

Frankly speaking



The First Baptist Church of Augusta did a superb job hosting the Spring General Assembly (photos inside). A letter expressing our appreciation has gone to the church specifically thanking the pastor, staff and volunteers for a job well done.

A number of positive decisions were made at the meeting:

We are adopting the Unreached People Groups of Sumatra, Indonesia. Sometimes called the least evangelized island in the world, it is home of 53 known UPGs, consisting of 25 million people of whom only 3,150 are Christians. CBF work presently focuses on the Lampungese, Minongkabou and Malay people groups. The Adopt-A-People initiative invites individuals, groups and churches to become directly involved in missions through focused prayer, project participation and volunteer involvement. To participate in the adoption, contact Tom and Beth Ogburn in the World A Link Office at POB 2723, Dallas TX 75261-2723, 800-782-2451, or e-mail adopt@mind-spring.com. To learn more about Adopt-A-People go to www.cbfonline.org/mission/adoptpeople.

We have authorized the formation of "The Heritage Chorale." This is a partnership of men and women active in a church music program: directors of adult, youth or children's choirs, pianists, organists, orchestra and handbell directors, and active members of a church choir. Membership in The Heritage Chorale is open by audition, and the chorale is available individually and as a group to share through the ministry of music. This group looks forward to networking

with music ministry personnel throughout Georgia to provide workshops, seminars, conferences and age-level camps. Contact Gail Pyron at 770-487-4108 or gailpyron@cs.com.

Our Missions Committee announced the appointment of Schell Martin as a mission volunteer from CBF of Georgia to China this summer. Schell is a member of the First Baptist Church of Augusta and a freshman at Wake Forest University. A missions commissioning ceremony (photos inside) charged Schell and the following to mission service in 2001:

- Lin Carter and daughter Lee Ellen Carter of Macon—China;
- Carolyn Held of Savannah—Singapore;
- Doug Ivey of Carlton—pastor, New Horizons Camp;
- Connie Campbell of Tucker—director, New Horizons Camp;
- Sarah Withers of McDonough—teacher, New Horizons Camp;
- Robert Walker of Atlanta—Ghana;
- Agnes Church of Atlanta—Ghana;
- Ruth Perkins-Lee of Atlanta—Ghana;
- Janie Peacock of Rome—China;
- Michael and Kitty Wilson of Macon—China.

Reports from March Missions Madness and New Horizons Camp are very good. March Missions Madness for youth was completely full with 350

—continued inside

CBF GA coming up!

2001

April 19-21

Annual Meeting of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors
Omni Hotel, Atlanta
Go to www.aapc.org or contact Andrew Gee, 404-814-4478.

April 20

To the Women on My Journey
Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia Spring Meeting
First Baptist Church, Rome GA
10:00 A.M. registration, 10:30 A.M. worship, 12:15 P.M. lunch, business, awards.
Featured speaker is Priscilla Jones Tunnell. Cost \$15.00; your check is your reservation, send to Laura Willis, 2023 Deren Way, Atlanta GA 30345.

April 27-28 and May 4-5

First Baptist Church, Macon
Conversational English Teacher Training
Help internationals learn English, or prepare to teach on a foreign mission trip. Contact Catherine DuPree at 478-477-9440.

June 28

CBF of Georgia meeting at CBF General Assembly
Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta
Room 314, 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

June 28-30

CBF General Assembly
Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta
Join in celebrating the 10th anniversary of CBF. Registration is not required.
Former President Jimmy Carter speaks at Friday night session.
For hotel reservations, call Connections at 800-262-9974.
Log on to www.cbfonline.org for periodic updates on all events!

July 7-13

Discipleship Matters
National Christian Education Conference
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin
Call 800-558-8898.

July 17-20 and July 24-27

New Horizons Camp
New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA
A missions camp for children who have completed third through fifth grades.
Contact camp director Connie Campbell at 770-938-1688, ext. 19, or ccampbell@fbtucker.org.

November 11-12

CBF of Georgia Fall Convocation
Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon
John Claypool, Speaker

2001 Visions Deadlines... April 30 • July 2 • September 4 • November 5

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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VISIONS

Mar/Apr '01



The 2001 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

June 28-30, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

2001 CBF General Assembly affords you an opportunity to:

- Follow Jesus in mission and ministry.
- Experience joy in being Baptist.
- Discover resources for ministry.
- Celebrate a decade of promise.
- Embrace a future of hope.

For the latest, up-to-the-minute details:

Log on to www.cbfonline.org.

For hotel accommodation

Call Connections, official housing service of the 2001 General Assembly, 800-262-9974.

