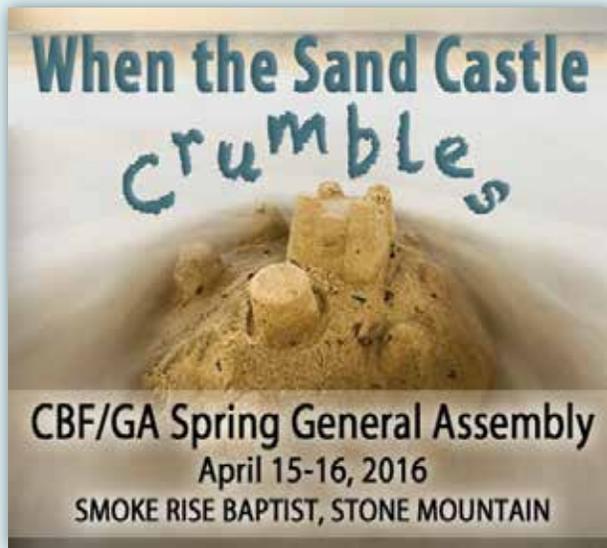


# VISIONS

## 2016 Spring General Assembly, April 15-16

HOST CHURCH: Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain

5901 Hugh Howell Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 • 770-469-5856 • <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org>



“Maybe at a time when the tides of change threaten to destroy the church, it’s time to go swimming, time to dive into a culture that no longer loves the church and learn a few new strokes.”

JIM SOMERVILLE

Come together Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 for Spring General Assembly at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain! Take part in interesting breakouts and network meetings, explore the Resource Fair, meet new CBF/GA friends in your Neighborhood meeting, be inspired through challenging worship, and enjoy fellowship during meals and breaks. More information about all aspects of the CBF/GA Spring General Assembly is found throughout this issue of *Visions*. There is even a poster you can detach and use in your church.

Hear these words of invitation from our moderator, Sarah Murray: “Our calling as Fellowship Baptists in Georgia and my own struggles in coping with change are why I am so excited about our upcoming Assembly at Smoke Rise Baptist Church April 15-16. Come ready to pray, worship, and discern what God is calling us to as individuals, as churches, and as CBF of Georgia.”

Featuring **Jim Somerville**, Friday’s keynote speaker and leader of the Pastors’ Gathering. Jim is an author and pastors Richmond’s First Baptist Church.



**Danny Vancil**, Minister of Music & Worship at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, will plan and lead the worship music on Friday evening.



**Pam Durso**, preacher for Saturday’s BWIM worship, is executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. She is an advocate and a resource for women serving in all areas of Christian ministry.



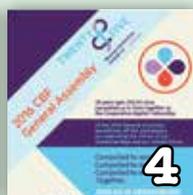
**Ossie X. McKinney**, Minister of Music at Faith Baptist Church in Atlanta, will lead the worship music on Saturday.

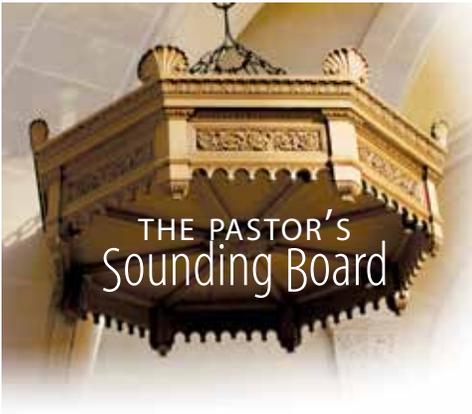


(More 2016 Spring General Assembly information begins on page 8.)

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- 3 • Events & Updates
- 6 • From Our Leadership
- 8 • CBF/GA Spring General Assembly
- 14 • 2016 CBF/GA Events
- 16 • On the Calendar





# Proclaiming in Our Neighborhoods

RORY NAEVE, rorynaeve@gmail.com

Here is the twenty-ninth in a series of articles called The Pastor's Sounding Board. This series gives you a chance to hear from senior pastors of CBF/GA. Rory Naeve, pastor of First Baptist Church of Claxton, is the writer for this issue.

A sounding board is a structure over a pulpit or rostrum to give distinctness to a speaker's voice. In these articles, we expect to hear about some of the "best practices" occurring in our churches, and we hope to hear some of the "best thoughts" that our lead pastors have. We hope these words will challenge you and your church to open new vistas of ministry in Georgia and around the world.

Two years ago, our church in Claxton organized a Fall Festival, like I'm sure many of your churches did. We had activities and games, some hotdogs, costumes, a cake walk, and some information about our church. Sound familiar? Except that year, our church decided to set up the Festival about a mile away from the church in the middle of a neighborhood. In fact, it was at the church parsonage, where my family lives.

Why? Why host a church event away from the church building?

The short answer: that's where the people are. In our city, the police at Halloween block off traffic along the street that runs right in front of our house and people by the hundreds come trick or treating. So as our church leadership discussed the Fall Festival, we eventually came to the conclusion that instead of bringing people to our event, let's just take the event to the people, *right where they are*.

I'm sure you read articles and hear enough stories about how the world is changing. We hear over and over again how the church will have to adapt to the new generations. People don't move into a neighborhood and automatically look for the Baptist church in town anymore. Membership declines, budgets decline, volunteerism declines. What do we do?

We must change the direction of our churches, and I mean that literally. We need to change the direction in which energy flows in regards to our churches. If we were to consider the way that our churches behave, we might just come to the conclusion that our idea of "success" as a church is to bring people into our church. We hold worship services with music and preaching that people enjoy so they will come back. We hire staff to run programs on Wednesdays and Sundays to encourage families to come

be a part of what we're doing in our churches. We send out mailers inviting people to our churches; we hold events to entertain and advertise so that people will come.



None of that is inherently wrong. Certainly, some just want to be "successful" by having big numbers where it counts (in nickels and noses). But most of us want people to come to our church because we want to help people, reach people, minister to people, and help them grow into maturity in the name of Jesus Christ.

