

JUNE 2025

"Ye Shall Be Witnesses
Unto Me" Acts 1:8

Ogeechee River Baptist Association

Ogeechee Missions Visionary

A Family of Churches Making Christ Known

Missionary Moment

Member Churches and Missions

Agape Mission
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
Metter FBC
New Life
Oak Grove
Old Fellowship
Olive Branch
Pine Grove
Portal FBC
Pulaski
Register
Salem
Sonlight Community
Southbridge Community
Statesboro FBC
Statesboro Korean Mission
S'boro Mision Bautista Bethel
Temple Hill
Trinity
Union

What Must You Leave Behind to Follow Jesus?

Hebrews 12:1 –

*"Therefore, since we also
have such a large cloud of
witnesses surrounding us,
let us lay aside every hin-
drance and the sin that so
easily ensnares us."*

*Mark 10:50 – "And throw-
ing off his cloak, he sprang
up and came to Jesus."*

As Jesus journeyed the Jericho Road on His way to Jerusalem and the cross, He had several significant encounters. One of the most compelling is His meeting with Bartimaeus—a blind beggar. This encounter, the miraculous healing, and Bartimaeus's decision to follow Jesus are recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43). Only Mark, however, gives the man's name: Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus was not begging at random. He had intentionally positioned himself on a busy route where pilgrims traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Knowing that giving to the poor was a core value in

Judaism, he chose a spot with the highest potential for generosity.

As Jesus approached, Bartimaeus must have sensed something different. He could likely discern the size and tone of passing groups. Learning that Jesus of Nazareth was among them, Bartimaeus changed his cry. No longer a passive "alms for the poor," he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Despite being rebuked by some, Bartimaeus refused to be silenced. His persistence paid off—Jesus stopped and called for him.

At that call, Bartimaeus immediately responded. Mark notes that he "threw off his cloak" to go to Jesus. This cloak was likely his most valuable possession, offering comfort, warmth, and protection. But in that moment, it became a hindrance. He discarded it without hesitation to run to Jesus—and Scripture never records him returning for it.

One commentator writes: "His response to the call of

Jesus was immediate and eager, so eager that he cast off his hindering cloak to run to Jesus the more quickly. Many a man hears the call of Jesus but says, 'Wait until I've done this' or 'finished that.' Bartimaeus came like a shot when Jesus called. Certain chances happen only once... Often, we don't act—and the chance is gone."

Earlier in Mark 10 (vv. 17–22), we see a very different response from the "rich young ruler." Unlike Bartimaeus, he clung to his possessions and walked away sorrowful—he kept everything and lost Jesus. Bartimaeus left everything, gained Jesus, and followed, "glorifying God," Luke 18:43.

So, we must ask: What do we need to leave behind to truly follow Jesus? As individuals, as a church, and as an association, what is our "cloak"? What hinders us from wholeheartedly following Jesus?

Praying and cheering for you,

Jeff

VBS & Other News From Our Churches

For specific VBS info, see ORBA or church's web-site.

BETHEL--Wed., 6/18 - Fri., 6/20; 5:30 - 8:30p: 3-night Vacation Bible School.

BROOKLET FBC--Sun., 6/8 - Fri., 6/13; 6 - 8:45p: 6-night Vacation Bible Sch.

CEDAR STREET--Sat., 6/7; 9a - 2p: 1-day Vacation Bible School.

EMIT GROVE--Mon., 6/2 - Fri., 6/6; 5:30 - 8:30p: 5-night Vacation Bible School.

EXCELSIOR--(1)Sun., 6/1 - Wed., 6/4; 5 - 7:30p: 4-night Vacation Bible School. (2) Monthly Wednesday night meals. Adult learning taught by Pastor Mike Howard & kids activities led by Eric & Ashley McNair. Eric was recently named Asst. Principal at Metter Elementary. June's date is the 18th (for future months, see website excelsiorbaptistchurch.org or call Dena at 912-243-1103). All are welcome!

FLETCHER MEMORIAL--Mon., 6/23 - Thur., 6/26; 6:30 - 8:10p: 4-night Vacation Bible School.

FRIENDSHIP--Sun., 6/8 - Wed., 6/11; 5:15 - 8p: 4-night Vacation Bible School.

