

FROM THE DESK OF BRO. BILLY

Saturday, May 19 through Monday, May 21 is the celebration of the festival of Shavuot. Shavuot is the festival God commanded Israel to observe, 7 weeks after Passover. (Deuteronomy 16:10; Exodus 23:16)

The festival of Shavuot celebrates the beginning of the harvest. Shavuot takes place 50 days after Passover. During Shavuot, the people of God take a portion of the “first fruits” of the grain harvest and wave them before God in thankfulness, with eager expectation of a great harvest at the end of the harvest season.

50 days after our Passover lamb died on the cross, came one of the greatest days in human history, the day the Holy Spirit was sent to dwell in the hearts of men, the day of Pentecost. Jesus Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection. The believers who were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were the first fruits of the harvest of souls.

In Judaism, Shavuot is also associated with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. A Law that the people of God could never fulfill. They could not fulfill the Law of love because their hearts were hard. The new covenant promise of Shavuot is that God would cleanse us, take out of us the heart of stone, place in us a soft heart, write his Laws upon our hearts and empower his children to walk in his commands. He accomplishes this through the death and resurrection of the Lamb and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

We live in the season of harvest, the time of resurrection and reconciliation. God has not come merely to live with us, but to live within us and empower us to fulfill the Law of love by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit.

These are the days of the preaching of the good news and the ingathering of the people of God from every tribe, tongue and nation.

My friends, those who are truly engaged and focused on the harvest do not have time to concern themselves with the things of the flesh, including man made religion. Brothers, lead our congregations from an inward focus and inspire us to turn outward and be on mission with a vision of the kingdom.

Christ died for our sins. I can't sit and dwell on my depravity and failure as a means to my sanctification. I must adopt the agenda of my king and the work of the harvest in order to truly lay aside the sin which so easily entangles me and run this race. I want to be on guard for the schemes of Satan, but a continual fear and focus on my sin will never set me free. We can move on from self-flogging and laying again and again the foundation of repentance from dead works. Move on to the harvest field.

What a wonderful day it will be when none of my thoughts are focused on me. Increase the spiritual health of your flock by filling their thoughts with the excellencies of their king and harnessing their resources and energy for the kingdom of Christ.

Bro. Billy

An update on Pandu's recent visit to the states:

Dr. Pandu Maddala's 2nd visit to our area has been as fruitful and exciting as his first. Thank you to Jeff Scoggins, Missions/Worship Pastor at FBC Lyons, for he has welcomed Pandu and shown him great hospitality. Pandu has had several opportunities to testify about the miraculous work of grace God is performing in India in which thousands are hearing the gospel for the first time and thousands are coming to Christ. Thus far during this visit Pandu has shared this testimony with Cross Timbers, FBC Vidalia and others. Each time God has moved on the hearts of the people in the congregation to join the great work God is doing in India. We have also introduced Pandu to the Savannah Baptist Association and we are working to open this opportunity in India to others. Our Pastors recently made some exciting decisions about this work in India which we will share later this month. Keep your ear to the ground because this is an exciting opportunity.

SUPERKIDZ

Many thanks to all the SuperKidz and sponsors who participated in the SK4 Bike-A-Thon for Baxley's Children's Home. Eleven SuperKidz rode their hardest for two 15 minute races, while the crowds cheered them on! The winner for the most funds raised is **Tucker Roberts** and the winner for the most laps is **Jonah Sikes**. The children raised a total of \$398 for Baxley's Children's Home! **Great Job SuperKidz!**

MISSION MEXICO

Join us **July 2-9** on an exciting mission trip to **Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva in Kantunilkin, Mexico**

During the trip we will train pastors, participate in some construction work and host a Vacation Bible School for the children! Pastors & lay leaders are encouraged to come spread the Good News!

Cost: \$800 Includes: Plane ticket, transportation, food, and lodging. Nonrefundable Deposit \$300 due by May 15th, balance due by June 25th.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Montgomery County: Mount Vernon Courthouse at 7:30 a.m.

Toombs County : National Day of Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the social hall of the Vidalia First United Methodist Church. The breakfast is sponsored by the Vidalia Rotary Club all members of the community are welcome. Reverend Chester Proctor is the guest speaker and breakfast is provided by Chick-Fil-A in Vidalia. The Toombs Area Ministerial Association is hosting a simultaneous Bible reading at 6:30 p.m. at the Toombs County Courthouse in Lyons. If you are interested in reading or want more info, please call Vicki Tillery at 293-2381.