And yet, why wait for them to come? Why must we hold ministry hostage to the busyness of the modern world? Why wait for people to come when instead we *could go*?

The church going out isn't exactly a novel concept. Mark 1 recounts Jesus' miraculous healings of broken bodies and troubled spirits, right at the outset of his ministry. It doesn't take long before Jesus is getting a bit of a following in Capernaum. People are crowding around and pressing to meet Jesus. His deacons must have been pleased as punch! Until one morning they can't find Jesus in the house. They go out and look in the dark of the morning for Jesus in the wilderness. When they find him they say, "Everyone is looking for you." And Jesus replies in v. 38, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." Jesus sends out the twelve disciples in Matthew 10 and he sends out seventy-two in Luke 10. And of course, Matthew ends his Gospel with the Great Commission, sending out his disciples to the ends of the earth.

Why wait for people to come when instead *we could go*?

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Rory Naeve married Gigi and serves as the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Claxton, GA. He is pursuing the Doctor of Ministry at the McAfee School of Theology in between reading bedtime stories to two bright daughters.

# Events & Updates

## Catch the Spirit of Pentecost Work Day at New Era Center

CBF/GA's partnership with the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention continues to develop. A statewide work day entitled "Catch the Spirit of Pentecost" is set for Saturday, May 14, at the New Era Center near Griffin. While specific projects for the day are yet to be determined based on the recommendations of various inspectors, the schedule set for the day is as follows:

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Work
- 11:00-12:00 noon Worship
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
- 1:00-3:00 p.m. Work and Wrap-Up

Thus far, a small committee appointed by the moderator has represented CBF/GA in discussions and shared fellowship and worship with New Era and its representatives. Now the time has come to expand the reach of our efforts, and so we move forward with this "Catch the Spirit of Pentecost" work day planned for Pentecost weekend. Sarah Murray, outgoing CBF/GA moderator, and Doug Stowers of New Era are collaborating on the fellowship and worship components, while Stanley Smith of New Era is working with Henry Tyson, the incoming CBF/GA moderator, to plan and oversee improvement and repair projects at the camp.

Our commitment to the growth and development of this partnership is a reflection of sincere desires to live out what is stated in the Preamble of our Constitution: "We are cooperative by choice, recognizing the blessings of shared mission and ministry. It is our desire that this fellowship be inclusive, for our Baptist heritage has taught us that there is strength in diversity. Realizing that we are only one part of God's family, it is our desire to cooperate with one another and other Christians as we seek to minister in God's name."

Join us May 14, Pentecost weekend, as we live into what we're called to do as people of God, loving our neighbors of New Era Missionary Baptist Convention!



For more information or to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Henry Tyson at [hdbgt@att.net](mailto:hdbgt@att.net), Sarah Murray at [SarahMurray@fbcgriffin.org](mailto:SarahMurray@fbcgriffin.org), or contact CBF/GA at 478-742-1191, ext. 3.



## First Ever Senior Adult Retreat Planned for May

CBF/GA invites all senior adults to the first ever Senior Adult Retreat, Monday-Tuesday, May 16-17, at FBC, St. Simons Island! Make plans soon, as hotel accommodations will fill quickly.

**Theme...** The retreat's focus is "Celebrating Faithfulness" and will be led by Dr. Tony Lankford, pastor of FBC, St. Simons Island. Activities, beginning at 10 a.m. Monday and concluding with lunch on Tuesday, include Bible study, worship, coastal sightseeing, service projects, and fellowship.



**Registration...** Please call Renée Bennett at 478-742-1191, ext. 3, or email [rbennett@cbfga.org](mailto:rbennett@cbfga.org) to register. A registration fee of \$10 will be payable upon arrival at the church and will cover Monday's lunch. The deadline to register is Monday, May 9, 2016.

**Lodging...** Rooms have been reserved at St. Simons Inn by the Lighthouse ([www.saintsimonsinn.com](http://www.saintsimonsinn.com)) at a rate of \$129.00 plus tax per person per night, based on single-occupancy. Call 912-638-1101, ask for Angie, and use the code CBF. If these rooms fill up, accommodations may be found at other area hotels.

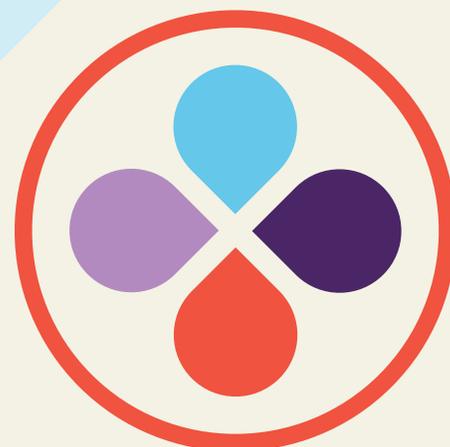
**Meals...** Monday lunch is provided, the hotel provides continental breakfast, and other meals will be shared at local restaurants/Dutch treat.

**Note...** Bring fishing gear if you want to fish from the pier in the village! ■

TWENTY & FIVE

Because Christ's love  
compels us 2 COR. 5:14

# 2016 CBF General Assembly



25 years ago, Christ's love compelled us to form together as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

At the 2016 General Assembly, we will kick off this anniversary by celebrating the stories of our shared heritage and our shared future.

Compelled to worship;  
Compelled to lead;  
Compelled to impact  
Together.

**JOIN US IN GREENSBORO.**

June 20-24, 2016  
Sheraton Hotel and  
Koury Convention Center  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Register now at  
[www.cbf.net/assembly](http://www.cbf.net/assembly)

## CBF/GA Funding Available for Student.Church Interns in Georgia

This year CBF/GA will be partnering with CBF Global to offer additional funding for up to ten CBF/GA churches who hire summer interns through the Student.Church internship program. Details and instructions for participating in the program are listed below.



