



The Baptist Life

A Monthly Publication of The Middle Florida Baptist Association
Connecting Baptist Churches in Jefferson, Madison And Lafayette Counties

November 2020

Middle Florida Baptist Association

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Extended (15 month) Budget Update as of October 31

Year To Date Budget Receipts	\$ 85,626.29
Year To Date Goal	\$ 87,533.33
Year To Date Expenditures	\$ 82,714.11

Please pray for our churches and pastors

Bethel Creek

Beulah

Brewer Lake

Central

Cherry Lake First

Concord

Elizabeth

Faith

Fellowship

Greenville

Harmony

Hopewell

Lamont

Lee First

Macedonia

Madison First

Mayo

Midway

Morningstar

Mount Olive

New Home

New Macedonia

Olive

Pine Grove

Pinetta First

Pleasant Grove

Riverside

Sirmans

Saint John's

The Journey

Unity

Chad Little

Greg Ragans

Michael Hornback

Daryl Adams

Murrell Bennett

Jamie Ford

Sammy Hiers (I)

Jackie Watts

Jeff Bailey

Shaun Gay

Billy Rice

Mark Holley

Lucas Morgan

Trent Abbott

Gabe Krell

Rick James

Matt Thompson

Joe Rowe

Will Jacobs

Chris Roth

Dave Musgrave

David During

Michael Bass

Allen Hawkins

Bob Scott

Keith Grimes

Bryant Thigpen

Wayne Hudson

Pat Raulerson

Jerry Buchanan

(I) indicates interim pastor

All Around The Middle

Thank you, Association Council, for your decision to move our Annual meeting to a Sunday and give greater emphasis to worship while together. This year's gathering was super. Thanks also go to New Home Church for their great hospitality and to Madison First Church for their Youth Praise Band helping to lead our worship time. I am already looking forward to our Spring meeting on Sunday evening, April 11.

In life, so much can change in just a very brief span of time. Our family recently experienced this. Many of you know that Kim's mother has been living in a care facility near her home in Mississippi for a couple of years now as she deals with her diminishing cognitive ability.

The week after our Annual Meeting, Kim and I learned that there may be other health concerns she will have to deal with soon. Out of concern that the pandemic might lead the care facility to limit in-person contact with its residents again in the future, we made the decision that her Mom would leave there.

There were a few options we considered regarding where and how to care for Kim's Mom in the days ahead. None was a perfect solution. The plan that looks best to us is for Kim and her Mom to move-in with our daughter Laura and her family in North Carolina. Laura lives near one of our sons and soon their sister will be in the area after she completes medical school at Emory.

Meanwhile, I will continue to live here and work with you through our Middle Florida Association. While this is not an ideal solution, it is the best for our family at this time. As you have the opportunity and are reminded, please pray for our family. We need that now as much as ever.

For now, we will seek to appreciate our time together more than ever. We have so much for which to be thankful. I am grateful that God brought Kim and me together and wove our two families into one. I am grateful that at a time like this, Kim and I have family to turn to for help.

Share Your Information

If you have information about your church or its people that you would like shared on our web site, Facebook page, calendar or newsletter, please let us know. Contact our office staff any time. If we need to make any corrections, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Challenge 2025 Gathering



Pastors and church leaders should plan to attend next year's Challenge 2025 Gathering at Orlando's First Baptist Church on February 16. Check-in will begin at 8:00 am that day. There will be breakout sessions and general sessions before and after lunch. Along with many breakout session leaders, guest speakers scheduled to speak include Paul Chitwood (President of the International Mission Board), Kevin Ezell (President of the North American Mission Board), Erik Cummings (President of the Florida Baptist Convention) and Tommy Green (Executive Director of the Florida Baptist Convention).

To register or find more information, visit the website for The Gathering at:

<https://flbaptist.org/challenge-2025/>

Human Life Protection Amendment

So many of you responded with such a positive attitude to the presentation by Mark Minck at our Annual Meeting. Mark is with Protect Human Life Florida. They are leading an effort to place a constitutional amendment proposal on the ballot for 2022.



