



Where Faith  
Comes To Life

# THE CROSSROADS

## HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

Dear Baptist Church of the Covenant,

There are many questions on how we as a church will respond to the wake of destruction of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Two key ways we can get involved are emerging. At this moment, these responses are just burgeoning and lack essential details. As further details develop they will be shared with the church. Below are two responses you can join as Covenant works with countless others in the relief effort.

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Baptist Church  
of the Covenant

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### DONATING AND SORTING SUPPLIES

In the aftermath of the hurricanes, there are a host of supplies and goods that are in immediate need. I am currently coordinating with CBF Alabama, the United Methodist Church of North Alabama, and the Red Cross to find out what supplies are of greatest need. Our efforts in this area could be hosting our own supply drive to helping another organization sort their disaster donations. **If you are interested in being involved with the donation and sorting supplies, please email me at [tbell@bcoc.net](mailto:tbell@bcoc.net).**

### FORMING A TEAM TO TRAVEL TO A HURRICANE IMPACTED COMMUNITY

Another key area is to form a team who will travel to hurricane impacted communities to directly assist with any acute need for the community. Such work will vary, being mostly clean up, assisting with supply distribution, and rebuilding efforts later. These efforts do not exclusively include manual labor, so please know that all people are welcome to join! If the commitment is great enough from Covenant, we may send more than one team at different times during the long recovery process. I am currently coordinating with CBF Alabama to figure out potential locations, dates, and type of work. **If you are interested in joining a team please email me at [tbell@bcoc.net](mailto:tbell@bcoc.net).** Please include if you can commit to a week or weekend and when you are available to travel.

I recognize this list is incomplete and there are other great organizations and ways Covenant can be involved. If you sense that I have gravely missed something, please email me and let me know. I want to hear from you! Finally, if you are interested in being involved in anyway, please contact me. I am currently compiling our teams, and this helps me in coordinating with involved organizations.

Peace and Blessings,

Taylor Bell  
[tbell@bcoc.net](mailto:tbell@bcoc.net)  
(205) 328-0644

## — WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS —

### SKILLS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

SEPTEMBER 27, OCTOBER 4 & 11

On Wednesday nights, annually, classes are offered to help members hone a specific Christian skill for the living of faith. This year we are pleased to offer five classes on September 27, October 4 and 11. Featured teachers and classes are as follows: Debbie Sumrall, "Nonviolent Response to Conflict"; Eva Kendrick, "Understanding Gender and Sexual identity"; Vicki Rayford, "Planning for the Holidays"; John Mitchell, "Bible Study on James"; Karen Smith, "Making Personal Finger Labyrinths". Please select **ONE** class for all three weeks. A sign-up board is available in the Fellowship Hall.

## — WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP —

- Sept. 20 "Calling and Vocation," Pastor Sarah
- Sept. 27 Skills for Christian Living
- Oct. 4 Skills for Christian Living
- Oct. 11 Skills for Christian Living
- Oct. 18 Business Meeting - Adoption of budget

## — CHILDREN AND YOUTH —

### OUR LITTLEST MEMBERS NEED YOU!

Twenty five volunteers are needed each month to fully cover our children in worship care. Each volunteer serves once a month. We still need eight youth or adults who will serve in our nursery this September through September 2018. Please contact [Valerie Burton](#) or [Linda Martin](#) if you would like to help out.




## — OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS —

### STAFF EVALUATIONS

The staff committee is working on evaluations for our staff members for October 2016 - September 2017. Please take this opportunity to participate by filling out the Google form [HERE](#) or visiting [goo.g/LH6UHf](http://goo.g/LH6UHf). The deadline to submit a survey is Monday, September 25.



BCOC is beginning to look forward to a celebration honoring our fiftieth anniversary in November 2020. If you would like to be a part of a team to help plan an event to mark this important milestone, please contact [Carol Dean](#), or [Josey Windham](#).