- Invite Frank Broome or Martha Kate Hall of CBF/GA to be present for and participate in a gathering during the summer while the intern is serving

### How to participate in the CBF/GA Internship Initiative for 2016

1. Complete the Student.Church application. Churches may visit <http://www.cbf.net/studentdotchurch/> to access online and printable applications.
2. Answer any supplemental questions from CBF/GA (These will be sent via e-mail after the application has been received.)
3. Secure funding to cover the church expenses for an intern.
4. Identify an intern either within your own congregation or through other contacts.
5. Have the intern complete an application. Students may visit <http://www.cbf.net/studentdotchurch/> to access online and printable applications.
6. Locate housing for the intern not living at home.

### Requirements for churches seeking additional funding through CBF/GA

- Meet all requirements laid out in the Student.Church program
- Exhibit church support of CBF/GA
- Hire an intern with a CBF/GA connection
  - Currently a member of a CBF/GA church
  - Attending a CBF/GA church
  - Attending a partner institution in GA
  - Able to attend the Student.Church orientation and SelahVie debriefing

### Financial Requirements for each church participating in the CBF/GA Student.Church Internship Initiative are listed below.

Student.Church program through CBF National will provide:

- \* \$600 stipend for the student
- \* \$200 travel stipend to attend orientation and/or SelahVie

The CBF/GA Internship Initiative will provide:

- \* \$1800 stipend for the student
- \* Possible additional money to cover remaining travel expenses for orientation and SelahVie

The local church will provide:

- \* \$600 stipend for the student
- \* Housing for the student's 10 weeks
- \* \$300 food stipend
- \* Compensation for Church related travel
- \* All expenses for church related events and trips
- \* Members to provide a meal for the student (either take the student out to eat or invite into their home) at least once per week

If you have questions, please contact Martha Kate Hall at [mkhall@cbfga.org](mailto:mkhall@cbfga.org) or go to the CBF National website [www.cbf.net/studentdotchurch](http://www.cbf.net/studentdotchurch). ■



With the addition of the first CBF/GA Senior Adult Retreat May 16-17 at St. Simons Island, **we are moving Senior Celebrations to fall for 2016**. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend!

• **Thursday, October 27, 2016: Heritage Baptist Church, Cartersville**, with Clarissa Strickland, former staff member at CBF National speaking.

• **Thursday, November 10, 2016: First Baptist Church, Eatonton**, with Charles Smith, pastor of Madison Baptist Church speaking.

### Pastors' Gathering at CBF/GA Spring General Assembly

Led by Jim Somerville, Pastor, FBC Richmond, Virginia  
Friday, April 15, 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain

#### "Do We Have to Rip Out the Pews? The Graceful Missional Transition"

Explore the complexities and difficulties of becoming a missional church. Jim will share his efforts to move First Baptist, Richmond, from "Cruise Ship to Mission Trip." Join the conversation and learn from one another's experiences.

# ...from our leadership

## Change: a Part of Life

SARAH HOLIK MURRAY Moderator, CBF/GA, SarahMurray@fbcgriffin.org



**I don't recall ever meeting someone** who claimed to love change. I know people who love creating, who love to keep a process on track and moving forward, and people who thrive on variety, but none of those things is necessarily change. Even so, as you've likely heard or acknowledged before, change is an inevitable and inescapable part of life for individuals and communities alike.

Over the last three years, CBF of Georgia has experienced a fair amount of change, much of which is still happening. It was time to imagine and pursue a new vision for Fellowship Baptists in Georgia, and the resulting Discernment Report leads us forward. We reorganized our regions to form neighborhoods, building relationships with nearby churches and rekindling friendships with good partners. We continue to seek ways for churches and individuals to fellowship, worship, and serve together, creating healthy clusters of CBF life throughout our state.

Some of the changes have included difficult decisions to acknowledge when one model of ministry has served its purpose, while also dreaming and creating ways to serve a new need or an existing partner in a new way. We refocused our collegiate ministry from a campus-based model to a more congregation-based model emphasizing leadership development. One example is the opportunity this summer for CBF of Georgia churches to host an intern in partnership with CBF Global's Student.Church program.

We had an existing relationship with the New Era Baptist Convention, mostly in the form of Frank Broome's faithful commitment to cultivate friendships with their leader. In the last year those efforts have blossomed into

I am so excited about our upcoming assembly at Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16. ...

I hope you will join us in looking for ways to encourage and embolden one another. Come ready to pray, worship, and discern together what new opportunities God is calling us to as individuals, as churches, and as CBF of Georgia.

relationships between our "denomi-networks" and a wider group of our leaders. We are moving forward with plans to put our covenant relationship into action at New Era's Baptist Center near Griffin, with our first worship and work day coming on Saturday, May 14.

These are just a few of the changes CBF of Georgia is experiencing. We still have a lot of dreaming, creating, and work to do! Like similar adjustments in our individual lives, some days it feels like everything is happening so quickly. Other days the pace seems to slow to a crawl. Life in transition can be challenging and even intimidating, whether things are happening like trickling drops from a faucet or more like whitewater rapids.

To be quite honest, change can also be scary. In my own life, I often struggle to reach outside myself for help imagining a fresh path or beginning a new journey when facing change. I can sometimes become so focused on what's right in front of me, on all the ways I am or am not coping with the changes before me, that I forget there are other people beside me seeing the same daunting landscape.

Our calling as Fellowship Baptists in Georgia and my own struggles in coping with change are why I am so excited about our upcoming assembly at Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16. Jim Somerville's exploration of the theme, "When the Sand Castle Crumbles," is surely a chance for us to gather and remember who is standing beside us in these days. We may take a moment to say, "Whew! This is scary!" and "Me, too!" but I hope you will join us in looking for ways to encourage and embolden one another. Come ready to pray, worship, and discern together what new opportunities God is calling us to as individuals, as churches, and as CBF of Georgia. ■



FRANKLY SPEAKING:

# The Search for a Ministry Leader

FRANK BROOME, Executive Coordinator, [fbroome@cbfga.org](mailto:fbroome@cbfga.org)

## For the past thirty years

I have been working with congregations as they search for pastors and staff. Most, but not all, have been in Georgia, and on average I am contacted by eight congregations a year. It is, next to preaching, the area of my work that I enjoy the most.

