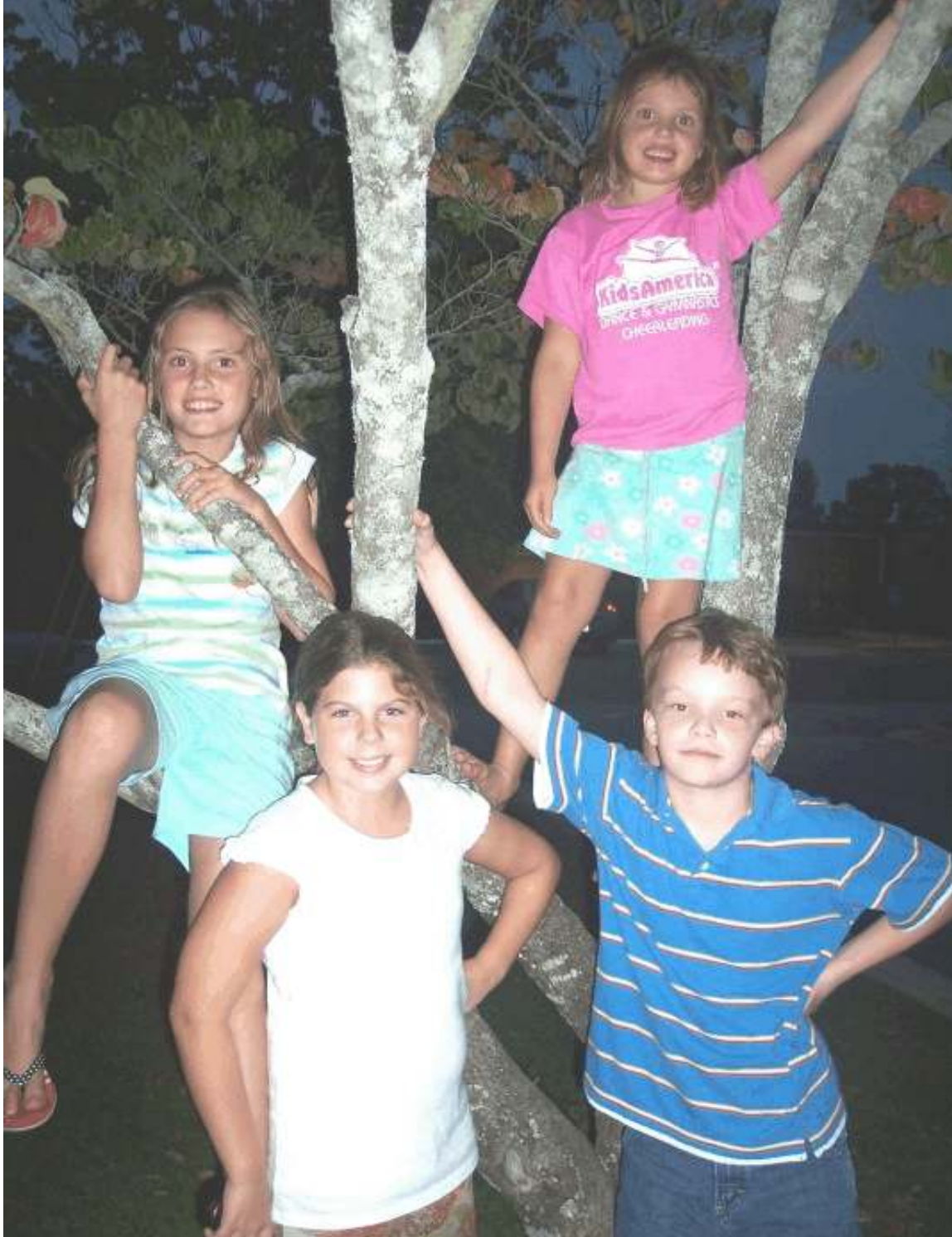


September 2008



Blessings



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Pastor's column

The gift—share it

The fog of insecurity and uncertainty seems to clear for the moment as the sun rises from the east to say good morning, to kiss the earth with the reminder that we have been given another day to cherish or squander; one more day to live, love and share the Gospel.



