



INSIDE



Alabama drive-in theater owner takes stand against Disney's latest film

◆ Page 7



Spring cleaning, home update tips

◆ Pages 11-14



Annual giving report of Alabama Baptist churches

◆ Pages 15-20



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Churches can be 'safe haven' for those experiencing domestic violence

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Jason Duckett didn't know that when the young mother and her 13-year-old daughter left church on a recent Wednesday evening it would be the last time he'd see them.

Later that night both were killed by the mother's former boyfriend.

Their deaths shocked the entire community, Duckett said. "And immediately when it happened, we knew that we as a church needed to do something."

Pointing people to Christ

Duckett, pastor of Moundville Baptist Church, said as the news rippled through town, he and other area pastors went to visit with students at the daughter's school,

which welcomed them with open arms.

"And that evening we opened our church and had a time of prayer," he said. "We just wanted to make ourselves available and we tried to point people to Christ in the midst of that tragedy."

But even as they did Duckett began to think toward more long-term needs.

"It certainly made us more aware of the issues our church family and community may be facing," he said.

So he talked with the mayor, local law enforcement officers and Turning Point, a west Alabama organization that aims to help victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Together they organized a forum on domestic abuse and opened it up to the community.

"We had a panel and each of

them shared, along with a couple of the family members of those who were involved in the domestic incident," Duckett said. "They shared some signs that surround these kinds of situations that maybe we were not aware of."

A "good showing" of the community participated in the forum, he said.

Knowing how to help

According to LifeWay Research, 87 percent of pastors strongly believe "a person experiencing domestic violence would find our church to be a safe haven."

But Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, said many pastors who want that statistic to be true admit that they don't know how to be proactive in helping.

"Many pastors aren't aware if domestic violence is happening in their congregation," McConnell said. "And even if they are aware they often don't know how to help."

Because of that they often just choose not to address it, LifeWay Research reports. Four in 10 pastors said they rarely or never address the issue, and another 22 percent discuss the issue once a year. Only about half of churches have a plan in place to assist victims, LifeWay Research reported.

Of the churches that do have a plan:

- ▶ Around 75 percent have a referral list for professional counselors.
- ▶ Two-thirds have funds available to help victims.
- ▶ More than 60 percent say they (See 'Source,' page 3)

Coming next week ...



Dealing with disappointment

Part 1 of 4 — CHILDREN & PARENTING

COMMENT

Baptist Family Extends Worldwide

The Turkish Baptist Alliance is not a name known by most Baptists. The organization is relatively new and small with only five churches. One of those churches sits on the Black Sea in Samsun, a city with about 600,000 residents.

Pastor Orhan is the courageous pastor leading this isolated group of Christian believers in a Muslim majority country. It is the only Christian church of any kind within a three-hour drive of the city.

Not only is Turkey a majority Muslim country, the nation is increasingly moving away from its foundation as a secular state and leaning more and more toward becoming a state directed by Muslim religious teachings.

Amid these growing tensions one might expect the church to be protective of itself and its members. Not so.

According to a report shared at the March 6–8 meeting of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) executive committee in Falls Church, Virginia, the church has “determined to explore the full meaning of what it means to be ‘witnesses’ to Christ” in the midst of persecution.

The church has a lighted cross atop its rented church building so all who see it will know Jesus is proclaimed in that place.

Supporting each other

A donation by a Swedish Baptist church is helping the congregation complete a new building and the European Baptist Federation Mission Partnerships program is helping underwrite efforts to plant a second church.

Leaders from the European Baptist Federation recently joined Pastor Orhan in baptizing three Iranian refugees who publicly declared their newfound faith in Jesus Christ by being openly baptized in the Black Sea.

The Turkish Baptist Alliance will be recommended for membership in BWA when the BWA General Council meets in July. That will be another assurance that when times are difficult and challenging, members of the new group will know they are part of a praying, supportive community of Baptists all around the world.



THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

Learning about what God is doing around the world is always a highlight of a BWA meeting. One of the most unusual stories at this meeting was a report about the Nagaland Baptist Church Council. Nagaland is another place few westerners have heard about. It is a state in the far north-eastern part of India.

What surprises most people is that 90 percent of the population of Nagaland is Christian. In fact, statistics say 85 percent of the population is Baptist. The 2017 annual meeting was hosted by the Nagaland Police Baptist Association.

Nagaland Baptists have 1,585 local churches and 586,593 baptized members.

The group also supports about 20 churches, mostly in India’s largest cities, to minister to Nagas living away from their native area and others.

The Nagas sponsor schools, colleges, seminaries and a host of ministries including sending missionaries to India and neighboring countries.

Assam is a state bordering Nagaland. When Baptist missionaries first came to this part of India they headquartered in Assam and sent workers to Nagaland and other surrounding areas.

The Assam Baptist Convention reports roughly 300 churches and more than 30,000 members but the gospel never found a reception in Assam like it did in Nagaland, even though the same people preached the same gospel about the same time in both areas.

It may always be a mystery of God why the gospel finds overwhelming response in one area and not another.

Assam is a place of persecution for some Christians, especially those who convert to Christianity from other religions. Naga missionaries and others have been beaten and threatened with death. Christian villagers have been beaten and meeting houses burned. Like other places in India tensions are growing as the national government increases the barriers to Christian work anywhere in India.

But Indian believers are not backing down. Reports told of a house church movement in Assam that is bringing many to Christ and supplements the work of the churches.

Can you imagine a Baptist convention in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam? A report of the third General Assembly of the Baptist Churches in Vietnam was another inspiring report. About 600 delegates gathered in the town formerly known as Saigon for the four-day meeting.

The general assembly has work in 44 of the nation’s 63 provinces, the report said. Most of the work is through house churches. Only 11 established churches are reported but there are more than 500 house churches scattered across Vietnam.

Officials said 164 of the house churches have a government license to meet but the government knows about all of the meeting places and

the house churches are not encountering resistance at this time. The national organization also is recognized by the Vietnamese government.

The 600 delegates to this assembly participated in the graduation exercises for pastors and church planters who completed their theological studies. As the organization’s history was recalled speakers gave thanks for organizations like BWA who stood by Vietnamese believers during their lean years.

Like in America and most other places of the world, Baptists in Vietnam have more than one Baptist convention. A second group is called Vietnam Baptist Uniting Churches but this group has not yet been recognized by the government.

Mystery of God

Imagine what it was like to hear these and other stories and meet some of the people who lived the experiences. It remains a mystery of God how He makes a witness for Himself in the face of Muslim resistance, Hindu persecution and Communist opposition.

Hopefully God’s Spirit will move as mightily in the face of western capitalism and present-day indifference.

The recent BWA meeting was a reminder that the Baptist fellowship is not limited by geography or language or the tone of one’s skin. It is not limited by culture or system of government. Baptists are a family of believers who belong to God and to one another because of a common faith in Jesus Christ.

That is one of the blessings evidenced through Baptist World Alliance. 

“The recent BWA meeting was a reminder that the Baptist fellowship is not limited by geography or language or the tone of one’s skin.”

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TAB

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

"If ye continue in My word, then ... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:31-32

(ISSN 0738-7741;
USPS 011-080)

© The Alabama Baptist, Inc. is published weekly except for one week in July and December by The Alabama Baptist, Inc., at 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209. Phone: 205-870-4720. Statewide phone: 1-800-803-5201. Fax: 205-879-6026. **Website:** www.thealabamabaptist.org. **Email:** news@thealabamabaptist.org or circulation@thealabamabaptist.org. Periodicals postage paid at Birmingham, Ala., and at additional mailing offices.

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Source of help

Important that domestic violence victims feel free to confide in Church

(continued from page 1)
can provide victims a safe place to stay.

▶ More than half have a referral list for legal counsel.

▶ And just less than 50 percent have someone in the church who has gone through domestic violence whom victims can talk with about what they are experiencing.

Congregations also have resources like shelters, state agencies and support groups they can refer people to if they need help, LifeWay Research reported.

For Moundville Baptist, Turning Point is one of those resources.

Belinda Jones, Turning Point's director of domestic violence services, said the organization would love to be a source of help for any church that needs it.

"Churches can offer information to people for where to get help and we are one of those

places where they can come," Jones said. "They can come to our safe house and stay there, they can come to get counseling and we can help them restart their lives."

Turning Point can even help them pay past due bills and pay rent on a new apartment if financial problems are what's holding

them back from escaping a violent situation, Jones said.

"We want to help them live self-

sufficiently and free from domestic violence and sexual assault," she said.

It's not uncommon for the perpetrator to attend church alongside the victim, and it's important for pastors to make sure victims feel safe coming forward without fear of people in the church finding out their story.

"They need to feel like they're not being judged but like they are being heard, taken seriously and respected," Jones said. #

For more information about Turning Point, visit turningpointservices.org.

Warning signs

Warning signs of abuse in others

People who are being abused may:

- ▶ Seem afraid or anxious to please their partner
- ▶ Go along with everything their partner says and does
- ▶ Check in often with their partner to report where they are and what they're doing
- ▶ Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner
- ▶ Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy or possessiveness

Warning signs of physical violence

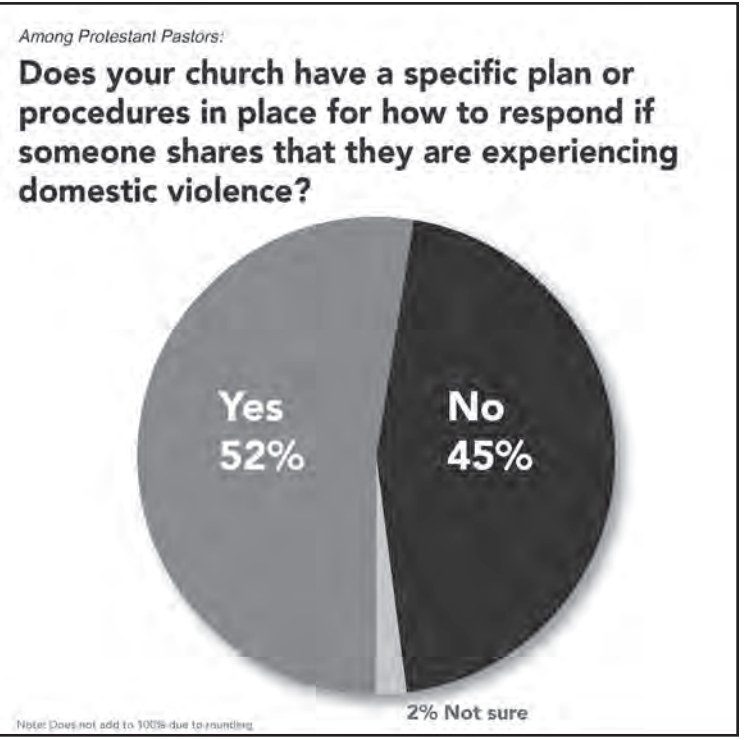
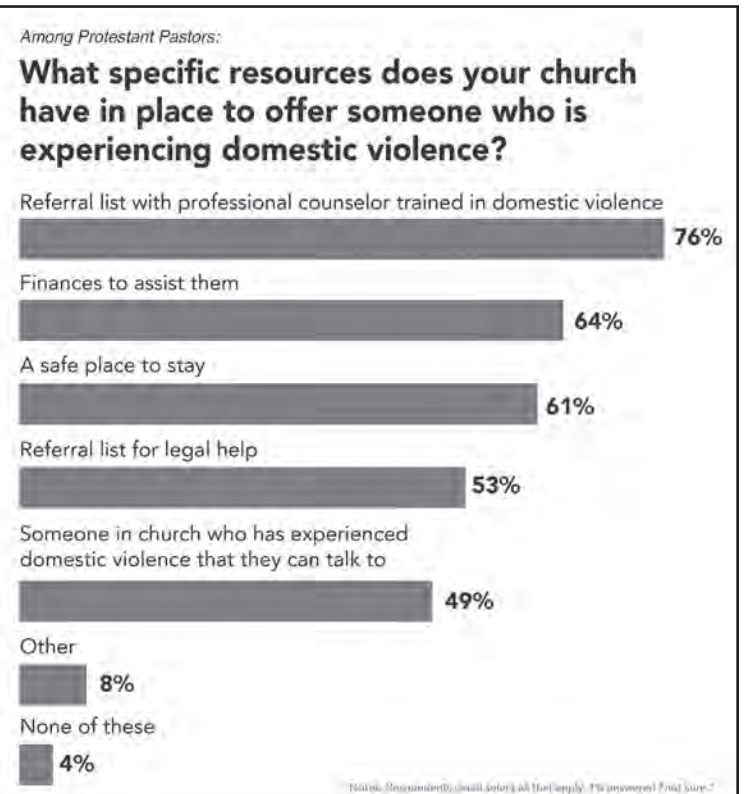
People who are being physically abused may:

- ▶ Have frequent injuries with the excuse of "accidents"
- ▶ Frequently miss work, school or social occasions without explanation
- ▶ Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in summer or sunglasses indoors)

Warning signs of psychological abuse

People who are being psychologically abused may:

- ▶ Have low self-esteem even if they used to be confident
- ▶ Show major personality changes (e.g. an outgoing person becomes withdrawn)
- ▶ Be depressed, anxious or suicidal



"[Domestic violence victims] need to feel like they're not being judged but like they are being heard, taken seriously and respected."

Belinda Jones
director of domestic violence services, Turning Point

Called to **serve**

Number of women enrolled in theological education courses growing but still much lower than men

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

Female seminarians often face subtle hostility from male classmates and an uncertain professional future, but many believe the future of the faith depends on empowering theologically trained leaders of both genders that God has called to serve.

Evangelical women should not have “to check either their gifts or their gender at the door,” wrote Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) student Amber Bowen in a blog discussion of gender and giftedness in October 2016.

“Within the Church there is one limit for women: the office of the pastor/elder. Rather than being fixated on the one limit for women in the Church, we should turn our efforts to exploring all the possibilities for women in the Church,” said Bowen, who co-founded the Society for Women in Scholarship at SEBTS in Wake Forest, North Carolina, a student group that aims to help women who are academically and theologically gifted thrive in an academic setting overwhelmingly dominated by men.

Setting limits

SEBTS, like all Southern Baptist Convention-supported seminaries, abides by the 2000 version of the Baptist Faith and Message, which among other things limits the office of pastor to men. Collectively the six seminaries’ stated mission is “to prepare God-called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world through programs of spiritual development, theological studies and practical preparation in ministry.”

However, female theology students remain a minority, not only in Baptist-affiliated seminaries but also at interdenominational seminaries. The low numbers stand in stark contrast to national data that shows women in the United States outpacing men in overall graduate school enrollment for the

past decade. The female student population for Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham is currently at 19 percent.

Because Beeson is an interdenominational school, the students come from a variety of church backgrounds related to women’s roles in the church.

But even with Beeson traditionally having two females among the 17 professors, women remain in the minority among the white-male dominated faculty at most seminaries.

Norfleete Day was one of the few females in the first class at Beeson. Day sensed a calling to teach and recalled that most of the other women in her class were called to ministry outside pastoring. Those who felt called to preach encountered more resistance than the others, Day said.

Female students like Day and her classmates also lacked female mentors on the faculty. When Day returned to Beeson as an assistant professor in 1999 after earning her doctorate in New Testament at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, she became the school’s first Ph.D. holding female faculty member and the first to teach in the area of biblical studies. Not everyone was pleased. One male student she had previously taught in a Greek class refused to enroll in her New Testament class because he didn’t believe a woman should be teaching him.

“In Southern Baptist life most will accept a woman to teach in the field of missions or social work, but to have a female teaching in biblical studies or theology is most unusual,” Day said.

From the female students, Day heard gratitude.

“Many female students told me it was encouraging to them to

have a woman in a ‘heavy’ area of study,” she said. “They really didn’t have those models, and many felt marginalized by their male colleagues.”

Though she is now retired, Day continues to mentor female seminarians. Some progress has been made but the subtle resistance remains, she said.

That resistance has a much greater impact than simply keeping women out of pastoral roles, according to Beeson graduate Kristen Padilla, who addressed the topic in a 2015 blog post titled “Is there enough room for women in vocational ministry?”

The failure of some Christian higher education institutions to recruit female students and the lack of jobs in teaching and ministry for those who earn advanced degrees may result in women giv-

“We are equipping both men and women, providing them opportunities to prepare for ... ministry.”

**Douglas Wilson
University of Mobile**



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ing up on their call to ministry. If that happens every ministry in the Church suffers, she writes.

“Because many women are being taught watered-down theology and pop-psychology tinted Scripture, we have created an environment where false teaching is growing easily and quickly,” Padilla wrote. “We should expect the same training of women as of our men. ... What is the Church and the world missing out on by the Christian community failing, to some degree, to engage, encourage and train up more women for a ministry of the gospel?”

Undergraduate level

Perhaps part of the answer lies at the undergraduate level at Christian colleges like the University of Mobile (UM), where 40 percent of biblical/theological studies majors are women.

Douglas Wilson, dean of the UM School of Christian Studies, said, “We are equipping both men and women, providing them opportunities to prepare for and participate in ministry activities throughout their college careers.”

Alumnae serve as women’s

ministry leaders, children’s directors, worship leaders, social workers, Bible teachers, teachers and missionaries, Wilson said. At every stage of their undergraduate education, opportunities for hands-on ministry, internships through local churches, ministry organizations, missions agencies and academic coursework are available “to equip them to develop the gifts God has entrusted to them for His glory and the good of the Church,” Wilson said.

But Noel Forlini Burt, Beeson graduate and lecturer in the religion department at Baylor, says Baptists have further to go when it comes to supporting women in their vocational ministry calling.

“It remains for me an issue of the heart,” Burt said. “Love and sensitivity must be at the center of our discussions, and we must not presume that we can hear God’s call on any person’s life better than the person herself. When women can articulate a call from God to teach, to preach and yes, to pastor, and where that call is demonstrated in tangible gifting, we should do all that we can to equip them to serve.”



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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Soteriology

Salvation as Spiritual Birth

By Jerry Batson, Th.D.
Special to The Alabama Baptist

In order to help us grasp His truth more easily, God often employs earthly realities as a way of communicating spiritual ones. A prime example is that of a birth. Physical birth is a universal experience. A physical birth lies at the beginning of each of our lives. The Bible uses the analogy of birth as one way of helping us grasp the meaning of salvation. If we begin reading the Gospel of John, we encounter phrases like “born ... of God” (1:13), “born again” (3:3) and “born of the Spirit” (3:8). In speaking of this kind of birth to Nicodemus, Jesus made it clear that He meant something other than physical birth (John 3:4). The formal theological term used for this spiritual birth is “regeneration.”

A spiritual rebirth is the beginning point for the restoration in us of the image and likeness of God, an image that has been marred or distorted by sin.

Dual sense

Salvation involves a “spiritual” birth in a dual sense. It is spiritual in that the Holy Spirit is the divine agent who enables this new birth. Only the enabling of the divine Spirit can work a permanent renewal in a life, which by nature and choice is inclined toward sin.

The new birth also is spiritual in the sense that it has to do with the inner life of a person, as opposed to the outer physical being.

Internal transformation

Salvation is God’s work in transforming a person from the inside, not reforming a person from the outside. Although running the risk of oversimplification, we often think of human nature as composed of mind, emotion and will. We might think of regeneration or spiritual birth as illuminating the mind to our need and God’s supply.