The need for competent leadership is one thing that all Baptist churches share in common, but each church is unique and must conduct its search in its own way. It has been my experience that churches are better off when they seek advice from someone who has some knowledge of the landscape and some understanding of present trends. This does not mean they must hire a head hunter or even pay a consultant to guide their process. It does mean that they need to develop a plan and a procedure for finding a leader.

Most churches elect search committee members who do a good job with a modest amount of guidance. Over the years I have developed an outline that I am sharing below to help search committees think about how they will proceed. This process should, of course, be a matter of prayer for both the search committee and the entire church. In fact, the entire Fellowship community should make the search committee process a matter of prayer for sister congregations as well as their own.

**Step One:** How will our committee conduct its business? Internal practices should include addressing such issues as confidentiality, etiquette, communication, leadership, and task sharing. This is also the time to consider whether the final decision on a candidate needs to be by unanimous, simple majority, or substantial majority vote.

**Step Two:** How will we develop a pastor profile? It is good for the

committee to seek input from the church, possibly through simple or complex surveys and person-to-person conversations. It is certainly helpful if the church has a clear sense of its own identity before it goes looking for a leader. That may require a good bit of internal reflection on the part of the laity before a profile of the new pastor can be developed. If the church has experienced conflict in recent years, this process becomes all the more important.

**Step Three:** How will we look for candidates? Some churches cast a broad net by publicizing the position in printed and digital media, like Baptists Today/Nurturing Faith, national, state, and Regional CBF newsletters, and other Christian publications. National CBF has a special program called Leader Connect that helps match congregations with candidates. Other churches seek recommendations from known and respected individuals in Baptist life. Both approaches can work and are not mutually exclusive.

**Step Four:** What will we say to the candidate? Every committee will need to prepare a packet of information to be given to the top candidates. This packet should include detailed information about the church's history, budget, ministries, staff, and vision. It should also include information about the larger community surrounding the church, obtained from the local Chamber of Commerce, the school system, community agencies, and census data.

**Step Five:** How will we prioritize the candidates? Most churches will be surprised at how many resumes or recommendations they receive, ranging from about a dozen to two hundred. In either case the committee will need to narrow the list to four or five at some point. I often

suggest that each member of the search team choose three resumes from the entire group. That will place twenty or more

resumes on the table. However it is likely that there will be only five or six different individuals among them. This method allows the committee to focus on those resumes that have broad support within the committee.

**Step Six:** How will we evaluate each candidate? After you have narrowed the list to a manageable number, the search team will need to evaluate each candidate more carefully. This will include checking references, having informal conversations with the candidates, reading published materials, and listening to available media. The need for the committee to do extensive travel has diminished due to the availability of podcasts, DVDs and programs like Skype.

**Step Seven:** How will we determine who will be interviewed? Each committee member may rank the candidates in order of interest. This information can then be compiled to narrow the list of candidates even further. Most committees will decide to interview more than one candidate after the initial evaluations are over. This can be done in person, on a phone conference call, or in a video conference call. While all these methods can work, there is no doubt that a face-to-face interview is best.

**Step Eight:** How will we select one candidate? In the best of all worlds, a singular candidate will emerge in a consensus sort of way. In some cases it is a bit more difficult to determine the top candidate. In those cases the committee will need to take a more formal vote.

*(continues on page 15)*



“Why is my church dying, and what can I do  
of change threaten to destroy the church in  
a culture that no longer loves the church and

# When the Sand Castle Crumbles...

## SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

*(Schedule is tentative and subject to change)*

### Friday, April 15

- 10:00 a.m. Coordinating Council Meeting and lunch
- 11:00-12:30 p.m. Exhibit set up
- 12:30 p.m. Registration opens
- 12:30 p.m. Orientation for seminarians
- 1:30 p.m. Networks and Breakouts, Session 1
- 1:30 p.m. Pastors' Gathering with Jim Somerville
- 2:45 p.m. Break and Resource Fair
- 3:15 p.m. Breakouts, Session 2
- 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood meetings
- 5:15 p.m. Dinner, with discussion of business items  
*(Reservations required)*
- 6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music
- 6:45 p.m. Business Session
- 7:00 p.m. Worship
- 8:15 p.m. Dessert Reception

### Saturday, April 16

- 8:00 a.m. Registration opens
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast *(Reservations required)*
- 9:00 a.m. Where are we now? A CBF/GA family discussion
- 10:00 a.m. Break and Resource Fair
- 10:15 a.m. Breakouts, Session 3
- 10:45 a.m. Exhibit take down
- 11:30 a.m. Closing Worship, led by BWIM of GA
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch and BWIM Awards *(Reservations required)*

## MEAL INFORMATION

Reservations are necessary for all meals and will be made when you register for Spring General Assembly. Payment for meals is expected when you arrive at Smoke Rise Baptist for the Assembly. Meal costs are as follows: Friday supper is \$12, Saturday breakfast \$8, and Saturday lunch \$10.

## CHILDCARE

Childcare will be available by advance reservation for Friday afternoon and evening and for Saturday morning through closing worship. If you require childcare, please call Renée Bennett at 478-742-1191, ext.3, by Friday, April 8.

## HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Make your own reservations at the hotel of your choice. Suggested hotels near the church are:

### Hampton Inn Atlanta/Stone Mountain

1737 Mountain Industrial Blvd. Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
(770) 934-0004

### Hampton Inn Atlanta/Northlake in nearby Tucker

3400 Northlake Pkwy NE Atlanta, GA 30345  
(770) 493-1966

### Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Tucker

4156 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084 (I-285 Exit 37)  
(770) 938-1026

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You

about it? Maybe at a time when the tides  
it's time to go swimming, time to dive into  
and learn a few new strokes." JIM SOMERVILLE

## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia 2016 SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Friday-Saturday, April 15-16

Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain

5901 Hugh Howell Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 • 770-469-5856 • <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org>  
(Please keep Atlanta traffic patterns in mind as you plan your travel to Stone Mountain. Arrive early!)



