breakfast TBA

TBA Youth Ministers Breakfast

FBC Decatur

8:00 Coffee and Donuts/Resource Fair Open

8:30 Breakout Session 3

9:30 Business

10:30 Break

11:00 Worship

SPEAKER Rob Nash, Assistant Professor of Religion, Shorter College

12:30 Dismissal

Breakout Sessions

- The Church, The Family, and Religious Diversity
- Church Refocusing: A View toward Vitality
- Missions and the Local Church
- A Different Approach to Children's Sunday School
- Bible Studies by McAfee Professors
- Frog-Kissin': An Approach to Missions
- The Church in the Eye of the Storm
- Using Computers in Ministry
- New Approaches to Youth Ministry in the Local Church

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

GEORGIA

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VISIONS

Jan/Feb '00

Georgia, get ready for March 2000!

CBF of Georgia General Assembly

"The Church in the Public Arena"... March 3-4
First Baptist Church of Decatur

Communities in transition, school violence, AIDS. Can the church meet these challenges?

Are we failing to be creative? Are we ministering

to an ever smaller, more comfortable group?

Come to Decatur to be challenged to

"think outside the box" of ministry!

Look inside for more >>>



ABOVE: Hands for Christ of Shurlington Baptist Church, Macon perform at the CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation held at First Baptist Macon.

RIGHT: A youth works diligently on a 1999 March Mission Madness project.

March Mission Madness

A Weekend Youth Mission Experience... March 17-18
Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta

Teenagers converge in Atlanta for a weekend of work, play and worship. Missions is the theme and cooperation is the method. Youth see mutual goals, cooperative effort and networking in action as they work at mission sites all across Atlanta. See inside for more >>>

coming up!

2000

February 21-23

A Retreat for Young CBF Leaders
Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Atlanta GA
"Fresh Wine...New Wineskins"

A time of networking, fellowship and renewal. Colleen Burroughs and Mark Andrist are worship leaders.

Cost is \$50 per person based on four per room. Couples can have private room for additional cost.

Child care provided for ages 6 months to 4 years.

Registration is 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday; checkout is 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. Call Betty Baker-Simmons at 800-352-8741.

February 29 - March 1

Harry Vaughan Smith Lectures
Newton Hall, Mercer University, Macon GA
February 29 at 10:50 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.,
March 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Martin E. Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the University of Chicago; "American Religion at the Turn of the Century"

March 3-4

CBF of Georgia General Assembly
"The Church in the Public Arena"

First Baptist Church of Decatur

See inside article.

March 17-18

March Mission Madness

A Weekend Youth Mission Experience

Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta GA

See inside article.

April 3-5

William L. Self Preaching Lectures
McAfee School of Theology
at Mercer University, Atlanta

James Earl Massey, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor-at-Large for the School of Theology at Anderson University is the keynote speaker.

Call 770-986-3470.

April 25-28

The 2000 Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry
Forum 2, Princeton NJ

"Life Together: Practicing Faith with Adolescents"

Develop strategies for taking ministry into the mission field of adolescence. Brochures available.

E-mail iym@ptsem.edu.

June 29-July 1

CBF General Assembly, Orlando FL

Family-friendly Assembly 2000 includes a first ever Children's Assembly and a PASSPORT DISNEY Youth Convention, both with missions emphasis.

Go to the CBF web site at www.cbfonline.org or the PASSPORT web site at www.passportcamps.org for more information. Hotel reservations, contact Connections at 800-262-9974.

July 25-28

New Horizons Camp, Rincon GA

The focus of New Horizons Camps is CBF missions education for children who have completed grades 3-5. Camp is held at the New Ebenezer Retreat and Conference Center in Rincon, near Savannah. Cost is \$125. Call Connie Campbell at 770-938-1688 or E-mail ccampbell@fbtucker.org.

November 12-13

CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
First Baptist Church, Savannah GA

2000 Visions Deadlines...

March 6 • May 1 • July 3
September 4 • November 6



Rob Nash

Robert Parham

Cynthia Tucker

Ron Johnson

Emory Conference Center Hotel	Holiday Inn	Hampton Inn	Hampton Inn	Fairfield Inn by Marriott
1615 Clifton Road	130 Clairemont Avenue	1975 N Druid Hills Road	3400 Northlake Parkway	I-285 at LaVista Road exit
404-712-6000	404-371-0204	404-320-6600	404-493-1966	2155 Ranchwood Drive NE
				770-491-7444

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.

Frankly speaking

My youngest son, Truitt, is in the eighth grade. He has been learning about the stock market. Recently he participated in an exercise on the Internet. He was given a block of money and encouraged to invest it. After doing some research, he used his make-believe money to buy several thousand shares of Qualcomm. During the next eight months the stock rose from \$25.00 a share to over \$400.00 a share. He made a virtual killing. Too bad good old dad didn't do the same with real money.