LEEFIELD--(1)Summer Schedule (June - August): Sunday School 9am & Sunday morning worship 10am. (2)Mon., 6/16 - Thurs. 6/19; 5:30 - 8:30p: 4-night Vacation Bible School. (3)Sun., 6/29; 5p: Darrell & Dawn Ritchie in Concert. A love offering will be taken, but attendance is free of charge.

*See ad >>>>>>>

LIGHTHOUSE--Mon., 6/16-Sat., 6/21; 5-8p: 6-night Vacation Bible School.

MACEDONIA--Sun., 6/22 - Wed., 6/25; 6 - 8:30p: 4-night Vacation Bible School.

NEW LIFE--Sun., 6/1-Tue., 6/3; 6:30 - 8:30p: 3-night Vacation Bible Sch.

OLD FELLOWSHIP--Sun., 6/1 - Thur., 6/5; 5:30 - 8:30p: 5-night Vacation Bible School.

OLIVE BRANCH--Sun., 6/8 - Thur., 6/12; 9a - noon: 5-day Vacation Bible Sch.

REGISTER--Sun., 6/8- Fri., 6/13; 6 - 8:30p: 6-night Vacation Bible Sch.

STATESBORO FBC--Mon., 6/2 - Fri., 6/6; 9a - noon: 5-day Vacation Bible School

TRINITY--Mon., 6/2 - Thur., 6/5; 6 - 8:30p: 4-night Vacation Bible School.

DDM Presents
Nashville Recording Artists

Sunday
June 29th
5PM

Leefield Baptist Church
5294 Brooklet Leefield Rd.
Brooklet GA

www.rightplacemusic.com

DARRELL & DAWN RITCHIE

News From the Mann Center

At its May 29 meeting, the Executive Council approved the following motion:

Effective August 1, 2025, operations at the W.W. Mann Center will be suspended to enable the development of a comprehensive and inclusive plan for its future by the Strategic Planning Committee, consistent with the ongoing strategic planning process of the Ogeechee River Baptist Association.

For some time now, the Mann Center has been operating at a deficit. This situation has become unsus-

tainable and could not be allowed to continue.

By formally empowering the Strategic Planning Committee in this way, the Executive Council acknowledges the importance of establishing a clear and unified vision for the association. As this team continues its work—seeking God’s direction and vision for our future—your prayers and encouragement are deeply appreciated.

If you have any questions or would like to talk, I would be glad to connect with you.

Grace and peace,
Jeff

Camp “I AM”

It’s almost camp time!!!

Camp I AM 2025 is almost here. Camp “I AM” Junior (1st-3rd grade) is June 30-July 3. Camp “I AM” Senior (4th-6th grade) is July 7-11.

We are still in need of adult male volunteers to work as cabin leaders. We still have our *Amazon Wish List* out there. We would appreciate any help you could give us with this, as a group or even as an individual. Our next meeting is at 7pm on June 10th at the ORBA office. We would like ALL workers to attend this meeting if possible. If anyone has questions, please contact the new director-Jeanie Jewell @ 912-682-8621. Also, prayers for camp are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Concerns *There are so many! When I listed one, I thought of three more. Scripture reminds us to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication [begging for something earnestly/humbly]” (Phil. 4:6). Do we do this? Do we come before the throne of our Creator, seeking Him for guidance as well as healing? Do we pray for believers, non-believers, family, friends, enemies, leaders? Do we praise Him and thank Him for all that He has provided—not the least of which is our lives (physical & spiritual)? Do we truly lay all before Him and then trust Him to fulfill His plan, His way, knowing it IS what’s BEST? God is fully capable of prompting us to pray, let us be obedient to bring EVERYTHING to Him, trusting Him for the results!*

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY (BCM)

Chris Bryan, GSU Campus Minister
P.O. Box 8117; Statesboro, GA 30460
Cell: (678) 549-2245 cbryan.bcm@gabaptist.org

Many BCM students serving in camps
and on mission trips this summer.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES (CSM)

John Long, Director
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2416; Statesboro, GA 30459
Cell: (912) 512-0107 jl原因@christiansocialministry.org

Stores in Statesboro:
122 E. Parrish St. (Thrift Store)
307 N. Zetterower Ave. (Used Furniture & More)
2429 Northside Dr. W. (at Walker’s Pharmacy)