**Jim Somerville**, keynote speaker and Pastors' Gathering leader, is Pastor of Richmond, Virginia's First Baptist Church and served eight years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. Jim holds a Master of Divinity

and a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from The Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Georgetown College, Kentucky, with a degree in Fine Art.

Jim's articles and sermons have been published in *Christian Century*, *Leadership*, *Preaching*, *Lectionary Homiletics*, *Preaching Great Texts*, *The Upper Room*, and *Restoring Faith: America's Religious Leaders Answer Terror with Hope*.



**Danny Vancil**, Minister of Music & Worship at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, will plan and lead the worship music on Friday. Danny received a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Murray State University and a Master of Church Music from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Danny loves creating thoughtful worship that utilizes traditional and modern elements while maintaining historic Baptist values.



**Pam Durso**, preacher for Saturday's closing worship, is executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. She is an advocate and a resource for women serving in all areas of Christian ministry. She became executive director

in 2009, after serving as a volunteer on BWIM's Leadership Team for four years. Previously, Pam worked as associate executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society and served on the faculty of Campbell University Divinity School as assistant professor of church history and Baptist heritage. She currently teaches at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta as an adjunct professor.



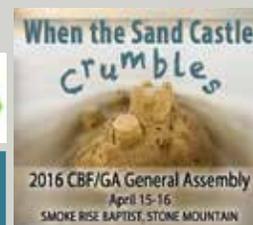
**Ossie X. McKinney**, worship leader for Saturday's closing worship, has served in music ministry all of her life. Her life's purpose is to glorify God. She serves as the Minister of Music at Faith Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. Ossie is a graduate of McAfee School of Theology.

Register online: [www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly](http://www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly)

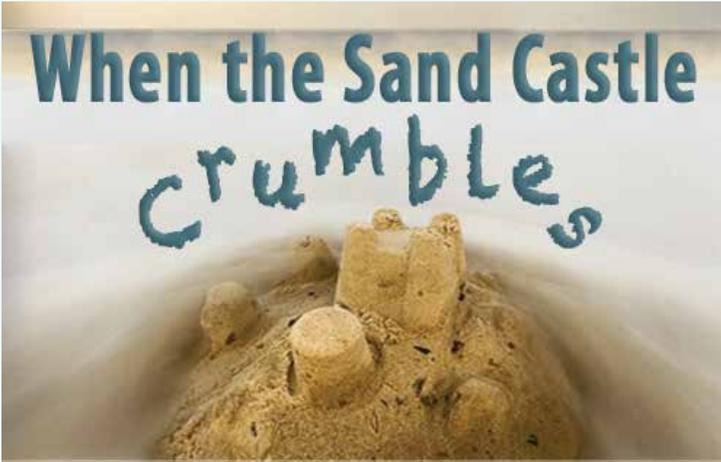
Questions? Contact the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191, ext. 3



are invited... Spring General Assembly attendees are invited to visit the newly created Interfaith Prayer Garden on the Mercer University Atlanta Campus, 3001 Mercer University Dr, Atlanta, GA 30341.



# When the Sand Castle Crumbles



**CBF/GA Spring General Assembly**  
April 15-16, 2016  
SMOKE RISE BAPTIST, STONE MOUNTAIN

## HOSTING CHURCH INFORMATION

5901 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
770-469-5856 • <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org>

## SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

*(Schedule is tentative and subject to change.)*

### Friday, April 15

- 10:00 a.m. Coordinating Council meeting and lunch
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit set up
- 12:30 p.m. Registration opens
- 12:30 p.m. Orientation to Spring General Assembly and CBF/GA for seminarians
- 1:30 p.m. Networks and Breakouts, Session 1
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- 10:00 a.m. Break and Resource Fair
- 10:15 a.m. Breakouts, Session 3
- 10:45 a.m. Exhibit take down
- 11:30 a.m. Closing Worship, led by BWIM of GA
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch and BWIM Awards *(Open to all. Make reservations and join BWIM for lunch.)*

"Can you see how bringing heaven to earth is completely different from propping up the institutional church? ... When the members of First Baptist Church ask me how to do it I say, 'Just look around for anything that doesn't look like heaven and then roll up your sleeves and go to work.' ... then church begins to happen everywhere, all the time, and not only in our building at 11:00 on Sunday. In fact, I have said to my congregation, 'Let's stop counting how many people happen to be in church on Sunday morning and instead start counting how many times church happens between one Sunday and the next.' That's liberating, isn't it?"

JIM SOMERVILLE, *When the Sand Castle Crumbles: Why Is My Church Dying, and What Can I Do about It?*

## HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Make your own reservations at the hotel of your choice. Suggested hotels near the church are:

### Hampton Inn Atlanta/Stone Mountain

1737 Mountain Industrial Blvd. Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
(770) 934-0004

### Hampton Inn Atlanta/Northlake in nearby Tucker

3400 Northlake Pkwy NE Atlanta, GA 30345  
(770) 493-1966

### Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Tucker

4156 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084 (I-285 Exit 37)  
(770) 938-1026

## MEAL RESERVATIONS

Reservations are necessary for all meals and may be made as you register for the Spring General Assembly online. Payment for meals is expected upon arrival at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Meal costs are as follows: Friday supper \$12, Saturday breakfast \$8, and Saturday lunch \$10.

## CHILDCARE

Childcare will be available by advance reservation for Friday afternoon and evening and for Saturday morning through closing worship. If you require childcare, please call Renée Bennett at 478-742-1191, ext.3, by Friday, April 8.

## VISIT THE INTERFAITH PRAYER GARDEN

Spring General Assembly attendees are invited to visit the newly created Interfaith Prayer Garden on the Mercer University Atlanta Campus, 3001 Mercer University Dr, Atlanta, GA 30341.

Register online:

[www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly](http://www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly)

Questions?

