

## OGEECHEE MISSIONS VISIONARY

“Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me...” Acts 1:8

SEPTEMBER 2024

### Visionary SPOTLIGHT: A Time to Rejoice ...

*To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven: ...*

*A time to weep,  
And a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
And a time to dance ...*

*(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)*

*Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,  
And give thanks at the remembrance of  
His holy name. (Psalm 97:12)*

With all that is going on in our world, there is plenty to mourn—wars, natural disasters, etc... We should all take time to mourn and repent of the sin in our country, state, communities and especially our own lives. However, we are also blessed with times of rejoicing, and now, here in the Ogeechee River Baptist Association, we have much to rejoice over!

Of course our association and member churches had many successful summer camps/mission trips, Vacation Bible Schools and Camp “I AM”—where 5 children made professions of faith. Then we ended the summer season last Saturday, August 24th, with a wonderful time of fellowship at our very own campgrounds, the W.W. Mann Retreat & Conference Center. Members from sixteen of our churches gathered to celebrate this ministry—all the camps and other Christ-centered activities that take place here as well as all the work that’s been done (still going on) to refurbish this scenic facility. We had a wonderful meal, a time of prayer and tours, testimonies from Camp “I AM,” and topping it all off ... the

voting in of our new Associational Missions Strategist, Bro. Jeff Parmer. He and his wife, Sandra, will be moving over the next few weeks, and Bro. Jeff will officially “take office” on October 1st.

As the summer concludes with the Labor Day weekend, we are looking forward to two huge opportunities for us to gather together with Christian brothers & sisters.

#### FIRST ... **ORBA's Annual Fall Meeting**

DATE: October 13, 2024

TIME: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Cedar Street Baptist Church  
(255 Cedar St., Metter, GA)

SPEAKER: Kevin Ezell, *President of the North American Mission Board (NAMB)*

#### SECOND ...

This year it is our honor to welcome members of churches throughout the state to Statesboro First Baptist Church for the 2024 Georgia Baptist Convention. [Go to [gbcannualmeeting.com](http://gbcannualmeeting.com) for info & to register.]

Furthermore, as the year concludes, our individual congregations have various plans to gather and celebrate Immanuel—God With Us, the Word Made Flesh, the birth of our Redeemer into this world. And through all of these, we thank God, rejoicing in the many blessings He has provided.

God has so greatly blessed us—family, friends, shelter, jobs, food, REDEMPTION! May we never forget to pray for others and thank Him, rejoicing as we recount all of our blessings!

#### Member Churches and Missions

Agape  
Bethel  
Blitchton FBC  
Brooklet FBC  
Cedar Street  
Christ  
Clito  
Eastern Heights  
Eldora  
Elmer  
Emit Grove  
Excelsior  
Fletcher Memorial  
Friendship  
Iglesia Cristiana Hispana  
Lawrence  
Leefield  
Lighthouse  
Macedonia  
Merrywood (renamed Son-  
light Community Church)  
Metter FBC  
New Life  
Oak Grove  
Old Fellowship  
Olive Branch  
Pine Grove  
Portal FBC  
Pulaski  
Register  
Salem  
Southbridge Community  
Statesboro FBC  
S'boro Mision Bautista Bethel  
Statesboro Korean Mission  
Temple Hill  
Trinity  
Union



Georgia Baptist 2024 ANNUAL MEETING  
HERE I AM. SEND ME.  
ANSWER THE CALL  
Dates: Sunday, Nov. 10 through Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024  
Convention Location: First Baptist Church, Statesboro, GA

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” ~Philippians 4:4



## News From Our Churches

**LEEFIELD**—(1) **Sundays: (10am)** Sunday School for all ages. **(11am)** Morning Worship. **(6pm)** Evening Bible Study. (2) **Wednesdays: (6pm)** Evening Prayer. (3) **Sun., 9/22: HOMECOMING!** Service at 11am, followed by Dinner on the Grounds!