Among the highlights:

- Keynote address by Jimmy Carter, recounting his personal journey as a follower of Christ, during the June 29 evening session.
- Nearly 100 workshops focusing on local church ministry.
- Commissioning of new missionaries.
- Tenth Anniversary Banquet on June 27 celebrating "A Decade of Promise." For reservations contact Debbie Brown at 770-220-1663 or dbrown@cbfnnet.org.
- Congregational Leadership Institute on June 28. Register online at www.cbfonline.org or contact Jamie Strom at 770-220-1636.
- Resource Fair with more than 80 exhibitors offering services and resources for churches.
- Dozens of auxiliary events sponsored by CBF partner organizations.
- Gathering of CBF of Georgia on Thursday, June 28th, 3:45-5:00 P.M., in Room 314 of the Georgia World Congress Center.
- Children's Assembly and activities for youth.

For Georgia to have 3,000 in attendance, we need commitments of:

- 10 churches bringing 100,
- 20 churches bringing 50,
- 10 churches bringing 40,
- 10 churches bringing 30,
- 10 churches bringing 20, and
- 10 churches bringing 10.

During the June 29 evening session, former President Jimmy Carter will recount his personal journey as a follower of Christ.

Dear Mom and Dad,
I had fun at New Horizons Camp. Can I go back this summer please? I promise to be good.

Your son Jarell

New Horizons Camp is July 17-20 and July 24-27 at New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon GA. A missions camp for children who have completed third through fifth grades, New Horizons Camp children learn in fun and wacky ways, and in serious and moving ways, that God has called them to love and serve others. Contact camp director Connie Campbell at 770-938-1688, ext. 19, or ccampbell@fbtucker.org for availability of space.

—Brought to you by CBF of Georgia!



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CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council

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Becky Matheny (at-large)

VISIONS is published six times a year by CBF of Georgia...

All questions and comments may be directed to the editor, Surelle Pinkston, at (478)301-5928 or pinkston_sk@mercer.edu

Georgia names 2001-2002 moderator and moderator-elect

Moderator Jim Ross



Jim Ross, pastor of Madison Baptist Church, is the 2001-2002 moderator for CBF of Georgia. He has been active in CBF life from the start, most recently serving on the CBF of Georgia Coordinating Council as Moderator-Elect and chair of the Convocations Committee. He previously chaired the Finance Committee.

Jim was reared in the small town of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, near Jackson. He attended Mississippi State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, completing the Master of Divinity degree in 1978. He received the Doctor of Ministry degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991.

It was while at Southwestern that Jim met Ann Lay of Crossville, Tennessee, a graduate of The University of Tennessee. They were married in 1977 and are the parents of four children. Emily was married last year to Tom Greenfield, and they live in Griffin. Caroline is a third year nursing student at North Georgia College and State University. Patrick is in his second year at The University of Mississippi. David is in the fourth grade.

Jim has served since 1988 as pastor of Madison Baptist Church. He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Epworth from 1982 to 1988. His first pastorate was at Mount Carmel Baptist near Cleveland, Tennessee.

Moderator-Elect Rachel Deems



Rachel Stevens Deems has also been a vital participant in CBF life. She was a member of the Coordinating Council of CBF of Georgia from 1995-1998, the National Coordinating Council from 1998-2001, and the National CBF Strategic Planning Task Force in 2000-2001.

A native of Evergreen, Alabama, Rachel has lived in Georgia since 1988. She was educated at Judson College and The University of Alabama, earning her M.A. in 1982. She is presently Director of Development at Stratford Academy in Macon, having previously been employed by Mercer University, 1988-1995, and Judson College, 1979-1988.

Married to Kenneth G. Deems since 1980, they have an 11 year old daughter, Morgan Guice Deems. They are members of The First Baptist Church of Christ at Macon, Georgia, where Rachel serves as a deacon.

From Past-Moderator Becky Matheny



CBF of Georgia has set the stage for many new ventures and ministries. I am anxious to see those become a reality. I have met many great people across the state, and I will miss working and making things happen with these great people.

My challenge to you is to get involved. Be a force in Georgia for ministry and service. Make your statement as Baptists. The future is challenging and exciting. Thanks for a wonderful experience.



On February 2, 2001, a group of members and friends of the **First Baptist Church of Athens** departed for India where they ministered to people of that country through education and medicine. The church prayed for the mission team beginning with a January 31 Day of Prayer until the team returned on February 17.

>> The **ordination of Tina Clark** by her home church, the First Baptist Church of Forsyth, was March 25. Tina serves at FBC Forsyth as Minister of Education and Youth.

