

FRUITFUL

ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 2021

annual report

*Highlights of missions
and ministry in
Alabama Baptist life*



Contents

05

A note from the editor

Across multiple platforms, TAB Media provides resources, encouragement



06

A word from the president

After an unusual year, let us exalt Jesus as we gather together

07

Welcome to Whitesburg Baptist

Greetings to messengers from Pastor Darryl Craft

09

What to see, eat and do in Huntsville

Alabama's Rocket City offers options for everyone



13

State Board of Missions

Great Commission ministries, generosity of Alabama Baptists continue



18

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes

Making a lasting impact on the lives of children

20

Judson College

As alumnae serve in their communities and beyond, Judson's legacy lives on

25

Alabama Baptist Historical Commission

Preserving the history, records and stories of Alabama Baptist churches



28

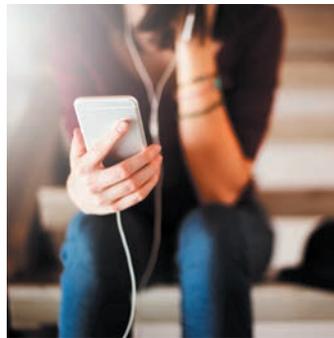
State convention schedule

Order of business for the annual state convention

30

TAB Media

TAB podcasts share news plus stories of hope, faith



32

Shocco Springs

Welcoming visitors back to campus after pandemic halts camps, retreats

36

Alabama Citizens Action Program

Shining light into state politics, moral concerns

38

Samford University

Recognized for academics, student engagement

42

Baptist Foundation of Alabama

Mobilizing resources for Kingdom purposes



45

Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers

Encouraging each other during difficult times



48

University of Mobile

Celebrating 60 years of Christian education

52

Alabama WMU

WorldSong offers natural beauty, year-round retreat

FRUITFUL

A special publication of The Alabama Baptist in partnership with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions for our friends, supporters and messengers to the 2021 Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting, November 16-17, 2021, at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville.

JENNIFER DAVIS RASH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carrie B. McWhorter
Content Editor

Grace Thornton
Special Assignments Editor

Lauren C. Grim
Creative Services/Magazine Designer

Dianna L. Cagle
Copy Editor

Jessica Ingram & Maggie Evans
Proofreaders

Melanie McKinney
Advertising Manager

Pam Holt
Ad Sales Representative

Susan Stevens
Ad Sales Representative

© The Alabama Baptist, Inc.
3310 Independence Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Website: www.thealabamabaptist.org

COVER PHOTO:
Huntsville's history is forever linked to the U.S. space program. The scale mock-up display of a Saturn V rocket standing beside the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, pictured here at sunset, greets visitors not only to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, but also to the city that was shaped by America's quest to explore space.

Photographer: Sam Evans, TAB Media

The Alabama Baptist

INFORMING,
INSPIRING &
CONNECTING
BAPTISTS

Subscribe to
The Alabama Baptist



WE HAVE 3 EASY WAYS YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE:



tabonline.org/subscribe



1-800-803-5201



subscribe@thealabamabaptist.org

TAB publishes **The Alabama Baptist**
MEDIA GROUP

1-800-803-5201 | thealabamabaptist.org





A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A lot has happened in the past year. Alabama Baptists have weathered fear, sickness, doubt and discouragement. Current strife across the Southern Baptist Convention also has brought its own level of exhaustion.

But because of your firm foundation on Jesus Christ, our churches are standing tall, serving others and sharing the good news.

We at TAB Media Group are proud to be a trusted news source for our state. We desire to empower our readers and listeners to live out their faith in all parts of life, and we do this through sharing accurate and fair reporting of news and information, providing helpful resources for surviving life's difficult circumstances and offering hope-filled encouragement and inspiration. We want to help you shine brightly as the light in a dark world.

TAB Media Group provides the content you need as a believer navigating today's world — and makes the content available on a variety of platforms to best fit your preferences.

While we began in 1843 as The Alabama Baptist newspaper, we have expanded our ministry to include podcasts, online news sites, a second print publication, a radio show, a mobile app, a social media presence — and the now-annual Fruitful magazine.

Fruitful is produced in partnership with our sister Alabama Baptist entities and the State Board of Missions. We are honored to gather our stories together in this one piece.

It's because of faithful people like you that all of us have had the opportunity to minister and grow. Thank you, Alabama Baptists, for your support and trust. And thank you for helping position us to be what you need going forward. TAB Media Group is more than a newspaper. It's a mission.

Jennifer Davis Rash

TAB
MEDIA GROUP



BY TIM COX
President, Alabama Baptist State Convention

A Word from the President

After an unusual year, let us exalt Jesus as we gather together

My heart rejoices as the final weeks count down toward the Alabama Baptist State Convention! I look forward to seeing you “in person” this year at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville (Nov. 16–17).

Our theme, “Christ Centered,” expresses my prayer as Alabama Baptists gather in Huntsville.

May every prayer, every testimony, every entity report, every committee report, every order of business, every resolution, every song, every sermon and every messenger exalt Jesus.

Will you join me in praying for a Christ-centered gathering of

believers? Looking unto Jesus, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us in these unique days of ministry.

‘Thank you’

Thank you, Alabama Baptists, for allowing me to serve as your state president for the last three years. Paul’s words express my gratitude well:

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine, for you all making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

“And I am sure of this, that He

who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:3–6).

Alabama Baptist State Convention officers remained in office an extra year because the bylaws require messengers to elect officers during the annual meeting, which was not held in 2020. Officers were (from left): President Tim Cox, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Chelsea; First Vice President Buddy Champion, pastor of First Baptist Church Trussville; and Second Vice President Morgan Bailey, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Ranburne.



WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Alabama Baptists,

We are excited about the opportunity to host our annual state convention at Whitesburg Baptist Church. As we partner to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, our annual meeting is a wonderful time to celebrate all the Lord has done. Gathering will also provide an opportunity to embrace a greater vision and mission together. These are exciting and wonderful days to be serving our Lord!

Sincerely,

Darryl Craft
Senior Pastor
Whitesburg Baptist Church



Faith is Part of Our Heritage in Alabama's Majestic Appalachian Mountains!



#visitnorthal

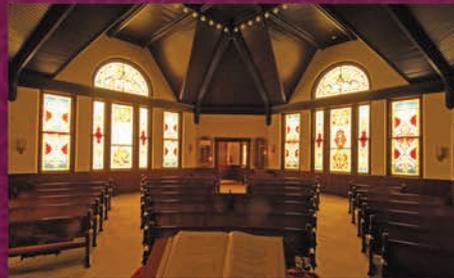
St. John's Episcopal Church
Decatur, Ala.

NORTH ALABAMA HALLELUJAH TRAIL of SACRED PLACES

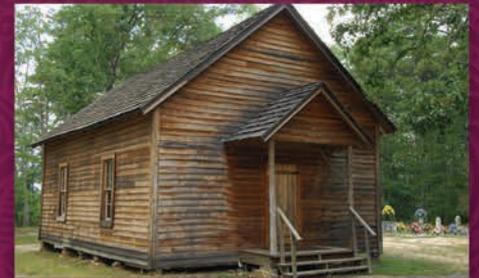
A FREE DRIVING TOUR OF 36 REVERED CENTURY-OLD SITES



First Methodist Church, Guntersville, Ala.



Temple B'nai Sholom, Huntsville, Ala.



Corinth Church, Double Springs, Ala.

Find us on social @visitnorthal



Call or click today for your free brochure:
800.648.5381 • www.NorthAlabama.org

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

Welcome to HUNTSVILLE

BY CONNIE PEARSON

TAB Media

What to see, eat and do while in the Rocket City

Alabama Baptists will gather for the annual state convention in Huntsville this year to enjoy great preaching, uplifting music and sweet fellowship. If those same Baptists want to explore outstanding attractions offered by the Rocket City, they will be welcomed enthusiastically.

From art, recreation and horticulture to wild animals, shopping and space exploration, Huntsville covers all the bases.

Journey to the stars

It will be quickly apparent why the U.S. Space and Rocket Center has been Alabama's No. 1 paid attraction for so many years. The enormous size of the Saturn V

moon rocket on display inside the Davidson Center will amaze you, and the thrill rides for kids will bring squeals of delight.

This is the best place to learn about Wernher von Braun and his team of German scientists who came to Huntsville and forever changed the city. The 8k digital INTUITIVE® Planetarium is the center's newest addition.

A visit to the space center must be first on anyone's travel itinerary for Huntsville.

For art lovers

For those who enjoy fine art, Huntsville Museum of Art is the perfect place. The world's largest collection of Buccellati silver is constantly on display, but during

the month of November, visitors can also see "9/11 and Beyond: Photographs from the Associated Press." Stender Family Interactive Galleries are magnets for those visiting the museum with children.

Sports and recreation

If you prefer exploring art in an informal setting, download the SPACES HSV app to find the locations of 39 sculpture installations or check out the North Alabama Mural Trail, which features a large number of displays in Huntsville. Some of the most striking ones are within a short walk of each other in the downtown area.

The Rocket City Trash Pandas have completed their 2021 season,

DINING OPTIONS

COMFORT FOODS & SOUL FOOD:

G's Country Kitchen

2501 Oakwood Ave.
256-533-3034
(pictured)



Blue Plate Café

3210 Governors Drive SW and
7540 Memorial Parkway
256-533-8808 and 256-885-3550

Walton's Southern Table

4901 Whitesburg Drive SE
256-203-2979

Main Street Café

101 Main Street in Madison
256-461-8096

Wonderful strawberry pretzel salad along with warm Southern casseroles, quiches and sandwiches.

CHILDREN/FANS OF COMICS & TOYS:

Supper Heroes

1812 Winchester Road NE
256-929-1977

Menu is in the form of a Super Heroes comic book. The burger selections are amazing, and the prices are very affordable. (pictured)



Toybox Bistro

511 Jordan Lane NW
256-513-8469

Vintage toys are displayed, and buckets of Legos are available to use while you wait for your food.

DELIS & SPECIALTY BREADS:

Dallas Mill Deli

500 Pratt Avenue NW
256-489-3354

Canadian Bakin

501 Church Street NW, Suite A
256-489-2323

Mason Dixon Bakery & Bistro

2358 Whitesburg Drive SW
256-213-7545

Widely recognized for its gluten-free options and is considered one of the best in the country.

MEXICAN CUISINE:

Rosie's Mexican Cantina

7540-A South Memorial Parkway
and 6196 University Drive NW
256-382-3232 and 256-922-1001

Phil Sandoval's

6125 University Drive NW, Suite E-18
256-489-5711

and the Huntsville Havoc ice hockey team has away games during convention week but thanks to Land Trust of North Alabama, there are hiking trails galore and three nature preserves within the Huntsville city limits.

