



The Baptist Life

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

December 2020

Middle Florida Baptist Association

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Extended (15 month) Budget Update as of November 30

Year To Date Budget Receipts	\$ 90,507.62
Year To Date Goal	\$ 94,266.67
Year To Date Expenditures	\$ 88,118.62

Please pray for our churches and pastors

Bethel Creek	Chad Little
Beulah	Greg Ragans
Brewer Lake	Michael Hornback
Central	Daryl Adams
Cherry Lake First	Murrell Bennett
Concord	Jamie Ford
Elizabeth	Sammy Hiers (I)
Faith	John Myrick
Fellowship	Jackie Watts
Greenville	Jeff Bailey
Harmony	Shaun Gay
Hopewell	Billy Rice
Lamont	Mark Holley
Lee First	Lucas Morgan
Macedonia	Trent Abbott
Madison First	Gabe Krell
Mayo	Rick James
Midway	Matt Thompson
Morningstar	Joe Rowe
Mount Olive	Will Jacobs
New Home	Chris Roth
New Macedonia	Dave Musgrave
Olive	David During
Pine Grove	
Pinetta First	Michael Bass
Pleasant Grove	Allen Hawkins
Riverside	Bob Scott
Sirmans	Keith Grimes
Saint John's	Bryant Thigpen
The Journey	Wayne Hudson
	Pat Raulerson
Unity	Jerry Buchanan

(I) indicates interim pastor

All Around The Middle

Christmas is not about you. It's not about me. It's not about traditions, gifts and food. Christmas is all about recognizing Jesus leaving Heaven to come to earth and take on human form so as to better identify with us and ultimately demonstrate his love for us.

Perhaps your experience is different from mine, but life circumstances have certainly impacted our family this year as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. But that's why it is so important to not make Christmas about me or my family but to focus all my attention on Jesus and what he did 2,000 years ago. That doesn't change. That isn't impacted by my life circumstances. The unmatched reality of God coming to earth and becoming human so as to better help me identify with him. Emmanuel! God is with us!

Kim and I want to thank you for your generous gift to us at this time of year. We sense your love and support. I am eagerly looking forward to working alongside you in the new year.

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.

Transitions

Bob Scott is retiring as pastor of Riverside Church in Mayo at the end of December. He and his wife Jeanette (known as Jet) will continue to live in Lee. Bob will be available to preach in the future. Visit our website for his contact information.

John Myrick has been called as the new pastor at Faith Church in Madison. This past year John was the camp director for the 4-H Camp Cherry Lake. John and his wife Pam have three adult children and twelve grandchildren.

Sandy Ryan (Hopewell) passed away on November 15. Sandy had served as our Association's WMU director several years ago.

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/>

Association Office Closed

Our Middle Florida Baptist Association office will be closed Dec. 24-31 for Christmas Break. We hope you and your families stay healthy and enjoy this wonderful Christmas season together.

Our staff greatly appreciates the generous gift to us during this time of year. We look forward to serving with you in 2021.

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in ME you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

-- John 16:33

Correction

In our November newsletter, Charlotte Hammond was listed the Operation Christmas Child Area Coordinator. The new Area Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child beginning this year was Janet Diamond from Madison Church of God.

Also, the correct numbers for Operation Christmas Child are as follows:

- 2,297 boxes collected
- 11 volunteers
- 324 volunteer hours

We praise the Lord for all the hard work everyone has put in this year. We are very thankful for all the boxes that were donated and for each donor.

WMU Volunteers Needed

For our Children's Mission Day on Saturday, February 13th, we need ladies to bring homemade, individually wrapped desserts. Things like cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. will be very much appreciated and used to feed our children that attend our event that day. If you are interested in helping, please contact Iris Wesson at (850) 973-7415 or Lauren at the Association office (850) 973-8607.

Calendar of Events

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

FEBRUARY 2021

- 7 George Liele Day
- 9 Executive Committee meets at 6:30 pm
- 13 Children's Mission Day – at Fellowship Church – collection of baby bottles for A Women's Pregnancy Center
- 16 Florida Challenge 2025 Event – First Baptist Church of Orlando
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 20 Seven Gables Food Ministry in Mayo – 8:00 to 10:00 am

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