

September 2017

# The Bethel News

"Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ"

**DISCIPLE NOW 2017**

**PURSUED**

**SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2017 - CUTHBERT FBC -  
REGISTER TODAY!**

**\$15/STUDENT - INCLUDES LUNCH, DINNER, and a FREE T-SHIRT!**

10:00 am - 8:00 pm; Registration - 9:00 am **Deadline** for sign-up is September 1st  
Please call 706-343-7328 with any questions.

## Bethel Baptist Associational Annual FALL MEETING



Sunday, October 15th @ 5:00 pm  
*Fort Gaines Baptist Church*

Items needed:

**GEORGIA BAPTIST  
CHILDREN'S HOMES  
AND FAMILY  
MINISTRIES, INC.**

**Truck Loading @ 3 pm**

The Bethel Baptist Association is collecting: Laundry Detergent, Pine Sol, Disinfecting Cleaner, Plastic Plates & Cups, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Aluminum Foil, Ziploc Bags, Bottled Water, Men's Deodorant, 3-1 Shampoo. Gift Cards are always needed!





## Missionary Musings

It's hard to believe that schools are already back in session and another Summer is drawing to a close. You will see in this Newsletter that we are already preparing for our **Annual Fall Meeting and Children's Home Truck Loading on October 15th** at Fort Gaines Baptist Church. I hope that your church has elected messengers to this important meeting, and that your folks have already started collecting the items requested by the Children's Home this year (see list elsewhere in this Newsletter). Also, we will be voting on a **proposed amendment** to our BBA By-Laws at this meeting, the text of which is also printed in this edition of the **Bethel News**. Truck loading activities will begin around **3 pm**, and the Annual Meeting itself starts at **5 pm** that Sunday afternoon.

The **Annual Church Report (ACR)** packet has been mailed to all of our member churches, and I want to encourage all of our Church Clerks to complete the information required and either return it to the Associational Office or submit it online by the deadline of **Tuesday, October 3rd**. This will enable us to complete the information for our Book of Reports for the Fall Meeting. If you have any questions about the ACR, please contact our Ministry Assistant Kathy Hardwick at the Association Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays (8:30 am - 4:30 pm).

Enthusiasm is building for our first-ever **Backpacks of Hope** distribution in SW Georgia this December. Kenny & Melanie Williams, our Associational Coordinators, have done a great

job of organizing this and of building a team of volunteers from all six of our counties to carry out this huge task. Meanwhile, we are beginning to hear from other associations and churches throughout Georgia who wish to partner with us in this effort by sending backpacks and volunteers to help with the events. For information about the distribution event and contact person(s) in your area, please see the list in this edition of the **Bethel News**. If you or a group from your church wish to help on distribution day in your county, just give your coordinator (s) a call.

Finally, I want to make you all aware of the critical financial needs at **Rehoboth Ranch Ministries**. Rehoboth Ranch is a Christ-centered transformation program for men struggling with chemical addictions, and it is located right here in Calhoun County. I have the honor of serving on the Board of Directors for Rehoboth Ranch, and have seen first hand the mighty works of God in the lives of these men. Since they began housing clients last Fall, a dozen men have already been served by the ministry, and there are currently seven residents at the Ranch. One man has already completed the program and **graduated**. Most importantly, two men have begun new lives in Christ since the ministry began.

Many of you are aware that the Bethel Association secured a generous grant from a foundation this year for the purpose of paying the cost of remodeling the old golf-course clubhouse building into a residential **ranch-house** home for 12 men. That project is now nearing completion, and it appears we will have enough

funds from the grant to complete this initial phase.

Meanwhile however, there are regular expenses incurred by the ministry such as insurance, electricity, and food which are not covered by the grant. Rehoboth Ranch Ministries (a 501c-3 Non-profit corporation) depends on **donations** from individuals and churches to provide for most of these ongoing operating expenses. The ministry now stands in critical need of **more ministry partners** to provide regular, monthly financial support. I want to encourage you to go out to Rehoboth Ranch and see for yourself what God is doing out there. Visitors are always welcome at Rehoboth Ranch! Or call Director Rob Morgan (229-733-9152) and request a speaker to come and share the Rehoboth story with your church or group.

This is a worthwhile and much-needed local mission opportunity for you and your church to invest in. You will be glad you did!