**MERRYWOOD (now SONLIGHT)**—EVENTS: **Sat., 9/28; 1:00-4:00pm:** A New Beginning Celebration will be held in honor of Merrywood Baptist Church officially becoming Sonlight Community Church! We will have a front yard BBQ with all the trimmings and outdoor activities. NEWS: (1) We have a New Website! Make sure to sign up as it will be launching real soon. All information about upcoming events, our Facebook page, YouTube page, photo gallery, and blog will be on the website—[www.sonlightstatesboro.com](http://www.sonlightstatesboro.com) (2) SCC is prayerfully searching for a Contemporary Worship leader with a heart to lift a joyful noise unto the Lord for His people. If interested, contact Pastor Joshua Blaine at 770-670-0031 or [joshblaine15@gmail.com](mailto:joshblaine15@gmail.com)

**METTER FBC**—**Wed., 9/13; 6:00pm:** Lighthouse Kids each Wednesday.

**Ladies Bible Study**

*Breathe*  
making room for sabbath

Priscilla Shirer's 5 week Bible study

**Middleground Community Center**  
**2nd & 4th Mondays 6pm**  
**Sept 23- Dec 9**  
**(will skip thanksgiving week)**  
**All ladies welcome!**  
**RSVP Tracey Radney 912-690-6561**



**Exciting Opportunity** ... a fantastic way to contribute to our mission while enjoying the game day atmosphere.

<b>Details:</b>	Opportunity:	Concessions at GSU Football Games
	Compensation:	10% of all profits + 100% of all tips will go to FRC
	Commitment:	Full-day shifts (approximately 8-10 hours)
	Volunteers Needed:	Up to 30 volunteers per game.

Please note that each volunteer will need to complete a background check. The form for this will be provided, and we will guide you through the process.

The game dates we have available are: September 14th, October 12th, October 19th & November 16th.

If you're interested in volunteering please fill out online form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSer5qsZuSqA9aXAnVWD1ekruo8nx\\_I9A8STqKnE9XwU6Wz2Ag/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSer5qsZuSqA9aXAnVWD1ekruo8nx_I9A8STqKnE9XwU6Wz2Ag/viewform)

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Anthony at 912-515-8576.



## FAMILIES4FAMILIES

Ever wanted to help and care for Foster Children and want to have Christ at the center of your efforts? Families4Families is a Faith-based Foster Child Placement Agency that is contracted with the state of Georgia to train and license Faith-based families to Foster Children in the Georgia Foster Care System.

~ Schedule a Sunday Awareness Session to allow faith-based families to hear about the needs in the GA Foster Care System.

~ Schedule a 2-hour Information Session to allow faith-based families the opportunity to begin the process of becoming a licensed foster family.

~ Identify a Church Leader to help us communicate with your church how you can serve & support foster families with our agency in your church or area.

Please feel free to reach out to Shannon Ramsey, the area Director for the South Central Office for more information at 470-469-7766 or [shannon@families4families.cc](mailto:shannon@families4families.cc)

### Accredited Seminary Classes

- **When:** Starting October 14, 2024
- **How:** Enrolled as a BPC student
- **Where:** Classroom Instruction @ Middle Baptist Association Office / Area
- **Method:** Each class taught by BPC Professor
- **Cost:** \$150.00 / class
- **Advantage:** Degree track progression / transferrable credits
- **Need:** Sign-up sheet available for those interested
- **Contact:** MBA office for more details or Dr. Paul Mongin @ 912-346-9423



# 2024

Georgia Baptists are challenged to provide 25,000 backpacks (zippered & filled with new items) for children & teens in Appalachia and Georgia through partnerships with churches & Georgia Baptist associations.