### URGING NATIONAL CBF TO CHANGE THEIR HIRING POLICY

There is a movement afoot to encourage the members of the Illumination Project of The National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to move quicker on removing CBF's discriminatory hiring policy against LGBTQ persons. If you go to the link [HERE](#), you will find the statement regarding the policy and why it should be changed. There is also a place for those interested to put their names on the petition. You will find Valerie Burton, Dan Lawhon, and Sarah Shelton's names on the petition, as well as Fisher Humphreys.

*thank you*

My Dear Baptist Church of the Covenant,  
Your celebration of my fifteenth anniversary makes me smile! Your gift is so lovely that I am still processing it. A weekend away with Lloyd, sweet cards and notes, and a standing ovation! It is all so very thoughtful and extravagant. Thank you for placing your confidence in me in so many ways. I am so thankful to be your pastor.

With love and deep gratitude,  
*Sarah*

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

## 3RD SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



Sunday, Sept. 17 is the monthly 3rd Sunday Food Drive to support Greater Birmingham Ministries. Pantry needs include canned beans, fruit, meat, vegetables, and soup. As well as cereal, flour, sugar, jelly, pasta, peanut butter and rice. Collection boxes will be in the sanctuary lobby and alley lobby by the elevator.

Last month, on the inaugural 3rd Sunday Food Drive, members gave 314 items for the GBM food pantry. Let's beat that for September!

## STEP UP TO THE PLATE



Because the benefits of those in poverty typically run out on the 21st of each month, take some time on the 21st of each month to engage in one or more of the following spiritual practices.

**PRAY:** Pray for those who hunger. Pray for those in power who make decisions concerning the welfare of those who hunger. Pray for us that we may work towards justice with those who hunger.

**FAST:** Fasting is a spiritual discipline practiced many times in Scripture. We fast in order to draw closer to God and to be in solidarity with those who are hungry. Fasting may mean no eating the whole day, skipping a meal, or abstaining from some other activity.

**ADVOCATE:** Call, write, or email state and federal representatives to encourage them to enact laws and policies that will alleviate poverty. On the third Sunday of each month, when you bring food items to donate, visit the advocacy table in Fellowship Hall during coffee time. Blank post cards and suggested scripts will be available for your use.

## TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

**FOR OCTOBER:** Socks, lip balm, cough drops

*with sympathy*

Sympathy is expressed to Faye and Dennis Wilson in the death of Faye's aunt, Imogene. The funeral was last weekend in Memphis. The memorial service for Jim Stigler, Suzanne Martin's father, will be September 23 at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church at 2:00 pm.

# CHURCH BUSINESS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5	WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10
General Fund \$14,513.14	General Fund \$21,436.80
Building Fund \$470.00	Building Fund \$516.00

**General Fund Gifts needed each week to meet the 2017 Budget: \$13,791.00**

*The indebtedness of the church is \$534,009.11*

## SEPTEMBER 13 BUSINESS MEETING

This Business Meeting has NOT been adjourned. Wednesday, BCOC voted for a continuance. We are still in session in case there is news about the SRI parking lot sale.

1. Clerk's Report - Active resident membership is 341.
2. Monthly Report - Current revenue is 62% of 2017 budget. Current expenditures are 64.4% of the budget. Revenue is currently \$15,779 behind expenditures.
3. 2018 Budget - Copies of the proposed budget are available in the sanctuary foyer.
4. New Designated Funds - Members voted to establish two new designated funds: Hall Music Scholarship and 50th Anniversary.
5. COM - Formed Mission Partnerships Task Force. Contact [Jenny Smith](#) if interested in serving. We are currently waiting on appraisals of the SRI parking lot.

