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The PROCLAIMER

Polk-Haralson Baptist Association Newsletter

Summer 2024

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST

Kevin McKoy



The marathon of summer activities has been in full swing. As you work to keep people connected amid vacations and holidays, I pray that the Lord uses this time of the year to remind us of the value of genuine fellowship. I have truly enjoyed getting to visit with many of our churches during their Vacation Bible School events! I am just sorry that time has not allowed for me to drop in on more of them.

Among the many other things scheduled for

me this Summer, I was allowed to attend my very first Southern Baptist Convention. There have been more than a fair share of “comments” about how I was able to be in SBC life for so long without already attending. I am very thankful that PHBA provided the means for me to attend this year’s gathering earlier in June in Indianapolis. It was also great to be joined by 6 of our PHBA pastors as they represented their churches.

It was a bit overwhelming as more than 11,000 fellow baptists were registered - on just

the first day! But, every time I get to be with other church leaders from across our country, I am reminded of a few things.

First, I am reminded that we are not alone in this work. Churches of all sizes and differing contexts are working together to accomplish this work of making disciples. Secondly, I am reminded that God is at work among His people all over the world. A truly inspiring portion of the convention meeting was the IMB Sending Celebration where we heard 83 new missionaries share about their ministry work around the globe. Finally, I am reminded that we get to serve in the best place with the best churches and the best people. You may think I am biased or that I am exaggerating, but the truth is that God placed us right here, because this is the best place for us to serve. I am extremely grateful for you and for the privilege of serving you.

As preparations are already underway for the 2025 SBC in Dallas, TX where celebrations are expected to commemorate the 200th year of the Cooperative Program, here are a few links to help you be better informed from this past year's happenings:

Watch each Session from Indy: <https://sbcannualmeeting.net/>

Read the Wrap-Up Article from Baptist Press: <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/wrap-up-sbc-officer-elections-feature-many-candidates-several-runoff-contests/>

As Southern Baptist churches we have the amazing opportunity to partner for missions and ministry in so many ways. Doctrinal Integrity continues to be a hallmark of who we are, but so is the autonomy of the local body of believers. I am thankful that despite our differences, we get to serve together. When we have disagreements, we can and should be able to work through them for the sake of our Gospel witness and our love for one another. Even when our Convention has made the hard decision to part ways with churches over doctrinal issues or practices, we need to remember that we are to move on peaceably. Our only enemy is Satan, and he will use anything to gain a foothold. Let us not allow him to stir up strife among brothers and sisters.

This summer many of you will be engaged in ministry through VBS, camps, and mission trips. I pray that the Lord is honored through your service, and that the lost come to know Him as you share the Gospel. What a blessing it will be when we hear of decisions for salvation and baptism as the summer progresses!

Visit our VBS page: <https://www.polkharalson.net/find-vbs-2024>

I pray that whole families come to know Christ and are disciplined through your church. We do not yet know what God will do through our simple obedience to serve His church and our communities.

Great things are happening, but we have got so much more to do. So please do not stop your involvement with the PHBA. I am very excited about our upcoming Back to School Prayerwalk on Saturday, July 27th. We are reaching out to the school principals and administrators, but it would also be a good idea for your church to contact your assigned primary location to let them know about our Prayer Walking.

See the list of participating churches and partnered schools below.

We will be emailing a prayer guide to every pastor, plus it will be available to download from our website (<https://www.polkharalson.net/prayerwalk2024>) so please make copies and distribute those to your people as they prayerwalk the schools.

Let's get ready to celebrate all that God is doing through this season of ministry. We really are...

Better Together!



2024 PHBA School PrayerWalk		
School	Primary Partner Church	Secondary Partner Church
Bremen Academy	The Refuge	Journey Fellowship
Bremen High School	Journey Fellowship	
Bremen Middle School	The Refuge	Journey Fellowship
Buchanan Elementary School	Corinth Baptist Church	
Buchanan Primary	Corinth Baptist Church	
Cedartown High School	Union Grove Baptist Church	Lime Branch Baptist Church
Cedartown Middle School	Pine Bower Baptist Church	FBC Cedartown
Cherokee Elementary School	Collard Valley Baptist Church	
Covenant Christian School	Lime Branch Baptist Church	FBC Cedartown
Eastside Elementary School	Live Oak Baptist Church	
Haralson County High School	Mt Zion East Baptist Church	FBC Tallapoosa, Refuge, Prov
Haralson County Middle School	New Plainview	Providence & Waco
Jones Elementary School	Waco Baptist Church	Journey Fellowship
Northside Elementary School	FBC Cedartown	
Providence Elementary School	Journey Fellowship	
Rockmart High School	FBC Rockmart	Victory Baptist Church
Rockmart Middle School	Victory Baptist Church	
Tallapoosa Preschool	FBC Tallapoosa	
Tallapoosa Primary	Open Door Baptist Church	FBC Tallapoosa
Temple Elementary School	Journey Fellowship	
Temple High School	Journey Fellowship	
Temple Middle School	Journey Fellowship	
Van Wert Elementary School	FBC Rockmart	
West Haralson Elementary School	Providence Baptist Church	FBC Tallapoosa
Westside Elementary School	Victory Baptist Church	FBC Cedartown
Youngs Grove Elementary School	Youngs Grove Baptist Church	Wimberly Hill

Find Your VBS 2024





Students...