>> **Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia** are pleased to announce the 2001/2002 recipients of the Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to **Andrea Dellinger** and **Rachel Gunter** at the BWIM Annual Spring Meeting on April 20 at First Baptist Church, Rome.

Andrea and Rachel are both students at McAfee School of Theology. Andrea serves as intern to the Student Ministry of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Rachel is serving as Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach at First Baptist Church, Gainesville. The Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship is awarded yearly to outstanding women in their second year of seminary.

It's all about resourcing

>> **Reba Sloan Cobb** of Louisville KY has been named coordinator of the Atlanta-based CBF Resource Center. She is responsible for implementing CBF's strategic plans, cultivating its

partnerships with related organizations, and managing its infrastructure including finances, administration, human resources and information technology.

The new position allows Daniel Vestal, as chief executive officer, to focus primarily on external relations. These include cultivating CBF's partnerships with churches, directing fund-raising and leading the Coordinating Council.

>> **The Baptist Center for Ethics** launched a free, weekly e-mail newsletter called *bcE*byte* in March 2000. In its first year, subscriptions have increased 150 percent. The newsletter expresses opinions, digests reports and creates a proactive network.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to sgriffith@baptists4ethics.com with your name and e-mail address.

>> **CBF offers a free, bi-weekly e-mail newsletter** called *Fellowship bi-Friday* which includes links to columns offering devotional reflections, resource suggestions and perspectives on Baptist life; action alerts in response to disaster relief needs; reviews of new books and church resources; and, announcements of major events in CBF life. E-mail fellowship@cbfnet.org or call 800-352-8741 to subscribe.

>> **Smyth & Helwys** announced the creation of a new line of preschool and children's Sunday School materials during their 10th anniversary celebration in December 2000. The curriculum line is expected to be available for use in September 2002.

A website is provided where teachers, parents and ministers can be part of the development process. Information about the series' development, session prototypes, polls and a discussion area gives users an unprecedented role in the design of the new Sunday School

series. The site can be accessed from a link on Smyth & Helwys' homepage at www.helwys.com.

>> **CBF Prayer Associates** is a list of specific prayer requests from CBF missionaries and international coordinators serving in a world without borders.

This list, updated monthly, is a resource to empower you, your family, and members of your congregation to take part in informed praying. To receive this monthly resource, call 800-352-8741 or e-mail fellowship@cbfnet.org.

>> Check out the **CBF of Georgia web page** at www.cbfga.org for Georgia churches, *Visions* newsletter, partner organizations and more.

>> For **CBF of Georgia brochures**, e-mail pinkston_sk@mercer.edu or call 478-301-5928.

>> For up to the minute news about **CBF**, go to www.cbfonline.org.

Sheryl Groover leaves position at CBF of Georgia

Sheryl Groover, who became the first administrative assistant and financial secretary for CBF of Georgia in 1997, is leaving the Macon office and moving to Gainesville, Georgia, where her

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Sheryl Groover resigns her CBF GA position to move to Gainesville, Georgia.

husband has accepted a job with the sheriff's department.

Sheryl took the CBF position on faith, knowing we were small with a limited budget. She has been instrumental in our growth. She has been receptionist, bookkeeper, secretary, record keeper, planner, host, and above all encourager. The CBF of Georgia office got a jump start the day she came to work, and we would not be where we are today without her.

We wish Sheryl and Chuck the best as they follow God's leading. Though we know she will not leave the CBF family, we will miss her in Macon.

CBF of Georgia financial picture

• 2000-01 monthly budget requirement	\$23,539.58
• January receipts	\$23,102.46
• February receipts	\$47,144.18



William Augustus Jones, Jr. presents "The Word Confirmed" during Saturday morning worship.

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participants. New Horizons Camp for children has been expanded to two weeks. Both weeks are filling up fast. (See ad inside for information on this year's New Horizons Camp.)

The proposed 2001-2002 budget was approved. The total figure is \$408,602.00. This is a 45.35% increase for us. This will be a real challenge. I believe we can do it.

This has been a good year for CBF of Georgia. We are better organized, with sounder funding and more energy than ever. We are poised to expand our mission efforts. Daniel Vestal often says that the CBF is an act of God's grace. The CBF of Georgia is finding that to be true every day.

—Frank Broome, CBF of Georgia Coordinator



During the CBF Georgia General Assembly in March, Lin Carter, Lee Ellen Carter, Kitty and Michael Wilson, and Schell Martin are commissioned to serve as missionaries to China for the summer of 2001.



Ches Smith, proud grandfather of Schell Martin, prays the commissioning prayer.



Frank Broome presents a plaque thanking Becky Matheny for her service as 2000-01 CBFGA moderator.