Awakened to the need brought about by the reality of sin and disobedience, with the subsequent estrangement from God, spiritual rebirth awaits one’s grasp of the need for salvation. Just as

the Holy Spirit is the quickening agent for spiritual birth, God’s Word is the instrument the Spirit uses to effect the birth. The Bible speaks both of being born of the Spirit and of being “begotten through the gospel” (1 Cor. 4:15) as well as “being born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Pet. 1:23).

Love for God

This spiritual birth also causes a change in our affections or disposition. The love of the world and the desire to sin becomes displaced by a love for the Savior and the desire to please Him. Regeneration also brings about a redirecting of our wills, causing us to choose actions and attitudes that please God and conform to His perfect will. Spiritual birth results in a genuine engagement in praying like Jesus taught when He said we are to ask the Father for His will being done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).

Member of God’s family

Ideally and at its best, we think of a physical birth resulting in a new family member, one who is a son or daughter of their parents. Spiritual birth results in a new member of God’s family. People who have experienced spiritual birth are referred to in the Bible as children of God (John 1:12; 1 John 3:2). Furthermore one who becomes a child of God also becomes a brother or sister to all others who belong to His family. In short, Christians are children of God by spiritual birth. ✠

Jerry Batson is a retired Alabama Baptist pastor who also has served as associate dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University and professor of several schools of religion during his career.



Alabama LEGISLATURE U P D A T E S

Bills TAB is following this session include:

Gambling

Legislators have put the following four bills on hold until Gov. Robert Bentley’s Advisory Council on Gaming releases its report presenting various gambling plans for Alabama. The report is expected sometime in April.

▶ **HB 6 (sponsored by Rep. Alan Harper, R-District 61)** — Constitutional amendment authorizing Legislature to provide lottery by general law.

▶ **HB 10 (sponsored by Rep. Craig Ford, D-District 28)** — Constitutional amendment directing portion of lottery revenues for college scholarships. Related to and dependant on HB 11.

▶ **HB 11 (sponsored by Rep. Craig Ford, D-District 28)** — Constitutional amendment establishing lottery and regulatory commission. Allows gambling at racetracks “where pari-mutuel wagering is currently legal.” Allows governor to negotiate a compact with Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Creates Lottery Trust Fund.

▶ **HB 16 (sponsored by Rep. Barbara Boyd, D-District 32)** — Constitutional amendment allowing a tribal compact for gambling.

▶ **SB 28 (sponsored by Sen. Tom Whatley, R-District 27)** — Fantasy Sports Contests Act; authorizes the creation and operation of fantasy sports contests through licensing to be administered by the secretary of state. Also creates Fantasy Sports Fund.

According to Joe Godfrey, executive director of Alabama Citizens Action Program, “Rumor has it that this bill is not the one that the daily fantasy sports companies want. So two new bills have been introduced in both the Senate and the House” (see below).

▶ **SB 270 (sponsored by Sen. Paul Sanford, R-District 7)** — Fantasy Contests Act; requires registration of fantasy sports operators and promises consumer protection procedures. Exempts fantasy sports from prohibition against gambling. Partner bill is HB 354.

▶ **HB 354 (Rep. Alan Boothe, R-District 89)** — Same as SB 270. (Passed out of committee March 15, waiting consideration by the full House.)

Church security

▶ **HB 36 (sponsored by Rep. Lynn Greer, R-District 2)** — Alabama Church Protection Act; establishes church security program and authorizes designated members to carry firearms. (Passed out of committee with one amendment March 9, waiting consideration by the full House.)

Immigration

▶ **HB 100 (sponsored by Rep. Phil Williams, R-District 6)** — Americans First Act; requires colleges and universities to comply with immigration laws or face fines. (Passed by the House on Feb. 14, waiting consideration by the Senate.)

Prisons

▶ **SB 59 (sponsored by Sen. Cam Ward, R-District 14)** — Alabama Prison Transformation Initiative Act; authorizes the funding and construction of new prison facilities as well as the demolition of existing men’s prison facilities (Passed out of the Senate, waiting consideration by the House.)

Public restrooms

▶ **SB 1 (sponsored by Sen. Phil Williams, R-District 10)** — Alabama Privacy Act; states that public restrooms be gender appropriate.

Abortion

▶ **HB 98 (sponsored by Rep. Matt Fridy, R-District 73)** — Constitutional amendment that affirms Alabama’s commitment to the right to life of unborn children. (Passed out of the House, waiting consideration by the Senate.)

Adoption

▶ **HB 24 (sponsored by Rep. Rich Wingo, R-District 62)** — Alabama Child Placement Agency Inclusion Act; protects faith-based adoption and foster care agencies from placing children into homes that go against agencies’ religious beliefs. (Passed out of the House, waiting consideration by the Senate.)

Doctor-assisted suicide

▶ **HB 96 (sponsored by Rep. Mack Butler, R-District 30)** — Assisted Suicide Ban Act; prohibits anyone from providing aid in dying and enacts penalties under certain conditions. (Passed out of the House, waiting consideration by the Senate.)

Civil rights

▶ **HB 74 (sponsored by Rep. Chris England, D-District 70)** — States the right of a person to be free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or familial status.

Alcohol/Drugs

▶ **HB 269 (sponsored by Rep. Patricia Todd, D-District 54)** — Lower penalties for marijuana possession.

▶ **HB 164 (sponsored by Rep. Thomas Jackson, D-District 68)** — Allow for Sunday sales of alcohol in Thomaston. (Passed out of the House and Senate, awaiting Gov. Bentley’s signature.)

Across ALABAMA'S Associations

To submit news items, email news@thealabamabaptist.org or call 205-870-4720, ext. 112, at least three weeks prior to the event.

BALDWIN

► **First Church, Spanish Fort**, is among those featured in a new radio Internet broadcast, Arise Radio (www.arise-radio.com) which began March 14. Other musical and speaking guests are from Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Virginia; and The Brooklyn Tabernacle. Franklin Kirksey is pastor of First, Spanish Fort.

BETHEL

► **Nanafalia Church** will celebrate homecoming April 9, 10:30 a.m. Robert Baker, pastor of Sweet Water Church, will speak. Lunch will follow the service. Craig Gavin is pastor.

BLOUNT

► **Pleasant View Missionary Church, Holly Pond**, will hold revival services April 3-7. The music will begin at 6:45 nightly and services will begin at 7 nightly. William McClellan will speak. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-4468. Randy Burtram is pastor.

CALHOUN

► **First Church, Weaver**, will hold revival services April 9-12. Sunday services will be at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday services will be at 6 nightly. Joey Hanner, pastor of Union No. 3 Church, Gadsden, will be the guest speaker. Johnny Pruitt is interim pastor.

COFFEE

► **Coffee Association's** "Never Alone" widows meeting will be held April 11, 6 p.m. at New Home Church, Enterprise. Widows of all ages are welcome. The church's comedy group will perform. For more information or to make reservations by March 30 call 334-894-6411. John Granger is director of missions.

COLUMBIA

► **Malvern Church** will hold a gospel singing April 1, 6 p.m. God's Messengers from Hartford and Terry Glover and Julie Smith from Slocomb will perform special music. Refreshments will follow. Hosea Parker is pastor.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

► **Pleasant Valley No. 2 Church, Collinsville**, will hold revival services April 9-15. Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. with Neil A.O. Chaffin and 6 p.m. with Jarvon Leatherwood as guest speakers. Monday-Friday services will be at 6:30 nightly. Other guest speakers will be Judge Shaunathan Bell (Monday), Morris Stephens (Tuesday), Ricky Williams (Wednesday), Roger Graham (Thursday) and Don Graham (Friday). On Saturday Steven Spears and Regina Webb will speak at 6 p.m.

RUSSELL

► **Smiths Station Church** will hold a revival and outreach conference April 2-5, 6:30 nightly. Bryant Bush will speak. David Kees is pastor. ► **Auburn Heights Church, Phenix City**, will celebrate homecoming April 2. They also will celebrate associate pastor Rodney Mitchell's 30 years of service to the church at 10:30 a.m. Wayne Scarborough is pastor. ✝

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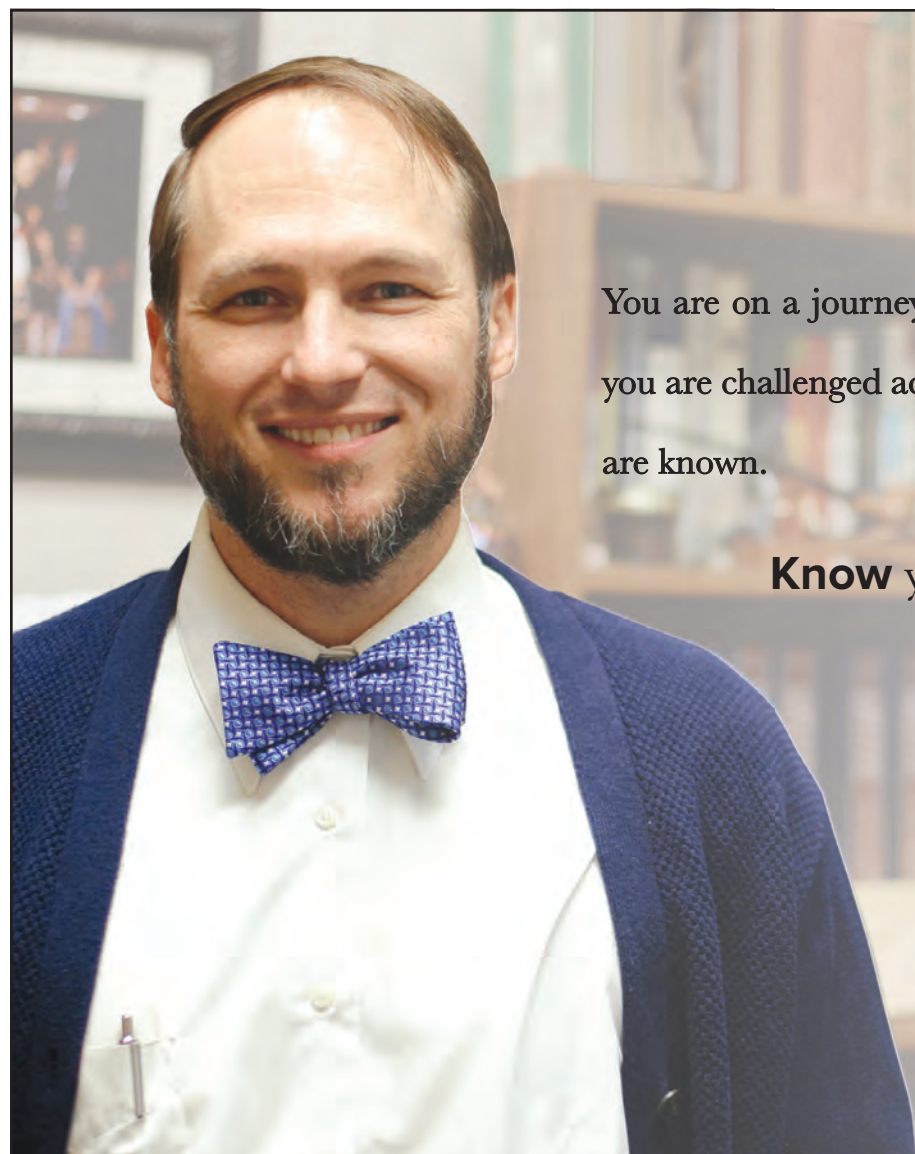
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Alabama drive-in theater owner takes stand against Disney's latest film

After the director of the new live-action "Beauty and the Beast" film announced the addition of a gay character to the script, 95 percent of those polled by Faith Driven Consumer said they were less likely to see the film when it opened March 17.

For Carol Laney, owner of the Henagar Drive-In Theatre in DeKalb County, that answer was no different.

Showing the movie at her theater was a firm "no."

It was a stance that got her nationwide attention, with articles coming out in the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among other news outlets.

Social media firestorm

Laney got thrown into the fire after she announced on Facebook that it was "with great sorrow" that they were choosing not to show "Beauty and the Beast" at the theater.

"If we cannot take our 11-year-old granddaughter and 8-year-old grandson to see a movie we have no business watching it," the post stated. "If I can't sit through a movie with God or Jesus sitting by me then we have no business showing it."

The Facebook page had been removed and at press time remained that way.

The whole controversy started

when Bill Condon, director of the live-action "Beauty and the Beast," announced recently that the new film's version of LeFou, sidekick to villain Gaston, would be portrayed as gay.

The character, Condon said, "breaks new ground when it comes to LGBT visibility," and the film will contain an "exclusively gay moment."

It was following this announcement that Laney posted her decision, and what followed was nothing short of uproarious replies to the Alabama resident's decision.

But in the face of the hate mail she has received, Laney said she has no regrets. She told the *New York Times* that for every negative response she gets, she gets 20 or 30 positive ones. And she said she feels like she and her husband made the decision in caution and discernment.

"We respect the choices of others who choose to support other movie theaters by watching this movie," she wrote in a statement to AL.com. "However, we also hope that you respect our decision. We will be choosing movies that the entire family can watch. This by no means is sending a message

of hatred or bigotry; however, we are Christians first and foremost and must adhere to the Bible and its teachings."

Ken Moses, pastor of Stamp Baptist Church, near Henagar, said the concern over Laney's decision seems to be coming more from outside the community and even

outside the state. He said he hasn't heard much discussion about it.

Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic

Association, applauded the Laney's for their decision.

"I wish more businesses would have this kind of character to take a stand for what is right. God bless them," Graham wrote on Facebook.

International kickback

In other parts of the world, the film also is getting some kickback. Disney pulled the film from theaters in Malaysia after the country's film censorship board announced that it had cut the "gay moment" from the movie, calling it "inappropriate" for child viewers, according to *The Independent*. In Russia the film will be shown in its entirety, but only to moviegoers age 16 and older. (TAB)

For more information about Henagar Drive-In Theatre, visit www.henagardrivein.com.



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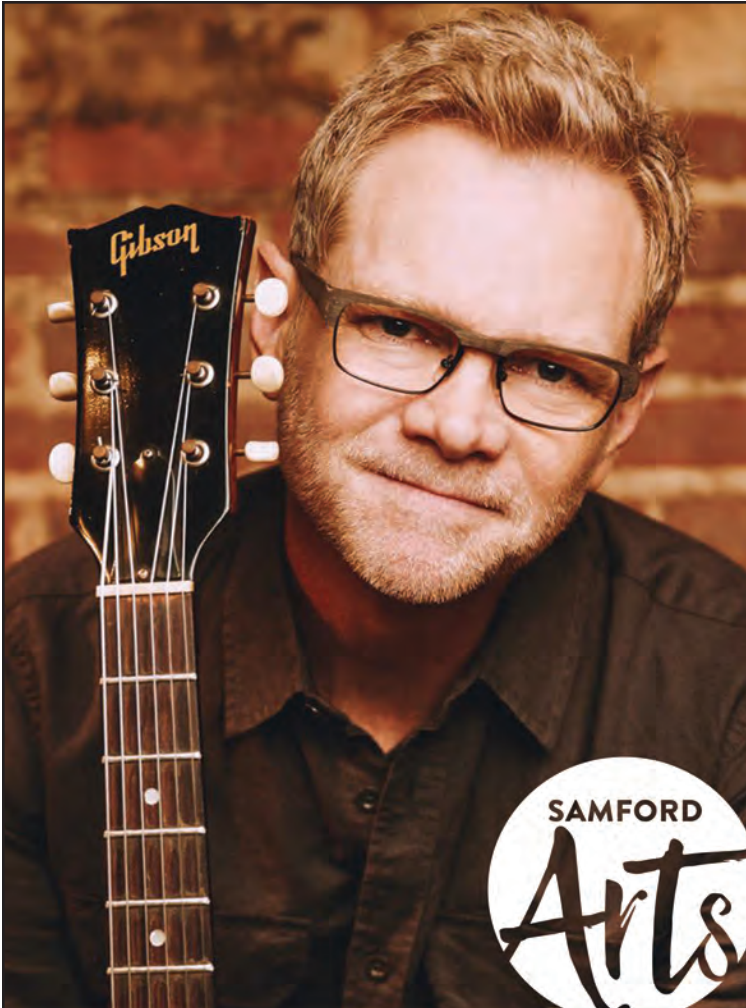
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SBC's Page, Moore find 'mutual understanding' amid rising concern

The story has built steadily since the 2016 election season when Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) President Russell Moore challenged then-candidate Donald Trump's moral aptitude to be president of the United States.

A variety of reactions and discussions among Southern Baptists have built one on top of the other culminating in a March 13 "bridge-building" session between Moore and Frank Page.

Page, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee (EC), has no authority over Moore but Page is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the convention in between the annual meetings.

He said his goal with the private meeting was "to find bridge-building solutions to an unnecessary divide that has been created across the landscape of our Southern Baptist network of churches."

Moore reports to ERLC's

35-member board of trustees and has the board's full support, according to board chairman Ken Barbic. "Russell Moore is a gospel-centered, faithful and prophetic voice for Southern Baptists," he told *The Washington Post*.

The meeting between Page and Moore came less than a month after the EC launched a study of churches' escrowing Cooperative Program (CP) money and two



PAGE

months after Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, announced it would escrow CP funds over "various significant positions taken by the leadership of" ERLC. The EC has received reports of similar actions by other churches.

Churches have expressed concern about alleged disrespectfulness by Moore toward evangelical supporters of President Trump and about a friend of the court brief signed by

ERLC in support of a New Jersey Islamic society's right to build a mosque.

Following their two-hour meeting at the SBC Building in Nashville, Page and Moore said in a joint statement, "We met as colleagues committed to the same priorities of proclaiming the gospel to every man, woman, boy and girl while also addressing biblical and gospel issues on a wide range of topics to a culture that seems to have lost its way."

"We deepened our friendship and developed mutual understanding on ways we believe will move us forward as a network of churches. We fully support one another and look forward to working together on behalf of Southern Baptists in the years to come. We will collaborate on developing future steps to deepen connections with all Southern Baptists as we work together to advance the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ," Page and Moore stated. (TAB, BP, RNS)



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Odenville set for round 2 of vote on Sunday alcohol sales

Residents of Odenville are awaiting round two on a wet/dry vote over Sunday alcohol sales, just one year after 71 “no” votes kept the St. Clair County town dry.

While residents voted 53.79 percent to 46.21 percent against Sunday sales, Mayor Rodney “Buck” Christian said dozens of residents tell him they didn’t know about the election in March 2016. He said the lack of awareness could explain the small turnout of only 132 voters out of more than 3,600 residents.

If residents vote to allow Sunday alcohol sales April 11, the town will join four other municipi-

palities in the county who have gone wet — Moody, Pell City, Riverside and Springville.

Christian said a vote for allowing Sunday alcohol sales would be “good for economic development” and is important to attract new businesses in the area, *The Anniston Star* reported.

But Joe Godfrey, executive director of Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), said, “All proponents talk about is the money that will come to a community or the businesses that will come to the community. They will not tell the stories of people whose lives have been destroyed or the families that have been hurt ... by alcohol use.”

States and cities that vote to allow alcohol sales “may experience a short-term cash windfall but loss of reliable income, coupled with increases in alcohol-related harm, will damage economic stability and public health in the long term,” according to ALCAP’s “Wet/Dry Issues” information at www.alcap.com.

Pastor Josh Burnham, who serves Bethel Baptist Church, Odenville, said he was unaware of any churches or organizations heavily campaigning at press time to keep the town dry, although he did note he knows “many people that do not support the sale of alcohol on Sunday.” (Neisha Roberts)

For resources on the risks of alcohol and wet/dry issues, visit alcap.com.