Monte Sano Nature Preserve is the largest and offers 22 miles of hiking and biking trails. While you're on Monte Sano Mountain, consider checking out Burritt on the Mountain. The view of Huntsville is spectacular, and an open-air museum showcases farm life in the 19th century.

If axe-throwing sounds like a way to work off your frustrations, head to Civil Axe Throwing at Campus 805. There are plenty of food options, plus X-Golf Huntsville for a virtual golf course experience.

Natural beauty

Harmony Park Safari at 431 Clouds Cove Road is a drive-through zoo that will delight Huntsville visitors traveling with small children. Guests buy a bucket of feed at the entrance and cruise through the park very slowly while the animals come to the car to allow close encounters of the fun kind. After making the two-mile loop, you'll want to get out and walk to the reptile house, the pigsty and the turtle enclosure.

Huntsville Botanical Garden on Bob Wallace Drive encompasses 112 acres of flowers, trees, shrubs, water features and walking trails.

A beautiful gift shop is inside the guest center. The spectacular annual Galaxy of Lights will be open for walking tours during the days of the state convention 5:15 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Come back in the summer to enjoy the Purdy Butterfly House, the largest open-air butterfly house in the country.

Past & present

To get a complete picture of Huntsville's past, a visit to the Huntsville Revisited Museum inside the H.C. Blake Art & History Center on North Memorial Park-

way will fill in all the details with photographs and fascinating historical artifacts.

The EarlyWorks Children's Museum on Madison Street near downtown is an exceptional place to take young children because of its hands-on interactive exhibits.



MidCity District on University Drive is one of Huntsville's latest food, shopping, recreation and entertainment venues. A Topgolf facility is wildly popular, and a Trader Joe's grocery store opened recently to rave reviews.

If you go, be sure to check out the Little Richard mural on the side of Wahlburger's. Huntsville claims Little Richard because he attended Oakwood College and is buried at Oakwood Memorial Gardens.

Shopping in Huntsville

Harrison Brothers Hardware on Southside Square downtown has been in the same location since 1897. The original floors, shelves and walls evoke nostalgic memories while the merchandise is fresh and unique to the area.

Products from local farms and artisans are offered next to vintage toys and artwork, jewelry and books written and created by local artists. Visitors are sure to find the perfect memento of their time in Huntsville.

Parkway Place Mall has several retail chains, but the busiest shopping area and largest number of shops will be found at Bridge Street Town Centre. There is also a 14-screen movie theater, a colorful carousel beside the lake and at least two dozen restaurants on-site.

There are shops and restaurants on both sides of Airport Road between Whitesburg Drive and Memorial Parkway for those needing a quick break between sessions. Many are concentrated at Westbury Square or Valley Bend at Jones Farm.

Dining options

Visitors to Huntsville will have hundreds of dining options ready to serve them. As a matter of fact,



the Visit Huntsville website lists 769 restaurants, cafes, coffee and tea shops, food trucks and fast-food chains. Most of the well-known chains have locations in the Rocket City, but there are others that are unique to the city. Those are the ones I'd recommend you try while you're there. (See the sidebars for more information and tempting insights.)

The 2020 census revealed Huntsville currently has the state's largest population, surpassing Birmingham. It is also filled with extremely smart people who have been lured to the city because of the space industry.

The economy is booming, and the demographic is young, savvy and diverse. A return visit is likely to delve into the attractions that grab your attention and interest. Something amazing happens every month of the year.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Connie Pearson's book "100 Things to Do in Huntsville and North Alabama Before You Die" is scheduled for publication by Reedy Press in early 2022.

DINING OPTIONS

GERMAN CUISINE:

Ol Heidelberg

6125 University Drive NW
256-922-0556

Hildegard's German Cuisine

2357 Whitesburg Drive SE
256-512-9776

ITALIAN CUISINE:

Pane e Vino (ground floor

of the Huntsville Museum of Art)
300 Church Street SW
256-533-1180

Terranova's Italian Restaurant

1420 Paramount Drive, Suite 1
256-489-8883

UPSCALE & CHEF-DRIVEN:

1892 East Restaurant & Tavern

720 Pratt Avenue NE
256-489-1242

The crispy shrimp stuffed with grits is on the list of "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama." (pictured)

Cotton Row Restaurant

100 Southside Square
256-382-9500

Commerce Kitchen

300 Franklin Street SE
256-382-6622

Grille on Main

445 Providence Main Street NW
256-829-5858

Char Restaurant

931 Bob Wallace Avenue SW,
Suite 201
256-384-4465

Tom Brown's Restaurant

8141 Highway 72 West in Madison
256-715-1283

Wonderful seafood and steaks, plus it is filled with original art created by the owner's daughter.

Rhythm on Monroe

700 Monroe Street SW
(at the Von Braun Center)
256-551-2311 (pictured)

BARBECUE & CATFISH:

Old Greenbrier Restaurant

27028 Old Highway 20 in Madison
256-351-1800

Owned and operated by a couple of faithful Baptist brothers. Their catfish and hushpuppies are legendary.





BE A PART OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Visit AlabamaCP.org for ideas and resources to help your church learn more about the Cooperative Program. For more information, contact State Missionary Jim Swedenburg, jswedenburg@alsbom.org, (334) 613-2283.

 **COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM**



Thankful

BY RICK LANCE

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Great Commission work and generous giving hallmarks of Alabama Baptists, even during pandemic

I thank God for Alabama Baptists.” Amidst turbulent times in our world and even the Southern Baptist Convention, that phrase spoken to me by a pastor recently has provided encouragement and clarity.

I too am thankful for Alabama Baptists, a people who are focused on the Great Commission. I’m thankful for the generous gifts of faithful Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program and to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering to support missions and ministry in our state and beyond. And I’m thankful

for stories of salvation experiences in Alabama Baptist churches and through the ministries of your State Board of Missions. Let me share just a few of those stories.



LANCE

In fall 2019, State Missionary Zach Beasley began his ministry as Baptist campus minister at Alabama State University.

His plans included extending the ministry to his alma mater, Tuskegee University, but COVID restrictions stalled those efforts.



An Alabama State University student helps a Tuskegee student move into her dorm at the beginning of the fall semester.

As pandemic restrictions eased on both campuses, Zach and ASU students began actively meeting and reaching out to students on the Tuskegee campus.

Decisions for Christ

Through on-campus evangelism and discipleship ministry, two students recently accepted Christ. In addition, other students have made decisions for Christ during a local mission project with ASU and Tuskegee students.

In August, Morgan Bailey, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Ranburne, led a session on “Evangelism in a Post Pandemic World” at Pinnacle, an annual training event provided through the Office of Sunday School & Discipleship.

Morgan shared with me, “During the session, a precious lifetime Baptist and Sunday School teacher began to ask questions. She was not sure that she had a transformational born-again

experience. So I went off script and just shared the presentation with her,” Morgan said. “With the class prayerfully looking on she was gloriously saved!”

During the course of the pandemic, First Baptist Church Thorsby decided to begin online discipleship efforts with its students. This included partnering with YMLink, the SBOM’s youth ministry network, and taking part in a weeklong missions project in Birmingham with other Alabama churches.

That experience served as an impetus for an increase in adult discipleship efforts to support the growing student ministry.

Student pastor Justin Caton reports, “The most extraordinary part is that 16 students have accepted Christ since January of 2021, and numerous families



VIELZA

have joined our church because their students invited them. In the midst of a global pandemic and other potential distractions, God moved, and it led to missions, service, reconciliation and impact on our community that must be experienced to be believed.”

Church planting

For the past eight years, Ramón Vielza has been a pastor and church planter in North Carolina.

This year he followed God’s call to South Alabama, where there is a great need for a gospel presence in the Hispanic community. Already Ramón has helped launch the I-10 Church and two other church plants in Mobile and Baldwin associations to reach the Hispanic population in that part of our state with the gospel.

“There are thousands of Hispanics here who need the Lord. We want to see many churches up and down I-10 worshipping and glorifying the Lord in Spanish,” he said.

Ramón is one of a growing army of church planters across our state, and Alabama Baptists can be proud that we have the largest coaching network for church planters in the country.

And speaking of armies, our “yellow shirt army” of Alabama



Fund your project.

Reach your city.

bclcchurchlending.org



Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers has been extremely busy again this year, including a multi-week response in Louisiana following Hurricane Ida. In addition to providing clean-up and recovery ministries, scores of volunteers, including chaplains, have prayed for and shared the gospel with storm survivors, leading to several professions of faith.

Alaska partnership

Then there's the story of Jamie Baldwin who, right after retiring as a state missionary earlier this year, spent six months of volunteer missions service in Craig, Alaska, to assist with the relaunch of Liberty Baptist Church.

Over the summer, as part of Alabama's partnership with Alaska Baptists, Jamie coordinated eight missions teams with more than 70 volunteers, providing construction, VBS, community canvassing and more. As a result, church at-



Cheryl Davis (right) is a retiree who canceled her vacation to serve those affected by Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. She sees Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief as a rich opportunity to serve those who are suffering.

tendance shot up from six to more than 40, and the church recently had its first baptism in years.

"This has been one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life, but one of the most rewarding," Jamie said.

These stories are just the tip of

the iceberg. Fruitfulness follows faithfulness. As God's people are faithful, He consistently uses them to bear fruit for His kingdom.

I want you to know your State Board of Missions remains singularly focused on our one mission, the Great Commission. I can't think of a more fitting theme than "Christ-Centered," based on Colossians 1:17-18, as we gather for our state convention annual meeting — really a time of family reunion for Alabama Baptists — Nov. 16-17 at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville.

Only when Christ has first place in everything will we be effective servants for His Kingdom.

I thank God for you, Alabama Baptists, and your faithfulness in praying, giving and going in order to reach people for Christ.

For more information about the Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting, visit alsbom.org/convention.



Retired state missionary Jamie Baldwin (right) chats with Cody Schwegel (center), pastor of Liberty Church in Craig, Alaska, and state missionary Scotty Goldman during a July children's event at a local park in Craig.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TOP GIVING AWARDS

The Office of Cooperative Program & Stewardship Development at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions has announced the Cooperative Program giving awards for 2020:



LARGEST GIFT THROUGH THE CP

Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham,
in Birmingham Metro Baptist Association, with a total of \$918,716.00.
George Wright, pastor; Danny Wood, pastor in 2020, retired Aug. 15, 2021.

LARGEST AVERAGE GIFT PER RESIDENT MEMBER THROUGH THE CP

Midway Baptist Church, Midway,
in Bullock Baptist Association, which gave \$615.73
per resident member. David Stewart, pastor.

LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF UNDESIGNATED RECEIPTS GIVEN THROUGH THE CP

Harmony Baptist Church, Cullman County,
in West Cullman Baptist Association,
which gave 29.11%. Spencer Sandlin, pastor.

Data and calculations are based on actual receipts of Cooperative Program giving through the State Board of Missions, which are compared with resident membership and undesignated giving reported through the Annual Church Profile. If your Annual Church Profile was not received with these numbers included, it was not possible to calculate your church's numbers.

