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# The PROCLAIMER

Polk-Haralson Baptist Association Newsletter

## February 2024

### ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST

*Kevin McKoy*



Can you believe January is already over? Is it me or are our calendars speeding up? Here is the deal, whatever you're going to do with your life you'd better get on it because time is running out.

*\*Did I hear an Amen?! \**

The good news is this: **Today we get to start over.**

God brings us life in bite sized pieces, in hours and days and months. Every day He just says, let's wipe the slate clean and let's start with a brand new day.

It's like starting over. And that's good news. The key is this, you've got to have a plan. You don't just wake up and say, "I hope it's going to be better today." You've got to have a plan to make it better.

I started thinking about that for my own life - what do I want to be better in my own life? I decided that - one area I really want to improve in is - Prayer.

Some of us have a pretty good idea what that is and some of us do not.

Some of us are not sure if this prayer thing works and some of us believe that it does.

And I just want you to know that I still have a lot to learn about prayer. In fact I learned some tremendous things over this Summer praying about this new ministry role. I

especially learned some things about myself when it comes down to this issue of prayer.

Here is one thing I know – **Prayer does make an incredible difference in our lives when prayer is authentic.** And that is why I believe it is such a vital area for us to explore and experience as a network of partnering churches - together.

Now, you will not get every one of your questions about prayer answered in this article. But, what I hope do is to challenge each of us - **to just Pray.**

If you have never prayed before, that you would begin to try it.

If you have prayed in the past, but now you don't pray, that you would return to that.

If you already pray, that you would learn more about it and what it means to connect more with God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ ***“IF My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”***

**IF CHANGES EVERYTHING...**

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**2024**  
**- PASTORS DAY AT THE CAPITOL -**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**7:30 AM TO 2:00 PM**  
**FLOYD ROOM, SLOPPY FLOYD BUILDING, ATLANTA**  
**FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, GO TO:**  
**GABAPTIST.ORG/PUBLICAFFAIRS**

**SPEAKERS:**

**KELVIN COCHRAN**   **JIM GARLOW**   **MATT SHARP**   **CHLOE COLE**

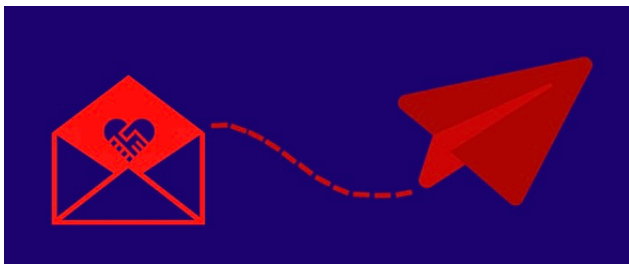
**SAVE THE DATE**

### **PASTORS DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Once again, we're combining the Legislative Prayer Breakfast into the annual Pastors Day at the Capitol! We encourage you to join us at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and 12:00 noon for lunch on February 6th, to hear from legislators, public policy experts and activists from across the nation. We will also participate in a tour of the State Capitol before lunch.

Every legislator, pastor, pastor's wife, and ministry leader is invited to discover how to navigate the legislative landscape for the sake of advancing a witness for the gospel. Please feel free to invite your House and Senate members or other state office holders to come and register on the same link. There will be no cost for any of the meals for the state leaders.

REGISTRATION INFO



# The PROCLAIMER has gone Digital!

As you can see, we have taken The Proclaimer monthly newsletter of the Association to a digital platform. This will help us to share information to all of those within our partner church families without the growing expense of printing and mailing. Printed copies can still be requested by contacting the [Association Office](#).

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## SAVE THE DATE...

We are already getting excited for VBS 2024!

Join us for a VBS Jump Start Clinic on Thursday, February 29th at FBC Buchanan from 6:30-7:30PM.

This jump start clinic is for Pastors, Children Ministry Leaders and VBS Directors. Our team is already working hard to have different vendors/materials available for you. We hope this gets you excited for how the Lord will use your VBS this year!

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## 2024 Disaster Relief Introduction/Recertification Trainings

Join the Georgia Baptist family in Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing in times of crisis! Dates, locations, and online registrations are available on the website: [gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/](http://gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/) by clicking Learn More, on the “Become a Credentialed SBDR Volunteer” area.

Register and invite your friends!

Cartersville FBC - Jan 19-20, Villa Rica FBC - March 22-23.

Online registration deadline is the Sunday before the training.