Have a safe Labor Day weekend,

Bro. James

### PLEASE NOTE...

The following amendment to the By-Laws of the Bethel Baptist Association will be presented for a vote at the Annual Fall Meeting on October 15th (new words proposed in bold).

#### Article XI, Paragraph A

Each officer, leadership specialist, ministry team leader, committee member or board member of THE ASSOCIATION shall be an active member of an affiliated church **who is recommended by the Pastor or, in the absence of a Pastor, the Chairman of Deacons of their church.**



**ACR's** are due by **October 3rd**. Please call the office @ 229-835-2887 for help or you can mail your reports to the Bethel Baptist Association @ P.O. Box 398, Edison, GA. 39846 and we will put the info online for you.

**CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

July 27—August 23



**Next.. Missions Coordinating Committee** - is Monday, October 23rd, @ 6:30 pm at BBA office. All project proposals and fund requests should be turned into the Assoc. Office by Thursday, October 19th.

**“Barnabas” Group Meeting** / Tuesday, Sept. 5th, 11 am; Assoc. Office

Arlington	749.00
Bethel	405.82
Beulah	244.62
Blakely FBC	1,525.56
Bluffton	418.11
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	408.90
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	392.26
Edison	127.56
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	905.84
Georgetown	
Leary	
Milford	
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	415.13
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	71.95
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	300.00
Shiloh	708.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatchee	257.20
Springvale	74.68
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,792.13</b>
<b>Balances</b> Aug. 23 (2017)	
General Fund	23,937.25
Designated Fund	22,898.67
New Work Fund	7,540.41

**Administrative Team** Assoc. Office, Thurs. Sept. 21, @ 6:30 pm



**BACKPACKS OF HOPE**

**County Coordinators Mtg.**  
**Thurs. Sept. 14 @ 7 pm**

- Early Co. Darrell & Sondra Alexander, (229) 308-2183  
Saturday, Dec. 16 & Saturday, Dec. 23 - 2,130 backpacks
- Clay Co. Tammy Pope, (229) 308-0185, or Susan Walker, (678) 898-3923  
Saturday, Dec. 2 ó 500 backpacks (clear or mesh bags only)
- Calhoun Co. Becky Avera & Martha Bell, B (229) 881-2837, M (229) 308-3775  
Saturday, Dec. 9 ó 760 backpacks
- Baker Co. Karin Tabb, (229) 254-2041  
Saturday, Dec. 2 ó 310 backpacks
- Randolph Co. Ben & Kim Crowdis, (229) 310-7902 or Lee & Katie Wright  
Saturday, Dec. 9 ó 1,000 backpacks
- Quitman Co. Lisa Hagler, (334) 695-6403  
Saturday, Dec. 2 ó 500 backpacks

If you have any questions about how or where you can help, please contact Kenny & Melanie Williams, (K- (229) 310-9067 / M- (229) 942-9623) or your county coordinator as listed above.



We will still be receiving backpacks at the associational Office for transport to the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting November 13th in Lawrenceville. If you have

backpacks **not designated** for a particular ministry site in Appalachia or SW Georgia, please bring them **boxed** (3 or 4 per medium 18x18x16 moving box) to the Associational office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Tuesday through Thursdays, anytime during the month of **October**.

**WELCOME**

Ryan Lancaster to Arlington Baptist Church as their new student Minister (F-T).

*Thank you!*

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

Change Service  
Requested

## *The Bethel Baptist Association*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September

- 1-3 Bro. James on Vacation
- 4 LABOR DAY (Assoc. Office Closed)
- 5 ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 14 ðBackpacks of Hopeö - County Coordinators Meetingö Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 21 Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 23 Youth Disciple NOW - Cuthbert FBC

### October

- 3 ACRø Due!  
ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 15 BBA Annual Fall Meeting (and Childrenø Home Truck Loading)  
-Fort Gaines BC, 5 pm (truck loading begins at 3 pm)
- 23 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. office, 6:30 pm  
Requests due by October 19th.

### November

- 7 ðBarnabasö Group - Assoc. Office, 11 am
- 13-14 Georgia Baptist Convention - N. Metro FBC, Lawrenceville, GA
- 18 ðChristmas at the Fortö (Festival Outreach) - Fort Gaines, 9 am - 4 pm
- 22-23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Assoc. Office Closed)