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PASTOR

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STUDENT PASTOR

Hepzibah Baptist Church is seeking a full-time student pastor to join us in our mission of connecting people to God, to each other, to ministry and to the world. Please send resumés to: hbcjobapp@gmail.com.

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ASSOCIATION MISSIONARY

Rural West Alabama association seeking associational missionary. Send resumés by May 1, 2017, to Pickens Baptist Association, P.O. Box 206, Carrollton, AL 35447 or pbassn@centurytel.net.

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Spring cleaning, home update TIPS

123rf.com

Home renovation ministries serve those in need, provide hope across Alabama

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

Home” and “hope” — words distinguished by a single letter and closely related in our hearts as well, which is why every strike of a hammer is an opportunity for home renovation ministry volunteers to share the gospel by giving homeowners a helping hand.

Home improvement ministries across Alabama work throughout the year to provide hope to homeowners who need assistance with repairs to improve their living conditions or to adapt a home for special needs, said Gary Wendt, director of Authentic Renovation Ministries (ARM), a nonprofit ministry that works in Tuscaloosa County. Financial resources are often a barrier to maintenance and upkeep, especially for those who are sick or elderly.

“Our referrals usually come from agencies like home health who have been in the home and know the situation,” Wendt said. “Most of the families we help own their homes but can’t afford repairs.”

Downward spiral

Often one small home maintenance issue will turn into another and then another, Wendt said. This can happen for many reasons — poor health, aging or finances for example — but a common result is hopelessness.

“The homeowner’s attitude has spiraled downward and they’ve given up. When

we come in for the interview and map out what needs to be done and pray with them about the work, it gives them hope. Many times the homeowner begins to take some initiative because they realize that someone is really going to help them,” Wendt said.

Opportunity to share

As volunteers come onsite to work, they also have the opportunity to talk about

their motivations for helping, said Mike Kirk, a member of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, in Madison Baptist Association, and a volunteer with several renovation and construction ministries.

“We usually meet the homeowner, visit with them and learn more about them. As we do that, we share the reason we are there — to give back in the way God has given freely to us,” Kirk said.

Homeowners are not always unchurched, Kirk was quick to point out. Sometimes unchurched family members are the ones who are most curious about the motivations behind the work. And when there are children involved, the potential influence is multiplied, he said, noting his church’s long-term involvement in Lincoln Village Ministry, a multifaceted urban renewal ministry in Huntsville.

“At Lincoln Village we tend to work with young families, mostly single mothers with young children trying to get a new start in life,” Kirk said. “The kids ask us what we’re doing, why we’re there.

And as we’ve repaired things and helped them throughout the years, we’ve had the chance to talk to them about Jesus.”

Home renovation ministries do a variety of different jobs, but common repairs include installing storm windows, repairing water damage, updating electrical or plumbing and roof repair. Accessibility improvements often include building wheelchair ramps, widening doors and modifying baths and showers.

Wendt said, “We do all sorts of things depending on the need that’s there.”

Both men agree that new volunteers are needed in home repair and construction ministries. Wendt said ARM likes to have at least two churches working on each job and noted that most of the groups are college- and high school-aged volunteers who are new to building projects.

Kirk said younger people are needed

to start learning the carpentry, electrical and construction skills that the older volunteers can teach. Kirk himself worked professionally in computer and electrical engineering. He learned building skills through summer missions work with Carpenters for Christ and became more involved after his retirement.

“Most of the guys who work with us are getting older so there’s a tremendous need for more volunteers,” he said.

Being ministered to

The benefits to the homeowner are tremendous but volunteers are ministered to as well, Wendt said.

“Our motto is ‘Ministry in the shadow of the steeple’ and every day we are helping people on both sides see that our work is about what Jesus told us to do: ‘Go ye therefore.’” ✝



Photo courtesy of Gary Wendt

An Authentic Renovation Ministries volunteer works on painting the exterior of a home.



Photo courtesy of Gary Wendt

Authentic Renovation Ministries volunteers build a wheelchair ramp. The nonprofit ministry works in Tuscaloosa County to provide hope to homeowners who need assistance with repairs or to adapt a home for special needs.

Spring cleaning, home update tips

BIBLICAL

stewardship

Home maintenance vital to keep home safe, provide 'natural place for evangelism'

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

For most of us a home is the single biggest purchase we will make and our most valuable financial asset. The ongoing expenses associated with home ownership go far beyond mortgage payments, however.

Since the home also is a place where ministry and discipleship often happen, home maintenance is one way to fulfill the biblical responsibility of good stewardship.

Good stewards exercise foresight and planning when it comes to all resources, including the home, said Ken Hemphill, director of the Church Planting and Revitalization Center at North Greenville University in Tigerville, South Carolina.

"Look at the life of Jesus and how many of His encounters are somewhere around a table. He invites Himself to the home of Zaccheus. The house we live in ultimately belongs to the Lord and is a natural place for evangelism," Hemphill said.

Though it might cost more in the short-term, preventive maintenance often saves money in the long-term, Hemphill said.

"At times you are literally saving money by spending money," he said.

Regular checkups

Just as the human body benefits from regular checkups and preventive care, a house needs routine maintenance to look its best, conserve resources and serve as a haven for those who call it home. Right now is a good time for such a checkup from the outside in:

► **Garage door.** The largest moving part of most houses, garage doors include several moving parts that need to be cleaned

and lubricated regularly. Tighten up any loose bolts and brackets, replacing those that are worn or damaged, and test the auto-reverse safety feature of your garage door opener by placing an object in the path of the door.

► **Exterior doors and win-**

dows. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the amount of energy lost annually through windows alone is \$35 billion. New windows or the addition of storm windows can dramatically improve energy savings, but caulking small cracks and joints can help eliminate drafts, as can new weatherstripping around doors.

► **Gutters and downspouts.** Clear the leaves and debris out of your gutters and downspouts. Make sure downspouts are flowing away from your house, since overflowing gutters are a major cause of excess moisture in basements and crawlspaces. Make sure gutters are attached securely to the house and use silicone caulk to seal leaking joints. While you are cleaning, look around for dead or dying branches that need to be removed.

► **Foundation.** Damage to a home's foundation is a problem often best left to professionals who can diagnose and repair the cause of the damage. Water is usually to blame, so your contractor can first correct the issues that are damaging the foundation. Once that problem is solved, repairs to the foundation, which might include filling in gaps with epoxy

or bracing areas that are cracked or bowed, should be completed immediately to avoid further damage.

► **Attic and roof.** Adding attic insulation is usually a "do-it-yourself" project that reaps big energy awards, according to Alabama Power. Adding attic insulation can save a homeowner as much as 30 percent on heating and cooling costs. While you are adding insulation, inspect the roof for any signs of leaks or separation of the decking and repair as needed.

► **Heating and air conditioning (HVAC).** Changing the filters in your HVAC system should be part of your home maintenance

routine. How often depends on several factors, including the type of HVAC system, how often you use it, filter type and your location. Having a qualified HVAC technician check your system regularly can identify small problems and repair them before they become costly.

► **Gas heating appliances.** Furnaces and gas logs can build up dust and lint that may cause improper combustion, resulting in carbon monoxide (CO), an odorless, colorless poisonous gas that kills more than 400 Americans each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which recommends homeowners install CO detectors in their homes. Regular maintenance of gas appliances can prevent problems, so blow out the dust, clean all parts thoroughly and inspect chimneys and pipes for rust spots, disconnection or damage. Alagasco says a properly adjusted space heater should burn with a blue flame. If the flame is orange or yellow, stop using the heater and contact a qualified contractor to service the heater.

► **Adding outdoor lighting.** As the temperatures warm, en-

tertainment may be part of your evening plans. Outdoor lighting can brighten your home's exterior while providing safer entering and exiting for your family and friends. The American Lighting Association (ALA) suggests a well-lit front entrance to greet guests and identify visitors. For added security and safety, ALA also recommends illumination for steps,

paths, driveways, garage entrances and any areas that are otherwise in shadows.

Many home maintenance and repair projects are suited to those who are handy around the home but make safety a top priority. Call a qualified contractor for assistance with challenging projects for your safety and that of your family. ✝

"At times you are literally saving money by spending money."

Ken Hemphill
director, Church Planting and Revitalization Center, North Greenville University

"The house we live in ultimately belongs to the Lord and is a natural place for evangelism."

Ken Hemphill, director, Church Planting and Revitalization Center, North Greenville University

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Prepared for AGING

'Aging in place' modifications allow older adults to stay in their homes longer

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

For older Americans, staying connected to friends and family is important, which is why the ability to live as long as possible in one's home is so significant. Incorporating universal design into home renovations can help.

"Universal design" is a term used to describe features in a home or space that are accessible to everyone, including older people and people with disabilities. In home construction and renovation, the concept is often called "aging in place." It is a movement that

has become important in the last 10 years, said Joy Brown, a residential design and architectural drafting professional in Auburn.

"As a home designer I incorporate this practice in every addition, renovation and new housing project that I take on," Brown said. "Aging in place elements allow the homeowner to be prepared for aging in their own home or prepared should a physical life-altering event happen."

Aging homeowners

According to data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 75–80 percent of people aged 55 and older own

their own homes, a number that has remained relatively unchanged for the past few years. Since approximately one-fifth of Alabama's population is 60 and older, that means there are many aging homeowners in Alabama. Based on the most recent census data, Alabama's aging population is growing, which is why the Alabama Department of Senior Services has set one of its goals as empowering older persons and individuals with disabilities to remain in their own homes as long as possible.

It is a goal that has great potential for improving quality of life for the aging, according to a 2001 study by the Joint Center on Hous-

ing Studies at Harvard University. The study found that the health and housing concerns on an elderly individual are often interrelated.

Health and housing

"When a living environment is affordable and appropriate, an aging individual is more likely to remain healthy and independent. When an individual maintains good health, he or she is more able to keep up with the maintenance of his or her living environment," wrote study author Kathryn Lawler. "As the population ages ... it becomes difficult to distinguish a health concern from a housing concern."

Recent studies from the Joint Center also suggest that a significant number of American homes do not have basic accessibility features such as a no-step entry and a bedroom and bathroom on the entry level.

According to a 2015 report by Abbe Will, "While some aging households will look to move into homes that are better suited to their needs, many others will choose to remain in their current homes and communities and 'age in place,' finding out of preference or necessity that they will need to remodel their homes to fit their changing needs."

Elements like 3-foot-wide door openings, curb-less walk-in showers that can accommodate a wheelchair or walker and grab bars near toilets and showers are easy to add to any design, whether new construction or renovation, Brown said. Building an exterior point of entry that can be accessed with few or no steps is another important consideration, since even a young family member can experience an injury that limits mobility, if only for a short time.

The key is thinking ahead, Brown said, since adding such

Common modifications

- ▶ Adding grab bars
- ▶ Adding a ramp to the entrance
- ▶ Increasing the width of doorways
- ▶ Adding a bathroom on the ground floor
- ▶ Adding lever-handled doorknobs
- ▶ Changing flooring to prevent injuries
- ▶ Adding pullout shelves in the kitchen
- ▶ Widening the front entrance
- ▶ Shifting the master bedroom to the first floor
- ▶ Lowering electrical switches
- ▶ Adding a lift on the stairs
- ▶ Lowering countertops
- ▶ Installing higher electrical outlets
- ▶ Adding a personal alert system

(Compiled by Carrie Brown McWhorter)

elements to a plan is generally more cost efficient than trying to adapt a home when an emergency need arises. Major renovations can cost thousands of dollars and take months to complete, leaving home occupants struggling to maneuver if their physical mobility is suddenly limited. Renovations done in a hurry might not be as visually appealing either, which may reduce a home's value down the road.

"Aging in place doesn't mean that you have to meet the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) building standards but addressing a few of the items above makes living in your own home for as long as possible a good option." ✦

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Spring cleaning, home update tips

Adding VALUE

Insurance policy review can save money before, after home renovations

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

There's nothing quite like the satisfaction of finishing a project. A fresh coat of paint, new flooring or updated cabinetry can make even the oldest space feel new again.

Homeowners should take one more step after the project, however — an insurance review.

"Any time you spend a significant amount of money, \$8,000–10,000 or more on your home, you should notify your insurance carrier," according to Bill Sager, executive vice president of Alabama Independent Insurance Agents, headquartered in Birmingham.

A home renovation generally adds value to the home. Since one of the main purposes of home insurance is to protect both the house and the personal property inside in the case of a loss, homeowners should check with their insurer to make sure new additions are covered adequately, Sager said.

One example is in policies that cover replacement costs for lost or stolen items. New appliances and furnishings are more costly to replace, so once installed, the homeowner's insurance policy should reflect current values for those improvements.

Policy renewals

Another good time to review your insurance policy is when the policy renews, Sager said. Homeowners often forget about jewelry, guns or heirloom items that they have acquired during the year. Valuable items need to be noted in the policy, however, and some may need a separate policy to be covered at replacement cost, Sager said. If the renovations are secured by a loan, the lender may require proof of adequate coverage as well.

Completion of a significant home renovation may signal a good time to compare insurance rates with different companies.

According to the Alabama Department of Insurance website, insurance rates vary based on the home's description, square footage and distance from the nearest fire department and fire hydrant. Checking rates with different insurers may save homeowners money if the coverage is comparable.

Insurance discounts

During the renovation there are often ways to add elements that can save money on insurance costs, Sager said. For example most carriers give a credit to homeowners with a basic security system, which can be installed as other renovations are taking

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Insurance Agents

place. The website of the Insurance Information Institute notes that many insurers also provide small discounts for smoke detectors and deadbolt locks. The Institute recommends checking with your insurer prior to choosing such protection to compare initial installation costs versus long-term premium savings.

If you are installing a new roof, there may be measures you can take to make your home more resistant to windstorms, also a potential rate reducer. Modernized heating, plumbing and electrical systems can help reduce the risk of fire and water damage. Though these improvements may require a little more money to implement, the insurance discounts spread out over 10–20 years may recoup the initial cost and lead to savings down the road, Sager said.

Communication between the homeowner and the agent is key to saving money on insurance costs, Sager said.

"Make your agent aware of what you are doing," he said. "When agents don't know, they can't advise. Your agent has the experience and knowledge to help you maintain coverage that will put you back as you were if a loss happens.

"Most every agent I know would enjoy hearing from a client who wants to make sure they are covered well." ❖



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Spring cleaning CHECKLIST

Interior

1. Dust crown molding and baseboards
2. Dust ceiling fans and wash lighting globes
3. Dust and clean windows, inside and out
4. Vacuum corners with a crevice attachment
5. Clean under beds
6. Wipe down doors and walls and touch up paint
7. Clean curtains
8. Vacuum furniture, including under cushions
9. Clean stains from upholstered furniture
10. Deep clean carpet, rugs and floors according to manufacturer's directions
11. Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
12. Clean and organize the refrigerator
13. Vacuum refrigerator coils
14. Clean and disinfect trash cans
15. Scrub the bathtub and/or shower
16. Polish wood cabinetry and use touch up paint or stain to cover nicks and blemishes
17. Clean, organize and de-clutter cabinets and drawers
18. De-clutter and organize closets
19. Clean and disinfect electronics, including phones, computers and remote controls
20. Clean out the lint hose and outlets of your clothes dryer

Exterior

1. Sweep and clean decks, porches and entryways
2. Wash windows and siding
3. Touch up paint on trim, doors, shutters and other fixtures
4. Clean or replace door mats
5. Repair any broken bricks, foundation cracks or masonry
6. Inspect roof shingles
7. Clean and update outdoor furniture
8. De-clutter and organize garage
9. Plant seeds, bedding plants or vegetables and mulch appropriately
10. Add one "wow" element to your primary entry way to welcome guests

(Compiled by Carrie Brown McWhorter)



CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

Baptisms, Cooperative Program Receipts FOR CHURCHES

The following report reflects the Cooperative Program (CP) receipts, designated offerings and baptisms for Alabama's more than 3,200 Baptist churches during 2016.

Churches are listed alphabetically according to association. This report is based on statistics compiled by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM). Baptism totals are from the Annual Church Profile for the 2015-16 Association Year.

A blank space in the Baptism column indicates that a church did not provide a total. CP and designated offering totals are from the SBOM accounting office, January-December 2016.

The SBOM reported total receipts for 2016 — including CP gifts and designated offerings — at more than \$64 million. CP gifts accounted for nearly \$39 million of that total.

For more information, call Bobby DuBois at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 219, or email him at bdubois@alsbom.org.

