

"Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ"



"Backpacks of Hope" Distribution Dates:

BACKPACKS OF HOPE

Share a gift of **LOVE**
and the **GOSPEL**
with a child in need.

December 2	Baker County 10 am-1 pm Clay County 2 pm-5 pm Quitman County 1 pm-4 pm	Baker County School, Newton Fort Gaines Baptist Church Quitman ES, Georgetown
December 9	Calhoun County 10 am-1 pm Early County, Blakely 10 am-1 pm Randolph County 10 am-2 pm	Calhoun County High School Football Field Old Early County High School Gym, Blakely Cuthbert First Baptist Church
December 16	Early County, Cedar Springs 10 am-1 pm	Beulah Baptist Church, Cedar Springs
December 23	Early County, Arlington 10 am-1 pm	Arlington City Gym

County Coordinators:

Baker County	Karin Tabb Beth Bush	229-254-2041
Calhoun County	Martha Bell Becky Avera	229-308-3775 229-881-2837
Clay County	Tammy Pope Susan Walker	229-308-0185 678-898-3923
Early County	Darrell Alexander Sondra Alexander	229-308-2183 770-710-2063
Quitman County	Lisa Hagler	334-695-6403
Randolph County	Ben Crowdis Kim Crowdis Lee Wright Katie Wright	229-310-7902

Backpacks for Appalachia
has expanded into two
southwest Georgia
associations with some of the
highest childhood
poverty rates.



Missionary Musings

Once again, the churches of the Bethel Baptist Association have come through with a generous response to those in need. Despite the fact that this year our own area will be on the receiving end of Georgia Baptist's **Backpacks of Hope** ministry, BBA Churches supplied more backpacks for ministries in Appalachia than ever! We received a total of **312** backpacks filled with school supplies, clothing, and toys for needy children ages 2-14 at our Associational Office this Fall. I transported 270 of those (via U-Haul Truck) to the collection site at the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting in Lawrenceville on November 13th. (We kept 42 of the backpacks from the office for use in our local distributions, at the request of the donors.) In addition to the 270 I personally delivered at Lawrenceville, I know of at least 4 other backpacks that were brought to the convention by one of our churches, and another one of our churches has prepared 210 backpacks which they will deliver to a ministry site in Tennessee on December 15th. So, Bethel Association churches are sending **out** nearly **500** backpacks this year!

Ever since the **Backpacks for Appalachia** project began four years ago, the churches of the Bethel Association have given generously to this ministry. Now, in 2017, we are not only sending backpacks **out** to bless others, but we have been selected by the Georgia Baptist Convention to **receive** backpacks to bless the children of our own six counties. Our county coordinators have

been working hard planning for the distributions of these backpacks in Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Early, Quitman, and Randolph counties in December. A complete schedule of these events, with time and locations, can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will consider volunteering to help in one or more of the Saturday events near you. The County Coordinator for that event would love to hear from you (their phone numbers are also listed in this edition of the **Bethel News**). They will certainly put you to work!

Finally, as we look ahead to 2018, there are some **changes** in the works regarding a couple of our traditional children's activities, namely, the **Pinewood Racer Derby** and the **Children's Bible Drill**. Normally, we conduct an Associational Racer Derby sometime around early February. However, this year our State RA Director has announced that there will be no Regional Races in Georgia in 2018, and there will be no prerequisite (other than winning at the church level) to participate at the State Royal Ambassador Racer Derby on February 17th at Camp Kaleo. However, we are aware that many of our children enjoy participating at the local level, so we are investigating the possibility of having a **practice race** somewhere here in the Bethel Association for

those boys and girls (and children's ministry leaders) who want to participate locally. We will let you know by our next issue the specific plans for this event.

Similarly, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board's **Kids Group** and Faith Development ministry is changing their approach to Children's Bible Drill. There will only be five regional State Bible Drills this year, and these will all take place on Sunday afternoons in April and May, in combination with a new **Children's Worship Celebration**. I will be personally discussing this shift in emphasis with each of our children's leaders who have directed their church's Bible Drill in the past, and we will weigh our options about what we should try to do in the Bethel Association. As you may remember, our Children's Bible Drill was cancelled last Spring due to a lack of participants. I ask that you join us in prayer about the direction we should take as an Association with regard to Bible Drill.

Well, Christmas is just around the corner. I pray that you all experience the joy of God's greatest Gift during this entire Holy Season. And may we all share that Gift with those who don't know Him, this Christmas and everyday!

