

JANUARY
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"Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ"

January 2018

Ring in the New Year with joy!

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. PSALM 126:3

The Bethel News



CHOIR FESTIVAL

We are having an after Christmas evening of Christmas Music. This will allow us an evening to relax and enjoy listening to songs that were used in each church.

January 28
5:00 pm

@
Edison Baptist Church






We are asking that each church prepare one selection from your cantata or other music that you sang. It can be presented by choirs, ensembles, quartets, trios, duets, soloist, or even an instrumental selection would be welcomed.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION forms have been mailed out to each church, please return to the Associational Office by Monday, January 22.

The host church will provide beverages and some snacks. We ask each church to bring two finger foods of your choice to share with others.

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24, 25



"Missionary Musings"

By the time you receive this newsletter, our first experience as a receiving and distribution site for Georgia Baptist %Backpacks of Hope+ will be history. Our planning team, headed by **Kenny & Melanie Williams** and consisting of coordinators from each of the six counties touched by the Bethel Baptist Association, did an outstanding job of organizing and conducting all of the distribution events. And Baptist Churches and associations all over Georgia lovingly sent an abundance of backpacks full of gifts for the children of SW Georgia. Several of these churches and associations also sent volunteers to assist us during the distribution events, as a sort-of %a-state mission trip+ for their group. The result was an efficient, orderly, creative and God-honoring series of events at venues all over our geographic area during the month of December. Hundreds of children received backpacks and, most important, thousands of people of all ages heard a clear presentation of the Gospel Message. Praise the Lord!

Our planning team will be meeting on **January 18th** to review and discuss the total experience, and to make decisions about next year based upon what we've learned. Please be in prayer for us during this important phase of %Backpacks of Hope+ as we seek God's direction for 2018. After all of the data from the six counties has been compiled and verified, I'd be sure to share those numbers with you through our Newsletter.

In the wake of the recent tragedy at a small rural church in Texas, several of you have asked me about some direction in re-visiting or formulating a **security** plan for their churches. I have contacted an individual who I feel is eminently qualified and does a very good job of educating church leaders about the need and correct approach to enhancing security on the church campus. His name is **William B. "Ben" O'Neal**, and he led one of our break-out conferences on Church Security Considerations at the recent %GOGeorgia+training event in Tifton. Ben is an active-duty Captain in the United States Army and has advised many churches and other organizations in security matters. His firm, North Georgia Security Consultants, LLC., is presently assisting our Georgia Baptist Mission Board in this area. He recently conducted a Church Security Workshop in our neighboring Bowen Baptist Association.

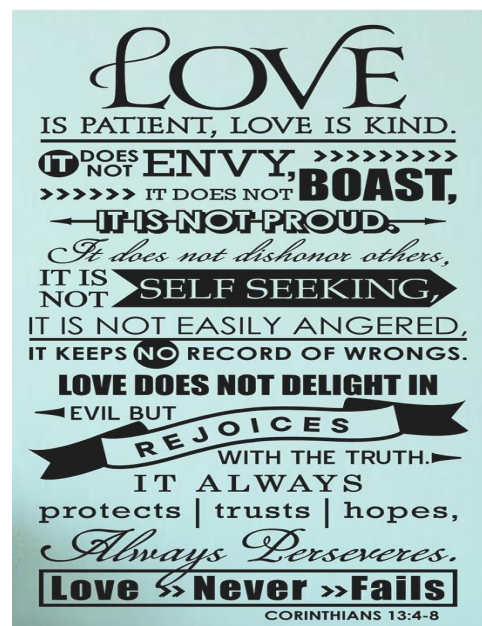
Ben has graciously agreed to come to our Association and conduct a four-hour workshop for church leaders on Church Security on **Saturday morning, February 3rd, 2018**, here at the Associational office in Edison. The workshop will be from 8 am until 12 noon, and will deal with topics such as situational awareness, concealed carry policies and implications, and

designing a comprehensive emergency and crisis response policy for your congregation. The workshop is offered free of charge, and is for all Pastors, Deacons, and other church leaders who have responsibility for creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment in their church. Ben will also share about how he can work with individual congregations on developing a customized plan and in providing training for security team members.

I hope you will take advantage of this and other training opportunities offered by your Bethel Association during 2018, as we work together in %strengthening churches in sharing Christ.+

Happy, Happy New Year!

Bro. James



NEXT Missions Coordinating Committee

January 15 @ 6:30 pm @ Assoc. Office
(please have Project Proposals and/or New Work Fund requests into BBA office by Thursday, Jan. 11th).



Executive Committee Meeting

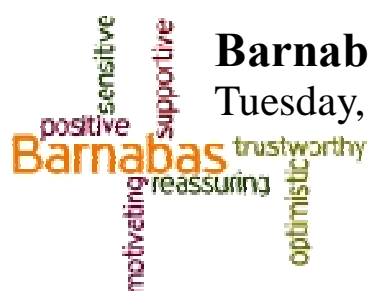
Monday, January 22nd @ 7 pm

Association Office

(Nominating Committee for 2018 will be named)

Nov. 30-Dec.20

Arlington	918.00
Bethel	
Beulah	532.14
Blakely FBC	1,286.87
Bluffton	308.92
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	301.56
Edison	110.52
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	673.72
Georgetown	416.66
Leary	
Milford	502.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	118.74
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	67.43
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	200.00
Shiloh	374.74
Southside	225.00
Sowhathee	
Springvale	86.00
Vilulah	
Individuals	
TOTAL	6,634.80
Balances Dec. 20 (2017)	
General Fund	14,241.08
Designated Fund	9,119.68
New Work Fund	7,548.60



Barnabas Group Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd @ 11 am; Arlington BC

Please note, meeting place changed for this month only.



Tuesday, Jan. 18th @ 7 pm

BACKPACKS OF HOPE

Assoc. Office

Debriefing/Evaluation Meeting



A Big **THANK YOU** to all of you who helped us as volunteers in our 2017 Backpacks of Hope distribution events! Hundreds of children and their families throughout our six-county area were blessed by your outpouring of love and service and our Savior was glorified.

We will be compiling all of the statistics and results of this massive project during the month of January so that we can share all those final numbers with you in our next Newsletter.

February 3, 2018
Assoc. Office 8am-12pm



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

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

January 2018

- 1 **Happy New Years!** (office closed)
- 2 ðBarnabasö Group - Arlington Baptist Church 11 am (January only)
- 15 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 18 ðBackpacks of Hopeö debriefing/evaluation - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 22 Executive Committee - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 28 ðAfter-Christmas Choir Festö - Edison BC, 5 pm

February 2018

- 3 Church Security Workshop - Assoc. Office 8 am - 12 pm
- 5-7 Bro. James at AMö Workshop in Toccoa
- 6 WMU Inspirational Meeting - Southside BC, 7 pm
- 13 ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 17 State RA Racer Derby - Camp Kaleo, Forsyth, GA

March 2018

- 6 ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 10 VBS Clinic - Sherwood BC (Albany), 8 am-12:30 pm
- 24 ðPeanut Proudö Festival (Outreach) - Blakely Courthouse Square