There is a lesson in this for CBF. I suspect many of us have been looking for that one thing to happen that would make CBF explode in size and influence. Either the fundamentalists would make some drastic miscue that would turn people away, or we would come up with some innovative approach that would capture the hearts and minds of Baptist folk. We have been looking for the equivalent of a religious Qualcomm.

Most stockbrokers advise us to invest in a broad range of stocks over a long period of time. They point out that the market has never gone down over a long period of time. People who have made such investments have in fact made money. No doubt they have had down days and weeks, but over the long haul the market has gone up.

CBF needs to take the long view. We need to invest in a broad range of issues over a long period of time. This would include above all, "kingdom issues." We should be talking about God's view of things, especially as it relates to servanthood, justice and mercy. Secondly, we need to invest in those issues that strengthen the local church: reaffirming our understanding of Baptist principles, resourcing local congregations, and encouraging clergy and laity as they seek places of service. Thirdly, we need to continue our support of global missions and theological education. These are our blue chip issues.

No one can promise what the future holds in the stock market or in the church market, but something tells me if we continue to invest our time, energy and money in CBF, over the long term, we will see our investment grow.

E. Frank Broome
Coordinator, CBF of Georgia



mission madness

The Madness Is Back!

THE FOURTH ANNUAL March Mission Madness is back by popular demand! On March 17 and 18, over 300 youth from CBF churches in Georgia gather in Atlanta and accomplish mission projects all over the Atlanta area. The weekend promises creative worship, lots of games, fun mission projects, and tons of play!

The primary focus of the weekend is missions. Youth and their leaders work on-site with community-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, The Council on Aging,



Gary Abbott (R) presents R. Kirby Godsey with a proclamation expressing appreciation to Mercer University for its support of CBF of Georgia.



Virginia Appleton (L) chats with Tina and Jonathan Bailey, featured speakers and International Coordinators working in Southeast Asia.



Olivia McMillan enjoys a snack with Dan Riley at break time.



Gladys Giddens (R) catches up on conversation with Ches and Dot Smith.



Buddy Shurden graced the convocation with his down home theology.

macon photo memories of the 1999 fall convocation

people, opportunities, reports

people

Dorothea Gatlin has retired from First Baptist Church of Decatur where she served as Associate Pastor of Missions.

Jennifer Scarbrough was ordained on October 24, 1999 at the First Baptist Church of Morrow.

John D. Pierce has been elected the new Executive Editor of *Baptists Today*. Pierce has served as Managing Editor of *The Christian Index*, the state newspaper of the Georgia Baptist Convention, since 1994.

Billy T. Nimmons, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dalton, has announced his retirement effective March 1, 2000.

professional opportunity

First Baptist Church Marietta is seeking a **Minister of Students** whose primary responsibilities would be with junior and senior high school students, with some oversight with college and career young adults. First Marietta is a moderate congregation with women deacons and an ordained woman on staff. They are affiliated

with the SBC and CBF, and a candidate must be open to these and other values that distinguish a moderate church.

First Marietta is interested in a relational individual who is mission-focused. Weekly youth Sunday School attendance is between eighty and ninety. The unified budget is just over \$1.5 million. The church is in construction of additional educational space for families with young children. Marietta is a dynamically growing community and the church reflects this pattern. The staff ranges in age from 28 to 53;

the pastor is 33. The church is looking for candidates who are interested in a team concept of ministry. The pastor, Greg DeLoach, may be contacted directly at 148 Church Street, Marietta GA 30060, 770-424-8326, gdeloach@mariettafbc.com.

CBF of Georgia financial picture

Monthly Budget Requirements \$20,580.16

1999 Budget Receipts

November	\$26,519.39
December	\$22,765.68



1999 March Mission Madness youth make light work of painting a home.

March Mission Madness 2000 coordinators are Ben Homola and Carmen Homola-Brock. >



For more information about March Mission Madness, please contact:

Ben Homola and Carmen Homola-Brock
308 Clairmont Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
404-373-2442
bhomola@emory.edu
chomola@emory.edu

local churches, and various public service agencies. This is a weekend designed to teach youth and church leaders the importance of corporate worship, corporate play, and corporate missions.

To expand the vision of community service, March Mission Madness is encouraging churches to participate in two group efforts prior to the weekend. Each church is asked to hold a church-wide canned food drive so we can make a

contribution to the Atlanta Food Bank, one of our work sites. Church members are also asked to clean out their closets and attics, so we can bring clothes and shoes to another work site, the Salvation Army.

This year's event is at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. The cost is \$35 per person, which covers expenses for t-shirts, meals, recreation, program leaders, sleeping accommodations, and mission supplies. Registration forms and a non-refundable \$10 deposit per person are due on

February 18. Churches are requested to bring one adult chaperone for every eight youth.

Youth groups arrive and register Friday evening, and participate in a night of games, food, recreational events, and worship. On Saturday we load up the vans and put in five hours of mission work, and then gather for a community dinner!