Contact the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191, ext. 3

## FRIDAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Jim Somerville**, Friday's keynote speaker and leader of the Pastors' Gathering, is Pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church, a position he has held since May, 2008. Before that he served for eight years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. Jim also served as Pastor of Wingate Baptist Church in Wingate, North Carolina. Jim holds a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Georgetown College, Kentucky, with a degree in Fine Art.



Jim's keynote message and his discussion during the Pastors' Gathering on Friday will center on the reality of church decline and how we can approach that challenge, "Maybe at a time when the tides of change threaten to destroy the church, it's time to go swimming, time to dive into a culture that no longer loves the church and learn a few new strokes."

Jim is married to Christy Treadwell Somerville, a kindergarten teacher at St. Michael's Episcopal School. They have two adult daughters, Ellie and Catherine.

He is the author of *When the Sand Castle Crumbles: Why Is My Church Dying, and What Can I Do about It?* Jim's articles and sermons have been published in *Christian Century*, *Leadership*, *Preaching*, *Lectionary Homiletics*, *Preaching Great Texts*, and *The Upper Room*. The sermon he preached on the Sunday following September 11, 2001, was published in an anthology called *Restoring Faith: America's Religious Leaders Answer Terror with Hope*. He has preached on the Chicago-based *30 Good Minutes*, the internationally broadcast Day 1 radio program, and was one of the featured preachers at the Festival of Homiletics at Washington National Cathedral in 2004.

Jim is one of six sons of a Presbyterian minister who took what amounted to a vow of poverty to live and work among the poor in Boone County, West Virginia. In his time off, Jim enjoys traveling, backpacking, sailing, reading, watching movies, and spending time with his family.

**Danny Vancil**, Minister of Music & Worship at Smoke Rise Baptist Church since 2006, will plan and lead the worship music on Friday evening. A native of Illinois, Danny received a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Murray State University (1986) and a Master of Church Music from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1989). Danny loves creating thoughtful worship that utilizes both traditional and modern elements while maintaining historic Baptist values.



## SATURDAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pam Durso**, preacher for Saturday's closing worship, sponsored by Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) of Georgia, is executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. She is an advocate and a resource for women serving in all areas of Christian ministry. She became executive director on July 1, 2009, after serving as a volunteer on BWIM's Leadership Team for four years. Previously, Pam worked as associate executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society and served on the faculty of Campbell University Divinity School as assistant professor of church history and Baptist heritage. She currently teaches at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta as an adjunct professor.



Since receiving her Ph.D. in church history from Baylor University in 1992, Pam has been a strong supporter of clergywomen and has written and edited numerous articles and books about women. Her most recent book, which she co-edited with LeAnn Gunter Johns, is *The World is Waiting for You: Celebrating the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Addie Davis* (2014). Pam is married to Keith Durso, and they have two college-student children, Michael and Alex.

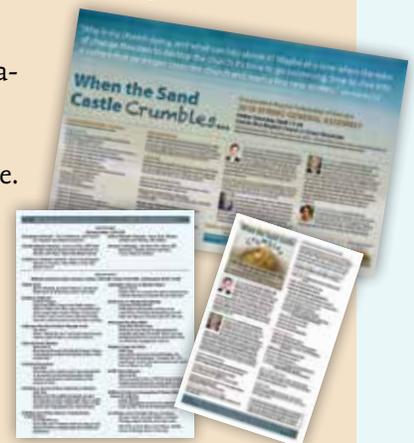
**Ossie X. McKinney** has served in music ministry all of her life and her life's purpose is to glorify God. She is the wife of Elder Charles McKinney, Jr. and mother of Khrystyn, Mysty, Nolan, Treylyn, and Xavier. She serves as the Minister of Music at Faith Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, and is a graduate of McAfee School of Theology.



## CBF/GA Spring General Assembly PROMOTIONS

Packets filled with information about Spring General Assembly are available through the CBF/GA office. These packets include posters, bulletin inserts, breakout and staff network information, and more.

If you need additional materials, contact the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191, ext. 3.



## NETWORKS

### Meeting Friday 1:30-2:45

- **Chaplains Network** – *Gerry Hutchinson, CBF Endorser for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors*
- **Youth Ministry Network** – *Jeremy Colliver, CBF Youth Ministry Network board member and Minister to Families with Youth, Smoke Rise Baptist Church*
- **Children’s Ministry Network** – *Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children, Smoke Rise Baptist Church*
- **Music Ministry Network** – *Susan Deal, Minister of Music and Worship, FBC Dalton*
- **Pastors’ Gathering** – *Jim Somerville, Pastor, FBC Richmond, Virginia (Pastors will meet 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday.)*

## BREAKOUTS

### Offered variously in three sessions: Friday 1:30-2:45, Friday 3:15-4:30, and Saturday 10:15-11:20

- **Bible Study**  
*Bryan Whitfield, Associate Professor, The Roberts Department of Christianity, Mercer University*
- **Faith in Public Life**  
*Graham Younger*  
Advancing Faith Voices in the Public Square – Faith in Public Life (FPL) works to maximize the faith community’s unique ability to shape public debate. Learn about issues affecting Georgia churches and how pastors and churches can help.
- **Missions You May Not Have Thought of Yet**  
*Tim Adcox*  
Think “outside the box” and share ways of seeing mission opportunities in unexpected places.
- **Special Needs Ministry**  
*Elaine Harris*  
Hear about the ways First Baptist Church, Tucker, is ministering to those with special needs in their community.
- **Spiritual Formation**  
*Loyd Allen*  
Learn how your church can be more intentional in its practice of spiritual formation, which nurtures and deepens understanding of the journey of faith.
- **Relational and Asset-Based Approach to Ministry**  
*Andy Hale*  
Explore how the traditional church can and should begin to think relationally when it comes to missional ministry. Explore the assets of individuals and congregations for such ministry.
- **Making Your Wishes Known: Compassionate Conversations**  
*Gerry Hutchinson*  
Learn how your Christian faith can help you use practical tools to communicate your healthcare preferences.
- **Exemplars: Deacons as Spiritual Leaders**  
*Daniel Vestal*  
Explore this new resource for deacon development, available through the Baptist Deacon Network.
- **Self-Care as Christian Discipleship**  
*Chanequa Walker-Barnes*  
Participants will consider self-care as an expression of Christian Discipleship and will begin developing a wholistic plan for self-care.
- **Emerging Paradigm Shifts**  
*Andy Hale and Julie Long*  
Share how your church is approaching the emerging paradigm of culture. What are some healthy practices we can learn from others who are effectively engaging the culture?
- **Baptist Center for Ethics**  
*Matt Sapp*  
Learn about resources from *EthicsDaily.com*. Preview the documentary “Genocide 66,” the untold story of how Christian missionaries saved lives in Nigeria in 1966.
- **CBF Global Missions**  
*Steven Porter*  
Take an insider’s look at CBF Missions Council’s strategic planning process, particularly in building a new sustainable funding model for our future.
- **When it Comes to Congregational Visions: May the Source Be with You**  
*George Bullard*  
Every congregation needs to be captivated by God’s vision. How do we find that vision?
- **A Muslim and a Christian Discuss the Koran**  
*Towqueer Alam, Associate Professor of Sunni Theology, Aligarh Muslim University, India*  
*Rob Nash, Interim Dean and Professor, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University*