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	
Friendship	1	\$8,751.46	\$7,789.20	Linden	2	\$24,229.23	\$33,519.57	Christ for the Nations		\$0.00	\$0.00	Thomas First		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Grace	0	\$0.00	\$150.00	Myrtlewood	1	\$4,633.18	\$3,363.42	Christ Missionary		\$0.00	\$0.00	True Life		\$1,500.00	\$0.00	
Gulf Shores First	32	\$130,096.78	\$40,207.02	Nanafalia	0	\$3,487.55	\$1,465.00	Clearview		\$12,777.21	\$3,291.00	Trussville First		\$775,454.55	\$443,121.87	
Hamilton	6	\$11,447.56	\$3,169.00	Nicholsville	0	\$1,308.64	\$1,754.42	Covenant Community Fellowship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Valley East		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Iglesia Cristiana Dulce Refugio	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oak Grove	0	\$1,593.90	\$2,095.00	Crestway		\$5,461.63	\$1,137.00	Valley View	6	\$11,485.56	\$1,620.00	
Impact	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Old Union	0	\$400.00	\$1,300.00	Dawson	113	\$506,799.88	\$188,595.83	Valleydale		\$66,000.00	\$102,838.60	
Josephine	0	\$0.00	\$1,255.00	Pine Hill	3	\$19,500.00	\$13,720.65	Deerfoot		\$31,053.43	\$18,973.42	Vestavia Hills	4	\$26,218.00	\$8,629.09	
Jubilee	21	\$137,021.86	\$61,219.75	Providence	4	\$13,157.16	\$9,732.00	Del Rio		\$600.00	\$700.00	Victory Missionary		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Lagoon		\$2,529.94	\$4,754.96	Rangeline	0	\$7,733.43	\$5,482.00	Destiny Covenant		\$0.00	\$0.00	Walkers Chapel	8	\$11,277.72	\$7,248.90	
Lifeway Community		\$313.90	\$0.00	Sardis	1	\$6,156.00	\$3,943.00	Docena		\$65.00	\$65.00	Walking on Water		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Lillian First		\$4,200.00	\$1,780.00	Shiloh	1	\$7,873.32	\$15,121.88	East Gardendale	0	\$17,040.00	\$9,698.00	West Point	0	\$0.00	\$1,510.00	
Loxley First		\$39,214.86	\$4,277.50	Sunny South	0	\$1,955.31	\$7,049.89	East Lake		\$0.00	\$0.00	Westmont	7	\$4,125.00	\$5,794.88	
Magnolia Springs		\$8,108.00	\$2,731.80	Sweet Water	9	\$17,953.98	\$7,469.42	Eastside	5	\$27,345.57	\$11,027.06	Westwood	2	\$14,455.12	\$10,792.18	
Miflin	3	\$0.00	\$727.00	The Church At Putnam	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fairview		\$0.00	\$0.00	Westwood		\$400.00	\$575.00	
Montgomery Hill	0	\$1,250.00	\$3,750.00	Thomaston	8	\$21,945.10	\$11,783.95	Fellowship	0	\$723.20	\$413.14	Word of Faith		\$650.00	\$550.00	
New Horizon		\$0.00	\$0.00	Union Grove	0	\$300.00	\$1,400.00	Forestdale	0	\$6,298.03	\$1,189.00	Birmingham Totals		482\$4,153,571.35	\$2,641,876.90	
New Life	9	\$7,732.00	\$4,015.50	Vineland	1	\$198.68	\$25.00	Friendship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Blount		Baptism	CP	Designated
New Providence	3	\$1,650.00	\$1,088.00	Wayne	0	\$315.11	\$520.15	Fullness Christian		\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Allgood		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Oasis Church	0	\$881.00	\$301.00	Westside	0	\$2,397.15	\$445.00	Fultondale First	5	\$22,244.60	\$4,118.25	Antioch		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Orange Beach First	3	\$17,138.62	\$16,232.02	Yellow Bluff	0	\$299.33	\$96.77	Good News		\$0.00	\$0.00	Austin Creek		\$0.00	\$100.00	
Oyster Bay	2	\$27,072.20	\$16,513.72	Bethel Totals	77	\$256,918.07	\$214,207.97	Grace Community		\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethlehem	1	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	
Perdido	1	\$2,044.76	\$7,942.88	Bethlehem	Baptism	CP	Designated	Grantswood		\$3,463.80	\$3,795.00	Bethsada	1	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Perdido Beach	0	\$796.40	\$2,337.47	Barbara Locklin	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,640.00	Greater Grace Missionary		\$0.00	\$0.00	Concord		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Pine Grove	0	\$9,297.74	\$7,694.02	Eastwood	12	\$28,046.29	\$26,941.57	Green Valley		\$93,329.00	\$94,812.95	Corinth		\$0.00	\$150.00	
Pleasant View	6	\$8,276.00	\$6,916.53	Enon	0	\$3,406.72	\$8,675.00	Hilldale	1	\$35,491.81	\$7,537.00	Edgewood		\$0.00	\$1,200.00	
Point Clear First	0	\$228.49	\$1,530.64	Eureka	1	\$2,360.00	\$1,593.00	Hillview		\$18,803.88	\$13,481.50	Fridays Crossing Missionary		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Robertsdale First	13	\$18,304.10	\$22,395.33	Excel	12	\$28,576.54	\$30,159.77	Hoover First		\$4,291.96	\$1,808.00	Friendship #1		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Romar Beach	1	\$0.00	\$567.00	Fountain	0	\$3,188.13	\$6,698.02	Hunter Street	62	\$450,000.00	\$307,221.47	Harmony		\$0.00	\$50.00	
Shell Banks	0	\$2,952.04	\$4,806.38	Frisco City First	0	\$7,918.21	\$9,249.84	Katherwood		\$2,880.73	\$300.00	Hendrix		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Silverhill First	11	\$36,010.24	\$13,772.00	Goodway First	1	\$7,382.07	\$8,344.54	Lake Highland	0	\$1,468.00	\$1,468.00	High Mound	1	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
Southside	4	\$19,511.30	\$10,392.58	Little River	1	\$5,001.87	\$4,528.28	Lakeside	10	\$223,161.30	\$141,481.90	Holly Springs		\$0.00	\$500.00	
Spanish Fort First	2	\$2,811.53	\$4,816.10	Mexia	17	\$46,827.15	\$21,788.02	Lakewood	0	\$5,205.19	\$9,827.61	Hopewell	2	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	
Spanish Trail	2	\$435.60	\$12,108.10	Mineola	3	\$4,508.02	\$10,959.31	Leeds First	6	\$58,217.82	\$39,528.05	Jones Chapel		\$0.00	\$1,100.00	
Stapleton	4	\$36,345.77	\$12,108.10	Monroeville First	2	\$66,880.58	\$56,093.17	Liberty Park		\$136,047.32	\$53,311.33	Liberty Hill		\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
Stockton First	0	\$12,671.07	\$3,106.02	Mt Olive	0	\$350.00	\$4,400.90	McElwain	6	\$67,558.20	\$16,332.50	Macedonia	3	\$863.00	\$800.00	
Styx River		\$1,426.37	\$250.00	Mt Pleasant	7	\$13,041.00	\$19,700.75	Mountain Brook	29	\$20,000.00	\$4,650.85	Mountain Grove	0	\$0.00	\$645.62	
Summerdale First	2	\$15,902.00	\$5,698.83	Oak Grove	3	\$7,186.69	\$9,946.08	Mt Calvary	1	\$9,094.00	\$1,153.00	Mt Carmel	0	\$0.00	\$1,240.00	
Three Rivers	17	\$3,327.90	\$0.00	Old Salem	2	\$9,817.00	\$5,223.00	Mt Hebron	0	\$2,227.00	\$126.00	Mt Hebron	9	\$187.20	\$0.00	
Trinity	0	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Peterman First	3	\$6,516.31	\$1,193.00	Mt Zion		\$0.00	\$0.00	Nectar		\$0.00	\$1,650.00	
Vernant Park	4	\$15,146.92	\$3,531.68	Philadelphia	0	\$278.64	\$420.00	Mt Zion		\$0.00	\$0.00	New Bethel	2	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Whitehouse Fork		\$4,260.00	\$2,690.01	Pleasant Hill	0	\$2,575.00	\$660.00	Mt Zion		\$1,793.26	\$2,322.82	New Emmaus		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Baldwin Totals	460	\$1,480,746.13	\$683,747.50	Poplar Springs	0	\$5,702.00	\$1,410.00	Mt Zion		\$0.00	\$0.00	New Home #1		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Barbour	Baptism	CP	Designated	Ramah	0	\$1,456.82	\$3,746.82	New Beginning		\$0.00	\$0.00	New Home #2		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Anderson	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rocky Hill		\$342.00	\$368.00	New Birth Christian		\$0.00	\$0.00	New Home Boaz	1	\$0.00	\$2,450.37	
Belcher Bethel	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Southside Baptist Church	2	\$2,566.63	\$4,336.20	New Birth Missionary		\$25.00	\$0.00	New Prospect	3	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Bethlehem	1	\$3,484.24	\$1,000.00	Springhill	1	\$2,390.43	\$1,637.94	New Covenant		\$0.00	\$0.00	Old Philadelphia		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Calvary	2	\$9,600.00	\$7,361.00	Uriah First	2	\$6,238.07	\$12,670.06	New Georgia		\$9,591.34	\$1,382.15	Oneonta Second		\$0.00	\$1,203.00	
Christian Grove	2	\$500.00	\$4,600.00	Bethlehem Totals	69	\$263,756.17	\$244,380.27	New Hope		\$0.00	\$0.00	Pilgrim Rest		\$0.00	\$300.00	
Clayton	2	\$21,736.37	\$8,939.74	Bibb	Baptism	CP	Designated	New Life Fellowship		\$2,750.00	\$1,726.00	Pine Bluff	4	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	
Clio	0	\$315.42	\$0.00	Antioch	5	\$1,444.43	\$1,617.72	North Clay		\$0.00	\$2,888.00	Pine Grove	10	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	
Corinth	3	\$200.00	\$500.00	Ashby	8	\$7,256.79	\$3,652.22	North Valley	20	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill #1		0.00	\$250.00	
Emmanuel	3	\$3,208.78	\$500.00	Bethel	2	\$300.00	\$6,300.00	NorthPark		\$41,666.69	\$100,671.18	Pleasant Valley	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Eufaula First	31	\$104,134.08	\$45,247.73	Bethlehem	0	\$500.00	\$750.00	Overton First		\$1,449.50	\$2,178.50	Pleasant View		\$3,008.00	\$22,270.40	
Evergreen	4	\$5,298.49	\$650.00	Bibbville	1	\$2,686.00	\$1,140.68	Palmerdale Cross		\$11,663.56	\$5,550.00	Robin Hill	0	\$0.00	\$3,650.95	
Lake City	0	\$2,060.14	\$2,248.49	Blocton Third	4	\$135.00	\$300.00	Philadelpia		\$42,417.54	\$26,029.99	Roswell Creek		\$0.00	\$600.00	
Louisville	0	\$16,389.34	\$5,048.00	Brent	2	\$32,212.48	\$17,475.00	Pineview		\$0.00	\$0.00	Shady Grove #1	0	\$0.00	\$1,300.00	
Mt Zion	1	\$3,881.89	\$2,970.00	Cahaba Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pinson First		\$4,417.54	\$26,029.99	Shady Grove #2	7	\$0.00	\$2,117.00	
Parkview	5	\$45,512.81	\$18,917.03	Calvary	21	\$150.00	\$150.00	Pioneer		\$0.00	\$1,638.00	Shiloh		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Pine Level	2	\$5,551.28	\$935.00	Camp Branch	0	\$434.00	\$0.00	Plainview		\$4,472.00	\$910.00	Shoal Creek		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Pleasant Hill	0	\$300.00	\$411.00	Centreville	5	\$48,086.69	\$20,364.50	Pleasant Grove First	22	\$141,120.46	\$44,541.05	Tails Gap	5	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
Pleasant Plains	0	\$3,247.35	\$909.00	Community	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Queenstown		\$0.00	\$0.00	Twenty Fifth Avenue		\$146.50	\$563.44	
Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$650.00	Enon	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Raleigh Avenue		\$8,000.00	\$15,033.00	Union Grove #1		\$0.00	\$1,071.00	
Spring Hill	3	\$1,709.46	\$1,510.00	Eoline	11	\$0.00	\$0.00	Richmond Street		\$0.00	\$0.00	Valley Grove		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Sykes Creek	0	\$60.00	\$30.00	Faith	1	\$1,229.00	\$8,028.00	Ridgecrest	2	\$26,361.45	\$20,083.89	Warrior Creek	2	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	
Union	0	\$3,010.70	\$2,529.56	Four Points	8	\$5,892.00	\$15,465.09	River		\$100.00	\$0.00	Warrior River		\$0.00	\$500.00	
Barbour Totals	60	\$228,064.35	\$104,956.55	Haysop	2	\$4,281.90	\$2,018.80	Robinwood		\$0.00	\$410.00	Welcome #1		\$0.00	\$697.78	
Bessemer	Baptism	CP	Designated	Johnstown	0	\$3,997.00	\$1,968.65									
Believer's Temple		\$0.00	\$0.00	Lowertown	1	\$0.00	\$3,603.12									
Bethel	4	\$30,000.00	\$12,137.77	Lucile	1	\$2,48										



CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

NUMBER OF BAPTISMS, 2016 Top 25 Churches

1	Willowbrook, Madison	219
2	Redemption Church, Mobile	217
3	Gardendale First, North Jefferson	184
4	Union #3, Etowah	156
5	Cottage Hill, Mobile	151
6	Highland Park, Colbert-Lauderdale	131
7	3Circle Church, Baldwin	130
8	Triune, Etowah	123
9	Dawson, Birmingham	113
10	Montgomery First, Montgomery	110
11	Vaughn Forest, Montgomery	108
12	Macedonia, Cleburne	95
14	Dayspring, Mobile	91
15	Golden Acres, Russell	88
16	Mt. Zion, Calhoun	85
18	Shades Mountain, Birmingham	85
19	Lindsay Lane, Limestone	80
20	Lifepoint Church, Marshall	79
21	Eden Westside, St. Clair	78
22	Wilmer First, Mobile	75
23	Westwood, Shelby	70
23	Whitesburg, Madison	69
25	CrossPointe, Madison	68

Darnascus	0	\$1,333.00	\$1,333.00	County Line	2	\$4,737.97	\$60.00
East Greenville	2	\$1,022.00	\$1,350.49	Cragford	0	\$200.00	\$0.00
Ebenezer East	0	\$796.22	\$1,038.11	Delta	2	\$4,946.31	\$4,143.26
Forest Home	0	\$6,549.00	\$7,751.00	(d)Good Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garland	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hatchett Creek	0	\$400.00	\$1,600.00
Georgiana First	3	\$11,199.70	\$700.00	Horn's Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gravel Hill	2	\$1,982.00	\$2,040.00	Liberty	2	\$2,757.00	\$1,711.00
Greenville First	1	\$43,578.50	\$18,194.82	Lineville	3	\$36,023.83	\$13,030.00
Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$5,162.00	Lystra	1	\$0.00	\$300.00
Liberty	0	\$4,058.59	\$2,824.95	Macedonia	2	\$500.00	\$200.00
McKenzie	3	\$2,000.00	\$6,716.17	Mellow Valley	2	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Midway	0	\$500.00	\$2,652.00	Millerville	2	\$4,884.11	\$2,200.00
Mt Olive East	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Moriah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Olive West	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Olive	0	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Mt Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Pleasant	1	\$17,917.90	\$6,162.25	Mt Zion	17	\$4,000.00	\$17,140.00
Pleasant Hill	0	\$1,207.00	\$700.00	New Fellowship	4	\$2,040.00	\$1,900.00
Sardis	0	\$192.06	\$1,760.00	New Hope West	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shackleville	0	\$5,391.41	\$0.00	Oaks Chapel	9	\$70.00	\$1,250.00
Shiloh	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	Olive Branch	1	\$0.00	\$3,585.00
Southside	15	\$27,150.00	\$17,174.97	Rock Springs	0	\$2,066.24	\$1,179.84
Spring Creek	1	\$3,895.36	\$5,091.00	Sardis	0	\$120.00	\$700.00
Spring Hill	2	\$475.45	\$475.43	Shiloh	1	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Welcome	1	\$0.00	\$968.00	Spring Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Butler Totals	90	\$180,864.87	\$132,808.81	Union Motley	0	\$2,585.41	\$830.00
				Carey Totals	60	\$135,542.99	\$92,599.95

Cahaba	Baptism	CP	Designated	Central	Baptism	CP	Designated
Calvary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethesda	0	\$1,048.00	\$965.00
Ephesus	0	\$950.00	\$3,275.00	Bluff Springs	8	\$0.00	\$1,725.00
Faith Chapel	0	\$2,787.94	\$2,415.00	Candler Mountain	2	\$0.00	\$3,633.00
Friendship	0	\$800.00	\$850.00	Concord	2	\$1,178.15	\$326.00
Hopewell	2	\$7,905.28	\$3,121.00	Goodwater	0	\$2,593.75	\$1,617.00
Medline	0	\$0.00	\$50.00	Grimes Chapel	2	\$3,589.00	\$3,775.00
Mt Olive	0	\$0.00	\$100.00	Hollins	20	\$4,745.33	\$2,512.84
Newbern	0	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	Kellyton	12	\$10,859.18	\$12,047.34
Ocmulgee	8	\$1,550.00	\$3,075.00	Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Flat	0	\$2,000.00	\$5,695.00	Mt Moriah	2	\$1,912.61	\$1,508.00
Pine Grove	3	\$3,149.30	\$1,589.70	Mt Olive	0	\$2,911.00	\$717.90
Pisgah	0	\$6,544.08	\$7,015.00	New Providence	1	\$0.00	\$1,105.00
Siloam	6	\$22,872.14	\$2,413.00	Newsite	1	\$3,746.00	\$1,553.00
Uniontown Baptist	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Poplar Springs	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cahaba Totals	19	\$49,558.74	\$29,608.70	Providence	6	\$11,251.32	\$4,137.91

Calhoun	Baptism	CP	Designated	Cherokee	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alexandria	5	\$16,207.35	\$4,515.51	Alexis	1	\$788.28	\$326.50
Angel Grove	0	\$11,201.73	\$5,309.92	Bethel	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Anniston First	8	\$7,286.03	\$10,453.24	Calcedonia	15	\$0.00	\$0.00
Antioch Bynum	7	\$1,972.01	\$1,976.18	Cedar Bluff First	3	\$16,003.30	\$10,983.42
Antioch Oxford	10	\$35,762.20	\$13,581.44	Centre First	24	\$56,543.82	\$17,553.81
Asberry	0	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	Dailey Street	2	\$3,138.85	\$1,316.99
Bethlehem	1	\$876.72	\$1,476.72	East Centre	2	\$3,282.14	\$2,102.62
Blue Mountain	0	\$5,568.25	\$5,695.00	Enon Grove	6	\$2,113.52	\$2,818.02
Boiling Springs	2	\$200.00	\$200.00	Fair Haven	2	\$2,263.00	\$415.00
Bonny Brook	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith, Gaylesville	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bynum	5	\$7,383.38	\$3,602.87	Faith, Piedmont	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calvary	3	\$2,958.36	\$2,799.99	Faith, Rockford	0	\$0.00	\$400.00
Cedar Springs	11	\$1,708.09	\$2,547.12	Farill	0	\$3,419.60	\$1,348.86
Cheaha	0	\$1,719.91	\$0.00	Friendship	2	\$4,297.94	\$10,030.78
Chosea Springs	0	\$0.00	\$525.00	Gaylesville First	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coldwater	3	\$3,964.54	\$1,201.00	Liberty	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Duke First	1	\$1,578.00	\$900.00	Melrose	0	\$409.00	\$0.00
Emmanuel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Moshat	0	\$1,514.87	\$1,075.00
Eulaton First	39	\$2,638.98	\$4,567.46	Nazareth	0	\$200.00	\$750.00
Fairview Heights Northside	5	\$5,300.34	\$5,165.23	New Bethel	6	\$500.00	\$3,785.00
Faith	0	\$2,489.10	\$2,490.00	New Prospect #2	0	\$3,708.00	\$2,606.00
Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Noah	1	\$931.47	\$2,962.69
Gladeview	6	\$11,090.77	\$3,525.38	Parkers Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Golden Springs	29	\$330,627.72	\$155,979.83	Pilgrim Rest	5	\$333.25	\$552.95
Grace	0	\$4,200.00	\$736.00	Pine Grove	12	\$20,639.42	\$14,895.00
Greenbrier Road	13	\$3,999.96	\$5,213.20	Pisgah	0	\$4,346.00	\$1,280.00
Harmony	1	\$6,047.05	\$3,041.00	Pleasant Arbor	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hatcher Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Providence	7	\$1,000.00	\$90.00
Hebron	4	\$200.00	\$1,029.09	Rock Run	0	\$931.60	\$234.00
Hill Crest	63	\$85,814.60	\$32,439.48	Round Mountain	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holley Cross Roads	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Salem	0	\$7,355.00	\$4,778.65
Holley Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sand Rock	4	\$4,981.40	\$1,300.00
Iron City	9	\$21,112.96	\$10,981.70	Sand Valley	6	\$200.00	\$1,800.00
Jacksonville First	27	\$140,892.96	\$36,366.92	Sandy Creek	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lakeview	6	\$400.00	\$7,658.17	Servants Heart	0	\$60.00	\$0.00
Leatherwood	31	\$25,200.00	\$9,852.00	Shady Grove	1	\$2,344.35	\$2,835.00
Living Stones	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Shiloh	1	\$6,000.00	\$36,605.00
Lloyds Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Slackland	5	\$14,662.39	\$5,181.47
Mamre	0	\$2,755.63	\$226.75	Tates Chapel	2	\$6,000.00	\$6,381.00
Meadowbrook	0	\$65,925.27	\$37,604.26	Unity Hill	4	\$0.00	\$50.00
Mt Gilead	4	\$4,559.15	\$1,658.00	Cherokee Totals	119	\$164,687.61	\$124,313.22
Mt View	4	\$220.24	\$426.00	Chilton	Baptism	CP	Designated
Mt Zion	85	\$49,960.55	\$24,454.00	Alpine	0	\$2,928.90	\$2,605.69
Nances Creek	0	\$10,207.99	\$4,664.37	Bell Lane	3	\$14,517.28	\$7,041.05
New Haven	4	\$13,869.76	\$9,628.28	Bethsalem	7	\$25,685.80	\$19,962.96
New Hopewell	1	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	Cane Creek	1	\$1,772.12	\$761.50
New Liberty	1	\$0.00	\$2,107.35	Center Hill	0	\$2,290.12	\$2,535.10
New Oak Grove	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Chestnut Creek	5	\$3,689.66	\$1,172.94
Northside Piedmont	0	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	Clanton First	15	\$113,287.10	\$52,198.72
Oak Bowery	14	\$8,281.00	\$5,862.54	Collins Chapel	1	\$12,055.44	\$5,227.00
Oak Grove	0	\$2,888.18	\$3,170.52	Concord	0	\$6,841.85	\$3,033.00
Oak Hill	0	\$275.00	\$0.00	Corinth	0	\$480.00	\$1,561.98
Oakridge	0	\$30.00	\$0.00	Corinth Missionary	7	\$20,259.00	\$13,998.01
Ohatchee First	0	\$2,451.03	\$1,700.18	Ebenezer	0	\$6,836.00	\$8,921.00
Orchard Fellowship	1	\$7,090.98	\$0.00	Faith	3	\$973.00	\$858.00
Oxford Deaf Church	1	\$180.91	\$1,832.91	Floyd	3	\$5,788.48	\$3,431.42
Oxford First	13	\$86,296.17	\$49,737.25	Friendship	3	\$6,555.69	\$10,173.28
Parker Memorial	26	\$140,852.50	\$78,325.09	Highland	3	\$18,562.94	\$3,484.50
Parker Memorial DeArmanville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hillcrest	0	\$18,562.94	\$13,003.00
Pelham	0	\$50.00	\$500.00	Jemison First	6	\$42,879.44	\$13,003.00
Philadelphia	52	\$1,476.56	\$3,253.00	Liberty Hill	5	\$28,386.00	\$12,359.00
Piedmont First	0	\$0.00	\$26,067.97	Lomax First	0	\$2,246.20	\$2,375.00
Pleasant Ridge	0	\$100.00	\$0.00	Macedonia	2	\$14,439.42	\$13,129.48
Pleasant Valley	0	\$2,400.00	\$12,722.00	Maple Springs	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,094.30
Plum Springs	0	\$1,421.75	\$3,297.00	Maplesville	11	\$4,432.69	\$14,124.48
Post Oak Springs	2	\$3,413.00	\$2,007.00	Mars Hill	2	\$2,460.13	\$8,789.89
Profile	0	\$770.03	\$702.19	Mineral Springs	2	\$24,660.13	\$8,789.89
Rabbittown	1	\$2,382.00	\$0.00	Mount Bethel	17	\$3,453.73	\$650.00
Roberts Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mount Carmel #2	2	\$4,918.72	\$3,875.47
Ruhama	0	\$3,344.22	\$2,176.00	Mountain Creek	3	\$3,401.69	\$3,036.23
Saks First	6	\$80,572.00	\$36,192.99	Mt Carmel #1	3	\$3,061.31	\$1,824.50
Southside	0	\$0.00	\$600.00	Mt Pleasant	1	\$2,803.54	\$7,151.50
Sunny Eve	0	\$0.00	\$2,100.00	Mulberry	8	\$21,315.00	\$7,915.95
Ten Island	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Cedron	1	\$1,242.19	\$0.00
United Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Covenant	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Harmony	0	\$477.00	\$1,185.00
Wayside	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Salem	0	\$800.00	\$2,722.00
Weaver First	5	\$41,747.21	\$5,325.66	Northside	5	\$0.00	\$256.70
Wellington First	8	\$3,991.00	\$12,950.05	Oak Grove	1	\$1,061.79	\$12,044.72
West Anniston	0	\$600.00	\$1,150.00	Old Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
West Park Heights	6	\$11,012.96	\$5,095.02	Pates Chapel	6	\$19,800.39	\$3,095.50
West Point	11	\$10,887.00	\$0.00	Pilgrim Rest	5	\$1,906.76	\$1,906.76
West Side	3	\$12,235.00	\$4,955.00	Pleasant Grove #1	7	\$14,607.00	\$12,760.00
West Weaver	12	\$11,027.00	\$3,591.36	Pleasant Grove #2	0	\$4,117.00	\$1,907.00
Westwood	0	\$9,967.98	\$3,454.00	Pleasant Hill	0	\$3,780.37	\$593.00
White Plains First	48	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Valley	2	\$3,945.00	\$1,531.00
Whites Gap	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Poplar Springs	2	\$4,968.92	\$3,881.00
Woodland Park	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Providence #1	7	\$14,745.62	\$11,908.01
Calhoun Totals	598	\$1,402,883.29	\$686,294.19	Providence #2	7	\$17,715.00	\$9,066.00