For more info, resources and TO REGISTER visit: <https://missiongeorgia.org/backpacks/>

- 1 - **Use** regular-sized shoeboxes or special OCC box  
(If you wrap it, do lid & box separately.)
- 2 - **Label** your gift with BOY or GIRL (ages: 2-4; 5-9; 10-14)  
(Can print them from website.)
- 3 - **Fill** with gifts (see suggestions below & to the right)
- 4 - **Pray** for God to use your gift to bless the child who will receive it
- 5 - **Include** \$10 donation per box gifts (for shipping & other costs)
- 6 - **Drop off** (Collection week: November 18 - 25th)

[Drop off locations & dates in next month's Visionary.]

\*\* For more info go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>  
OR to OCC's new Amazon storefront: <https://www.amazon.com/shop/operationchristmaschild>





## Ogeechee River Baptist Association

17 North College Street

Statesboro, GA 30458

Phone: 912-764-3620

Fax: 912-489-4566

Website: [www.orbalife.org](http://www.orbalife.org)

Moderator: Tony Pagliarullo

Associational Missionary: Jeff Parmer (beginning October 1st)

Email: [orbamissionary@orbalife.org](mailto:orbamissionary@orbalife.org)

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Marotte

Email: [orbaoffice@orbalife.org](mailto:orbaoffice@orbalife.org)

### W.W. Mann Retreat Center

2171 Prather Road

Statesboro, GA 30461

Phone: 912-842-2460

Fax: 912-842-2464

Website: [www.mann-center.org](http://www.mann-center.org)

Director: Michael Sparks

Email: [bradwellalum69@yahoo.com](mailto:bradwellalum69@yahoo.com)

## DON'T FORGET ...

Requests for Annual Church Reports (ACRs)  
have been sent out from the  
GA Baptist Mission Board!

ACR Contacts, **PLEASE complete** forms online  
prior to Monday, September 9, 2024 so that  
Debbie will have the correct information  
for our Annual Book of Reports.  
**THANK YOU!!!**

### Pastors' Prayer Lunches

Our pastors are meeting bi-monthly for prayer and lunch at 11:45 a.m. on Mondays. **Dates for September LUNCHES are:**  
the **9th** at El Sombrero (406 Fair Rd., Statesboro) & the **23rd** at JoMax BBQ (1120 S. Lewis St., Metter)

Ministers if you have questions or need more info, call Scott Redding (912-536-2046).

### GA Bapt. Children's Home

We collected an enclosed trailer FULL of paper products, school supplies, food, and bottled water. Monetary donations equaled \$770. Until further notice, the church will continue to collect items for another delivery.

Drop off location: Friendship Baptist Church (4025 Friendship Church Rd., Statesboro)

Drop of times: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER (Focus on Next Generation Ministries)

- 2 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 9 CSM Food Pantry open, 31 N. Zetterower Ave., Statesboro, 8 a.m. - noon
- 23 CSM Food Pantry open, 31 N. Zetterower Ave., Statesboro, 8 a.m. - noon
- 26 Associational Executive Council Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.

### OCTOBER (Focus on Cooperative Program & Pastor Appreciation)

- 1 ~~Sr. Adult Fall Festival, Friendship, 11:00 a.m.~~ POSTPONED
- 6 Cooperative Program Sunday & Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- 13 Pastor Appreciation Day
- 13 ORBA Annual Meeting, Cedar Street, 6-8 p.m.
- 14 Columbus Day
- 29 Associational WMU Meeting/Banquet, Statesboro FBC, 6:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER (Focus on Christian Compassion)

- 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 3 Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- 4 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 10 Orphans and Widows Sunday
- 11-13 GBC Annual Meeting, Statesboro FBC
- 21 Associational Executive Council Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.
- 27-29 Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed

### DECEMBER (Focus on International Missions)

- 1-8 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for IMB/Lottie Moon Offering
- 2 Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet
- 23-31 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed (reopen January 2)
- 25 Christmas Day

## September



- 1 Claire Pagliarullo
- 7 Gerald Jones
- 9 Carolina Chuvac Sontay
- 22 Albert Hodges
- 30 Will Collins
- 30 Patrick McElveen
- 1 Dave & Yvonne Parker
- 11 Gerald & Janice Jones
- 18 Taek & Mira Kang