PRIORITY TALK LIVE

with Greg Davis

Good News & Christian Values Listen Weekdays 3-5 PM

WXJC Radio 101.1 FM & 850 AM



PriorityTalkRadio.com



State Evangelism Conference

4

Locations

FREE ADMISSION

2022

Sharing Hope On The Road

JANUARY 30-31, 2022
Dauphin Way Baptist Church,
Mobile

SUNDAY EVENING
Chuck Kelley & J.J. Washington

MONDAY MORNING
Dean Inserra, Lawrence Phipps &
Blake Newsom



FEBRUARY 6-7, 2022
Taylor Road Baptist Church,
Montgomery

SUNDAY EVENING
Noe Garcia & Ted Traylor

MONDAY MORNING
Dean Inserra, Lawrence Phipps &
Daniel Atkins

FEBRUARY 27-28, 2022
First Baptist Church, Pelham

SUNDAY EVENING
Jarman Leatherwood &
Lee Strobel

MONDAY MORNING
Lee Strobel & Daven Watkins

MARCH 13-14, 2022
First Baptist Church, Cullman

SUNDAY EVENING
Ronnie Hill & Ed Litton

MONDAY MORNING
Tim Beougher & Tom Richter

evangelizeAL.org/events



Alabama Baptist
STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

*This event is made possible by gifts of Alabama
Baptists through the Cooperative Program.*



LEFT: Born at just 27 weeks, Javontez spent a long time in the hospital with very serious health issues. **RIGHT:** ABCH foster parents Alan and Katie Bond officially adopted Javontez, now 2, into their family this year.

God's . . . provision

Pray. Serve. Give.

BY ROD MARSHALL

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries makes lasting impact in lives of hurting children

With more than 6,000 children in foster care in Alabama and over 3,000 Southern Baptist churches in our state, together we can make a lasting impact in the lives of hurting children and families in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bright spots

Despite the often heavy nature of caring for children from hard places, there are also many bright spots. Earlier this year, two young men and two sisters all made public professions of faith while in our care. We have celebrated several family reunifications and

several adoptions from our foster care ministry.

One child who was adopted this year is Javontez. As a preemie, Javontez came to us straight from the hospital after spending a long time in the NICU. Born at only 27 weeks and weighing only two pounds, two ounces, he was facing very serious health issues.

After a two-month stay in the hospital, Alan and Katie Bond, one of our incredible foster families, took over his daily care. Shortly after coming into their care, he had some other serious health setbacks.

The support given to our ministry made sure the Bond family was able to provide the necessary and excellent care he so desperately needed to overcome these medical hurdles. Two years later, Javontez is a different child. He runs, plays and engages in typical two-year-old behaviors. It is truly a miracle that Javontez is alive today.



MARSHALL

The Bonds officially adopted Javontez in June of this year, and they give credit to the Lord for His faithfulness and provision — and many of you reading this were a part of that!

As a pastor or church leader, you can make a difference in the lives of children and families like Javontez and the Bonds.

There are three primary ways to support ABCH: **Pray. Serve. Give.**

Please visit our website to sign up as a prayer partner, learn ways you and your church can support our work through volunteering and material gifts, find out how your family can serve as a foster family and access church budget tools and mini-courses.

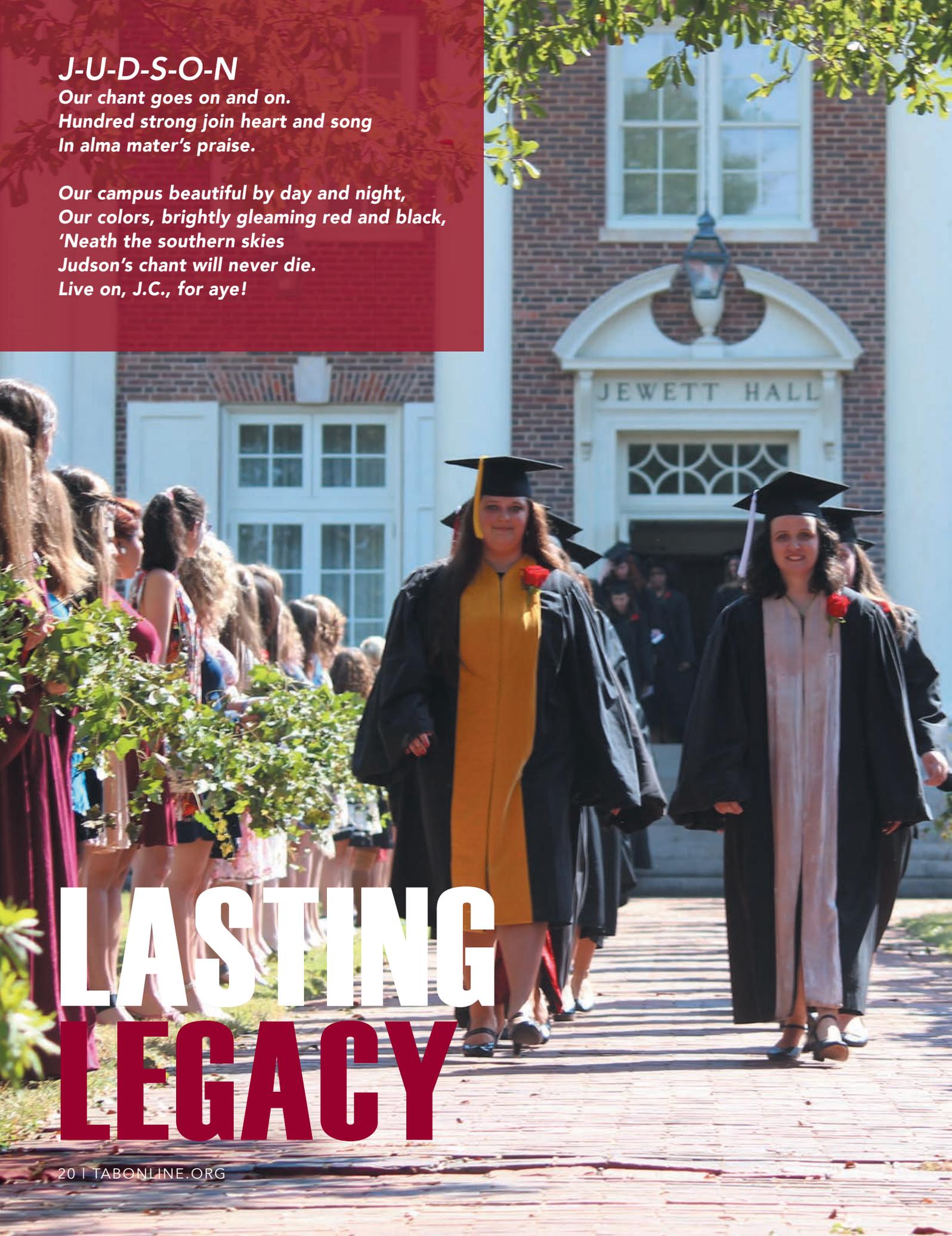
Find these resources and more at alabamachild.org.



J-U-D-S-O-N

*Our chant goes on and on.
Hundred strong join heart and song
In alma mater's praise.*

*Our campus beautiful by day and night,
Our colors, brightly gleaming red and black,
'Neath the southern skies
Judson's chant will never die.
Live on, J.C., for aye!*



LASTING LEGACY

Leadership & partnership

BY ELIZABETH WELLS

Historian and Judson College alumna

Judson College closes after 183 years of educating women in arts, sciences, social skills and Christian service

Judson College, named in honor of Baptist missionary Ann Hasseltine Judson, was founded in 1838. From the beginning, Judson’s mission was to offer educational opportunities for women to develop their God-given gifts and talents and to equip them to serve Christ as His hands and feet in the world.

On Jan. 7, 1839, Judson Female Institute opened its doors for the first session. Incorporation came two years later on Jan. 9, 1841.

Traditionally, 19th century women’s education provided basic instruction in literature and mathematics but focused on the social graces of womanhood, proficiencies in needlework, drawing, penmanship and music.

However, founding president Milo Parker Jewett included in Judson’s curriculum classical male academic offerings — mathematics, laboratory science, Latin and Greek, literature — along with the “finer” skills and Bible.

The Judson woman was well read, able to conduct business and professional work, teach and gracefully preside over and see to the needs of her household.

She was active in her community and her church, providing

leadership when called upon and financial aid where needed. Judson women were challenged to be leaders in this world, to meet those needs in whatever circumstances they encountered.

“The Judson” demonstrated her



resilient spirit over nearly two centuries. She survived two devastating fires, rebuilding and improving the campus each time.

Students and faculty ministered to the community, state, nation and world. Her women pioneered in research, served in all professions and nourished home and family.

Leaders developed

Judson College students and faculty partnered with Alabama Baptists in missions work too. Hearing God's call to local and international ministry, students prepared themselves to be of use. Even now, they continue to lead in local churches, associational and state ministries.

No matter how large or small the task, countless women answered God's call to full-time missions. In the words of Drucilla Collins McCullum, class of 1887 and the first Southern Baptist missionary woman to Japan, they all answered, "Send me."

Judson alumnae were the institution's most loyal supporters,

giving sacrificially to fund specific needs. They promoted the school and encouraged young women to attend.

These women are bound together by Judson traditions passed down from one generation of students to another.

Sadly, Judson College closed its doors July 31, 2021. In his announcement of the closing, Mark Tew, president from 2019 to 2021, said Judson's dwindling student enrollment and financial difficulties amid a global pandemic were the major factors in the decision.

Judson alumnae and other loyal supporters rallied to their alma mater's crisis with prayer and financial gifts, but sadly they could not save the school.

Loss to region

Judson's loss extends into Marion and Perry County. Frances Ford, outstanding alumna and executive director of Sowing Seeds of Hope, expressed it well: Not only "we but the community will suffer and will feel the hurt and the devastation of losing that college. Judson was a college that encouraged you to give back."

The doors of Judson College may close, but her influence will continue. The gifts Judson women bestowed upon this world are far reaching and will continue to be strong and fruitful in God's fields.

A singing of "There'll Always be a Judson" closed out a day of activities for alumnae and friends who gathered May 22 to say goodbye to Judson College, which closed July 31 after 183 years of educating young women.

Work continues in finalizing Judson assets

BY JENNIFER DAVIS RASH

TAB Media

As Norman H. McCrummen III, son of the late former president of Judson College, shared memories about the school and the area, current Judson President



ROBINSON

Daphne Robinson found herself reflecting, grieving and healing.

McCrummen spoke during a special adapted form of Rose Sunday at Siloam Baptist Church in Marion on Sept.

12, "and it was beautiful," Robinson said.

"God puts the right people around us at the right time when we need it most," she said. "The key is to listen to the Holy Spirit. We can't get ahead of God on this."