Engage Polk will be an event where students will come together to worship and to be discipled. This will be a kick-off back to school focus on Saturday, August 10 at Victory Baptist, Rockmart.



We are adding more...

Be sure to check back on the website often as we are adding pages to help resource all of the ministries within the Association.



- Our [Resource Page](#) has links to past training videos
- Past issues of [The Proclaimer](#) can be accessed

- [Find A VBS page](#)



- 7** Religious Liberty Sunday
- 23** Finance Team Meeting
- 25** Leadership Team Meeting
- 27** School Prayerwalk



- 6** Executive Meeting, TBA
- 10** Engage Polk, Victory (1:30-7pm)



Camp Director: Janice Stewart

There is so much happening at Camp Antioch and we can only say, "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!" Psalms 118:23

On Mondays in April and May we offered two well attended American Sign Language Classes (morning and afternoon sessions). Both sessions had full enrollments of both adults and young people with waiting lists.

We offered an American Sign Language week of Day Camp in June with the theme of “God’s Beautiful World in ASL” planned specifically for children. The ASL Day Camp was presented in a similar format to a Vacation Bible School with Bible lessons, memory verses, crafts, and rhythmic “cheers”, all in sign language. (Please note that about half of the kids who come to our day camps are from the community and are unchurched.)

Our instructor, Dr. Adonia K. Smith, is a deaf community member, educator, author, and deaf advocate. She taught fun, high energy, creative lessons about signs and sentence structure and also about deaf culture, which is very important to understanding and using the language.

Our Camp Antioch Sign Language classes brought in a newly released The Deaf Missions “Jesus” movie to the West Cinema in Cedartown. It was a sold out, packed house! The movie beautifully presented the gospel of Christ in American Sign Language with all deaf actors. Subtitles were in English. Deaf people and their hearing friends came from all over north Georgia and other states to attend.

More American Sign Language classes are being planned for this fall!

Our regular Day Camp season is also in full swing this summer! We are offering weekday day camps and Saturday day camps with a variety of themes every week. Some of our themes include:

- “Cowboys and Plowboys” (about farming, ranching, and agriculture)
- “Kids in the Kitchen...Gardening” (with Mrs. Sue Cuzzort of Farm Bureau)
- “Visual Arts” (with a real artist, Mrs. Cathy Campbell teaching painting)
- “Safety and First Aid for Kids” (led by 1st responders and medical professionals)
- “Mix and Match Week” (various fun topics)

Monday: “Wild Georgia” with Daniel Gray, Department of Natural Resources

Tuesday: “Pet Care” with Sargent Mike Stewart and K-9 Officer Thor of RPD

Other Days: Science, Art, and Music fun

- “Sewing” (back by popular demand from last summer! Taught by Mrs. Rita Carter)
- “Georgia Pollinator Count” (learning about and counting butterflies for University of Georgia)

We hope you will join us for some learning fun that ALWAYS reflects Jesus!

Camp Antioch has many NEEDS for supplies to use with the kids, basic “housekeeping” supplies, handyman and maintenance work.



TEXT Janice at 770-846-7760 (quickest response) for info, to volunteer, or donate supplies.

Follow us at [Facebook](#) for our most updated events.

Mail financial contributions to:

Camp Antioch *make checks to “Camp Antioch”
3900 Antioch Road
Cedartown, GA 30125

Unit Director: Jeff Carter

DR has been ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

In June, 2 weeks in Florida cutting trees, 3 weeks in Kentucky cutting trees serving those affected by tornados.

July preparing for 3 weeks in Iowa doing flood relief.



As Hurricane Beryl comes ashore in Texas Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief stands

ready to head over there bringing assistance as needed.

We have a truck, recovery trailer and 2 volunteers on the road heading to northern Iowa to assist with historical flooding from a couple weeks ago. Soon the rest of the team will fly in to start Bringing Help, Hope and Healing.



Thanks to the PHBA, individuals, and churches for supporting disaster relief financially. A SPECIAL thanks to everyone who prays for us. GOD bless.

Operation Christmas Child

We have been praying fervently for the Lord to raise up laborers to join our local Operation Christmas Child team in the area as we are seeking to increase awareness of the ministry. Building a more robust team in our area could lead to a 40% increase in the number of children reached for Christ in just a few years.

If you would like to talk with us more about the opportunities, please contact Gina Brown ginatoo@yahoo.com or fill out a volunteer interest form at



<https://myocc.samaritanspurse.org/volunteer/vif>

Also, we are going to have shoebox recipient who received a shoebox as a child in Cambodia speak at our Project Leader Workshop on September 7 at Fairview Baptist Church from 2 - 4:30. We hope you can join us.