Ministry Office & Food Pantry Warehouse:
31 N. Zetterower Ave., Statesboro
ASSISTANCE: by appointment only ... **Call 912-489-2407**
FOOD PANTRY: Open 8 a.m. - noon (only on Mondays)

June dates >> 2nd, 16th & 30th

FOUNDATIONS (FAMILY & PREGNANCY) RESOURCE CENTER

Our summer shirt colors are NOW OUT—hydrangea & peachy. If you would like to order one of our shirts in support of our efforts in saving the lives of the unborn and ministering to these families, orders will be open through June 9th. The shirts are \$17, and you can get yours by going to <https://account.venmo.com/u/foundationsresourcecenter>

Jordan Mathis, Executive Director
Physical Address: 418 S. Main St.; Statesboro, GA 30458
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 774; Statesboro, GA 30459
Phone: (912) 259-9596

For more info go to frcfriends.org

CHOICES OF THE HEART PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Our Baby Bottle Boomerang will run until the end of June!

Mandy Perkins, Executive Director
Physical Address: 425 E. Grady St.; Statesboro, GA 30458
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2073; Statesboro, GA 30459
Office: (912) 764-4303 Cell: (912) 680-5281

Ogeechee River Baptist Association

17 North College Street

Statesboro, GA 30458

Phone: 912-764-3620

Fax: 912-489-4566

Website: www.orbalife.org

OR visit us on Facebook

Moderator: Tony Pagliarullo

Associational Missionary: Jeff Parmer

E-mail: orbamissionary@orbalife.org

Admin. Assistant: Debbie Marotte

E-mail: orbaoffice@orbalife.org

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

June Anniversaries

Nicky & Amanda McCreary	4
Josh & Lindsay Boyett	6
Julian & June Ward	15
Art & Cathy Tarver	17
Tommy & Ginger Crocker	20
Josiah & Azure McDaniel	20
Pat & Donna Long	30

June Birthdays

Debbie Howard	3
Paula McElveen	3
Angie Long	8
Joy Traywick	8
Bo Fulginiti	11

W.W. Mann Center

2171 Prather Road

Statesboro, GA 30461

Phone: 912-842-2460

Fax: 912-842-2464

Website: www.mann-center.org

OR visit us on Facebook

Director: Mike Sparks

E-mail: bradwellalum69@yahoo.com

Maintenance: Duane Davis

Calendar

JUNE (Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries)

- 1 [SBC] Disaster Relief Sunday
- 2-6 [GBMB] IMPACT Student Camp; Shorter University, Rome
- 8-9 [SBC] WMU Missions Celebration & Annual Meeting; Dallas, TX
- 10-11 [SBC] Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting; Dallas, TX
- 10 FINAL 2025 Camp "I AM" Planning Meeting; ORBA Office, 7:00 p.m.**
- 9-12 [GBMB] Superwow Student Camp; Panama City, FL
- 9-13 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle Teen Week; Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA
- 14 Flag Day
- 15-21 [GBMB] Surge Music Camp; Shorter University, Rome
- 15 Father's Day
- 16-19 [GBMB] Superwow Student Camp; Panama City, FL
- 16-20 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle Younger Girls Week; Pinnacle Retreat Ctr., Clayton, GA
- 22 [SBC] Mission: Dignity Sunday
- 23-25 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle Mom & Me 2-Nights; Pinnacle Retreat Ctr., Clayton, GA
- 23-27 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle South; Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA
- 26-28 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle Mom & Me 2-Nights; Pinnacle Retreat Ctr., Clayton, GA
- 30- Camp "I AM" Junior; W.W. Mann Center**

JULY (Focus on Christian Citizenship)

- 3 Camp "I AM" Junior; W.W. Mann Center**
- 4 Independence Day, **ORBA Office Closed**
- 6 [SBC] Religious Liberty Sunday
- 7-11 Camp "I AM" Senior; W.W. Mann Center**
- 7-11 [GBMB] Camp Pinnacle Younger Girls Week; Pinnacle Retreat Ctr., Clayton, GA
- 22 [GBMB] Associational WMU Leadership Training



EL ROI Genesis 16

The God Who Sees Me

Ladies Bible Study & Taco Salad
Monday, June 9 6pm
Middleground Community Center

RSVP to Tracey 912-690-6561
All ladies welcome!