Describing the days since July 31 when the school portion of the corporation known as Judson College closed, Robinson said she has been focused on preparing to seek potential buyers for the campus and continuing negotiations with creditors in an attempt to avoid bankruptcy.

"They are all being cooperative and understanding," she said. "It's a story that's continuing to unfold."



CAMP

MISSIONS ADVENTURE

IS BACK



 **WorldSong**
MISSIONS PLACE
A ministry of Alabama WMU
WorldSongRetreat.org



$\frac{20}{22}$ CAMPS MISSIONS ADVENTURE dates

Girls, Boys & Their Leaders

(completing grades 2-8)

June 6-10

June 13-17

Girls & Teen Girls

(completing grades 2-12)

June 20-24

CITs

Cabin leader In Training

(completing grades 9-12)

June 13-17 (coed)

June 20-24 (girls only)

Man Camp (Fathers & Sons)

(completing grades K-6)

June 17-18

Mom & Me (Mothers & Daughters)

(completing grades K-6)

June 24-25

Stay tuned for WorldSong Travel Teams 2022 dates!

REGISTER NOW or find more info at
WorldSongRetreat.org



Thank you
for praying for
State Missions
and giving to the
Myers-Mallory State
Missions Offering!

Myers-Mallory

State Missions Offering

State Goal: \$1,200,000



- ALABAMA WMU
- DISASTER RELIEF
- CHURCH PLANTING
- PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS
- CHURCH REVITALIZATION



Remember, gifts are received
throughout the year.
Visit Myers-Mallory.org to learn
how your offering gifts
are changing lives!



God's story will continue

BY LONETTE BERG

Alabama Baptist Historical Commission

Alabama Baptist Historical Commission honors, preserves past

The Alabama Baptist Historical Commission collects, preserves and shares God's story, and the history of each of our Alabama Baptist churches is part of that story. Even through times of challenge and change, His story continues.

Church history often includes high points of worship, ministry, fellowship and service, and sometimes reflects low points of conflict and challenge. There are times when a vibrant, active congregation goes through transition, coming to a point where the congregation decides the church must close.

COVID-19 challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an especially challenging time, with several congregations facing difficult questions about the future. The Historical Commission was privileged to help some of these churches ensure the story of God's work through their congregations would continue on by preserving their historical materials.



ABOVE: Ocmulgee Baptist Church in Selma celebrated its 200th anniversary on June 27, 2021, a year late due to a postponement forced by the COVID-19 pandemic. **LEFT:** Bill Goodwin, pastor of Ocmulgee Baptist Church, accepts a framed certificate in honor of the church's anniversary from Lonette Berg, executive director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

First Baptist Church Center Point and Fairfield Highlands Baptist Church, churches in the Birmingham area, once had vibrant ministries.

‘Mega’ churches

They were known as “mega” churches in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Despite modest beginnings, both churches grew to have large Sunday Schools; dedicated Woman’s Missionary Union groups; exciting children’s ministries, including graded choirs, camps, VBS and missions education; vibrant youth ministries; excellent music programs with large choirs and special presentations; and large bus ministries bringing thousands of children to church to hear the gospel and be nurtured and encouraged.

Both churches gave faithfully and generously through the Cooperative Program. When established in 1926, Fairfield Highlands had a founding principal that a percentage of every regular offering be given through the Cooperative Program. At one point, that giving grew to 25%.



BERG

“
THE STORIES OF GOD’S WORK IN
OUR LIVES AND OUR CHURCHES ARE
A CONTINUATION OF HIS GRAND
STORY OF LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.

LONETTE BERG

Both churches were leaders in associational and state convention programs and ministries. Both supported missions. Both were focused on preaching the gospel, teaching the Bible, serving the community, discipling believers and developing supportive and loving fellowship among their members.

But changes in circumstances over many years and much prayer and discernment led both families

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

“Unveiling the past to enlighten the present and illuminate the future.”



PRESERVING



SHARING



CELEBRATING

Let us help you with ...

- Records preservation
- Historical resources
- Speaking/presentations
- Anniversary recognitions
- Historical tours
- Workshops

 205-726-2363

 abhconline.com



of faith to determine that the churches would have to close.

The Historical Commission was privileged to partner with FBC Center Point and Fairfield Highlands to preserve written materials, photographs and stories.

As each of these congregations worshipped together for the final time, the Historical Commission helped collect their materials, transported them to the Special Collection Department of Samford University and placed them in the Alabama Baptist Historical Collection, where the story of God's work through these families of faith will be preserved and protected for present and future generations.

The Historical Commission can help all Alabama Baptist churches

preserve history through records preservation ministry, whether by placing records in the collection or by microfilming

records and returning them to the church.

The stories of God's work in our lives and our churches are a continuation of His grand story of love and faithfulness. As we preserve our church records, share our stories of faith and celebrate God's faithfulness, we assure His story will continue.

Partnering with churches

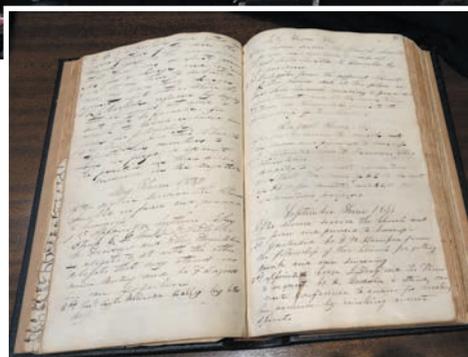
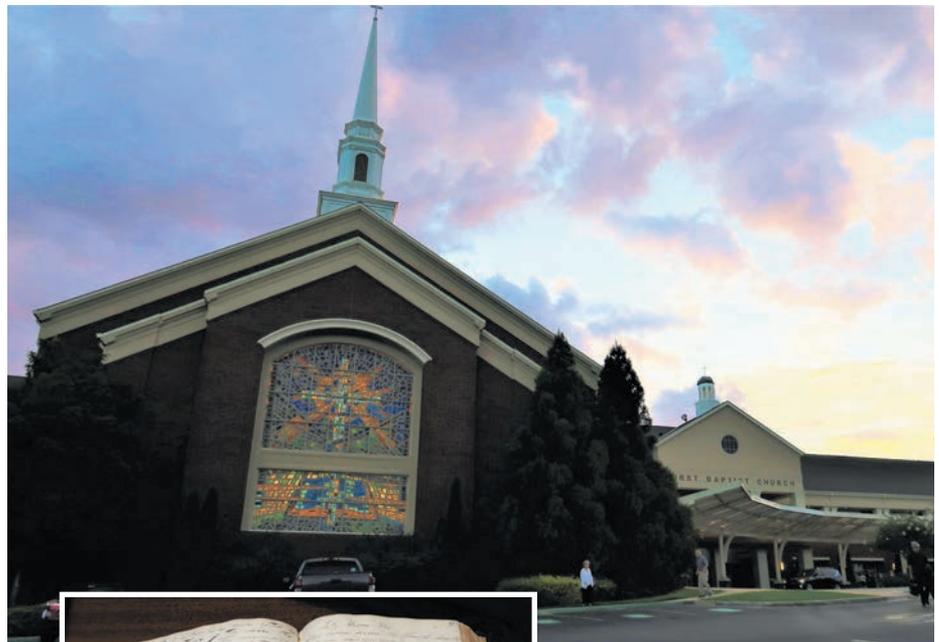
The Historical Commission is thankful to partner with churches to collect, preserve and share that story. For more information about the ministries of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, go to abhconline.com or call 205-726-2363.

For more information, go to abhconline.com or call 205-726-2363.



ABOVE: FBC Center Point at the time the church closed in April 2021.

RIGHT: A photo of an early building on the FBC Center Point campus, taken from a booklet produced in 2014 as a part of the church's centennial celebration.



ABOVE: FBC Trussville celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2021. **LEFT:** ABHC microfilmed records like these past church minutes to help preserve FBC Trussville's history.

Alabama Baptist

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2021 | WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH IN HUNTSVILLE | THEME: CHRISTCENT

TUESDAY MORNING

	PIANIST	Frank Jones
	WORSHIP LEADER	Daniel Lloyd
8:30	Pre-session Music	Alabama Singing Men/Women
8:35	Prayer	Kevin Moore
8:40	Call to Order	Tim Cox
	GREETINGS	
	Madison Baptist Association.....	Charlie Howell
	Whitesburg Baptist Church	Darryl Craft
	Congregational Music.....	Daniel Lloyd
8:50	Enrollment of Messengers	Billie Davis
8:55	Committee on Order of Business	Chip Starnes
9:00	Committee Appointments.....	Tim Cox
9:05	Memorial Service	Larry Cummings
9:15	Alabama Baptist Ministers Benefit Society.....	Mark Smith
9:20	Introduction of Resolutions	Melissa Bowen
9:25	Special Music	Alabama Singing Men/Women
9:30	ChristCentered Testimony	Joshua del Risco
	COMMITTEE REPORTS, PART 1	
9:55	Committee on Committees	Ben Stubblefield
10:05	Committee on Boards and Commissions.....	Ben Bowden
	RECOGNITIONS	
10:15	Recognition of Former Convention Presidents.....	Rick Lance
10:25	Recognition of New Pastors and New Church Staff Members.....	Mike Jackson
10:30	Cooperative Program Recognitions	Rick Lance
	CHRISTCENTERED MINISTRIES	
10:40	The Alabama Baptist, Jennifer Davis Rash; Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, Lonette Berg; The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, John Ashworth; Alabama Citizens Action Program, Joe Godfrey; Christian Life Commission, Bill Morgan	
11:10	Miscellaneous Business, Part 1	
11:15	Presentation of Convention President.....	Rick Lance
11:20	Special Music	Mike & Lori May, Bryan Alderman
11:25	President's Address	Tim Cox
11:55	Benediction	Jarman Leatherwood

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

	PIANIST	Frank Jones
	WORSHIP LEADER	Rick Stone
	WORSHIP	
1:30	Congregational Music.....	Rick Stone
1:40	Prayer.....	Andy John King
	CHRISTCENTERED MISSIONS	
	REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS	
1:45	Report of Executive Director.....	Rick Lance

State Convention

schedule

ERED | SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

- 2:05 State Board of Missions Recommendations and Convention Recognitions
 2:45 ChristCentered Testimony Dewayne Rembert
CHRISTCENTERED MINISTRIES
 3:10 Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries, Rod Marshall; Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center, Russell Klinner; Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers, LaJuana Holloway; Alabama Woman's Missionary Union, Candace McIntosh
 3:40 Miscellaneous Business, Part 2
COMMITTEE REPORTS, PART 2
 3:45 Resolutions CommitteeMelissa Bowen
 4:00 Committee on Time, Place and Preacher Earl Mitchell
 4:05 Audit and Insurance Mike Jackson
 4:10 Benediction Noah Hicks