REGISTRATION INFO



### **PHBA Pastors Roundtables**

Beginning this month (February), the PHBA will host a monthly Roundtable to provide Pastors opportunities to discuss key topics that directly impact our ministry leadership. Because We Are Better Together, these gatherings will be specifically designed to provide practical helps and meaningful discussion time.

Topic for February: **Building A Culture of Prayer**

Date: **Monday, February 12**

Time: 11:30AM-12:30PM

Place: PHBA Ministry Office

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## **All Students / Two Opportunities**

What is a DNOW?

A Disciple Now (DNOW) weekend is a youth retreat designed for 6th -12th graders.

There are several elements to a DNOW weekend:

***Worship, Bible Study, Missions and Recreation.***

This atmosphere is created to take students to a deeper level in their relationship with Christ, connect them with local mission opportunities, and help them enjoy the fellowship of other believers.

This Year, DNOW 2024 gives Students two Opportunities to Experience God.

**Choose one OR both!**



EMAIL WILL



REGISTER





- 5 PHBA Executive Mtg, Baptist Tabernacle @ 6:30PM
- 6 Pastors Day at the Capital
- 12 PHBA Pastor's Roundtable, 11:30AM, PHBA Office
- 25-26 GBMB Evangelism Cong, FBC Conyers
- 29 VBS Jump Start Clinic, FBC Buchanan @ 6:30PM



- 3-10 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
- 4 Haralson WMU Spring Mtg, New Canaan @ 6PM
- 11 PHBA Pastor's Roundtable, 6:30PM, PHBA Office
- 15-17 DNow 2024 @ FBC Cedartown
- 21 Spring Inspirational Meeting, FBC Tallapoosa
- 22-23 Disaster Relief Training, FBC Villa Rica
- 23 DNow 2024 @ Corinth, Bremen
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday (PHBA Office Closed)
- 31 Easter Sunday



**Homework Helpers** each Thursday beginning February 1st from 4:15-6pm! Public, private, and homeschool students are welcomed but **MUST PRE REGISTER** by TEXTING 770-846-7760 before 8am on Thursday morning of each week so our volunteers will be prepared and we will have enough supplies on hand. Elementary students can get help with the homework assignments and study sheets they bring with them.

Older students may study individually or get together with a group to study or work on projects.

Parents must come in the first time to fill out an information and permission form. An adult must remain in in the building with children 2nd grade and under. Students must bring their own assignments or study materials.

Basic school supplies and a snack will be provided.

WIFI and computers will be available.

When students have finished their school work they may choose an art or recreation activity.

A \$2 donation is requested to help with supplies, but is not required.

**Camp Antioch Library** is open for browsing and check out every Thursday from 4:15-6pm and other times when requested.

Our library has picture books for younger readers, classics and favorites for elementary through high schoolers, and a large collection of adult Christian fiction by well known Christian writers (especially for women). It is our goal to provide a variety of books that are interesting and entertaining, but also wholesome and pleasing to God.

**Valentine's Party** for Day Campers will be Saturday, February 10th from 10am-noon.

This will be a special occasion \*held at and hosted by Collard Valley Baptist Church (65 Collard Valley Church Loop Cedartown).\*

Our theme will be "Jesus Loves You Snow Much". As always, there will be a Praise and Worship Time, a Bible Study Time, Crafts related to the theme, and FUN activities!

**Winter Break Fun With Friends Playdate** will be Thursday, February 22nd from noon-2pm. Lunch will be served and campers can enjoy some good fellowship and fun activities with their Camp Antioch friends.

### **FOR ADULTS WHO LIKE TO SING HYMNS...**

I am tossing around the idea for a morning "hymn sing" from traditional hymnals once per month in the chapel. Talk to your singing friends and let me know if you are interested by TEXTING Janice at 770-846-7760.

If you don't like to text, call and leave a message.

-Would you like to volunteer with our student programs at Camp Antioch?

We would love to have you!

All adult volunteers must pass our criminal background check. See or TEXT Janice at 770-846-7760.

-Would you like to help provide snacks for our campers? TEXT 770-846-7760

Follow us on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/campantioch](http://www.facebook.com/campantioch) for dates, times, and registration info.

**Mailing Contributions for Camp Antioch?**



Make checks to "Camp Antioch"

Mail to:

Camp Antioch

3900 Antioch Rd

Cedartown, GA 30125

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## New GBMB Staff

Craig Ward is the new Pastor Wellness Catalyst for Northwest Georgia.

He is married to Anne, and they will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this month. They have four adult children. Three of whom actively serve in his last church, and one who is actively serving in the United States Army.