Treutlen County: Soperton Courthouse at Noon

Wheeler County: The Flagpole at Glenwood Park at 10:00 a.m. & Alamo Courthouse at Noon

Oak Park: Oak Park will have National Day of Prayer services in the City Park at 7 pm. Bro. Keegan Spell will bring the word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If you would like your Vacation Bible School listed in next month's newsletter, please let us know by May 23rd. We will need: Theme Location with address Dates Contact Person with phone number

GBMB REACHING NEXTGEN ROUNDTABLE Social Circle

Location - First Baptist Church Social Circle Address - 195 N Cherokee Rd, Social Circle, GA 30025

Date - Thursday, September 20, 2018 Time - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost - \$10 per person online (deadline, Sept 10th); \$15 at the door

The “#reachingnextgen” Roundtables/Forums are for pastors, ministers of education, small group pastors, youth pastors, children's pastors/directors, college pastors, and any leaders desiring to reach the next generation. Presentation and discussion will be focused on how the church can be effective in reaching the next generation -- those 19 years of age and younger. The content of these roundtables/forums are designed to help churches, groups, families and leaders connect with and reach the next generation. Each age group will develop the topics for discussion prior to the day of the event through an online survey. The format for the small gatherings, which are age group specific, will be that of a peer-to-peer learning experience. If you have any questions, please contact the Kris Hall at 770.936.5236 or khall@gabaptist.org

KINGDOM SHEPHARDS

Name: Chris Vinson

Church: Trinity Baptist

Married to: Jessica Shepherd Vinson from Mobile, AL for 19 years

Children: Eli (15), Jake (13), Emma (11), Sydney (5)

Favorite Bible Verse: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Interesting Fact: I was saved in old-fashioned tent revival as a child.

Favorite Songs (At least one Christian & one secular): And Can It Be (Charles Wesley); any 80s hair band.

Short Bio: Raised in Alabama in a Christian home and saved early in life. Earned a BA from University of Mobile; MDiv & PhD from Southern Seminary (Louisville, KY). I've been in ministry for 20 years and hope I never have to retire (though I would consider being a chaplain for the Alabama Crimson Tide).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

Would you join us in praying for the following churches & pastors by name:

Hope, Journey, Pas. Jason Corbett, Long Pond, Pas. Joseph Siman, Mount Pisgah, Interim Pas. Chad Richie

Commit to prayer the following churches as they seek God's wisdom in searching for a pastor:

FBC Soperton: Int. Joshua Johnson; Hope; Mt. Pisgah: Int. Chad Richie; Ohoopoe; Stuckey; Tarrytown, United Fellowship: Int. Bryon Waters

Would you give us the opportunity to partner in prayer for you? It would be an honor to partner in prayer with you, please contact us with your prayer requests. All requests are confidential, unless corporate prayer is invited.

Wheeler County Prison Ministry ... *I was in prison and you visited me. Matt. 25-36*

Please be in prayer for those teaching in the Wheeler County Prison Ministry:

Higher Ground Dorm Teachers:

April: Bro. Chris Vinson

May:

900-N-3 Dorm Facilitators:

Bro. Billy Puckett, Bro. Joe Aldridge, & Bro. Mike Keene

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Chris Vinson

Mrs. Cornelia Ridgdill

Rev. Curtis Wells

Rev. Daniel Caraway

Rev. Don Moye

Rev. James Tippins

Rev. Juan Vallejo

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. & Mrs. Allen Rea

Dr. and Mrs. Chris Vinson

Rev. Don and Glenda Moye

Rev. Glenn & Cheryl Waters

Rev. James and Robyn Tippins

DBA CALENDAR

May

Calvin Durrence/Acts 1:8 Offering Month
 3 National Day of Prayer
 4 Senior Adult Banquet, East Gordon Baptist Church, 11:30 p.m.
 13 Mother's Day
 24 Region Wide Evangelistic Crusade Vision Casting, BPC Gilder Recital Hall, 7:00 p.m.
 30 DBA Office Closed

June

18-22 Surge, Brewton Parker College
 23 DBA Adrian Children's Camp Leader Meeting, DBA Office, Noon
 25-29 DBA Adrian Children's Camp

July

19 Administrative Team Meeting, DBA Office, 5:30pm
 27-28 Tri-County Family Services Back to School Fair at BPC

August

13 Pastor/Leader's Roundtable & Lunch, DBA Office 11:00 a.m.
 28 Meet & Greet with Pastors @ BPC 5-7pm
 29 Wheeler Prison Blessing Lunch

September

Begin Gathering Backpacks of Hope

10 Pastor/Leader's Roundtable & Lunch, DBA Office 11:00 a.m.
 17 **Annual Church Reports Due**
 20 Administrative Team Meeting, DBA Office, 5:30pm

Treasurer's Report

	Budget Offerings	Expenses	Net
03/31/18	13,817.70	(13,838.99)	(21.29)
YTD - 2018	33,710.59	(33,859.86)	(149.27)

	Balance as of: 2/28/2018	Gifts/ Transfers	Disbursements	Balance as of: 3/31/2018
ACTS 1:8	7,590.76	1.25	(2,110.00)	5,482.01