TUESDAY EVENING

- 6:30 Pre-session Music Frank Jones
 6:40 Missions Recognitions Rick Lance
 6:45 Church Planting RecognitionsRick Barnhart
 6:50 Music Worship Christy Nockels
 7:20 Prayer and Introduction of Speaker Rick Lance
 Message.....Jamie Dew

WEDNESDAY MORNING

- PIANIST Frank Jones
 WORSHIP LEADERChelsea Felder, Andrew Nunnelley
WORSHIP
 8:30 Congregational Music..... Chelsea Felder
 8:35 Prayer.....Mike Meadows
 8:40 ChristCentered Testimony Zachary Beasley
 9:05 Election of Officers, Part 1
 9:15 Previously Scheduled Business
 9:45 Resolutions Committee Report.....Melissa Bowen
CHRISTCENTERED MINISTRIES
 10:00 Samford University, Beck Taylor; University of Mobile, Lonnie Burnett; Judson College, Daphne Robinson; Education Commission, Harrell Cushing; Board of Aid to Students in Church-Related Vocations, Randy Johnson
 10:30 Election of Officers, Part 2
 10:40 Congregational Music.....Andrew Nunnelley
 10:45 Introduction of Convention Preacher and Alternate Preacher Tim Cox
 Special Music Karen Gosselin, Annel Robayna
 Scripture Joel Carwile
 10:55 Convention SermonJeff Meyers
 11:25 Introduction of Convention Officers..... Rick Lance
 11:30 Benediction and Adjournment..... Brandon Turner

STORIES

Seasons 1, 2 & 3 available

What would you do if you had a death sentence? Or if you went skydiving and things went very wrong? Or what if some of the best things God has ever done in your life — and in the lives of the people around you — came on the battleground of major personal grief and loss? What if you just wanted to see what happened next? Sometimes you just need to feel like that —

to get lost in a good story. The Stories podcast is a great way to do that — to hear how God has worked in big ways in the lives of ordinary people. Each season shares one story over several episodes, told in the subjects' own voices. All of seasons 1–3 (described at right) are available now. Subscribe now wherever you get your podcasts, and don't miss another story.

Listen at tabonline.org/stories
or wherever you get your podcasts.

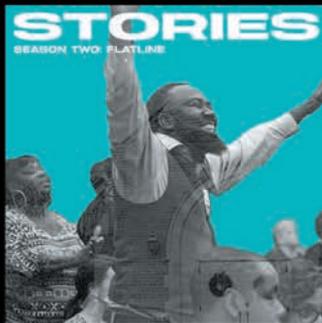


And check out
these other
TAB Media Group
resources



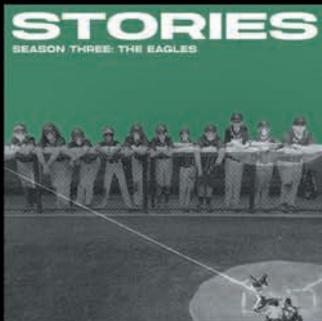
SEASON ONE

Sammy Gilbreath was still a young man when he was told he had a ticking time bomb in his chest, and there was nothing he could do about it — except go home and live like each day was his last.



SEASON TWO

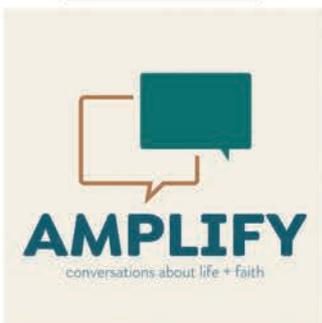
Growing up, Dewayne Rembert's life was fatherless. It was mostly motherless. And as far as he was concerned, it was Godless. But then everything in his life turned around.



SEASON THREE

A tiny church baptizes a whole baseball team. A coach loses his dad. A grandfather sees something unexplainable. And a mother puts her life on the line to see God move.

PODCAST



A one-on-one conversation about how our experiences impact our faith.

PODCAST



The audio digest of The Alabama Baptist newspaper and The Baptist Paper.

YouTube



Stay up-to-date with the latest information on our YouTube channel with Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Rash as she goes in-depth during interviews.



Complete 180

BY RUSSELL KLINNER

Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center

Shocco Springs welcomes campers, conferences back to campus following pandemic-related slowdown

Shocco Springs has a long history of being a place where people come to find solitude and rest among God's creation, giving them a chance to unplug and escape the distractions of life while drawing closer to God.

Located on almost 900 beautiful acres in Talladega, our camp and conference center provides lodg-

ing, food service, meeting space and recreational opportunities for approximately 40,000 guests each year.

Pandemic effects

Summer of 2020 was definitely not "business as usual" for Shocco Springs as guest numbers plummeted to less than 25% of our norm. We missed the familiar

sights and sounds of multitudes of kids enjoying our campus and worshipping God.

But this summer we experienced a complete, 180-degree change! Campus overflowed with high energy and excited guests, eager to return to the full camp experience of new friends, incredible recreational activities and awesome worship time. We were thrilled to again

BE CHALLENGED. BE SHAPED.
BE TRANSFORMED.

“Union really has just shaped my life and wrecked my life in such a good way that I would want people to experience. I always tell people whenever I'm giving tours, 'Make sure that wherever you end up going you have the conviction that that's where the Lord wants you,' because I know that this is where the Lord wants me. It has been nothing but the best, and it's just flipped my world upside down.”

RAYMOND CHAHYAD('21)

*economics and political science double major
Bandung, Indonesia*

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT AT

uu.edu/campusvisits



UNION
UNIVERSITY

BE TRANSFORMED

hear the sounds of all the kids splashing in our Aqua Park on the lake and students cheering as they prepped for team activities.

It was moving to see children sprawled all over the grass in front of the chapel and on the rock walls near the stream, working on their daily Bible studies.

Making an impact

We give God the glory as we rejoice over the reports of how students and adults continue to be impacted in wonderful ways through the ministry of Shocco Springs.

Looking for new ways to love and serve our community, we dreamed of sharing our part of God's magnificent nature with local children who might otherwise never have an opportunity to visit Shocco.

So for the first time, we held a week-long day camp in July for children ages 5 to 12. Camp was a success and we were able to minister to around 60 children from our local community, several who were able to attend thanks



The Aqua Park at Shocco Springs, which features the Wet Willie water slide and several floating play areas, is a popular spot on hot summer days.

to scholarships. The children enjoyed exciting recreation, crafts and fun activities while learning about the love of God through Bible study and worship. Our desire is this will begin a tradition that will expand and minister to hundreds of local kids each summer.

Unfortunately, the very weekend that our official "Shocco summer" ended, we experienced a devastating fire that resulted in the destruction of our industrial-grade laundry facility, along with all the bed linens, towels and other supplies stored there.

Remarkably, a water hammer arrester blew off an overhead water line, causing water to spray, which kept the flames from spreading to other buildings on campus. This

was God's protection, not coincidence. Even the end-of-summer timing was providential.

Thankfully, we are insured and the process of putting back what was lost is underway. Though there is a hard road ahead of us, we truly believe God has His hand in this situation. He will be glorified in and through it!

God has been faithful to Shocco, and we are committed to faithfully serving Him as we work toward our ultimate goal that all our guests who visit our campus are drawn to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

The board of trustees and Shocco staff greatly appreciate your support in using our facilities, praying for us, partnering financially, making contributions of time and talent and giving through the Cooperative Program. We pray God is glorified and honored through the lives He continues to change here on our campus.



KLINNER



An Aug. 1 fire in Shocco's laundry facility destroyed four industrial washers and four dryers, along with all the bed linens, towels and other supplies stored in the building.

CHURCH PLANTING

Until all communities and peoples have a body where they can hear the Gospel, fellowship, grow and be sent out on mission.

The Process

CALLING

God is moving pastors, leaders and workers to start a new church.

AFFIRMATION

Each planter needs to be affirmed by a partner church and the local association.

ASSESSMENT

1. **Online** – Register as an Alabama planter with NAMB.net. Must notify Brian Harper, bharper@alsbom.org.
2. **In-person** – 8 major interviews and recommendations (on Zoom and in person).

COHORT CHURCH PLANTER TRAINING

Online and in person, 3 months of weekly sessions covering 12 competencies (during this time planters can apply for grants – start up, congregational and rental).

COACHING

One-on-one monthly coaching for all planters.

YEARLY REVIEWS and ALIGNMENT

At the end of the calendar year, each funded planter will be evaluated.

SUPPORT

Periodic gatherings, events and a yearly picnic.

New this year: Time to Plant event, residencies.



SBOM Church Planting Team:

Brian Harper

bharper@alsbom.org
(949) 939-3354

Dawn Watkins

dwatkins@alsbom.org
(334) 613-2315

Terrence Jones

tjones@alsbom.org
(334) 652-2047

Jarman Leatherwood

jleatherwood@alsbom.org
(256) 714-8253

Jeff Mann

jmenn@alsbom.org
(256) 609-0388

Ramón Vielza

rvielza@alsbom.org
(980) 636-4182

Theron Hawkins

pastorjhawkins@alsbom.org
(980) 636-4182

Rick Barnhart

rbarnhart@alsbom.org
(334) 207-4297



Alabama Baptist
STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

This ministry is made possible by gifts of Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program and to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering.

PlantAlabama.org



On Sept. 24, board members of Alabama Citizens Action Program and American Character Builders chose Greg Davis (left) to succeed Joe Godfrey to lead both organizations.

‘Eternal impact’

BY CARRIE BROWN McWHORTER
TAB Media



‘Your voice’

ALCAP shines light of Christ inside Alabama Statehouse

In a 2021 legislative session still under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alabama Citizens Action Program Executive Director Joe Godfrey lobbied legislators on important issues for people of faith. But it wasn't an easy year, Godfrey said.

“Alabama has always been considered a very socially conservative state, but the 2021 Legislative Session was an embarrassment, as legislators in both houses passed a number of socially liberal bills,” Godfrey said.

The one bright spot, Godfrey said, was passage of a “born alive” bill, which requires medical staff to do everything possible if, during an abortion, a baby is born alive. Other legislative actions were disappointing.

Problematic actions

A series of bills expanding the sale and delivery of alcohol passed. Medical marijuana was legalized. Legislators voted to lift a ban on yoga in public schools. And the Vulnerable Child Compassion & Protection Act, which would have prohibited doctors from offering hormone blockers and surgical procedures to children for the purpose of changing their gender, failed to come to the floor of the House for a vote.

Though no gambling bills made it through the legislative process in the 2021 regular session, Godfrey's



Joe Godfrey (left), ALCAP executive director, speaks with an attendee at the Sept. 24 board meeting.

instinct says gambling and looser marijuana regulations may still come up before 2021 is over.

As always, Godfrey spends his days urging legislators to consider conservative voters and urging Alabama Baptists and other concerned Christians to contact state representatives and senators to voice opposition to gambling expansion and other bills that contradict religious values.

But the 2022 legislative session will be his last. Godfrey announced in March his plans to retire next year. On Sept. 24, board members of ALCAP and American Character Builders chose Greg Davis to succeed Godfrey.