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s ,
Bro. James

Pastor/Spouse Christmas Celebration

Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm

hosted by Faith Baptist Church

Cuthbert, Georgia

cost: \$10 per adult - RSVP by Dec. 4th

All Pastors and spouses are cordially invited.

Our musical entertainment and worship will be presented by Mark Parrish, a member of the Parrish Family Trio

(Childcare will be provided with a meal for those children)





CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Oct. 26-Nov. 29

Arlington	761.00
Bethel	
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,532.80
Bluffton	354.55
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	902.51
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	296.94
Edison	151.98
Enterprise	
Faith	750.00
Fort Gaines	930.02
Georgetown	333.40
Leary	183.56
Milford	660.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	200.93
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	129.85
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	200.00
Shiloh	374.60
Southside	450.00
Sowhatchee	236.33
Springvale	100.00
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	
TOTAL	9,110.97
Balances Nov. 29 (2017)	
General Fund	15,625.70
Designated Fund	11,306.63
New Work Fund	7,548.60



First Baptist Church Blakely
 December 3, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
All Generations
 Adult Choir, Student Choir
 & Kids Choir
This is a worship service that uniquely involves people of all ages in the telling of the birth of Jesus Christ through the combination of Scripture, carols, worship songs and anthems

The Annual Festival of Lights
 31st Year

6 pm to midnight
 Open till December 31st
 Home of Bro. Ralph & Rachel Estes,
 GA Hwy 39 - 5 miles north of Fort Gaines

NEXT
Missions Coordinating Committee
 is Jan.15 @ 6:30 pm
 Assoc. Office

On behalf of the staff and residents at Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, **I want to thank you** for participating in the truck loading ministry! We know we do not have the little orphans anymore but rather a group of adolescents that need to see the message you are telling them: *Someone loves you unconditionally and wants to help overcome the past and give you hope for the future!*
 Sandra Hamonds-Executive Assistant to VP of Communications

Congratulations
 to
 Bro. James & Mary Holloway
 on the birth of their 5th
 Grandchild on Nov. 24, 2017
 Dallas, GA.

Oliver Kay Linker
 8 lbs 5oz. & 21 1/2 ölong
 His parents are Joshua &
 Kara (Holloway) Linker,
 and he is welcomed by his
 big sister Ava and big
 brothers Israel, Egan,
 and Arrow linker.



Happy 50th Wedding
Anniversary
Hubert & Verna Smith
 (Dec. 15th, 2017)

Congratulations
On your Baby Girl!
Rev. Chris & Jill Holdorf
ELLIE
 Born November 14
 7 Lbs & 11 oz

Shiloh BC is seeking a **Part-time Music Director**. Please mail resumes to Shiloh Baptist Church, 1974 Cotton Hill Rd. Fort Gaines, GA. 39851.

Thank you!

Bethel Baptist
Association
124 Bay Ave.
PO Box 398
Edison, GA
39846

Change Service
Requested

The Bethel Baptist Association

Dr. James Holloway, Associational Missionary
Kathy Hardwick, Ministry Assistant
Joyce Jarrett, Financial Assistant
Phone 229.835.2887
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E-mail: bethelbaptist@windstream.net
Website: www.bethelassociation.com

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Permit # 7

December 2017

- 2 öBackpacks of Hopeö distributions: Baker County (10 am - 1 pm)
 Clay County (2 pm - 5 pm)
 Quitman County (1 pm - 4 pm)
- 7 MinistersøSpousesøChristmas Fellowship - Faith BC, 6:30 pm
- 9 öBackpacks of Hopeö distributions: Calhoun County (10 am - 1 pm)
 Early County, Blakely (10 am - 1 pm)
 Randolph County (10 am - 2 pm)
- 16 öBackpacks of Hopeö distribution: Early County, Cedar Springs (10 am - 1 pm)
- 23 öBackpacks of Hopeö distribution: Early County, Arlington (10 am - 1pm)
- Dec. 25-Jan.1, 2018 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Assoc. Office Closed)

January 2018

- 1 **Happy New Years!** (office closed)
- 2 öBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 15 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 18 öBackpacks of Hopeö debriefing/evaluation - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 22 Executive Committee - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 27 öAfter-Christmas Choir Festö - Edison BC, 5 pm

February 2018

- 5-7 Bro. James at AMøs Workshop in Toccoa
- 13 öBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 17 State RA Racer Derby - Camp Kaleo, Forsyth, GA



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

*from the Staff of the
Bethel Baptist Association*