Carey	Baptism	CP	Designated	Chilton Totals	Baptism	CP	Designated
Ashland First	1	\$55,317.00	\$12,608.65	Black Creek	0	\$1,841.70	\$1,215.00
Barfield	11	\$5,273.64	\$10,538.63	Bladon Springs	0	\$700.00	\$1,725.00
Bellview	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Butler First	2	\$58,093.43	\$24,436.60
Big Springs	0	\$3,097.39	\$1,915.72	Calvary	1	\$4,999.98	\$8,510.40
Bowden Grove	0	\$2,044.00	\$2,963.00	Chappell Hill	0	\$1,149.76	\$6,001.01
Clairmont Springs	0	\$2,638.21	\$1,572.00	Christian Fellowship	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Concord	0	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	Christian Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$2,010.10
Corinth	0	\$1,841.88	\$4				

CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Trinity	1	\$4,119.77	\$4,805.50	Pleasant Ridge	0	\$810.00	\$1,260.00	Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$250.00	Duck Springs	1	\$5,971.79	\$2,400.00
Arkadelphia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Union Springs	0	\$0.00	\$95.00	Post Oak	5	\$2,947.03	\$1,625.69	Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$350.00	Dwight	2	\$16,345.12	\$16,478.00
Bellevue	0	\$300.00	\$7,090.15	Village Street	0	\$0.00	\$516.00	Providence	22	\$12,994.76	\$11,485.05	Beulah	3	\$18,810.32	\$6,413.54	East Gadsden	12	\$36,120.99	\$20,554.72
Bermuda	5	\$0.00	\$1,730.00	Westside	6	\$190.00	\$500.00	Ridgecrest	0	\$6,117.67	\$2,932.38	Blanton	10	\$1,989.08	\$1,123.96	East Walnut	0	\$1,483.20	\$655.00
Bower Memorial	5	\$9,662.62	\$19,042.57	Westview	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rocky Head	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Calvary	0	\$3,256.55	\$7,017.76	Eastside	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Brooklyn	0	\$680.00	\$7,972.00	Winterboro	0	\$2,045.00	\$2,605.00	Rocky Mount	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Center	10	\$1,483.36	\$4,992.74	Edgewood	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,804.66
Castleberry	0	\$569.49	\$1,544.66	Coosa River Totals	249	\$480,990.80	\$387,778.02	Salem	0	\$1,254.90	\$2,561.44	Cornerstone	1	\$1,297.00	\$1,847.00	Fairview	15	\$24,747.34	\$6,735.00
Cedar Creek	0	\$1,248.29	\$2,294.00	Covington	Baptism	CP	Designated	Southside	2	\$5,420.07	\$3,225.00	County Line	1	\$769.75	\$1,415.75	Ford's Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evergreen	1	\$20,576.69	\$34,386.00	Adellum	2	\$3,600.00	\$3,241.52	Vision	4	\$0.00	\$1,300.00	Cusseta	0	\$4,207.90	\$4,028.82	Forrest Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holly Grove	0	\$260.00	\$680.00	Andalusia First	8	\$98,774.51	\$83,877.34	Dale Totals	146	\$327,424.80	\$207,717.92	Fairfax First	0	\$9,343.47	\$4,397.00	Gadsden First	1	\$51,145.07	\$38,969.35
Jones Chapel	0	\$271.59	\$181.06	Babbie	10	\$15,193.97	\$9,482.72	DeKalb	Baptism	CP	Designated	Fairview	0	\$19,298.00	\$7,381.73	Gallant First	1	\$0.00	\$5,870.00
Lenox	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Beda	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Allen Memorial	0	\$2,592.00	\$8,150.00	Five Points	0	\$0.00	\$340.00	Glencoe First	5	\$15,331.37	\$26,308.95
London	1	\$5,116.44	\$3,867.20	Bethany	11	\$37,035.84	\$17,422.32	Antioch	18	\$23,461.68	\$7,570.00	Grace	0	\$3,424.50	\$1,101.10	Goldenrod Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Long Branch	0	\$300.00	\$600.00	Beulah	2	\$1,364.23	\$1,148.51	Bethel	3	\$280.00	\$245.00	Happy Valley	3	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Goodyear Heights	19	\$8,000.00	\$1,571.20
Lyeftion	0	\$2,647.53	\$1,834.67	Blue Springs	3	\$4,373.00	\$600.00	Beulah	1	\$1,632.54	\$592.01	Huguley	2	\$930.00	\$1,366.00	Green Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Midway	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Brooks	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Broadway	10	\$58,457.98	\$22,496.50	Jackson Memorial	1	\$447.51	\$0.00	Greenwood	0	\$100.00	\$400.00
New Home	0	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	Buck Creek	9	\$11,406.00	\$3,000.00	Chavies	0	\$4,150.11	\$2,257.51	Johnson Chapel	1	\$2,600.13	\$2,814.56	Harvestfield	1	\$5,500.00	\$2,000.00
New Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Carolina	12	\$18,300.00	\$56,720.00	Collinsville	3	\$2,708.30	\$4,300.50	Lafayette First	1	\$16,906.02	\$6,957.97	Heath	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Providence	2	\$976.00	\$215.00	Cedar Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Corinth	6	\$23,584.08	\$16,946.18	Lafayette Heights	6	\$24,441.57	\$15,255.16	Heritage	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$1,666.00	Conecuh River	5	\$0.00	\$250.00	Crossville	6	\$21,457.87	\$0.00	Lanett First	9	\$26,192.42	\$10,255.87	Hokes Bluff First	5	\$48,935.76	\$24,089.40
Old Town	0	\$363.89	\$1,363.89	Damascus	0	\$1,900.00	\$870.50	Fellowship	3	\$0.00	\$810.00	Lanier	1	\$2,371.91	\$2,497.32	Immanuel	8	\$14,915.78	\$6,197.98
Olive Branch	2	\$5,049.00	\$3,103.00	East Highland	4	\$3,473.18	\$595.00	Flat Rock	7	\$92,422.97	\$81,923.21	Midway	2	\$0.00	\$748.00	Ivalee	3	\$9,638.83	\$1,885.00
Repton	0	\$800.00	\$3,527.00	Enon	4	\$1,097.25	\$4,072.75	Fort Payne First	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Milltown	1	\$1,374.00	\$5,219.00	James Memorial	5	\$13,834.53	\$7,283.50
Sepulga	0	\$1,309.55	\$6,624.55	Fairmount	4	\$2,841.57	\$9,215.06	Freedom	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Zion	1	\$1,374.00	\$5,219.00	Keener	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Skinnerston	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Floralia First	4	\$19,945.44	\$3,078.00	Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$500.00	New Hope	0	\$1,090.19	\$1,041.79	Kyle Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sweet Home	15	\$5,565.42	\$0.00	Gantt First	4	\$12,899.88	\$11,286.32	Fyffe First	0	\$14,457.96	\$5,453.50	Plant City	5	\$3,474.67	\$8,007.22	Kyuka	5	\$3,271.73	\$7,507.00
Conecuh Totals	27	\$56,296.51	\$98,921.75	Harmony	14	\$20,215.13	\$10,591.37	Gault Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$2,796.92	Pleasant Hill	2	\$1,312.00	\$3,087.00	Laakeview	6	\$7,735.63	\$8,217.00
Coosa River	Baptism	CP	Designated	Hopewell	18	\$28,080.23	\$32,465.75	Geraldine First	19	\$19,099.92	\$18,795.06	Providence	2	\$3,993.00	\$1,932.00	Lookout Avenue	0	\$635.34	\$1,500.00
Alpine	0	\$1,774.20	\$4,157.50	Judson	4	\$3,484.00	\$7,000.00	Grace Chapel	2	\$901.70	\$90.10	River View	2	\$3,925.89	\$3,455.71	Louis Street	0	\$5,630.34	\$3,877.00
Berniston	0	\$68.65	\$617.85	Liberty Home	0	\$740.07	\$1,140.07	Gravel Hill	0	\$4,707.81	\$1,503.76	Rock Springs	2	\$11,088.79	\$1,086.70	Macedonia	6	\$24,426.07	\$12,184.50
Blue Eye	1	\$3,420.95	\$4,054.98	Lockhart	0	\$5,506.61	\$7,935.61	Guest	12	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	Shawmut First	2	\$9,053.00	\$7,706.00	Malone	0	\$6,089.20	\$475.00
Bon Air	2	\$7,297.38	\$8,487.90	Mill Creek	3	\$2,956.16	\$3,474.44	Harvest Time	3	\$0.00	\$101.60	Shiloh	0	\$920.17	\$2,499.78	Meadow Brook	19	\$181,431.23	\$26,809.00
Brecon First	0	\$822.95	\$1,122.95	Mobley Creek	3	\$3,729.00	\$8,541.44	Highland	0	\$1,570.00	\$1,490.00	Sunset Heights	2	\$0.00	\$1,741.89	Midway	4	\$1,200.00	\$598.80
Browns Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Gilead	2	\$7,632.16	\$4,579.31	Hopewell	2	\$0.00	\$760.67	Valley First	7	\$1,200.00	\$11,584.00	Mountain View	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calvary	9	\$9,924.93	\$2,260.14	Mt Pisgah	9	\$2,060.58	\$1,444.38	Kelly's Chapel	1	\$4,822.00	\$9,708.06	Victory	3	\$5,258.57	\$1,957.87	Mt Carmel	2	\$1,000.00	\$211.41
Cartersville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope	0	\$1,268.86	\$700.00	Kilpatrick	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Waverly	0	\$0.00	\$3,900.70	Mt Olive	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central	13	\$13,313.00	\$16,642.75	New Song Community	10	\$0.00	\$0.00	Kilpatrick Hispanic	0	\$300.00	\$0.00	West End	28	\$13,857.00	\$18,647.00	Mt Pisgah	0	\$120.00	\$0.00
Chandler Springs	4	\$4,150.68	\$1,383.56	Northern Heights	1	\$500.00	\$2,176.96	Lathamville	2	\$0.00	\$3,428.99	West Side	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,525.00	New Harmony	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Childersburg First	0	\$20,943.01	\$8,194.32	Northside	5	\$2,460.12	\$1,972.04	Lea's Chapel	1	\$3,574.32	\$1,255.00	East Liberty Totals	96	\$196,716.77	\$153,945.94	New Hope	1	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
ChristPoint Community	0	\$1,500.00	\$4,983.00	Oak Grove	7	\$1,371.00	\$1,100.00	Liberty	2	\$6,600.00	\$3,316.00	Antioch	0	\$2,255.36	\$666.00	Noble Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
County Line	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oakey Ridge	4	\$4,796.84	\$6,531.37	Liberty Hill	4	\$16,695.77	\$27,438.23	Bethlehem East	5	\$16,434.31	\$4,280.52	North Gadsden	4	\$14,395.64	\$4,419.87
Cragdale	2	\$200.00	\$889.00	Opp First	18	\$50,679.38	\$51,576.37	Macedonia #1	10	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Beulah	0	\$2,956.33	\$902.74	North Glencoe	13	\$6,997.93	\$35,033.30
Dry Valley	11	\$8,764.05	\$7,260.90	Philadelphia	1	\$300.00	\$0.00	Macedonia #2	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Blue Ridge	4	\$1,180.00	\$475.00	North Highland	0	\$2,187.25	\$7,078.00
Eastaboga	23	\$40,863.38	\$16,494.31	Pigeon Creek	3	\$829.39	\$1,100.00	Maranatha	0	\$1,821.33	\$1,738.04	Calvary	0	\$11,787.09	\$1,627.49	Northside	0	\$2,188.42	\$2,665.00
Eastside	0	\$10.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Home	4	\$8,689.00	\$6,344.00	Moon Lake	1	\$3,204.23	\$3,817.99	Central	10	\$8,693.65	\$7,010.00	Oak Park	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eureka	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rawls	0	\$2,528.57	\$14,021.89	Mt Carmel	2	\$3,303.84	\$4,477.80	Coosada	56	\$142,527.59	\$24,278.47	Pine Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Family Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Red Oak	3	\$8,424.00	\$1,515.00	Mt Flat	2	\$3,723.00	\$1,453.00	Deatsville	9	\$8,834.88	\$4,096.55	Pleasant Hill	0	\$0.00	\$375.00
Fayetteville	5	\$5,187.00	\$1,531.00	River Falls	1	\$4,218.00	\$5,488.00	Mt Hermon	0	\$3,481.33	\$3,758.08	Eclectic First	0	\$3,553.51	\$14,897.33	Rainbow City First	0	\$730.08	\$1,517.77
Five Points	9	\$9,840.00	\$9,032.97	Salem	1	\$674.72	\$1,925.36	Mt Olive	14	\$600.00	\$1,040.00	Friendship	1	\$4,744.52	\$1,790.00	Reed Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$2,027.98	Sanford First	0	\$250.00	\$620.00	Mt Pleasant	1	\$0.00	\$4,487.00	Good Hope	6	\$39,823.97	\$3,209.00	Ridder Bend	11	\$11,082.67	\$2,808.34
Hepzibah	21	\$53,969.97	\$29,457.74	Southside Andalusia	8	\$38,304.67	\$15,266.98	Mt Tabor	2	\$436.20	\$325.00	Harvest Fields	0	\$810.00	\$540.00	Riverbend	16	\$14,126.91	\$27,325.35
Immanuel	3	\$732.50	\$1,708.72	Southside Opp	8	\$35,690.22	\$14,107.69	Mt View	5	\$4,588.56	\$6,707.00	Hillside	0	\$3,099.96	\$2,860.00	Sibertown	5	\$7,134.58	\$4,001.84
Irontron	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sweet Home	3	\$2,027.86	\$319.69	Mt Zion	8	\$325.00	\$2,207.41	Holtville Riverside	9	\$9,470.49	\$2,477.02	South Highland	0	\$250.00	\$1,215.00
Jenifer	0	\$200.00	\$559.00	Sweet Water	0	\$2,630.00	\$10,661.00	Nazareth	0	\$35,786.35	\$31,608.00	Journey Church	20	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Southside	8	\$72,907.70	\$62,505.77
Lincoln	10	\$12,177.00	\$9,717.00	Victory	0	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	New Canaan	0	\$0.00	\$2,220.00	Lake Mission	5	\$0.00	\$312.48	Southside First	0	\$0.00	\$250.00
Marble City	6	\$17,017.64	\$30,457.12	West County Line	3	\$1,778.75	\$3,889.75	New Genesis	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Liberty	1	\$7,874.00	\$8,028.27	Stowers Hill	2	\$7,410.11	\$2,599.00
Mignon	4	\$9,360.02	\$6,792.51	West Highland	0	\$4,616.00	\$5,709.00	New Harmony											



CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

MYERS-MALLORY GIFTS, 2016 Top 25 Churches

1	Prattville First, Autauga	\$19,935.83
2	Mount Zion, Madison	\$18,975.08
3	Montgomery First, Montgomery	\$15,422.00
4	Shades Mountain, Birmingham	\$15,000.00
5	Alexander City First, Tallapoosa	\$13,443.50
6	Huntsville First, Madison	\$11,098.10
7	Athens First, Limestone	\$11,066.00
8	Golden Springs, Calhoun	\$10,631.53
9	Selma First, Selma	\$10,440.00
10	Shoal Creek, Elmore	\$9,835.88
11	Dothan First, Columbia	\$9,322.72
12	Guntersville First, Marshall	\$9,200.00
13	Enterprise First, Coffee	\$8,640.50
14	Eastern Hills, Montgomery	\$8,611.00
15	Green Valley, Birmingham	\$8,196.71
16	Lakeside, Birmingham	\$6,879.10
17	Mt. Zion, Carey	\$6,815.00
18	The Baptist Church at McAdory, Bessemer	\$6,043.00
19	Northside, Selma	\$5,802.00
20	Clanton First, Chilton	\$5,755.00
21	North Shelby, Shelby	\$5,701.50
22	Greensboro, Hale	\$5,471.51
23	Ridgecrest, Montgomery	\$5,419.45
24	Pleasant View, Blount	\$5,394.00
25	Pell City First, St. Clair	\$5,364.25

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated
Pleasant Valley #1	0	\$3,294.17	\$1,076.00	Carlisle		\$6,000.00	\$4,763.00
Pleasant Valley #2	1	\$2,259.29	\$1,481.36	Central	3	\$7,623.83	\$5,897.30
Shady Grove	5	\$650.00	\$5,239.00	Chapel Hill	1	\$5,067.88	\$478.00
Southeast	0	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Clear Springs	6	\$1,895.55	\$2,812.38
Unity	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Connect	8	\$10,456.37	\$120.00
Victory		\$0.00	\$0.00	Cornerstone	6	\$5,411.60	\$1,535.00
Welcome Hill	0	\$1,961.00	\$750.00	Cowboy	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yellow Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Creek Path	6	\$18,917.09	\$13,437.43
Lookout Mountain Totals	18	\$17,234.07	\$22,327.84	Douglas	5	\$602.34	\$775.00
Madison	Baptism	CP	Designated	East Albertville		\$0.00	\$0.00
All Nations	0	\$11,997.14	\$2,780.13	East Lake		\$0.00	\$0.00
Antioch	4	\$0.00	\$0.00	Eastside	0	\$717.80	\$0.00
Bethany	0	\$256.32	\$1,447.50	Eglise Baptiste Messiah	3	\$50.00	\$0.00
Bethlehem HG	95	\$8,194.85	\$1,600.23	Fairview	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethlehem LS	5	\$5,132.17	\$10,393.20	Faith Rock	2	\$0.00	\$25.00
Bevill's Chapel	6	\$0.00	\$13,569.93	Free Home	0	\$0.00	\$50.00
Brownsboro	15	\$13,000.00	\$9,313.00	Gethsemane	0	\$0.00	\$500.00
Carter's Grove	0	\$2,211.42	\$1,632.74	Gilliam Springs	46	\$101,286.03	\$110,715.50
Cave Spring	0	\$1,750.00	\$3,205.44	Grace	15	\$0.00	\$2,929.34
Central	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grace Fellowship	2	\$2,134.56	\$1,367.00
Charity		\$200.00	\$278.00	Grant First	25	\$5,500.00	\$2,880.00
Christ Community	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	Guntersville First	14	\$9,088.02	\$14,125.00
Community Life		\$2,767.00	\$0.00	Haney's Chapel	2	\$2,644.85	\$850.00
Cornerstone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Happy Hill	0	\$1,089.04	\$1,857.94
Cove Baptist	11	\$5,976.57	4,740.92	Happy Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
CrossPointe	68	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	Hebron		\$0.00	\$0.00
East Huntsville	1	\$6,527.71	\$1,569.00	High Point		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Essential	0	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Hillcrest		\$0.00	\$0.00
Farley Community	9	\$20,380.98	\$25,600.02	Honeycomb	0	\$2,002.72	\$3,561.68
Fellowship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Hustleville	0	\$2,248.00	\$1,331.00
First Flint River	5	\$1,500.00	\$787.00	Liberty Hill	1	\$1,008.26	\$1,325.00
Five Points	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	LifePoint Brindlee Mountain	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Flint River	65	\$13,250.00	\$11,850.00	Lifepoint	78	\$400.00	\$0.00
Galilee	6	\$900.00	\$1,194.24	Mountain View	5	\$7,203.00	\$1,000.00
GracePointe	15	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	Mt Calvary	13	\$6,988.36	\$5,363.37
Gurley First	3	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	Mt Carmel	1	\$3,970.42	\$4,808.70
Harmony	2	\$2,874.56	\$647.19	Mt Hebron	0	\$2,947.00	\$1,000.00
Harvest	10	\$51,035.93	\$8,532.36	Mt Olive #1	0	\$536.06	\$2,293.77
Haven	3	\$19,468.44	\$7,373.53	Mt Olive #2	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,697.18
Hayes Chapel	8	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Sinai	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazel Green First	33	\$24,464.05	\$22,088.00	Mt Tabor	5	\$450.00	\$25.00
Highlands	0	\$2,200.00	\$6,344.28	Mt Vernon	9	\$67,579.86	\$11,188.98
Hillwood	10	\$58,581.34	\$1,029.00	New Canaan	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hobbs Island	0	\$880.18	\$0.00	New Covenant	9	\$6,289.09	\$3,960.35
House of Hope and Restoration	45	\$350.00	\$500.00	New Friendship	0	\$2,033.07	\$2,557.00
Huntsville First	20	\$11,018.44	\$203,664.46	New Heights	0	\$5,558.00	\$2,587.00
Huntsville Korean	5	\$0.00	\$1,735.00	New Macedonia	4	\$1,494.72	\$828.00
Huntsville Park	8	\$22,829.10	\$2,868.00	Northside	4	\$7,000.00	\$602.00
Hurricane Grove	7	\$0.00	\$0.00	Northwest	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jackson Way	9	\$34,421.29	\$21,039.91	Oak Grove		\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean First	0	\$1,100.00	\$1,057.00	Oak Hill	6	\$308.00	\$100.00
Korean Grace		\$170.00	\$0.00	Pine Grove #1		\$0.00	\$0.00
Lakewood	37	\$5,233.00	\$6,953.26	Pine Grove #2	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	1	\$1,100.00	\$1,849.21	Pleasant Grove	1	\$3,915.00	\$3,088.00
Life's Journey	7	\$2,950.45	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill	0	\$0.00	\$250.00
Lighthouse	6	\$7,208.31	\$690.00	Pleasant Valley #2	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Locust Grove	8	\$1,856.54	\$3,113.42	Primera Hispana	11	\$3,719.22	\$100.00
Mable Hill	7	\$600.00	\$0.00	Red Apple	4	\$3,433.83	\$1,412.69
Madison First	8	\$20,056.16	\$21,683.00	Red Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison Korean	32	\$850.00	\$650.00	Rehoboth	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meadow Drive	23	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rock Springs	0	\$2,700.00	\$2,830.00
Meridianville First	12	\$51,605.55	\$13,186.62	Ruth	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monte Sano	1	\$3,589.00	\$2,453.00	Sardis	13	\$42,267.43	\$20,045.25
Morningside	2	\$7,694.31	\$4,835.00	Second Boaz	11	\$3,563.72	\$5,445.48
Mount Olive		\$0.00	\$0.00	Shoal Creek	1	\$1,608.01	\$2,103.04
Mount Zion	33	\$368,206.00	\$177,773.79	Snead Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View	6	\$2,716.00	\$645.00	Solid Rock	5	\$825.00	\$225.00
Murphy Hill	6	\$1,656.12	\$1,461.45	Solitude	10	\$43,373.48	\$9,133.00
Neeley's Chapel	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	South Sauty	0	\$7,286.61	\$7,304.53
New Birth Missionary	4	\$50.00	\$0.00	Southside	3	\$13,547.51	\$6,842.88
New Hope First	4	\$15,000.00	\$2,457.00	Springdale	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Market	3	\$7,773.07	\$4,550.00	Sweet Home	12	\$3,344.00	\$6,634.00
New Salem	5	\$9,958.66	\$10,122.35	The Fellowship	12	\$11,004.00	\$1,016.17
Northside	1	\$571.53	\$464.76	Trading Post	23	\$1,456.58	\$0.00
Oak Park	4	\$17,109.89	\$5,852.98	Union Grove #1	13	\$1,800.00	\$3,971.54
Oakley	8	\$2,108.00	\$7,084.00	Union Grove #2	12	\$0.00	\$0.00
Owens Cross Roads	3	\$1,169.00	\$11,169.00	Union Grove First	15	\$13,713.81	\$11,076.65
Pinewy		\$0.00	\$0.00	Valley View	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Springs	1	\$12,300.00	\$15,205.25	Victory	0	\$0.00	\$600.00
Rivertree	21	\$5,000.00	\$200.00	Victory Cornerstone	0	\$1,120.10	\$0.00
Sherwood	5	\$31,464.00	\$9,523.63	Victory Hill	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ships	0	\$1,228.00	\$650.00	Victory Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Simple Church	13	\$11,201.13	\$0.00	Warrenton	0	\$2,141.25	\$2,135.32
Southside	3	\$73,742.54	\$27,039.05	Westside Arab	1	\$0.00	\$250.00
Sweetwater Fellowship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Westside Boaz	2	\$3,133.19	\$2,954.50
The Brook	54	\$0.00	\$3,250.00	White Oak	0	\$572.20	\$3,000.00
The Fellowship of Faith		\$0.00	\$0.00	Marshall Totals	583	\$824,922.98	\$591,434.30
Trinity	7	\$7,273.72	\$7,053.00	Mobile	Baptism	CP	Designated
Union Grove	4	\$7,047.00	\$767.00	3Circle Midtown	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
University	0	\$61,993.38	\$45,707.88	3Circle Semmes	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Victory Fellowship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Airport Blvd.	3	\$17,998.31	\$16,031.66
Way Highway	4	\$44,711.00	\$38,541.38	nchor of Hope Community		\$0.00	\$0.00
Wears Chapel	3	\$0.00	\$765.00	Axis First	4	\$2,768.05	\$5,061.05
West Mastin Lake	6	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Azalea	0	\$5,395.14	\$5,174.20
Westlaw	1	\$4,192.00	\$2,177.43	Bayou LaBatre First	2	\$16,792.56	\$20,195.48
Whitesburg	69	\$37,467.30	\$279,809.30	Bayou Sara	17	\$27,540.00	\$18,142.78
Willowbrook	219	\$80,000.00	\$242,160.33	Berean	0	\$25.00	\$50.00
Winchester Road	8	\$33,166.00	\$1,837.73	Bethel	8	\$16,667.86	\$11,187.32
Woodland Hill	2	\$3,745.86	\$4,963.34	Big Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Madison Totals	1117	\$1,720,232.72	\$1,327,324.24	Boe Road	0	\$0.00	\$446.00
Marion	Baptism	CP	Designated	Calvert	13	\$9,478.00	\$6,250.50
Antioch	0	\$4,126.75	\$6,247.75	Cambodian Mission		\$0.00	\$0.00
Barnesville	0	\$449.76	\$1,715.28	Cedar Creek		\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	0	\$5,811.86	\$2,650.00	Celeste Road	2	\$2,020.50	\$5,088.46
Eastside	2	\$0.00	\$8,511.00	(d)Central	5	\$0.00	\$5,834.07
Emmanuel	0	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	Chickasaw First	5	\$1,000.00	\$3,661.00
Fulton Bridge	3	\$18,998.00	\$4,092.25	Churchula	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Gu Win First		\$662.41	\$332.00	Citronelle Memorial	4	\$10,048.06	\$11,669.94
Guin First	5	\$82,810.86	\$33,722.95	Cloverdale	8	\$6,435.39	\$4,588.70
Hackelburg First	2	\$8,676.79	\$5,539.81	College Park	2	\$12,994.72	\$13,094.10
Hamilton First	7	\$59,568.66	\$19,961.60	Cottage Hill	151	\$2,956.33	\$25,095.50
Harmony Grove		\$5,279.46	\$1,424.00	Crawford	14	\$47,173.45	\$30,721.81
Hines Memorial	15	\$6,806.00	\$13,000.00	Creola First	21	\$8,670.54	\$4,873.19
Kemp Chapel	5	\$3,509.00	\$2,090.00	Cross Point		\$3,117.27	\$3,228.19
Mt Olive	3	\$100.00	\$4,952.00	Crosspoint Church of Mobile	14	\$0.00	\$1,704.78
Mt Zion	13	\$2,733.36	\$4,675.00	Cypress Shores	4	\$3,162.00	\$6,317.15
New Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Dauphin Island	6	\$10,949.67	\$9,737.53
Old Trinity	7	\$1,115.00	\$0.00	Dauphin Way	32	\$30,000.00	\$93,905.07
Pleasant Grove	2	\$5,150.55	\$8,110.99	Dawes First	10	\$20,467.94	\$20,900.48
Primera Iglesia Bautista		\$480.00	\$1,348.00	Dayspring	91	\$13,000.00	\$21,835.04
Shiloh	2	\$0.00	\$3,575.34	Ebenezer	4	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
South Hamilton	4	\$2,628.27	\$100.00	Emmanuel		\$11,410.62	\$6,024.43
Winfield First	21	\$87,745.78	\$57,360.05	Faith Baptist of Wilmer		\$562.65	\$0.00
Marion Totals	91	\$297,803.51	\$179,408.02	Faith of Grand Bay		\$0.00	\$0.00
Marshall	Baptism	CP	Designated	Faith of Mobile	6	\$2,700.00	\$0.00
Albertville First	5	\$71,180.00	\$64,133.87	Fellowship	3	\$4,439.00	\$6,256.00
Alder Springs	7	\$3,253.50	\$2,306.48	Forest Hill	2	\$2,442.33	\$1,029.08
Antioch	1	\$0.00	\$3,880.98	Friendship	24	\$57,450.00	\$31,169.55
Antioch at Martling		\$0.00	\$0.00	Fulton Road	6	\$2,009.40	\$6,418.30
Arab First	11	\$88,476.04	\$68,539.87	Gateway	20	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bakers Chapel	0	\$5,389.60	\$950.00	Georgetown	3	\$300.00	\$1,260.00
Beech Spring	0	\$473.85	\$100.00	Government Street	11	\$41,545.14	\$25,830.08
Bel Air	3	\$1,200.00	\$1,566.00	Grand Bay First	85	\$31,311.69	\$18,452.03
Bethany	14	\$17,000.00	\$25,086.50	Gulfoest		\$0.00	\$225.00
Bethlehem	17	\$37,647.87	\$2,500.00	Haven Woods	11	\$1,135.44	\$2,230.44
Bethsaida	1	\$8,322.96	\$12,181.60	Heron Bay	17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beulah	16	\$15,000.00	\$16,072.77	Higher Ground	12	\$4,058.42	\$2,368.92
Boaz First	16	\$106,905.20	\$89,513.26	Highpoint	25	\$5,200.00	\$2,200.00



CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated				
Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$2,030.34	Mt. Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$440.00	Lakewood	5	\$22,300.11	\$10,042.77	Calvary	0	\$550.00	\$988.00	Corinth	0	\$682.50	\$1,365.80
Fifth Avenue	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,371.00	Mt. Zion	12	\$52,128.94	\$13,066.34	Midway	7	\$1,200.00	\$566.00	Chelsea Village	3	\$6,990.00	\$0.00	Cropwell	12	\$66,031.52	\$46,607.54
Flint	3	\$6,790.06	\$1,685.00	New Beginnings Community	13	\$5,500.00	\$7,352.77	Mt. Lebanon	0	\$4,423.00	\$2,895.00	Christ Central	0	\$3,911.45	\$0.00	CrossPoint	37	\$18,999.96	\$9,762.19
Forest Hill	8	\$0.00	\$0.00	North Gardendale	0	\$3,499.96	\$1,502.54	North Phenix	5	\$355.06	\$1,815.54	Columbiana First	7	\$58,508.32	\$49,655.33	Eden Westside	75	\$8,086.00	\$4,832.98
Grace Point	3	\$2,400.00	\$5,920.00	North Highland	12	\$6,424.29	\$3,212.15	Oswichee	4	\$4,765.37	\$8,300.39	Community	16	\$57,142.71	\$0.00	Evening Star	5	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Gum Springs	4	\$1,100.00	\$1,705.00	Oak Grove	0	\$7,547.31	\$8,015.32	Phenix City First	6	\$125.00	\$1,068.33	Concord	6	\$13,213.00	\$2,416.29	Fairview #1	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Hartselle First	13	\$76,673.84	\$56,149.50	Pawnee	1	\$706.70	\$1,296.70	Philadelphia	38	\$19,603.67	\$10,878.83	Crossbridge	6	\$20,968.14	\$7,771.00	Friendship	6	\$18,309.72	\$9,077.20
Highland	4	\$4,605.51	\$475.00	Pineywood	0	\$3,000.00	\$2,473.00	Pine Grove	0	\$4,075.50	\$1,849.50	Crosscreek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Greensport	6	\$7,679.86	\$3,602.43
Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$1,563.39	Republic	13	\$11,721.20	\$7,180.80	Pittsview	0	\$0.00	\$7,946.00	Crossroads	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Gum Springs	0	\$0.00	\$300.00
La Casa	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sardis	0	\$449.08	\$1,515.57	Pleasant Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	CrossWay	0	\$4,817.51	\$0.00	Happy Home	7	\$3,712.17	\$2,499.03
Lebanon	0	\$18,886.00	\$13,407.00	Sharon	0	\$200.00	\$0.00	Seale	18	\$1,500.00	\$1,080.00	Dogwood	5	\$34,688.23	\$33,167.01	Lister Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$600.00
Liberty	1	\$427.84	\$587.84	Sharon Heights	10	\$34,341.18	\$39,092.37	Seale Road	0	\$6,811.71	\$2,891.00	Double Oak Community	0	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	Macedonia #1	0	\$3,242.99	\$2,545.00
Liberty/Lacey's Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Smoke Rise	29	\$24,999.96	\$3,267.00	Shiloh	3	\$5,072.88	\$4,226.81	Dunnnavat Faith	0	\$0.00	\$800.00	Macedonia #2	0	\$0.00	\$1,035.11
Lifepoint	0	\$43,657.47	\$2,967.50	Trafford FBC	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,283.00	Silver Run	12	\$8,808.66	\$15,641.13	El Buen Pastor	0	\$1,095.00	\$0.00	Markeeta	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Light of Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Union Chapel	2	\$4,928.82	\$9,770.89	Smiths Station	12	\$17,865.37	\$13,903.70	Enon	0	\$15,293.81	\$4,697.98	McEntyre	1	\$2,832.72	\$2,893.37
Mt Carmel	0	\$2,098.14	\$2,144.21	Waterstone	5	\$20,006.23	\$13,230.06	Summerville	4	\$0.00	\$8,171.50	Fourmile	3	\$18,749.70	\$5,401.00	Mineral Springs	0	\$2,025.56	\$1,519.14
Mt Nebo	0	\$1,632.00	\$5,534.00	North Jefferson Totals	407	\$492,364.71	\$228,830.23	United	0	\$5,279.32	\$2,884.68	Grace Montevallo	0	\$1,421.67	\$2,125.00	Moody First	10	\$45,134.87	\$24,491.97
Mt View	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Pickens	Baptism	CP	Designated	Woodland	34	\$12,993.30	\$2,774.55	Harpersville First	2	\$7,623.28	\$1,960.33	Mt Moriah	7	\$4,475.24	\$6,471.27
Mt Zion	4	\$11,405.00	\$8,210.50	Aliceville First	6	\$60,900.00	\$32,444.49	Russell Totals	351	\$318,358.74	\$180,912.84	Helena First	5	\$1,050.00	\$3,074.00	Mt Olive #1	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Canaan	14	\$36,721.98	\$16,580.07	Arbor Springs	2	\$6,129.12	\$2,138.00	Salem-Troy	Baptism	CP	Designated	Indian Springs First	1	\$9,353.99	\$5,212.00	Mt Pleasant	0	\$22,541.34	\$14,554.71
New Center	10	\$36,643.14	\$17,165.95	Bethlehem	4	\$1,020.00	\$1,460.00	Anasley	1	\$214.89	\$0.00	Klein	2	\$1,847.00	\$1,032.16	Happy Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Friendship	0	\$9,517.00	\$9,517.00	Calvary	5	\$17,802.88	\$23,039.41	Antioch	0	\$1,385.00	\$1,681.00	Liberty	37	\$230,394.41	\$78,702.93	Mt. Pleasant	0	\$2,077.77	\$0.00
New Salem	4	\$667.27	\$0.00	Carrollton	0	\$50,006.82	\$16,204.96	Banks	3	\$2,414.24	\$2,953.30	Lighthouse Community	5	\$2,116.00	\$684.00	New Beginnings Fellowship	0	\$360.00	\$878.00
Oak Forest	0	\$0.00	\$300.00	Coalfire	0	\$1,086.15	\$947.00	Bethel	0	\$1,099.79	\$0.00	Macedonia North	4	\$11,506.00	\$11,837.00	New Hope	13	\$48,111.10	\$5,592.50
Oak Park	0	\$0.00	\$145.00	Cross Roads	1	\$571.00	\$642.65	Bethlehem	0	\$0.00	\$1,254.00	Macedonia South	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope, Argo	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oak Ridge	0	\$2,341.03	\$982.00	Double Branches	0	\$260.42	\$691.05	Burning Bush Cowboy	23	\$865.92	\$0.00	Mayberry	0	\$1,202.87	\$1,797.87	New Hopeville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Parkview	0	\$85,134.99	\$32,856.33	Ebenezer	2	\$100.00	\$700.00	Bush Memorial	13	\$27,212.00	\$21,070.29	Meadow Brook	14	\$85,397.46	\$61,662.28	New Lebanon	1	\$7,280.00	\$4,218.74
Pine Ridge	4	\$7,500.00	\$3,500.00	Emmanuel	4	\$24,571.00	\$7,300.00	Calvary	0	\$2,001.98	\$1,162.22	Montevallo First	18	\$19,201.00	\$10,052.87	New Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Pines	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Ethelsville	5	\$20,932.26	\$1,524.77	Calvary	0	\$18.00	\$54.00	Mountainview	7	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	Northside Fellowship	0	\$7,716.53	\$3,135.00
Pleasant Hill	2	\$5,365.77	\$7,627.29	Fellowship	0	\$875.00	\$3,106.00	Ebenezer	1	\$198.00	\$152.00	Mt Signal	1	\$3,005.05	\$2,195.51	Oak Grove #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Valley	0	\$0.00	\$35.00	Flatwoods	0	\$21,561.58	\$13,305.75	Enon	8	\$3,000.00	\$6,238.55	Mt Zion	10	\$50,224.84	\$504.73	Oak Grove #2	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Point Mallard Pkwy.	0	\$1,800.00	\$450.00	Forest	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,550.00	Fleetwood	10	\$3,209.00	\$3,209.00	North Shelby	0	\$159,222.84	\$104,060.61	Odenville First	0	\$2,294.00	\$3,659.00
River City	0	\$300.00	\$0.00	Friendship	5	\$3,000.00	\$2,350.00	Good Hope	0	\$5,600.00	\$8,148.00	North Shelby Vietnamese	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Palestine	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rock Creek	0	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	Galilee	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Goshen	0	\$5,972.03	\$6,789.20	Northside	4	\$11,319.25	\$15,362.27	Pell City First	4	\$145,533.07	\$152,465.96
Rock Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Garden	1	\$360.00	\$4,116.00	Hales Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	(d)Pell City Second	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Ryan	4	\$6,476.09	\$9,696.96	Gordo First	17	\$22,262.68	\$9,613.16	Harmony	7	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oak Mountain	0	\$6,705.15	\$12,449.60	Pine Forest	2	\$2,747.76	\$733.50
Serenity	0	\$1,015.00	\$1,104.00	Hebron	3	\$1,500.00	\$3,440.00	Henderson	2	\$6,431.29	\$15,470.00	Pelham First	25	\$280,116.61	\$53,313.50	Pinedale First	0	\$300.00	\$300.00
Shady Grove	2	\$19,716.00	\$8,944.00	Hickory Grove	1	\$1,799.64	\$420.00	Hephzibah	15	\$7,599.30	\$5,287.88	Pleasant Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Piney Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shiloh	0	\$0.00	\$1,213.22	Highland	13	\$1,800.00	\$8,203.00	Monticello	0	\$0.00	\$655.54	Pleasant Site	0	\$5,324.90	\$6,964.45	Pleasant Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shoal Creek	20	\$55,719.35	\$20,840.00	Liberty	0	\$1,453.93	\$3,128.86	Mt Moriah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Prospect	0	\$3,347.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sixteenth Avenue	0	\$3,468.00	\$2,859.00	Mineral Springs	18	\$7,327.00	\$9,829.26	Mt Pleasant	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Providence	1	\$300.00	\$0.00	Poplar Springs	0	\$200.00	\$400.00
Soul Harbor Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Tabor	0	\$1,951.12	\$704.51	Northside	1	\$6,450.00	\$2,730.00	Riverchase	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Prescott	0	\$250.00	\$0.00
South Chapel Hill	0	\$6,967.32	\$1,095.00	Mt. Pleasant	8	\$13,206.73	\$12,988.00	Old Lebanon	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Riverside	6	\$11,516.77	\$7,974.85	Providence	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southside	10	\$59,612.00	\$37,021.50	New Salem	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Orion	1	\$0.00	\$50.00	Riverside	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Ragland First	2	\$1,367.79	\$205.38
Southwest	0	\$7,567.96	\$14,713.90	Pickensville	6	\$29,038.00	\$7,532.75	Richland	0	\$4,095.91	\$1,450.00	Shelby First	9	\$13,794.00	\$20,473.00	Red Hill	1	\$0.00	\$20.00
Stoney Acres	0	\$473.61	\$0.00	Pine Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Riverview	4	\$0.00	\$0.00	Shelby First	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Reeves Grove	0	\$0.00	\$3,801.70
The Ark	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill	0	\$1,774.20	\$5,066.00	Salem	0	\$8,758.47	\$2,189.25	Siluria	10	\$16,477.73	\$3,283.32	Refuge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Upper Room	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Reform First	1	\$15,969.07	\$6,023.40	Shady Grove	2	\$5,514.03	\$1,000.50								

ANNIE ARMSTRONG GIFTS, 2016 Top 25 Churches

- 1 Hunter Street, Birmingham \$121,779.08
- 2 Montgomery First, Montgomery \$117,458.16
- 3 Shades Mountain, Birmingham \$105,000.00
- 4 Trussville First, Birmingham \$96,596.73
- 5 Whitesburg, Madison \$77,467.30
- 6 Opelika First, Tuskegee Lee \$68,549.11
- 7 Willowbrook, Madison \$55,000.00
- 8 Lakeview, Tuskegee Lee \$47,402.19
- 9 Calvary Dothan, Columbia \$44,443.38
- 10 Headland First, Judson \$41,102.00
- 11 Moulton, Muscle Shoals \$40,783.44
- 12 Golden Springs, Calhoun \$40,533.55
- 13 Fairhope First, Baldwin \$40,019.34
- 14 Prattville First, Autauga \$38,842.46
- 15 Valleydale, Birmingham \$36,000.00
- 16 Athens First, Limestone \$35,466.14
- 17 North Shelby, Shelby \$35,441.00
- 18 Dawson, Birmingham \$35,382.00
- 19 Northport, Tuscaloosa \$33,509.41
- 20 Huntsville First, Madison \$31,320.93
- 21 NorthPark, Birmingham \$29,648.43
- 22 Jubilee, Baldwin \$26,836.00
- 23 Andalusia First, Covington \$26,732.62
- 24 Pell City First, St. Clair \$26,684.95
- 25 Lindsay Lane, Limestone \$26,667.50

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated	Church	Baptism	CP	Designated
South Shelby	30	\$26,302.23	\$5,367.43	Riverside	7	\$1,373.93	\$2,688.24
Southside	0	\$139.30	\$110.00	Seddon	19	\$7,375.00	\$868.19
Southside Montevallo	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Son Rise Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Branch	19	\$840.00	\$1,241.50	Spring Valley	3	\$17,650.27	\$11,780.06
The Church at Chelsea-Westover	53	\$32,335.47	\$3,115.00	Springville First	6	\$25,837.78	\$14,224.84
Underwood	4	\$1,829.11	\$1,944.00	St. Clair Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
University	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Steele	5	\$11,282.36	\$11,405.85
Vincent First	1	\$18,904.82	\$13,896.37	Sulphur Springs	9	\$16,200.00	\$9,792.76
Westwood	69	\$4,583.37	\$3,108.48	Taylor	5	\$1,000.00	\$835.80
Wilsonville	5	\$18,112.99	\$13,723.50	St Clair Totals	317	\$653,943.03	\$464,078.15
Wilton	9	\$22,934.55	\$5,959.33				
Shelby Totals	487	\$1,468,571.96	\$695,091.60	Sulphur Springs	Baptism	CP	Designated
				Aiken Grove	0	\$120.00	\$600.00
Sipsey	Baptism	CP	Designated	Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$25.00
Arbor Springs	9	\$5,429.00	\$6,821.32	Bethel	11	\$69,962.34	\$33,469.64
Bethabara Missionary	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	Calvary	1	\$8,356.00	\$3,410.58
Bevan Chapel	2	\$500.00	\$3,620.07	Cane Creek	2	\$0.00	\$152.00
Big Hill Missionary	2	\$582.00	\$9,743.00	Elvester	0	\$360.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Missionary	5	\$4,055.00	\$2,037.00	Empire	0	\$0.00	\$3,759.01
Dunn's Creek	0	\$3,191.47					



CHURCH REPORT FOR 2016

Calvary Heights	0	\$1,652.86	\$2,241.43
Camp Hill	12	\$8,798.88	\$3,349.00
Corner Memorial	2	\$4,471.41	\$3,285.00
Dadeville First	11	\$45,115.00	\$24,088.00
Daviston	9	\$1,313.74	\$4,208.85
Eagle Creek	1	\$7,134.51	\$3,922.00
Fellowship	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good News	0	\$3,017.75	\$1,315.00
Hackneyville	16	\$266.88	\$0.00
Hillabee	7	\$26,104.96	\$9,580.18
Horseshoe Bend	0	\$2,086.00	\$2,180.00
Jacksons Gap	26	\$15,704.00	\$12,576.86
Lake Martin	6	\$33,254.00	\$17,860.71
Lake Pointe	0	\$16,300.15	\$6,937.00
Lebanon	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain Springs	4	\$3,274.33	\$3,718.79
Mt Carmel	6	\$4,560.45	\$2,023.00
Mt Zion	12	\$7,538.56	\$6,015.50
New Beginning	1	\$1,005.07	\$0.00
New Concord	6	\$5,503.00	\$3,552.00
New Elkatchee	0	\$500.14	\$407.56
New Hope	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life, Dadeville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Pine Grove	0	\$591.55	\$486.39
New Rocky Mt	1	\$1,563.00	\$200.00
New Salem	2	\$15,185.95	\$10,446.07
Old Providence	0	\$2,200.00	\$4,226.80
Old Union	4	\$901.09	\$0.00
Or Street	20	\$13,542.88	\$4,029.21
Perryville	0	\$2,492.48	\$3,678.53
Pleasant Ridge	2	\$0.00	\$2,345.00
Restoration Ministries	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
River Road	2	\$724.24	\$1,704.24
Rock Springs	4	\$590.00	\$1,490.00
Rocky Creek	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Russell Farm	4	\$1,062.00	\$1,407.05
Sandy Creek	0	\$1,296.31	\$1,450.00
Sixth Street	6	\$29,835.25	\$19,832.59
Town Creek	0	\$0.00	\$260.00
Vertical Point	1	\$6,455.91	\$1,620.73
Wayside	7	\$17,322.28	\$14,491.19
Zion Hill	1	\$326.96	\$836.96
Tallapoosa Totals	199	\$350,210.52	\$260,737.11

Northside	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northwood Hills	10	\$12,045.86	\$4,385.00
Oak Grove	0	\$825.00	\$0.00
Oregonia	0	\$1,044.54	\$2,198.79
Philippine Globe	0	\$0.00	\$37.05
Pilgrim Rest	0	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Piney Grove	0	\$3,896.35	\$2,806.95
Praise	0	\$2,068.91	\$180.88
Ridgecrest	8	\$47,795.20	\$14,331.36
Rose Boulevard	1	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
Rosedale	3	\$10,682.51	\$7,212.86
Ruhama	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shiloh	4	\$17,921.23	\$4,492.94
Skyland Blvd.	5	\$54,050.44	\$21,447.54
Taylorville	12	\$40,133.33	\$23,989.60
Temple	0	\$878.85	\$0.00
The City of Refuge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Korean Church of the True Light	34	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Lighthouse	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscaloosa First	53	\$312,344.42	\$169,535.46
Union Grove	0	\$600.00	\$800.00
Unity	2	\$4,348.56	\$3,300.66
Valley Church	7	\$1,831.53	\$2,425.85
Valley View	44	\$52,500.00	\$48,151.02
Vance	2	\$1,298.14	\$1,573.07
Wildwood	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,550.00
Yellow Creek	2	\$2,741.95	\$0.00
Tuscaloosa Totals	470	\$1,559,236.69	\$844,090.80

Tuskegee Lee	Baptism	CP	Designated
Airview	0	\$2,689.20	\$50.00
Auburn First	0	\$1,658.46	\$13,827.66
Carville	2	\$28,208.05	\$15,501.30
Central	2	\$8,141.75	\$4,831.90
Chevacia	11	\$0.00	\$0.00
Concord	0	\$600.00	\$1,042.31
Cowboy Church of Lee County	0	\$5,172.00	\$0.00
Cubahatchie	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,050.00
East Tallassee	2	\$15,693.26	\$6,004.94
Elam	2	\$1,844.00	\$2,465.00
Farmville	3	\$12,100.00	\$6,120.31
Grace Heritage	0	\$600.00	\$0.00
High Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

Dora First	0	\$16,710.39	\$725.00
Dora Second	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dutton Hill Missionary	0	\$800.00	\$0.00
Eastside	2	\$3,586.15	\$1,702.50
Edgill Grove	16	\$16,934.74	\$1,102.75
Eldridge	1	\$2,099.00	\$7,267.14
Farmstead	7	\$80,299.00	\$12,515.49
Fern Springs	0	\$3,310.00	\$1,500.00
Friendship	0	\$1,526.39	\$3,073.39
Glory Fellowship	2	\$23,780.00	\$8,080.00
Goodsprings	0	\$100.00	\$950.00
Gorgas	0	\$0.00	\$620.00
Grace	0	\$0.00	\$535.82
Hermon	0	\$0.00	\$457.00
Jasper First	18	\$154,973.11	\$59,950.92
Kansas	0	\$3,401.76	\$650.00
Lupton First	2	\$0.00	\$420.00
Macedonia	0	\$2,536.18	\$849.00
Manchester	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Maranatha	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Carmel	7	\$2,294.00	\$464.00
Mt Joy	7	\$2,466.56	\$3,619.00
Mt Philadelphia	5	\$11,819.16	\$8,638.00
Mt Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$2,605.75
Mt Vernon	8	\$92,726.97	\$28,131.59
Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Bethel #1	1	\$1,171.50	\$1,109.55
New Canaan	0	\$10,099.21	\$3,065.05
New Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Prospect	2	\$16,977.00	\$5,235.00
New Vision	0	\$324.54	\$0.00
New Zion Missionary	0	\$3,670.10	\$8,990.14
Northside	17	\$66,286.03	\$45,551.16
Oakman Central	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakman First	1	\$0.00	\$925.00
Odom Memorial	3	\$3,723.66	\$5,701.00
Parrish First	3	\$29,053.00	\$6,727.00
Philadelphia	15	\$8,358.01	\$3,497.60
Pleasantfield	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Providence	5	\$1,904.52	\$1,586.00
Pumpkin Center	1	\$2,670.01	\$5,150.65
Samaria	2	\$0.00	\$1,822.05
Saragossa	11	\$8,597.46	\$1,482.00

West Cullman	Baptism	CP	Designated
Arkadelphia	1	\$309.13	\$409.13
Baldwin Heights	1	\$5,546.00	\$6,873.00
Beech Grove	2	\$0.00	\$800.00
Bellview Heights	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethany	3	\$22,857.51	\$12,634.20
Bethel	2	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Bethlehem West	5	\$10,156.67	\$22,715.93
Bethsadia	0	\$4,014.00	\$4,737.00
Bremen	2	\$0.00	\$300.00
Brickyard	0	\$330.25	\$3,447.29
Calvary	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central	0	\$0.00	\$274.00
City on a Hill	1	\$6,773.82	\$2,917.35
Cold Springs	0	\$0.00	\$82.25
Corinth West	0	\$1,609.02	\$2,413.52
Crosshaven	10	\$5,250.00	\$9,495.30
Cullman First	15	\$102,989.57	\$95,850.72
Damascus	1	\$896.45	\$1,101.00
East Battleground	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ebenezer	2	\$4,455.87	\$11,785.84
Emeus	42	\$900.00	\$1,540.00
Fairview West	7	\$1,265.85	\$3,610.20
Garden City	12	\$150.00	\$0.00
Good Hope	5	\$16,015.95	\$9,752.63
Harmony	1	\$4,137.70	\$4,856.86
Jones Chapel	7	\$1,200.00	\$3,546.20
Kinney Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	2	\$9,361.00	\$13,776.00
Living Faith	12	\$16,433.28	\$11,900.00
Logan	3	\$3,694.29	\$2,681.00
Macedonia	0	\$6,905.00	\$5,804.50
Missionary Grove	3	\$7,520.00	\$4,435.13
Mountain Grove	5	\$0.00	\$270.00
Mountain View	0	\$5,672.18	\$926.50
Mt Hope	1	\$4,343.92	\$529.00
Mt Joy	1	\$10,487.87	\$5,506.00
Mt Nebo	1	\$3,211.70	\$1,910.88
Mt Pleasant	6	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
New Freedom	2	\$4,775.14	\$5,948.43
New Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Prospect	4	\$300.00	\$600.00
New Union	0	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Northside	3	\$6,391.28	\$9,920.28
Panama	2	\$1,091.66	\$1,354.71
Ryans Creek	2	\$15,555.97	\$27,489.53
Salem	0	\$2,595.00	\$3,095.00
Sardis	0	\$1,139.10	\$3,695.00
Seventh Street	6	\$7,783.60	\$9,778.63
Shady Grove	1	\$0.00	\$100.00
Shelton Grove	2	\$2,168.00	\$2,861.00
Smith Lake	10	\$6,683.00	\$3,442.50
Southside	0	\$3,600.00	\$3,570.00
Spring Hill	5	\$10,901.00	\$8,514.29
St. John	0	\$525.00	\$295.00
Stouts Mountain	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sulphur Springs	1	\$1,969.97	\$2,238.74
Valley Springs	7	\$600.00	\$2,800.00
West Point	12	\$21,630.73	\$2,425.00
West Side	1	\$1,131.50	\$2,252.00
White Oak	2	\$2,230.02	\$4,250.38
West Cullman Totals	216	\$347,558.00	\$346,911.92