Davis, who has served as president of First Priority of Alabama

since 2008, calls it “a privilege” to step into the leadership role with ALCAP. Davis said he is answering God's calling on his life in accepting the new role.

“There are many critical moral issues that will greatly determine the future for our kids and grandkids in Alabama. It's important that ALCAP keep representing Christian values,” Davis said. “I look forward to traveling the state, meeting and listening to pastors and legislators so I can better understand how to represent and relate to them.”

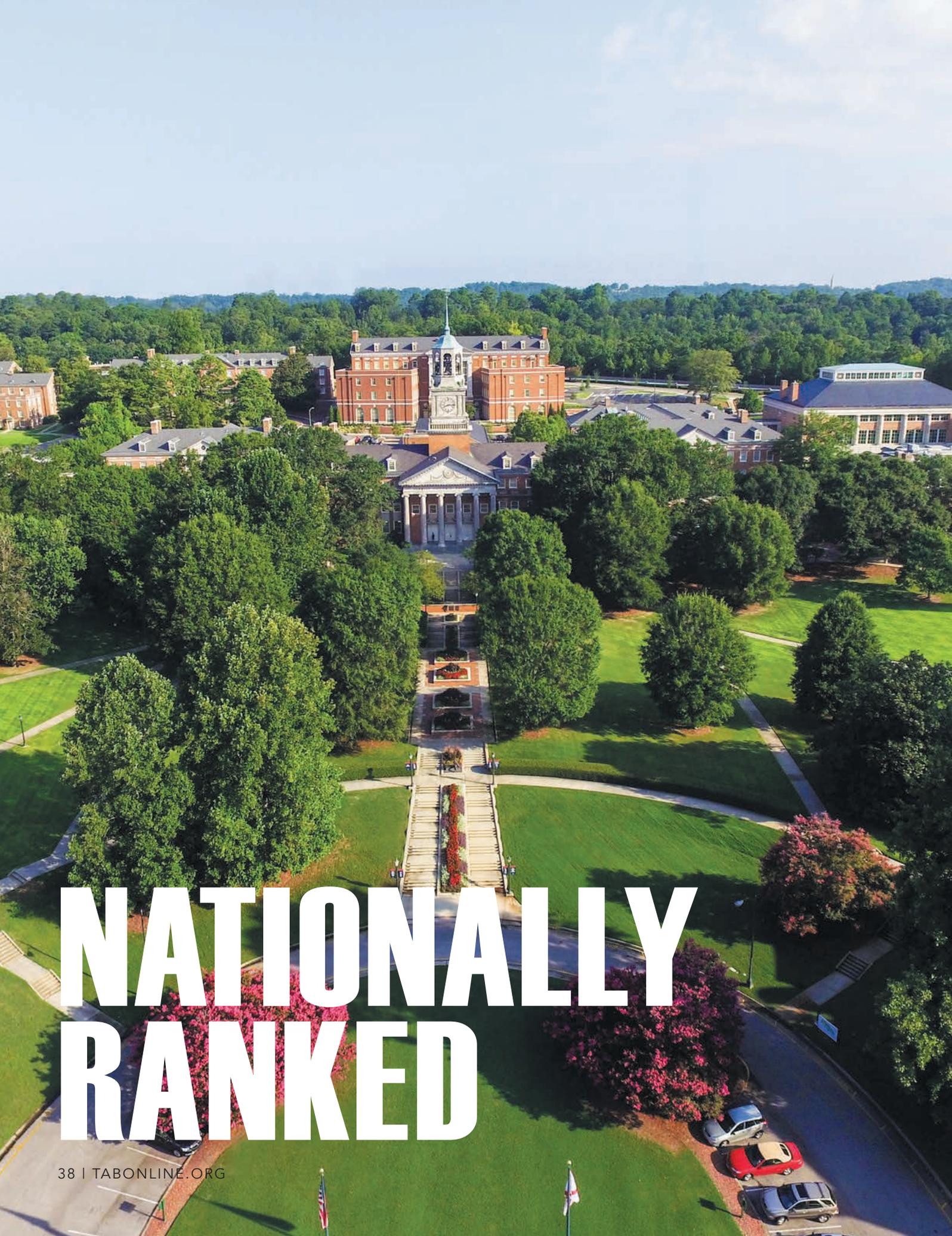
Godfrey will mentor Davis during the 2022 Alabama legislative session before he officially retires April 30.

“Joe has been great and has done this for a long time successfully,” Davis said. “I hope in time to be as effective as he's been.”

Serving Alabama Baptists and Alabama Baptist churches in his current position has been an “honor and privilege,” Godfrey said. “As your voice in the Alabama Legislature concerning moral issues and as your missionary in the Alabama Statehouse, I have been truly blessed.

By providing resources for churches and schools to use in teaching students about the dangers of addictive drugs and activities, I pray that our work has made an eternal impact in our state and beyond.”

For information on ALCAP and ACB, go to alcap.com.



NATIONALLY RANKED

Commitment to success

BY HOLLY GAINER

Samford University

Samford University earns recognition for academic rigor, student engagement and value

Samford's growing national reputation continues to be recognized by rankings from The Wall Street Journal and U.S. News & World Report, highlighting the university's commitment to academic rigor, student success and value.

In its 2022 ranking of higher education institutions, The Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education recognizes Samford as first in the nation for student engagement.

Samford also ranks 184th overall among the nearly 800 universities in the national ranking, and first in Alabama, a position held every year since the rankings' inception in 2016.

Real-world preparation

The annual student engagement ranking assesses the degree to which students feel prepared to use their education in the real world. According to The Wall Street Journal, this category examines "how engaged students feel they are with

their professors, their peers and their education."

Student engagement is deemed central to exceptional teaching quality and reflects "how well a university manages to inform, inspire and challenge students."

Samford was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best universities in the nation for undergraduate teaching. It ranks the university 37th in the country on its Best Undergraduate Teaching list.



Considering there are over 3,900 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. recognized by the Department of Education, this ranking places Samford among the top 1% of colleges and universities in the country. Samford is the only university in Alabama to make this list.

U.S. News & World Report also listed Samford as Alabama's Best Value for a college education. In the list of national universities included in the Best Value ranking, Samford ranks 97th. The organization determines value by evaluating academic quality and cost after accounting for total expenses and financial aid.

The ranking reflects the ratio of academic quality relative to price, including measurement of need-based aid and the average tuition discount or scholarship. The ranking criteria include academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, class size, faculty/student

Beck A. Taylor (left) became the 19th president of Samford University on July 1. He and his wife, Julie, have three children — Zachary, Lauren and Chloe.



ratios and peer assessments from higher education leaders.

Samford is ranked 34th in the nation among private universities and 115th among all public, private and liberal arts colleges and universities analyzed for Kiplinger's Personal Finance's Best College Values list (2019).

National reputation

Cumulatively, these recent rankings affirm Samford's growing national reputation as one of the leading Christian universities in the United States today.

"Samford continues to be recognized as a leader in quality education, teaching and value, and we are pleased that it is ranked amongst the best universities in the country," said Samford President Beck A. Taylor, who on July 1 became Samford's 19th president.

"Although national rankings are just one measure of success, the recognition provides affirmation for our students, employees and alumni. As we continue to grow and thrive, we also celebrate the growing national reputation of our university."

FAST FACTS

- » **5,758** students from **48** states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and **22** countries
- » **10** academic schools
- » **14:1** student-to-faculty ratio
- » **17** NCAA Division I varsity sports
- » Samford's athletic teams earned a **99%** Graduation Success Rate (GSR) by

the NCAA; Ranked **1st** in the nation for GSR among all colleges and universities in the NCAA Division I level

- » **96%** of undergraduate alumni are working or in further study within six months of graduation
- » **53,917** alumni in **62** countries
- » **\$424.8** million annual fiscal and economic impact on Alabama



Sharing
Christ
in Crisis



**CONSIDER
BECOMING A TRAINED
VOLUNTEER!** Training dates
are listed at **SBDR.org**.



Connect to Disaster Relief:

- Administration • Assessment
- Chaplaincy • Mass Feeding
- Cleanup/Recovery/Chainsaw
- Communications • Childcare
- Shower/Laundry

Disaster Relief training is made possible by gifts of Alabama Baptists through the **Cooperative Program** and to the **Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering**.


Myers-Mallory
State Missions Offering



WE ARE HERE *for you.*

BY JOHN ASHWORTH
The Baptist Foundation of Alabama

Unique assignment

**The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
continues to mobilize resources for Kingdom purposes**

It has been just a few months since I officially took the reins as the seventh president at The Baptist Foundation of Alabama. Let me say how thankful we are to be serving in this

ministry and serving Alabama Baptists.

This year was a time of change for our ministry. We celebrated the retirement of our president, Barry Bledsoe, after 20 years of

excellent service at TBFA.

While our leadership has changed, our commitment to serve Alabama Baptists remains the same: in every service we offer, resource we provide,

investment we make, our heart is to make Him known.

At the Foundation, we have a unique assignment in helping fulfill the Great Commission — everything we do is about mobilizing resources for Kingdom purposes. There are a number of ways we do that.

You have heard our ministry talk about the opportunity we all have to advance the Kingdom through Christian legacy planning. But your Baptist Foundation offers many other services to help strengthen churches to propel their ministry around our great state.

For example, many churches ask us to help them with Kingdom Impact Investing, or investment solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of their ministry. In this, we exclude investments in companies engaged in activities that do not align with their faith and include investments in companies furthering Kingdom work while also seeking to generate a compelling market return.

Church loans

We also offer church loans to support the purchase, building, renovation or refinancing of capital projects. Ministries can have confidence the interest from these loans is poured back into Kingdom causes, unlike loans from secular lenders.

And when COVID-19 emerged, we partnered with the Alabama

Baptist State Board of Missions to develop an online giving platform to help churches expand giving beyond the offering plate.

Created within days of Alabama's lockdowns, we helped more than 70 churches put plans in place to move giving online.

These are just a few of the services we offer to help mobilize resources for Kingdom purposes.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you, your families and your church.

For more information

For assistance or more information, go to our website, tbfa.org, or contact our ministry engagement staff at 334-394-2000.

Our team stands ready to help you however we can.



To see how we have helped Alabama Baptist churches just like yours, please visit vimeo.com/tbfa/impact.

Integrating your investing with your faith

BY JOHN ASHWORTH

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama

Most Christians in America today have a blind spot — integrating their investing with their faith. At TBFA, we believe there is a better way to invest.

Traditional investing says make as much money as you can, almost without caring how you made it. And then, if you are a Christian, take a percentage of what you earned and give it away.

Unknowingly profiting

But so many Christians may be unknowingly profiting from industries like gambling, tobacco, pornography and abortion — working against God's plans for humanity. But 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) says, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." And at The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, this includes our investment portfolio.