## HOSTING CHURCH INFORMATION

Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain  
5901 Hugh Howell Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
770-469-5856 • <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org>  
(Please keep Atlanta traffic patterns in mind as you plan your travel to Stone Mountain. Arrive early!)

## SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

(Schedule is tentative and subject to change.)

Friday, April 15  
10:00 a.m. Coordinating Council meeting and lunch

11:00-12:30 p.m. Exhibit set up  
12:30 p.m. Registration opens  
12:30 p.m. Orientation for seminarians  
1:30 p.m. Networks and Breakouts, Session 1  
1:30 p.m. Pastors' Gathering with Jim Somerville  
2:45 p.m. Break and Resource Fair  
3:15 p.m. Breakouts, Session 2  
4:30 p.m. Neighborhood meetings  
5:15 p.m. Dinner, with discussion of business items (Reservations required)  
6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music  
6:45 p.m. Business Session  
7:00 p.m. Worship  
8:15 p.m. Dessert Reception

### Saturday, April 16

8:00 a.m. Registration opens  
8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Reservations required)  
9:00 a.m. Where are we now? A CBF/GA family discussion  
10:00 a.m. Break and Resource Fair  
10:15 a.m. Breakouts, Session 3  
10:45 a.m. Exhibit take down  
11:30 a.m. Closing Worship, led by BWIM of GA  
12:30 p.m. Lunch and BWIM Awards (Open to all. Reservations required.)

## MEAL INFORMATION

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## HOTEL INFORMATION

Make your own reservations at the hotel of your choice. Suggested hotels near the church are:

Hampton Inn Atlanta/Stone Mountain  
1737 Mountain Industrial Blvd.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083 • 770-934-0004  
Hampton Inn Atlanta/Northlake in nearby Tucker  
3400 Northlake Pkwy, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30345 • 770-493-1966  
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Tucker  
4156 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084 (I-285 Exit 37)  
770-938-1026



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Atlanta, GA 30345 • 770-493-1966  
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Tucker  
4156 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084 (I-285 Exit 37)  
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# 2019 CBF GEORGIA



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia  
 P.O. Box 4343 • Macon, GA 31208-4343  
 phone 478-742-1191 • fax 478-742-6150  
 www.cbfga.org

## January

**January 15-17 CBF/GA Youth Choir Festival**, Calvin Center in Hampton with Sunday concerts in Macon. Gives middle and high school students opportunities for worship, singing, and fellowship.

**January 21 Childrens' Ministry Retreat**, First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon

## February



**February 1-3 The Young Pastors' Gathering**, St. Simons Island, is a time to share ideas and have meaningful conversation in a relaxed atmosphere.

**February 5-6 Now Serving: Atlanta**, Atlanta Campus of Mercer University. Combines worship and mission work in a twenty-four-hour experience for college students.

**February 22-24 ChurchWorks**, First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC

## March



**March 11-13** Newnan  
**March 18-20** Forsyth

*March Mission Madness* is an event for youth groups offering opportunities for fellowship, worship, and mission work.



## April

**April 15-16 Spring General Assembly**, hosted by Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, brings together the CBF/GA family for breakouts, network meetings, fellowship, and worship.

## May



**May 14 Catch the Spirit of Pentcost Work Day**, New Era Baptist Center, Griffin

**May 16-17 Senior Adult Retreat** at St. Simons Island.

## June

**June (TBD) CBF/GA Meeting at the CBF National General Assembly** convening June 20-24 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel and Joseph S. Khoury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. This event allows participants to meet together and hear about CBF/GA's work.



## September

**September 25-27** CBF/GA joins other state CBFs and McAfee School of Theology to host the *Preaching Consultation* in Chattanooga, TN.

## October–November



**October 27 Senior Celebration**, Heritage Baptist Church, Cartersville and **November 10** at First Baptist Church, Eatonton.



## Ongoing

**Interfaith Dialogue** Throughout the year, the CBF/GA Interfaith Task Force hosts several opportunities for Baptist and Jewish dialogue and for Baptist and Muslim dialogue. Check the CBF/GA website for upcoming events.

## As needed

**CBF/GA is available to help with:**

Disaster Relief Response	Reference and Referral Training
Educational Conferences	Staff Retreats
Ministry Network Initiatives	Sunday School Training
Mission Training	
Peer Learning Groups	

**Look for a new CBF/GA website in 2016!**  
 We are updating to better serve people and churches which together make up CBF/GA.

**The Search for a Leader** (continued from page 7)

**Step Nine:** How will we determine the compensation? The search committee will need to be in conversation with the finance and administration committees regarding compensation. Most churches set a salary range, giving the search committee some flexibility in determining the final amount.

**Step Ten:** How will we present the candidate to our church? Churches use different methods, some by sending out a formal packet of information and others by inviting the candidate and the candidate’s spouse to meet the congregational leadership first and then the entire congregation over the course of a weekend. Most churches ask the candidate to lead in worship, and they follow the service with a called business meeting to vote on the committee’s recommendation.