# September Birthdays

Bart Grooms 9/14	Virginia Jackson 9/23
Kenzi Rauthsmith 9/14	David Hoefelman 9/24
Connie Hogewood 9/15	Tim Liptak 9/25
Katie Snyder 9/16	Andy Litton 9/25
Lyndsay Cogdill 9/17	Delane Tew 9/27
Danny Martin 9/17	Catherine Alexander 9/29
Michaelle Chapman 9/19	Brian Berthiaume 9/30
Mollie Ingram 9/20	Kathy Flowers 9/30
Paige Sharp 9/21	



## PRAYER CONCERNS



<b>ORLANDO</b> David Goodwin	Shalom Baptist Church Corita Blanco Boca de Mariel, Cuba
<b>HOME</b> Harvey Love Jill Blach	Elizabeth Lott, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
Bob Powell, Cottondale Christian Church, Cottondale, AL	

DEACON OF THE WEEK: KAREN STINNETT, 205-249-3120

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

*Helpers Pickup* - Esther Gardner, Becky Belcher

8:30 a.m. - *Lobby Monitors* - Mark Burge, Rick Mitchell

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - *Alley Door Monitor* - Ann Elizabeth McInvale, Jill Holley

9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

Greater Birmingham Ministry Food Drive

*Greeters, Ushers & Offering* - Faith & Bill Stockton, Kelly Mitchell, Sharon Chappell, Elaine Stephens, Jenny Smith

*Worship Care* - Susan Richardson, Pat Brown, Peggy Sanderford-Ponder, Jason Hall

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - *Glass Lobby Greeters* - Scott Russell

10:00 am. - *Coffee Fellowship* - Cindy Goodwin, George Crear

10:30 a.m.. - Sunday School

*Offering Counters* - Pat Hawley, Sue Shaddix

*Helpers Class* -

*Building Lockup* - David Hoefelman

10:30 a.m. - Covenant 101 - Kit Heifner, Linda Martin

10:30 a.m. - Open Table Forum - Glenda Elliott, Mark Burge

5:00 p.m. - Youth Music

6:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m - Snack Supper

6:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m. - Youth Bible Study

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

*Check Signers* - Ellen Dosssett, David Henderson

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner - Children

5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Leadership Learning Academy

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Children's' Choir

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Mission Friends

6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Prayer, Announcements, Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Preschool Music

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Children in Action

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

*Choir Lock-up* - Joe Dixon

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - "Psalms and Prayer," Room 203

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry  
Brian Vaughn, Jeff Barton

DEACON OF THE WEEK: PAUL RICHARDSON, 205-942-6402

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

*Helpers Pickup* - Elaine Stephens, Bill Peebles

8:30 a.m. - *Lobby Monitors* - George Crear, David Hoefelman

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - *Alley Door Monitors* - Marsha & David Henderson

9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

*Greeters, Ushers & Offering* - Dianna Anderson, Shirley Brymer, Preston Miller, Angela Moore, Taylor Janson

*Worship Care* - Stephanie Parnell, Vicki Brymer, Sarah Hines, Cheryl Pathasema, Karen & Matthew Stinnett

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - *Glass Lobby Greeters* - Dennis Day, Sarah Young

10:00 a.m. - *Coffee Fellowship* - Denise Gardner, Connie McCrory, Marsha Henderson, Pat Hawley

10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

*Offering Counters* - Robbie Yarbrough, David Henderson

*Helpers Class* -

*Building Lockup* - David Hoefelman

11:30 a.m. - Ministries

5:00 p.m. - Youth Music

6:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m - Snack Supper

6:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m. - Youth Bible Study

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

*Check Signers* - Ellen Dosssett, David Henderson

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner - Children

5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Leadership Learning Academy

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Children's' Choir

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Mission Friends

6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Prayer, Announcements, "Skills"

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Preschool Music

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Children in Action

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

*Choir Lock-up* - Dennis Wilson

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - "Psalms and Prayer," Room 203



ALABAMA CBF FALL GATHERING  
OCTOBER 22ND  
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

Worship, September 17  
Sermon by Sarah Shelton  
*Keeping Score*

First Reading Exodus 14:13-14, 19-31  
Second Reading Romans 14:1-12  
Third Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Worship, September 24  
Sermon by Sarah Shelton

First Reading Exodus 16:2-15  
Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30  
Third Reading Matthew 20:1-16