We believe you should feel 100% confident your investments are leveraging your resources, honoring your faith and pleasing the Lord. If you are unsure about your current investment strategy, let us show you how wise stewardship of your portfolio can lead to much more than a financial harvest — it can lead to the expansion of God's kingdom!



To see a video, please visit vimeo.com/tbfa/invest.

CHRIST CENTERED

Colossians 1:17-18



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 16-17, 2021
WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH • HUNTSVILLE

FEATURING MESSAGES BY:

Tim Cox
Tuesday Morning



Tim Cox

Jamie Dew
Tuesday Evening



Jamie Dew

Jeff Meyers
Wednesday Morning



Jeff Meyers

CHRIST CENTERED

Colossians 1:17-18

testimonies by

Joshua del Risco
Dewayne Rembert
Zachary Beasley

Joshua del Risco



MINI-CONCERT
Tuesday Evening
by Contemporary
Christian Singer
Christy Nockels



Dewayne Rembert

Zachary Beasley



Visit alsbom.org/convention for complete schedule and hotel information or contact Amy Nelson, anelson@alsbom.org, (334) 613-2231.

‘Love thy neighbor as thyself’

BY PAIGE HUDSON

Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers

Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers help residents deal with pandemic-related isolation

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic at Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers, several residents in particular have stepped up to the plate and persevered at Knollwood in Roa-

noke by helping one another cope with the isolation the pandemic has caused.

One in particular made a tremendous impact before losing her battle with COVID-19 on Sept. 17, 2021.

Cindy Brewer, a resident at Knollwood Baptist Retirement Center, felt a desire to start a “Neighbor Helping Neighbor” ministry during the coronavirus pandemic. She enlisted help from two of her friends who also live at Knollwood, Charlotte Booth and Rena Hewett.

Together they fed residents monthly with a meal on the weekend. They planned, cooked and delivered a meal to each apartment while keeping within the COVID-19 guidelines of social distancing.

There was no cost to any resident; they managed on their own resources and donations.

Giving hope

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day meals also were provided. The ladies said the meals were an outreach meant to give their neighbors hope while battling the coronavirus pandemic.

Cindy also had a vision for a monthly newsletter to help residents stay educated on important issues.



Residents and staff of Knollwood Baptist Retirement Center in Roanoke deliver treats to residents to celebrate Independence Day. ABRC also operates retirement centers in Montgomery and Dothan.

She and a few other residents met monthly to discuss what needed to be in the newsletter.

Knollwood manager LaJuana Holloway then designed and assembled each newsletter. That effort continues today, honoring Cindy's vision.

Staying informed

The newsletter keeps residents informed about COVID-19 statistics, socially distanced bingo games, birthdays for the month, Bible verses, an easy recipe, notes from the manager and special occasions. They also include a monthly prize giveaway.

This group of friends and neighbors have delivered homemade ice cream and cotton candy, and they even held a Fourth of July party with games and treats.

But these ladies were not through! They provided cloth masks to all the residents. Charlotte sewed them using cloth donated by Cindy. Rena donated a bottle of hand sanitizer to each resident.

Mark 12:31 reminds us the second greatest commandment is "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The ministry of Alabama Baptist



Knollwood resident Cindy Brewer (center) helps fellow residents make a Valentine's Day craft. Before losing her battle with COVID-19 in September, Brewer helped keep her friends at Knollwood informed and active.

Retirement Centers continues to provide a safe, Christian environment for hundreds of low-income senior adults throughout the state, in part thanks to gifts from Alabama Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program.

Following God's lead

It is by God's hand that our ministry continues to thrive financially, as reported by our auditors, even through the pandemic.

We look forward to where He

leads in the coming year. We are thankful for the generosity of Alabama Baptists who assist us in ministering to our residents throughout the year.

Sharing the love of Christ with our residents is our Great Commission ministry.

We welcome church groups to visit and share your specific talents with our residents.

At ABRC, we live and lean on Isaiah 46:4, which states, "I will be your God through all your lifetime, yes, even when your hair is white with age."

Visit our website at abrc.org to learn more about Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers.



Knollwood residents Charlotte Booth and Rena Hewett grill hotdogs for the Fourth of July party they planned with their friend, Cindy Brewer, as another resident looks on. During the pandemic, the three women planned several activities for the community.

Preparing Pastors Who Can Preach



"My professors modeled a deep engagement with the riches of the biblical text in an interdenominational environment that opened my eyes to the breadth and beauty of the larger body of Christ. My experience, far from diluting my confessional and convictional Baptist heritage, actually enhanced and reinforced my commitment to Baptist distinctives."

-Rev. Dr. David Eldridge, M.Div '04, senior pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham

Why Beeson?

Baptists represent about 50% of our student body and alumni. Baptist students are attracted to Beeson Divinity School because as a student they will:

- Learn how to preach from renowned Baptist preacher Dr. Robert Smith Jr.
- Benefit from pastoral and preaching resources provided by Beeson's Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute and Thriving Pastors Initiative
- Take church history and doctrine courses from Baptist faculty members Dr. Timothy George and Dr. Mark DeVine
- Study missions from former IMB missionary Dr. David Parks, director of Beeson's Global Center
- Gain experience in cross-cultural ministry, which is required for every M.Div. student.
- Be mentored by other Baptist faculty members: Dr. Ken Mathews, Dr. Stefana, Dan Laing and Dr. Tom Fuller
- Apply what they learn in the classroom by interning at one of Birmingham's many Baptist churches



Become a pastor who can preach:
beesondivinity.com/go/SBC



Samford University
Beeson Divinity School

800 Lakeshore Drive | Birmingham, AL 35229
beesondivinity.com |     



MUCH TO CELEBRATE

Prepared to follow the Lord's calling

BY KATHY DEAN
University of Mobile

Dec. 12 University of Mobile Day honors Diamond Anniversary

Alabama Baptists saw the need 60 years ago for a university founded on the belief in Proverbs 9:10 that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Today, the University of Mobile is a testament to that vision of “Higher Education for a Higher Purpose.”

Our yearlong Diamond Anniversary celebration culminates on Dec. 12, when we invite Alabama Baptists to recognize University of Mobile Day and the thousands of graduates serving in churches and communities across the state and throughout the world.

There is much to celebrate, from new academic programs like the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice — the only DNAP program in a four-state region — to the new J.L. Bedsole Sports Performance Center, a 4,000-square-foot athletic training center funded with donations and grants.

- The first class of students enrolled in the new Master of Athletic Training Program, which



Lonnie Burnett is president of the University of Mobile.

is in the School of Health and Sports Science.

Strong financial position

- UM closed out the 2020–2021 fiscal year in a strong financial position, and the UM Board of Trustees approved a \$29 million balanced budget for 2021–2022.

- The new Center for Chris-

tian Calling, formerly the School of Christian Studies, prepares students for ministry with an emphasis on practical skills. Adjunct instructors include over a dozen pastors, missionaries, association directors and ministry leaders from Baptist life.

- UM offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in over 75 academic programs.

'Best Value School'

- U.S. News & World Report named UM a Best Value School, the highest-ranked regional college in Alabama for veterans and No. 15 Best Regional College in the South. The review site Niche gave UM top marks in its 2022 Best Colleges rankings, including No. 1 Best College Dorms in Alabama and No. 2 in Alabama for Best Small College, Safest College and Best College Campus.

With the support of Baptists throughout Alabama, the University of Mobile continues to graduate men and women grounded in a biblical worldview and prepared to follow the Lord's calling for their lives.

GET TO KNOW UM'S FACULTY

Alabama Baptists can be proud of faculty who teach at the University of Mobile. Our motto, "Know and Be Known," describes an environment in which students are known by their professors, and professors know

their calling goes beyond teaching subject matter in a particular discipline. Below are excerpts from Faculty Q&A stories found on our website at umobile.edu/stories, where you may also subscribe to a weekly news update.



"The thing I love about the University of Mobile is the same thing I loved when I was a student here, which is the sense of family and community. I had professors who invested their time and energy into me because they believed in me as a student. I am so thankful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to pay it forward to my students."

MEGAN HARPER

Coordinator of Clinical Education
Master of Athletic Training Program
School of Health and Sports Science



"We have been created on purpose and for a purpose. I believe that purpose is to fulfill Jesus' command when He says in Matthew to 'go and make disciples.' How we live out this purpose looks differently depending on where we end up working and where we have the opportunity to serve others with excellence. I believe we train our students to be excellent at their vocation so they can spend a lifetime serving others and discipling well in whatever field they go into."

DR. LORI GUY

Assistant Professor of Music
Alabama School of the Arts



"I am passionate about disciple-making in every course I teach. I aim for students to grow in their relationship with Christ, their comprehension of biblical truth and in their desire to proclaim the gospel of Christ."

DR. JAY ROBERTSON

Associate Professor
of Systematic Theology
Center for Christian Calling



YOUR CAMPUS CONNECTION

BCMLINK.ORG



Kim Andrews
University of Alabama
kandrews@alsbom.org



Zach Beasley
Alabama State University
zbeasley@alsbom.org



Brad Bensinger
Troy University
bbensinger@alsbom.org



Gary Brittain
Jacksonville State University
gbrittain@alsbom.org



Jerrod Brown
University of South Alabama
jbrown@alsbom.org



Ben Crocker
Auburn University Montgomery
bcrocker@alsbom.org



Matt Daniels
University of North Alabama
mdaniels@alsbom.org

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES is a student organization on college and university campuses, a ministry of local Baptist churches, **AND** a great way to make sure your students **CONNECT**.

WOULD YOU BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT MANY GRADUATING SENIORS WILL GO TO COLLEGE THIS FALL AND STOP GOING TO CHURCH?

Please visit bcmlink.org/connect, complete the Transition Form for your graduating seniors and submit it. We will make sure your students get connected to a campus minister and BCM on their campus.