**Step Eleven:** How will we best ensure a smooth transition? I encourage the search committee to continue to meet with the new pastor periodically over the next couple of years. While this committee is not a personnel committee, it can be a source of encouragement and guidance to the new pastor. ■

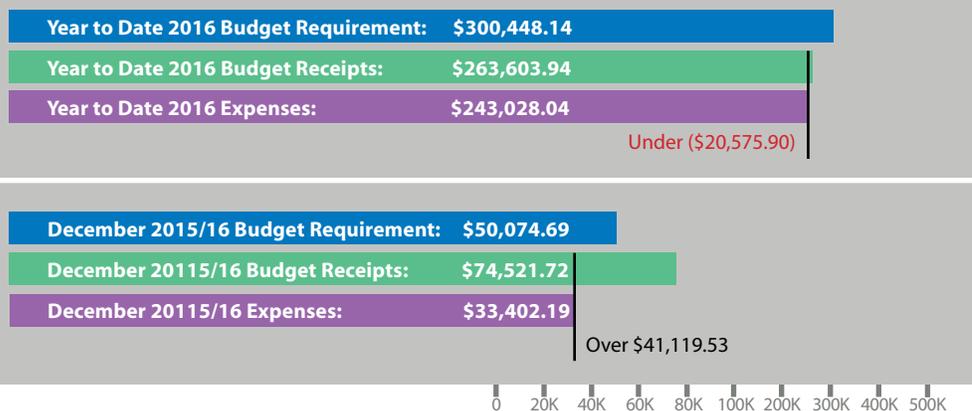


Join Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) of Georgia for its annual celebration!

**Friday–Saturday, April 15-16, in partnership with CBF/GA’s Spring General Assembly, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain**

- **Friday afternoon, April 15 – Breakout session** for clergy and laity with Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes, McAfee School of Theology: “Self-Care as Christian Discipleship.”
- **Saturday morning, April 16 – BWIM of Georgia leads in 11:30 a.m. communion worship.** Dr. Pam Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, and Ossie McKinney, minister of music at Faith Baptist Church in Atlanta, will lead worship.
- **Saturday Lunch – BWIM invites all CBF/GA Spring General Assembly participants to stay for lunch after worship.** Lunch cost is \$10, and reservations are necessary. Register for lunch and for the Spring General Assembly at [www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly](http://www.cbfga.org/10106/CBF-GA-Spring-General-Assembly).

**FINANCIAL UPDATE | BUDGET RECEIPTS AS OF 12/31/2015 (fiscal year begins in July)**



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia**

P.O. Box 4343, Macon, GA 31208-4343  
 phone 478-742-1191 • fax 478-742-6150  
[www.cbfga.org](http://www.cbfga.org)

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**CBF/GA Coordinating Council**

MODERATOR • Sarah Holik Murray, Griffin  
 MODERATOR-ELECT • Henry Tyson, Carrollton  
 PAST-MODERATOR • Paul Baxley, Athens  
 FINANCE CHAIR • Ron McClung, Haddock  
 TREASURER •

- Jonathan Barlow, Royston
- Louis Barton, Rome
- Don Brewer, Gainesville
- Charles Brown, Snellville
- Timothy Clagg, Alpharetta
- Ken Corcoran, Columbus
- Lisa Smith Daughtrey, Tifton
- Steve Davis, Carrollton
- Scott Dickison, Macon
- Kay Green, Moultrie
- Jake Hall, Macon
- Amanda Wilson Harper, Milledgeville
- Colin Harris, Stone Mountain
- Tom Hawkins, Morrow
- Joy Huddlestun, Jasper
- Pat Kerr, Atlanta
- Glenda Kessler, St. Simons Island
- Rory Naeve, Claxton
- Chip Reeves, Augusta
- Ken Russell, Dalton
- Charles Smith, Madison
- Ken Smith, Forsyth
- Eric Spivey, Cornelia
- Steve Stokes, Thomson
- Bob Trammell, Newnan
- Michael Tutterow, Cartersville

*Student Representative*

Zak Lauersdorf, McAfee School of Theology

**VISIONS** is published six times a year by CBF/GA. All questions and comments may be directed to Melissa Kremer at the CBF/GA office at 478-742-1191, ext. 4.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
P.O. Box 4343  
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## On the Calendar

### ▼ 2016

**March 11-13, 2016**  
**March Mission Madness**  
Newnan

**June 20-24, 2016**  
**CBF General Assembly**  
Greensboro, NC

**March 18-20, 2016**  
**March Mission Madness**  
Forsyth

**September 25-27, 2016**  
**Preaching Consultation**  
Chattanooga, TN

**April 15-16, 2016**  
**Spring General Assembly**  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church,  
Stone Mountain

**October 27, 2016**  
**Senior Celebration**  
Heritage Baptist Church,  
Cartersville

**May 14, 2016**  
**Catch the Spirit of Pentecost  
Work Day**  
New Era Baptist Center, Griffin

**November 10, 2016**  
**Senior Celebration**  
First Baptist Church,  
Eatonton

**May 16-17, 2016**  
**Senior Adult Retreat**  
St. Simons Island

Keep up to date with events ... [www.cbfga.org/events](http://www.cbfga.org/events)

## CBF/GA Scholarships Available

CBF/GA is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. The scholarship application is online. The essay portion may be uploaded as a part of the application and letters of recommendation should be completed via e-mail.

Students applying for a scholarship must:

- be currently enrolled in a master's level degree program at an accredited institution (not restricted to Baptist institutions)
- demonstrate a connection to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia
- show potential for leadership within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Applications are due by Friday, April 1. For a complete list of requirements and to complete an application, please visit <http://cbfga.org/51/Scholarships>.

For questions and more information please contact Martha Kate Hall at [mkhall@cbfga.org](mailto:mkhall@cbfga.org) or 478-742-1191, ext. 2.