Gina Brown

GA Highlands Area Coordinator

Operation Christmas Child



SPARK

CONFERENCE



THE TOTAL CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

Sunday, September 22

West Rome Baptist Church, Rome

thesparkconference.com/2024

Cost: \$15 Per Person



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Thom Rainer

Thom S. Rainer is a renowned church leader, author, and consultant, currently serving as the founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online resource platform for church leaders. He previously held the positions of President and CEO at LifeWay Christian Resources and was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His expertise in church health led him to establish the Rainer Group, a consulting firm that has guided numerous churches and organizations. A prolific author, Rainer has contributed more than two dozen books to the field, including influential works such as "I Am a Church Member" and "Autopsy of a Deceased Church."

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS:

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

- Church Budgeting and Financial Issues
- Safety and Security at Your Church

COLLEGIATE

- Effectively Engaging 18-25 Year Olds in the Local Church

COUNSELING MINISTRY

- Grief Care Giving
- Navigating Loss: What To Do When You Don't Know

What To Do

DISASTER RELIEF

- Disaster Relief in the 21st Century

DISCIPLESHIP

- Why Groups Matter: Small Group & Sunday School Training
- Winning the Church Back to Men
- The State of Manhood
- Key to Multiplying Gospel Impact Through Your Senior Adult Ministry

- First Impressions and Guest Services

- Fears in Disciple-making
- New Member Connection and Assimilation

- Open Your Church to Deaf People

- Teaching/Leading an Adult Class or Group

EVANGELISM

- The Power of Prayer in Evangelism

- The Five-Star Evangelistic Leader

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

- Artificial Intelligence and Your Ministry: The New Fuel for

- Efficiency and Impact

MISSION GEORGIA

- Navigating Trauma in the Church

MISSIONS

- Steps to Recognize and Raise Up Missional

- Leaders in Your Church

- Getting Ready to Go

NEXT GEN - KIDS

- Babysitter vs Influencer

- Leading a Child to Christ

- Starting a Special Needs Ministry in Your Church

NEXT GEN - STUDENTS

- Six Things Every Volunteer Needs to Know to Work with Teenagers

- Navigating Best Practices for Discipling Teenagers

- Beyond Meat: Helps for those that lead youth Bible study

PASTOR WELLNESS

- Four Keys to a Healthy Church

- UNLEASH: 5 Strategies for Shaping a Church That's Reaching,

- Discipling, and Deploying Young Leaders

- Deacon Ministry Foundations

- Current Trends and Common Practices in Turn-Around Churches

- Dealing Effectively with Church Conflict

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Protecting Evangelism and Missions through Religious Freedom

- Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church

WOMEN

- Five Essential Elements for Leading Women in the Local Church

- Women in Ministry

WORSHIP & MUSIC

- Harmonizing Hearts: The Art of Being a Great Worship and Music Leader

- Sound & Vision: Elevating Worship Experiences Through Audio, Visual,

- and Livestream Mastery

SPARK 2024 Schedule

3:30 PM - Doors Open/Registration/Check In

4:15 PM - Inspirational Rally w/ Thom Rainer

5:30 PM - Light Dinner

6:15 - 7:15 PM - Breakout #1

7:30 - 8:30 PM - Breakout #2

8:30 PM - Dismiss



Georgia Baptist

We have assembled a diverse team of practicing leaders prepared to give you best ministry practices in their field of expertise. Every part of the gathering - from our keynote speaker to our SPARK breakout sessions - has been intentionally designed to equip and inspire your leaders.

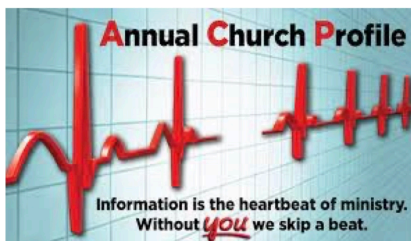
Who is SPARK for?

Lay Leaders, Childrens' Leaders, Womens' Ministry Leaders, Mens' Ministry Leaders, Missions Coordinators, Student Pastors, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors... anyone involved in ministry and equipping.

Everyone can benefit!

It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry, there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level!

[Register Here](#)



In August, every PHBA church will receive, via USPS mail and email, a letter from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board that includes Annual Church Profile (ACP) completion instructions, with the paper form and an online link to the forms, your church's username, password, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The letter should contain the ACP statistical questions and have all current organization and leadership data prefilled in the provided forms. The deadline for completion is October 15, 2024.



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](#)



PHBA Churches Without Pastors

Lake Creek Baptist Church, Cedartown
 New Harmony Baptist Church, Cedartown
 Southside Baptist Church, Cedartown

PHBA Ministry Positions Available

Corinth Baptist, Bremen

Part-time Worship Leader. Contact Pastor Barry @ barrytaylor@cbbcbremen.org

Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist, Dallas

Part-time Pianist. Contact Pastor Derrick @ 404.867.7459

Corner Stone Baptist Chapel

PT Worship Leader. Contact Pastor Dave @ David.pollard@raymondjames.com

Calvary Baptist, Bremen

In need of a Pianist, a Choir Director and an Organist. Contact Pastor Woody @ 770.823.7789

Bro. Kevin McKoy, Associational Mission Strategist - kevin@polkharalson.net

Cindy Freyberg - cindy@polkharalson.net



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