Jake Duke
West Central Alabama Area/UWA
jduke@alsbom.org



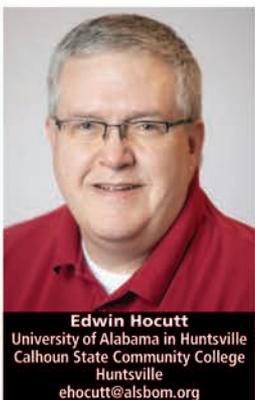
Jacob Freeman
University of Montevallo
Jefferson State Community College
Shelby Campus
jfreeman@alsbom.org



Beth Gardner
University of South Alabama
egardner@alsbom.org



Craig Hawkins
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham Southern College
chawkins@alsbom.org



Edwin Hocutt
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Calhoun State Community College
Huntsville
ehocutt@alsbom.org



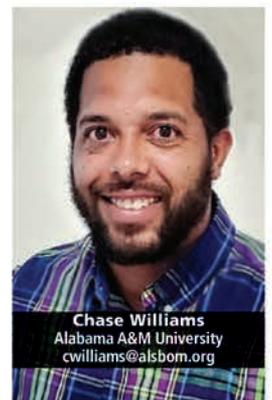
Bill Morrison
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama School of
Medicine
bmorrison@alsbom.org



Steve Thompson
Auburn University
Southern Union State Community
College
sthompson@alsbom.org

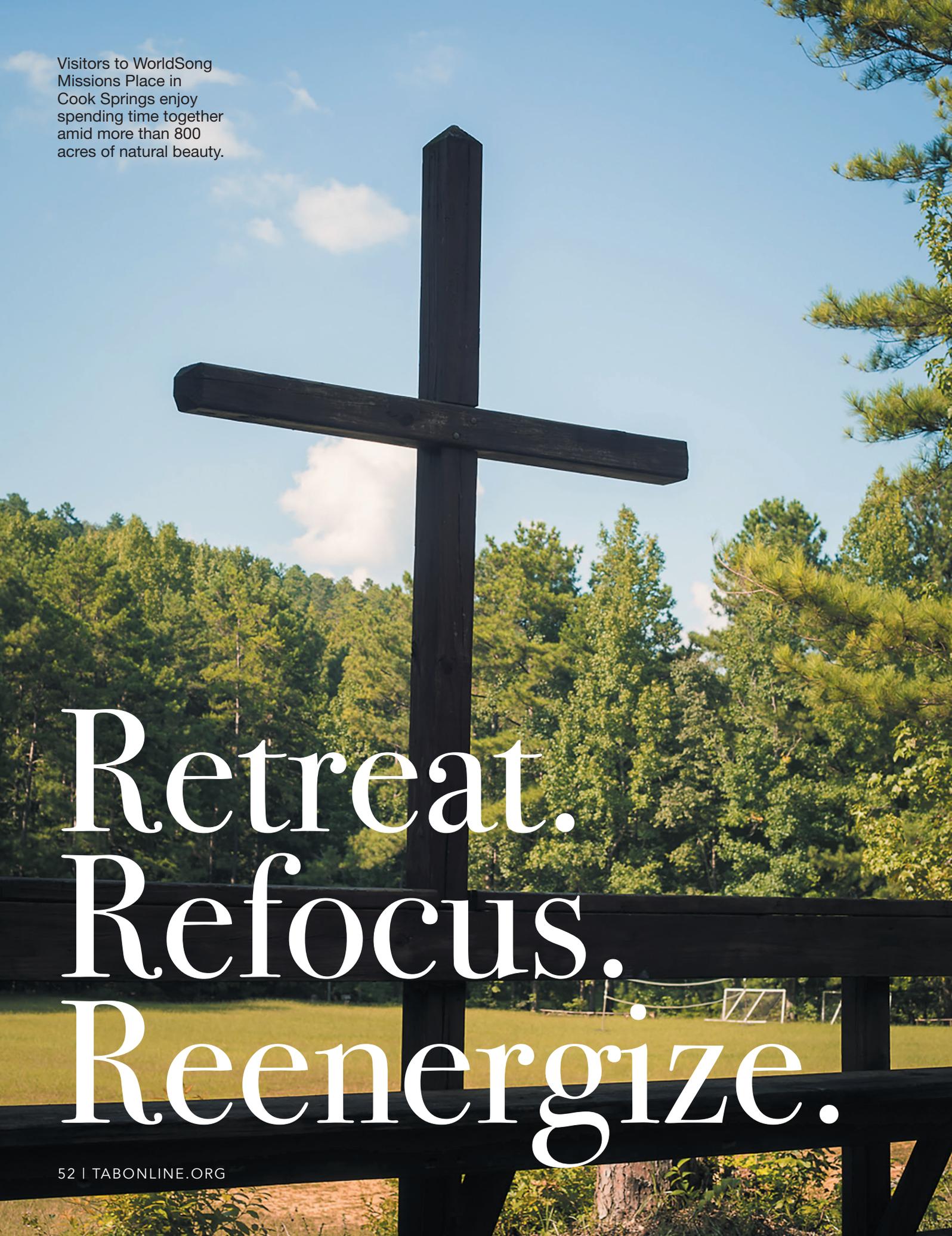


Sean Thornton
Auburn University
sthornton@alsbom.org



Chase Williams
Alabama A&M University
cwilliams@alsbom.org

Visitors to WorldSong
Missions Place in
Cook Springs enjoy
spending time together
amid more than 800
acres of natural beauty.



Retreat. Refocus. Reenergize.

God's beauty

— BY CANDACE MCINTOSH —

Alabama WMU

Alabama WMU's WorldSong Missions Place offers year-round retreat in natural setting

Close your eyes and breathe in three simple words: Retreat, refocus, reenergize.

Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? And all are possible at WorldSong Missions Place, the retreat center ministry of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

WorldSong recently celebrated 30 years of ministry, and leaders

want Alabama Baptists to know the best years are yet to come.

The COVID-19 pandemic closed camps nationwide in 2020. In 2021, WorldSong adjusted by taking camp on the road to churches all across the state.

In summer 2022, a range of camp experiences for girls and boys will be offered once again on campus. In the meantime,

church groups are always welcome at WorldSong. The campus offers a great place for your group members to connect with each other and develop relationships as they spend time together enjoying the camp's natural beauty.

The 800-acre campus is located just off Interstate 20 at the Cook Springs exit, convenient to the Birmingham Metro area and

**More affordable.
More accessible.
More achievable
than ever before.**

NOW AVAILABLE FULLY ONLINE
AND OPEN TO MA AND MDIV GRADS

DMin DOCTOR OF
MINISTRY

LEARN MORE AT [SEBTS.EDU/DMIN](https://sebts.edu/dmin)



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

less than two hours from most of Central and North Alabama.

In just one day on campus, groups can hike to the first cross located on beautiful Bald Rock Mountain, kayak on the lake and enjoy outdoor games including volleyball, basketball and gaga ball or other activities on WorldSong's large recreational fields.

An overnight or weekend stay allows groups to add crafts, archery or team-building exercises to their schedule. The beauty

of WorldSong extends beyond the scenery, with economical and accessible options for groups of all sizes and all ages.

What might your retreat look like? It's really up to you — a

WorldSong retreat can be personalized to your group's goals. For example, a women's group recently used our newly renovated Adult Retreat Center for a weekend retreat and a large metro church



McINTOSH

New WMU missions curriculum debuts

This fall, Missions Journey: Kids debuted as a curriculum option for Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Children in Action and any other missions discipleship group for grades 1–6 who would like to use it.

With a balanced blend of missions discipleship and Bible study, it's a one-stop shop for children's missions groups, written with every church in mind.

Each weekly session includes tips for teaching, missions activities and Scripture memory and application. A free sample unit is available at wmu.com/missionsjourneykids. (Candace McIntosh)



WorldSong's year-round staff are (left to right) property manager Cliff Parker, administrator Charles Taylor and operations manager Kyle Winningham.

utilized the campus as their hub as they did missions work in Birmingham for the week.

The ARC features sleeping accommodations for 28, plus a full-sized kitchen, large open floor plan and fireplace on the main floor, a deck overlooking the lake and an open area for games or meetings on the bottom level.

Need a more inclusive package

with overnight accommodations, meals and staff-directed activities? WorldSong can help with that too.

Dates are open this winter, spring and summer for churches to do their own camps.

Year-round staff

WorldSong's year-round staff — administrator Charles Taylor, operations manager Kyle

Winningham and property manager Cliff Parker — are hard at work preparing for your group's visit to the campus. Looking for a missions service project? Charles also can suggest projects that might work for your group — just another way WorldSong is building partnerships with Alabama Baptist churches.

Ready to plan your getaway? Go to WorldSongRetreat.org, give us a call at 334-613-2325 or email Charles at worldsongmanager@centurytel.net.

For more information, go to AlabamaWMU.org.

Thank you

It's our great pleasure to bring you this third annual issue of Fruitful and to share just a few stories of how Alabama Baptists continue to cooperate as Great Commission partners in our state and beyond.

We hope you will be encouraged and inspired by the reports of Alabama Baptist ministry and missions efforts included in these pages.

If you enjoyed these articles, you also will enjoy the content shared weekly in the print edition of The Alabama Baptist and daily on our website, tabonline.org. Want a free preview? Sign up for our thrice weekly newsletter highlighting the latest national, interna-

tional and Southern Baptist Convention headlines, plus additional multimedia content from TAB Media. Sign up for TAB Highlights at tabonline.org/highlights.

And if you're not a subscriber to The Alabama Baptist, today is a great day to become one. Go to tabonline.org/subscribe for details.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who shared stories and photos with us for this special issue and to our Fruitful editorial staff and the entire TAB team. Your tireless work is appreciated, but more than that, I am grateful for your daily kindness and willingness to share your gifts with our Alabama Baptist family.



Carrie

Carrie Brown McWhorter
Content editor

TAB
MEDIA GROUP

What's the latest from Carpenter Bus?

8-year UNLIMITED mileage coverage!

WHAT??

That's right! I just heard that when a church buys a new bus from Carpenter Bus, they now get an 8-YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE warranty thrown in - for FREE!

8-YEAR unlimited mileage coverage??

Yup! And that means worry-free operation for us churches year after year!

Wow! They must like helping churches!

Yup!

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer



www.carpenterbus.com
800-370-6180
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY



PHOTO CREDITS: Front cover: Sam Evans. **Page 5:** Sam Evans. **Page 6:** Tracy Riggs. **Page 7:** courtesy of Whitesburg Baptist Church. **Page 9:** Connie Pearson. **Page 10:** Connie Pearson, bottom right: Facebook. **Page 11:** Connie Pearson. **Page 13:** main photo by Zach Beasley, headshot courtesy of SBOM. **Page 14:** courtesy of SBOM. **Page 15:** top photo by Sam Evans, bottom photo by Doug Rogers. **Page 18:** courtesy of Katie Bond. **Page 19:** main photo courtesy of Katie Bond, headshot courtesy of ABCH. **Pages 20-21:** courtesy of Judson College. **Page 22:** bottom photo by Travis Frontz, headshot courtesy of Judson College. **Pages 25-27:** courtesy of ABHC. **Page 32:** courtesy of Shocco Springs. **Page 34:** top photo by Bob Crisp, bottom photo and headshot courtesy of Shocco Springs. **Pages 36-37:** Mitchell Bruce. **Pages 38-40:** TAB Media file photos. **Page 42:** courtesy of TBFA. **Pages 45-46:** LaJuana Holloway. **Pages 48-50:** courtesy of University of Mobile. **Page 52:** Charlotte Madison. **Page 54:** main photo by Charlotte Madison, headshot courtesy of Alabama WMU. **Page 55:** Carrie Brown McWhorter.



MEDIA GROUP

3310 Independence Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSONVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 2840

CONNECT WITH US



alabamabaptist



thealabamabaptist



alabamabaptist



TABMediaGroup



tabonline.org



TABMediaGroup



The Alabama Baptist