Grace Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Grace Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Grace Covenant	\$10,729.57	\$1,050.00	
Greater Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Greater Vision	\$1,200.00	\$5,227.93	
Heritage	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Heritage Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Huntland Missionary	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Iglesia Hispana La Esperanza	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Korean (Southside)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Lamb	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Lao New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Life Church	\$10,502.98	\$0.00	
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Living Faith Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Living Stones Temple	\$0.00	\$0.00	
(d)Messiah	\$230.00	\$0.00	
Mobile First	\$0.00	\$7,272.91	
Mountain View Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Mt Pleasant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Mt. Pleasant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Mt. Taber	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Muscodia	\$0.00	\$0.00	
My Father's House	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Myers Hill	\$0.00	\$50.00	
New Beginning	\$0.00	\$0.00	
New Covenant	\$1,100.00	\$1,195.00	
New Covenant	\$600.00	\$620.00	
New Faith	\$172.55	\$0.00	
New Grace	\$0.00	\$0.00	
New Harmony	\$0.00	\$0.00	
New Haven	\$899.00	\$0.00	
New Hope-South Avondale	\$0.00	\$0.00	
New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	
New Life Vietnamese	\$618.45	\$618.45	
New Selmont Baptist	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Oak Hill Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
One Accord	\$1,949.39	\$0.00	
Open Door	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Papertown	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Parkway	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Patterson Road	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Pine Grove	0	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Planted Oaks	\$300.00	\$0.00	
Point of Grace	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	
Redeemer	4	\$1,300.00	\$2,956.50
Renovate	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Ridgecrest Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
RiverEast	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Riverside Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Safe Haven	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	
Saved By Grace	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Second Christian Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Skyline	\$0.00	\$600.00	
Summit Crossing Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	
The Church at South East Lake	\$0.00	\$0.00	
The Church of Encouragement	\$0.00	\$0.00	
The Cornerstone	\$400.00	\$0.00	
The Neighborhood Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	
The Refuge Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	
The Vineyard	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Trace Crossing	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Trinity	\$300.00	\$0.00	
Union Grove	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Union Hill	0	\$570.13	\$0.00
Union Hill	\$77,529.50	\$6,409.92	
(d)Weatherly Heights	\$0.00	\$2,650.00	
West Side	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Whitesville	\$0.00	\$1,100.84	
Williams First	\$0.00	\$1,125.00	
Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Not Member Totals	36	\$133,649.43	\$53,718.75

Tennessee River	Baptism	CP	Designated
Agape	7	\$2,833.34	\$20,015.00
Bethany	0	\$592.05	\$0.00
Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$2,700.00
Bridgeport First	6	\$13,405.40	\$11,705.03
Calvary	8	\$61,324.78	\$1,000.00
Calvary Stevenson	10	\$1,028.38	\$1,028.35
Center Point	26	\$39,574.17	\$59,196.19
Central	1	\$3,480.24	\$304.82
Edgefield	0	\$3,570.85	\$3,000.00
Emmanuel	0	\$200.00	\$0.00
Fairfield	0	\$1,357.87	\$1,100.00
Freedom	0	\$600.00	\$100.00
Friendship	4	\$360.00	\$325.00
Halls Chapel	0	\$605.00	\$2,570.00
Harmony	1	\$1,903.12	\$2,259.12
Helton Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hollywood	1	\$2,119.00	\$1,375.00
Hopewell	5	\$5,973.40	\$1,485.77
Larkinsville	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Matthew's Memorial	0	\$716.60	\$300.00
Mt Ararat	0	\$100.00	\$453.14
Mt Carmel	2	\$1,200.41	\$10,502.21
Mt Nebo	0	\$600.00	\$900.00
Mt Pleasant	2	\$0.00	\$200.00
New Covenant	5	\$600.00	\$0.00
New Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope	3	\$0.00	\$300.00
New Life	4	\$1,599.22	\$2,274.62
Oak Grove	0	\$100.00	\$200.00
Paint Rock	10	\$10,284.18	\$7,335.71
Providence	2	\$2,415.31	\$1,600.00
Roaches Cove	1	\$2,200.00	\$2,515.00
Rudders Chapel			

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CLC hears defense of religious liberty by Samford's Westmoreland

By Michael J. Brooks
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland said religious liberty must always be defended in the United States of America.

"I believe in order, to be sure," Westmoreland said, "but I also believe in freedom. Our Baptist colleges must operate in an atmosphere of freedom to fulfill our mission."

Westmoreland was guest presenter at the spring meeting of Alabama Baptists' Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Montgomery on March 3.

In discussing the history of higher education and religious

freedom in America, Westmoreland referenced several notable developments.

He included examples from the founding of religiously affiliated colleges during the colonial era to the investment of funds from the federal government in higher education, beginning primarily in the 1960s.

It is the most recent change — the introduction of federal dollars into higher education — that has given rise to tensions related to religious liberty, Westmoreland said. "Government involvement in

higher education was born of an interest to do good and be of help," he said, "but the availability of federal support for students who attend religiously affiliated colleges and universities has created tension regarding interpretations of religious liberty."



WESTMORELAND

Over the years as federal support has grown the matter has become more complex.

He explained that in the early years of the Obama administration most student loans were

changed to direct federal control, posing a potential challenge for church-related institutions.

"While this may be good for the borrower since the interest rate is lower the fear is that the federal government may claim additional oversight of religiously affiliated institutions," he said.

"But I'm heartened by the support of many friends and the knowledge that God is in control.

"We have the greatest story in the world to tell and we must never be afraid to engage the world." ✝

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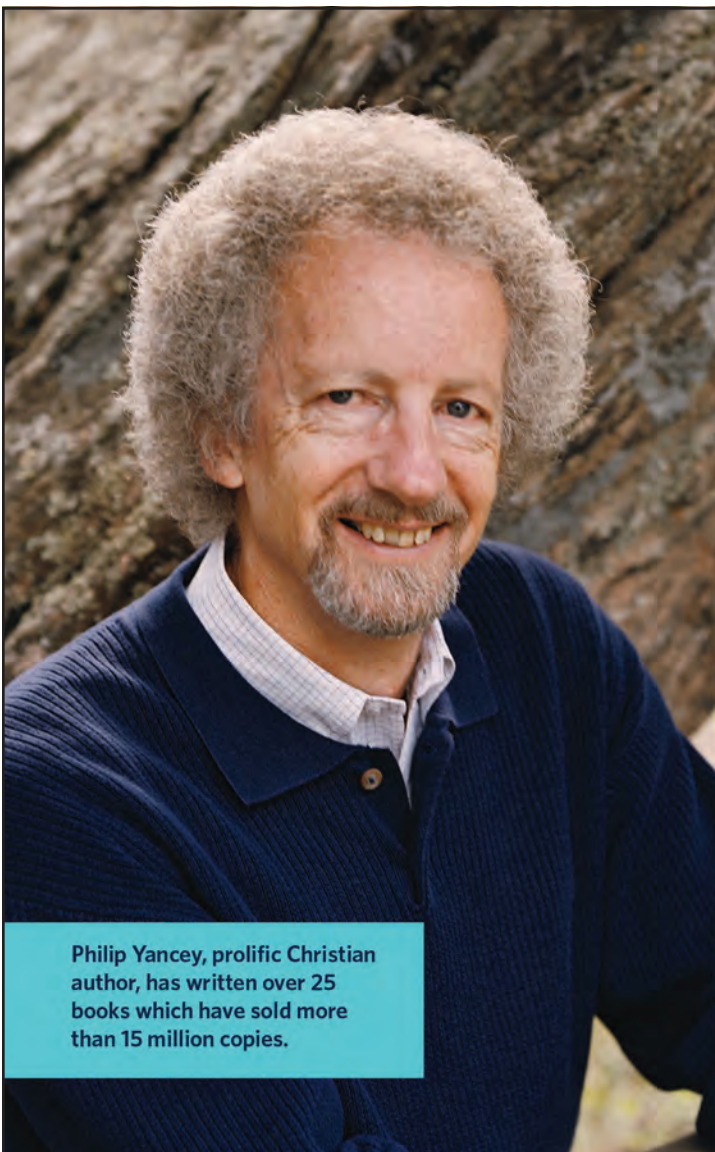


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Want to know GOD?

By Jenni Ingram
Member, First Baptist Church, Gantt

These days everything is so money-centered. If you want to take a day trip with your spouse and even just one child, be prepared to spend a minimum of \$100.

Everywhere I turn it seems there is a wonderful and worthy cause that needs my money. Whether it's a school fundraiser, a charitable organization, a political party or a church event I am constantly reminded how limited my budget is.

This got me thinking about how I could help these causes I believe in even though I do not have the finances to contribute. Then it dawned on me in a one-word revelation from heaven — pray. I can pray for them. It cost me nothing but time and He gives me a way to help.

Prayer is an open line to God. We can lay our petitions directly at the throne and at the feet of the Lord.

I am big on acronyms. So here is one that will help you pray — P: Praise, R: Repent, A: Ask, Y: Yield.

Praise is based on Psalm 100:4 — “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.”

Repent is best explained in 1 John 1:9 — “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us.”

We are told by Jesus in Luke 11:9, “Ask and it will be given to you.”

Finally yield to what God says to you.

This is the hardest of all. Even when we don't want to, we must obey what answer He gives to our prayer. Sometimes it is “yes,” sometimes it is “no” and sometimes it is “not yet.”

Be prepared and stay prayed up. ☩

Rely on GOD

Singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman: ‘trust God’ through tragedy

The career of contemporary Christian singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman has spanned 30 years marked by success and tragedy. The Paducah, Kentucky, native is the recipient of five Grammys and the most Dove Awards — 58 — from the Gospel Music Association.

He also has grieved the 2008 accidental death of his 5-year-old daughter, Maria, who he and his wife adopted from China. On March 7, Chapman, 54, released a memoir, “Between Heaven and the Real World: My Story.”

He recently talked about his career and family life.

Q: Why did you decide to tell your life story in this book, especially given that it touches so much on personal tragedy?

A: I have known for a long time that I would love to tell my story in great detail when the time felt right. I felt like it was important if I was gonna ask anyone to take the time to read my story that I owed it to them to not just talk about the high points 'cause that's not nearly the whole story.

Q: At one point you considered pursuing medicine instead of music as a career. What happened?

A: It was basically my father's encouragement. He was and is a musician and owns a music store so he said, “Music is fun, a great hobby, but very few people make a living (at it) so go to college and get a real job.” The summer before I began my freshman year of college as a pre-med major I met the person who would introduce me to Bill Gaither, who would give me my first publishing deal and kind of give me my start in pursuing music. ... I was struggling greatly with college chemistry while I was getting phone calls from mu-

sic publishers saying, “We think you're a pretty good songwriter.”

Q: You write that your first solo performance was at a pool party and you've gone on to sing at Opryland and Carnegie Hall. Did you ever hope for that kind of a career trajectory?

A: I had been part of a duo and my brother was actually a singer so that was kind of my very first solo performance without my brother. I was terrified. ... From there I got my first professional job at Opryland USA singing, actually, in a country music show there and from there all the way to Carnegie Hall in New York a couple of years ago. When you grow up in Paducah, you don't dream that big. For me, at that

point, the biggest thing I could imagine was someday performing at the Paducah civic center so Carnegie Hall was beyond kind of my wildest dreams for sure.

Q: You have written about what it was like to lose your 5-year-old daughter, Maria, in 2008 in a vehicle accident. You prayed at the

hospital for God to bring her back to life. How do you deal with prayers that seem to go unanswered?

A: It's part of why I'm thankful I got to write the book because I got to finally share in great detail what that journey was like and how desperate I was and determined that God was gonna answer that prayer or I wasn't leaving the room. ... I believe it's a process of having to trust God. It really comes down to a matter of choice to say “I'm going to trust You, as foolish as it may feel right now. But I have nowhere else to turn.”

Living between heaven and the real world — that's kind of where I feel like I am right now, longing for heaven more than ever now because I believe that's where my



Steven Curtis Chapman

Photo by Jeremy Cowart

daughter is. And yet (I am) still living in a very real world with unfixable things and brokenness.

Q: As a writer since about 15, how have your songs, such as “Spring is Coming,” reflected your personal life?

A: I have always just set my life stories and my faith journey to music. “Spring is Coming” is the song that very, very clearly reflects standing literally at the grave of my 5-year-old daughter with our tears watering the ground, of believing because of our faith that it's not the end of the story, that even though we're in the hardest winter we ever could have imagined experiencing that we really believe spring is coming.

Q: How have you managed being a Christian celebrity — getting attention for yourself when you are trying to draw attention to Jesus instead?

A: It's a real paradox. ... It took me wrestling through that process and deciding if I ever come to a place of just being really comfortable with that, that's probably the most dangerous place to be. ... And keeping myself surrounded by people who are not impressed with me as a celebrity but who care about my heart and my family and my faith and will encourage me in that.

Q: You also have written songs for other Christian artists. Do you have a favorite?

A: I wrote a song with Mark

Hall for the group Casting Crowns, a song called “Voice of Truth.” Mark came to me with the verses for that song when they were making their first album and said, “I don't know what to do with the choruses.” I wrote the chorus and I said, “What do you think about this?” And I love that song. He and I, in fact, toured together and whenever we get a chance we love to sing that song together.

Q: You're back on tour, still writing. Are you considering retirement anytime soon or do you have other plans?

A: Music, singing my songs, sharing my story, encouraging people, moving an audience with the music that comes out of me is such a part of who I am it's hard to imagine a day when I wouldn't do that in some way.

With that I would say my wife would love it very much if I would begin thinking about something that maybe you would call semi-retirement. I feel like there's a lot left to do and songs to write and life to live. I love writing with other people. I want to write a Broadway musical. My wife and I love doing things together. We've talked about doing a television program.

Unfortunately, I have lots of ideas still swirling around in my head that are probably gonna keep me active for as long as people will put up with me. (RNS)

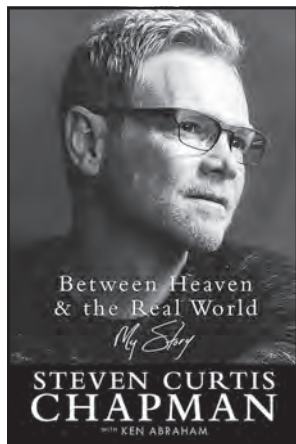




Photo by Susan Whitley/NAMB

North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionary James Roberson (right) spends time engaging his neighbors in Brooklyn, New York. He encourages people he meets with his infectious personality and is quick to tell people the source of his joy — his relationship with Christ.

'Holy Spirit thing'

Atlanta couple sees their Brooklyn church plant grow

Two years before Rich Bowman met Bridge Church Pastor James Roberson, he had been an atheist. Shortly after he had professed faith in Christ, Bowman and his wife, Emmy, still had not joined a church. After finding one of Roberson's blog posts online, he contacted Roberson.

The Bowmans appeared to be very introverted.

Both were "super quiet," never interjecting during the Brooklyn church's City Group Bible studies. Today, Emmy Bowman is the primary person Bridge Church women seek for discipleship. And her husband will be the pastor of the Bridge Church's first church plant in Flatbush, New York, in September.

When Roberson sees the couple in action, he can only explain it one way — "It's a Holy Spirit thing."

Getting to Brooklyn, a New York City borough, from Atlanta was a challenge for Roberson and his wife, Natarsha. James Roberson recalls sitting in an Atlanta parking lot with his wife as they discussed their feeling about a new ministry pursuit.

James Roberson recalls her saying, "I'm not going to lie to you, if you had told me that God was calling us to Uganda I'd be happier with that. New York City is the last place I want to go."

Natarsha Roberson did agree to visit Brooklyn with her husband as they wrestled with discerning God's will. On that trip they randomly met a young woman who had recently picked up a Bible and wanted to learn it but needed a teacher. Eventu-

ally that young woman professed faith in Christ and joined a Bridge Church Bible study.

After that initial random encounter, Natarsha Roberson had a new understanding.

"I can't believe that God has given us the opportunity to serve Him here," she said.

They arrived in Brooklyn on Feb. 6, 2013, with no team, no relationships and no home. A 600-square-

foot apartment became their first meeting place for City Group Bible studies and home. Next they needed participants.

So the 6-foot-2-inch former collegiate defensive football tackle took his gregarious personality to the streets of Brooklyn.

"When I came up here I just found myself walking around, praying and dreaming," James Roberson said, asking God to open doors.

And he kept walking until Bridge Church launched April 20, 2014, with 180 people in attendance. The former football player wept as he considered what had transpired in 14 months. After arriving with only their obedience, God blessed them with a church in Brooklyn that mostly reaches Millennials whose parents and grandparents

came from Caribbean nations.

"It was one of those days when you go, what happened?" James Roberson said.

Part of what happened was that James Roberson received a startup grant from the North American Mission Board made possible by Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds to start Bridge Church.

"You can't start a church without resources," James Roberson said. (BP)



'JESUS' film hits 1,500th translation; reaches millions

For one morning a week for quite some time both women had been nothing but consistent.

Riah had been faithfully working to help keep up the home of Yvonne Cantwell, an International Mission Board missionary in Southeast Asia. And Cantwell had been faithfully sharing the gospel and Bible stories with Riah as they built a relationship.

"She is from a UPG [unreached people group]," Cantwell said. "I speak her national language but not her heart language."

Riah was "friendly ... but she stayed loyal to the religion of her people," Cantwell said.

Until one day, that is, when Riah came in talking about a radio program she had heard — one that talked about the lineage of Jesus — and Cantwell remembered she had the "JESUS" film app on her phone.

"I searched the app and found they had short clips from the 'JESUS' film in so many languages — including Riah's heart language," Cantwell said. "That day before she went home, I showed her 'The Beginning' clip."

Captivated by the story

Riah was captivated with the story of creation and the fall, of Abraham and the sacrifice and the prophets telling of the coming Messiah, Cantwell said.

"She has not yet turned from darkness to light but these 'JESUS' film clips in her heart language ... are helping her along this journey," Cantwell said.

Riah's story is one of countless thousands the Jesus Film

Project is celebrating as it marks its 1,500th language translation in March, said Josh Newell, the project's director of marketing and communications.

'Big milestone'

The latest translation — into Daasanach, a language spoken by an ethnic group inhabiting parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan — is part of the project's initiative to reach the world's remaining 865 language groups that have 50,000 or more speakers.

It's a "big milestone," Newell said — "a celebration of a partnership from Bible translators to church planters to individuals who use it ... to reach people from far-flung corners to city high rises."

Multiply those partnerships across 1,500 languages and 37 years, and "you just have to sit back and say, 'God, You're so amazing,'" he said.

The 'JESUS' film, based on the Gospel of Luke, was initiated by the late Bill Bright, co-founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru), who had a vision to show the film in every country.

About 2,000 theaters in the United States first aired the movie in 1979 and it wasn't long before the Jesus Film Project began to translate it into other languages.

Since then the film has been used to make 7.5 billion gospel presentations in 230 countries, with more than 490 million people indicating a decision for Christ after viewing it. (BP)

EDITOR'S NOTE — Names changed for security reasons.



BP photo

A group of kids in South Asia watch a version of the 'JESUS' film adapted for children. Since the film was first released in 1979, it has been reworked and adapted many times for different audiences.