The first step in the process is for them to present one million signed petitions to the State Supreme Court for their review. If your church has blank forms available for registered voters to sign, please seek to complete your effort by the end of the year. You can mail your forms directly to Protect Human Life Florida or bring them by our Association office and we will see to it that they are shipped to them.

You may find the petition and more information by visiting their website:

<https://humanlifefl.com/petition/>

Annual Meeting Review

Not only was the Annual Meeting of our Middle Florida Association moved from Tuesday night to Sunday, but it was also moved from October 11 to November 8. There was still a successful business meeting, wonderful fellowship meal, powerful preaching and inspirational worship that took place among those gathered together.

Rev. Jeff Bailey, pastor of Greenville Church, presented a doctrinal message in the first session entitled, "Cozying Up To The Culture". It was based on Revelation 2.



The worship session was led by the Youth Praise Band from Madison First Church. The inspirational message was given by Rev. Michael Bass, pastor of First Church of Pinetta. Using Philippians 3:12 as his text, his message was entitled "Pressing Towards the Mark."

There was a total of 135 in attendance, including 11 pastors, 43 messengers, 9 officers and 72 guests. A total of 20 churches were represented. Messengers and guests gave more than \$2,700 for Tessa Andrews's mission work in Haiti.

Great thanks and appreciation go to New Home Church and Pastor Chris Roth for opening their beautiful facility to us and providing the delicious meal.

Ministry Opportunity For Singers

Lake Park of Madison Nursing and Rehabilitation is looking for churches to come and sing to their residents. The singing will take place outdoors for the purposes of social distancing. If you or your church group are interested, please contact Maggie Kelley, Activities Director at (850) 973-8277. This is a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with those who cannot attend church services easily.

Operation Merry Christmas: The Florida Baptist Children's Home

Florida Baptist Children's Home deeply appreciates your gifts which will help to provide care, hope and wonderful Christmas memories for the children in their care! To learn more about the gifts that are desired, please visit their website.

<https://onemorechild.org/event/operation-merry-christmas/>

To help make your shopping easier, you might consider visiting their gift registry for easier shopping:

www.walmart.com/lists/view-events-registry-items?id=28a543a2-2a54-4699-8ff0-d151130ad5e2

You can have the gifts shipped to their campus through the registry or you can bring your new, unwrapped gifts to the Association office by Wednesday, December 9. Gifts brought to our office will be delivered to the Children's Home by December 10.

To see these links and other helpful information (including suggestions for specific age ranges, go to our Association's website and click on the 'INFO CENTER' tab – then select the 'Baptist Children's Home' tab. Check our Association Facebook page for links there as well.

Operation Christmas Child Report

The shoebox collection for Operation Christmas Child was held at Central Church in Aucilla on Saturday, November 14 at the WMU Rally. There were 33 WMU ladies present representing 7 churches. A total of 1,201 boxes were collected with Central Church collecting 765 boxes!

During National Collection week, the Madison area drop-off location at the Madison Church of God received, prayed over and packed 2,306 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Now, they are making their way to the regional processing center in Atlanta.

Thank you to all 27 volunteers and our Operation Christmas Child Coordinator, Charlotte Hammond (Pinetta First) who together volunteered over 171 hours to make this possible.

At the end of this week, a group from our Association will be going to the Atlanta Processing Center to work. Please be in prayer for them as they go to volunteer their time!

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2020

- 3 Operation Christmas Child Mission Trip to Atlanta (through December 5)
- 8 Executive Committee – 6:30 pm location to be announced
- 19 Seven Gables Food Ministry in Mayo – 8:00 to 10:00 am
- 28 Christmas Break – Association office closed through December 31

JANUARY 2021

- 1 New Year's Day – Association office closed
- 16 Seven Gables Food Ministry in Mayo – 8:00 to 10:00 am
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19 Association Council – 6:00 pm at the Association Office
- 19 Nominating Committee meets at 7:30 pm

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