He also has two adorable grandchildren. Craig has a Bachelor's Degree from Carson-Newman University and a Masters and Doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a student pastor and associate pastor for five years and has pastored for nearly 30 years in 3 churches in TN. He recently began serving with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board November 1, 2023.

Craig is thoroughly enjoying getting to know the pastors in Northwest Georgia and hopes to build relationships that will enable him to minister to each of you. In his free time, Craig enjoys jogging, working out, and snuggling with the grandkids in his recliner.

### **Craig Ward**

#### **Pastor Wellness Catalyst (Northwest)**

Georgia Baptist Mission Board

4295 Brogdon Exchange

Suwanee, GA 30024-3980

Email: [cward@gabaptist.org](mailto:cward@gabaptist.org)

Mobile: 706-264-1050

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**NAMB**

**WOMEN'S EVANGELISM  
CONFERENCE**

If you are a woman who leads in ministry, whether on staff or in a volunteer capacity, this event is for you!

Join us for the first Women's Evangelism Conference at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Georgia, April 8 & 9, 2024! As followers of Jesus, God has called us to share the hope of the gospel and to make disciples in our specific contexts. This two-day conference will encourage and equip you to create a culture of evangelism in your ministry and reignite your passion to invite people to know Jesus and train others to do the same.

[CONFERENCE INFO](#)

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## CHURCH FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

Have You Gotten Your Tickets?

Get Your Early Bird Tickets Before Prices Increase on January 6th!

Cartersville FBC, March 21, 2024

The Church Financial Conferences are back with new and improved breakout sessions that are personalized to your team's needs. Join us at the [CFC24](#) nearest to your church to learn about relevant topics ranging from how church members can tithe using their IRA, to tips for growing your church's reserve funds. Joining Georgia Baptist Foundation seminar speakers again this year are church finance expert, [Tony Neal](#), and the [GuideStone Financial Resources](#) team.

New this year, during dinner you will have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A with church leaders who will answer some of the most common questions about church finance. Register before January 6th to receive the early bird rate of \$20. Ticket prices include admission, a conference packet, dinner, and more.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

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## **GBMB EVANGELISM CONFERENCES 2024**

FBC Conyers February 25 & 26, 2024, then at Northside Baptist Tifton on March 10 & 11, 2024. If you want to get on the list to stay connected with information on the Georgia Baptist Evangelism Conferences as soon as it comes available, enter your email below.

[MORE INFO](#)

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**REGISTRATION OPEN!**

*Georgia Baptist Women's*  
**SPRING  
EVENT**

AN EXPERIENCE FOR  
WOMEN OF ALL AGES

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Featuring  
*Chrystal Evens Hurst*



[georgiabaptistwomen.org/springevent](https://georgiabaptistwomen.org/springevent)

**FIVE  
WAYS**

To Pray for the Middle East Conflict



## PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

The intense conflict in the Middle East is a reason for Christians to pray. Thousands of people have been killed since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

As part of its ongoing ministry assignment of assisting churches through elevating the ministry of prayer, the SBC Executive Committee has created the [prayer guide](#) linked at the bottom of this article. The guide is also available in [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#) and [Korean](#).

Would you pray with us as we ask God to comfort those who are grieving, bring peace in the Middle East and guide political leaders to act with Godly wisdom?

Please join in praying through:

- Romans 13 where we learn that God has given governing authorities to protect the innocent and bring justice to evil doers.
- Romans 9:15-16 as we ask God to show compassion on those suffering because of the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza.
- Micah 6:8 as we learn how the Lord desires for humanity to live.
- Psalm 34:14 where God's people are called to pursue peace.
- John 14:6 as we ask the Lord to draw Israelis and Palestinians to Jesus Christ.

May God bring peace to the Middle East.

[DOWNLOAD GUIDE](#)



## Churches Without Pastors

Corner Stone Baptist Chapel, Waco

Lake Creek Baptist Church, Cedartown

New Harmony Baptist Church, Cedartown

Southside Baptist Church, Cedartown

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# Ministry Positions

*Second Baptist Cedartown, Cedartown*

SBC is hiring a part-time position of Ministry Assistant for Administration. People can contact Pastor Justin Carter with their resumé if interested.

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*Bro. Kevin McKoy, Associational Mission Strategist - [kevin@polkharalson.net](mailto:kevin@polkharalson.net)*

*Cindy Freyberg, Finance Secretary - [cindy@polkharalson.net](mailto:cindy@polkharalson.net)*

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