

"Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ"

THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES, BUT THE

JUNE 2018

**WORD
OF OUR GOD STANDS
FOREVER**

**The Bethel
News**

Isaiah 40:8

Bethel Baptist Association

Children's **SUMMER CAMPS**

**Camp Hicita
Kolomoki
Mounds**

Day Camp
Cost: \$60
Overnight
Camp
Cost: \$85



Don't Miss Out

DAY CAMP

Dates: June 27th - 29th

Who: ages 4 to completed 2nd Grade

Times: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

OVERNIGHT CAMP

Dates: June 27th - 30th

Who: completed 3rd - 7th grades

Times: 8:30 am, Wed. - Sat. noon

(sign-in between 7:30-8:30 am on Wednesday)

Register with the
Bethel Baptist Association office.
Include \$20 non-refundable
deposit with your
registration form.

**Register by
Thurs. June 7th**



Register @ 229-835-2887 or bethelassociation.com



"Missionary Musings"

Many of you know that I have been talking a lot lately about **church revitalization** and our great need for it here in the Bethel Association.

Revitalization, of course, is the infusion of new life into something that is now dead or dying. Only God can do that, for He is the Giver of Life. And I sense that He is giving a renewed desire for that new life to His people and His churches in this region. Together with a growing number of leaders within our Association, we are beginning to seek God for church revitalization in Southwest Georgia.

Let's face it, churches all over America are in trouble. According to Lifeway Research, only about 15% of our Southern Baptist congregations in the United States can be classified as healthy, growing, multiplying churches. The vast majority are either plateaued or declining. Most disturbing of all is the forecast that, if present trends continue, about 15% of our present SBC churches will no longer exist five years from now! Around 900 churches disappear from our Southern Baptist Convention rolls every year.

I am challenging every church leader in the Bethel Baptist Association to ask yourself these questions: Where does my church fit into this picture? Does my church need revitalization? If things continue as they are, will my church still be here 5 or 10 years from now?+

These are tough questions, but necessary for a process of revitalization to begin. In his book, **"Reclaiming Glory"**, author John Mark Clifton, Director of

Replanting/Revitalization at the North American Mission Board, helps us to diagnose our own church using the following eight characteristics of a Dying Church:

- 1) They value the process of decision more than the outcome of decision.
- 2) They value their own preferences over the needs of the unreached.
- 3) They have an inability to pass leadership to the next generation.
- 4) They cease, often gradually, to be part of the fabric of their community.
- 5) They grow dependent upon programs or personalities for growth or stability.
- 6) They tend to blame the community for a lack of response and, in time, grow resentful of the community for not responding as it once did.
- 7) They anesthetize the pain of death with an overabundance of activity and maintaining less fruitful governance structure.
- 8) They confuse caring for the building with caring for the church and the community.+

(from **"Reclaiming Glory"** by John Mark Clifton, Broadman &

Holman Publishing, Nashville, TN, 2016, pp.22-29).

Does any if this sound familiar? If so, your church could be in need of revitalization! But there is Good News - our God is in the resurrection business! That's what our children will be learning about in our **Arise+Summer Camps** this month.

Let me leave you with one more question to ponder from John Mark Clifton's little book: **What about a dying church brings glory to God?**+(pg. 11).

We'll discuss the answer to that question, along with some possible pathways to revitalization, in our next newsletter. Until then, keep seeking God!

Bro. James



Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

April 26– May23, 2018



Camp Staff Orientation
6:00 pm; Camp Hicita
(Set-up @ 4:00 pm)

NEXT
**Missions Coordinating
Committee**

July 16th, 6:30 pm
Assoc. Office

Coming Soon: Southwest Georgia Regional Sunday School Training
Cairo First Baptist Church
Saturday, August 11th, 8:30 am-12:15 pm

News from the Churches:

Enterprise Baptist Church has called **Michael Douglas** as their new pastor. Michael had served the church as Interim Pastor for several weeks. He and his wife **Sylvia** live in Kinsey, AL. Welcome, Bro. Michael and Sylvia, to the Bethel Baptist Association!

Congratulations!

To Bro. **Ben Crowdis**, who just graduated on May 19th from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a **Master's of Divinity** degree, with a Specialization in Leadership. Ben is Pastor of Cuthbert Baptist Church.



Security Training - Shiloh Baptist Church
June 2nd with Ben O'Neal who led the BBA Church Security Workshop. Meet at Shiloh @ 9:00 am firearms training, will go off site to shoot, be back at Shiloh 12 noon for lunch (for those who participate in firearms). At 1:00 pm will be security training. **THIS IS OPEN TO ALL THE CHURCHES!**

Arlington	883.54
Bethel	
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,621.62
Bluffton	387.80
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	522.90
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	449.64
Edison	193.04
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	819.91
Georgetown	833.32
Leary	129.12
Milford	531.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	200.00
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	64.25
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	200.00
Shiloh	708.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatchee	259.15
Springvale	
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	
TOTAL	8,590.79
Balances May 23 (2018)	
General Fund	17,775.23
Designated Fund	8,901.17
New Work Fund	7,575.53

THE
Chuck Wagon Gang

IN CONCERT

Shiloh Baptist Church - 1974 Cotton Hill Rd. Fort Gaines, GA
Saturday, June 2nd @ 6:00 pm

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
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Permit # 7

COMING SOON



June 2018

- 7 Deadline for all Camp Registrations
- 11-17 Bro. James on Vacation
- 18 Executive Committee - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 26 Camp Staff Orientation and Set-up - Camp Hicita 6 pm (set-up 4 pm)
- 27-29 Day Camp - Camp Hicita, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
- 27-30 Overnight Camp - Camp Hicita, 8:30 am Wednesday - 12 noon Saturday

July 2018

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Assoc. Office closed)
- 16 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 19 Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm

August 2018

- 7 ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 11 SW Ga. Regional Sunday Training - Cairo FBC. 8:30 am-12:15 pm
- 17-18 ðGA Georgiäö Church Leadership Conference - Mabel White BC (Macon)



BBA
Summer Camps
June 27-30

at Camp Hicita
(Kolomoki Mounds
State Park)