Andy Blankenship

To be honest the word gift seems almost elementary to use when talking about salvation from a God who owns the universe, created gravity and defeated death, but that is just what it is. Our eternal salvation is a gift that defies all fairness and common logic, a gift that we neither deserve nor earned, but have been offered none the less. A gift unmatched by any other. Sure a man can die for another, but to die for sinners...knowing that at times some would reject His existence and blaspheme His name. Like I said it is an unmatched, untouchable gift. It's more than just a gift of salvation, but it's a gift of freedom and life in Christ.

I wish this was my constant thought pattern and that my heart yearned for soul after soul to be won the kingdom constantly, but truthfully I find myself blurring the lines of mediocrity and complacency from time to time with a systematic type religion that keeps the boxes checked, but is devoid of passion. And believe me I need passion to survive. I want a fire to stir in me that brings me to my knees in such reverence and respect for the glory of God. I mean, I want to feel the weight of the work on the cross and be satisfied in the fact that if He never does another thing nor says another word that that bloody cross was enough and that very vacant tomb completely sufficient to sustain me.

I want you and I to live in such a sense of urgency that it is though we can smell the borders of hell when (continued on page 3)

BBC welcomes new members

Michelle and Thad Kitchens have joined our church by transfer of letter. They own and operate their own company, Kitchens Logging. Michelle enjoys flowers, crafts and painting and is a Florida Gators fan. Thad enjoys just about all the major sports, particularly college football. Thad and Michelle live at 265 Josey Avenue, Byromville with their three sons: Nate, Rodney and Michael.



Samantha and Sterling McCullum have joined our church by statement of letter. Sterling is employed by Houston Medical Center in Warner Robins and

Samantha is a full time homemaker. Sterling enjoys playing the guitar and riding four wheelers while Samantha enjoys singing. They live at 3027 Pine Street in Unadilla with their ten month old son Bryson.

Thank you Radney Green

Radney Green of Americus has been teaching the youth class on Wednesday nights this summer as well as helping with some special events such as the Discipleship Now Weekend in August.



Radney Green

Radney has done a great job, and we will miss her. In preparation for a career as a medical missionary, Radney is currently attending Georgia Southwestern University in Americus majoring in nursing. Please pray for Radney as she continues to seek and follow God's will for her life.



The FBIC Sunday School Class visited Ann and Floyd Tucker at their home near Hawkinsville on August 21. Members carried supper, and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Pastor's column continued from page 2

...we keep company with the lost and with everything we have desire to be the wall between them and that horrible pit reserved for the devil and his angels.

I am in no way hoping that you climb on board an evangelistic explosion. We have had enough of those that leave people looking for a new way to share their faith two years later. I am simply hoping and wishing that you would share "your faith" and that being what Christ has done in and through you, the reason why you worship and sing, the reason why you dance or easily overcome things that would typically be tragedy or the reason you have joy unspeakable.

If you have no story, no time when God stepped in and took over your story to make it His own then you should consider the possibility that you are lost and need God to save you. The good news is that He has made a way.

Here is a good place to start: "God this is your story. I so desperately desire to be a part of it. Bend me. Break me. Do whatever it takes to let your light shine from me. Reduce me that you and only you may be seen. Save me from this world and it's passions, save me from myself and my passions, save me from my sin and its consequences and let me fall more in love with you every day."

Because He Lives

Brother Andy

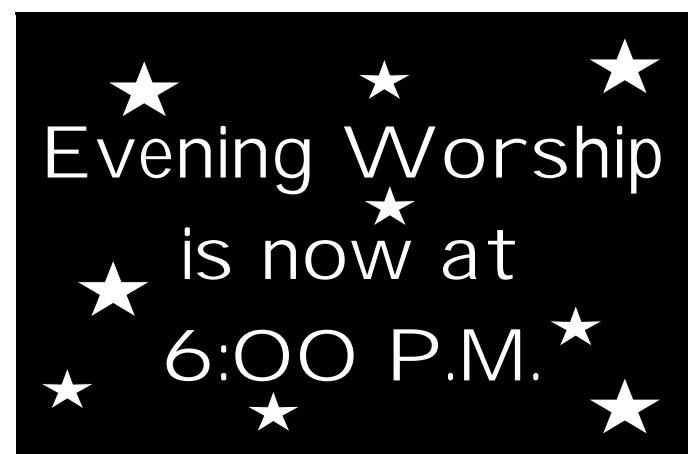
NEWSBRIEFS

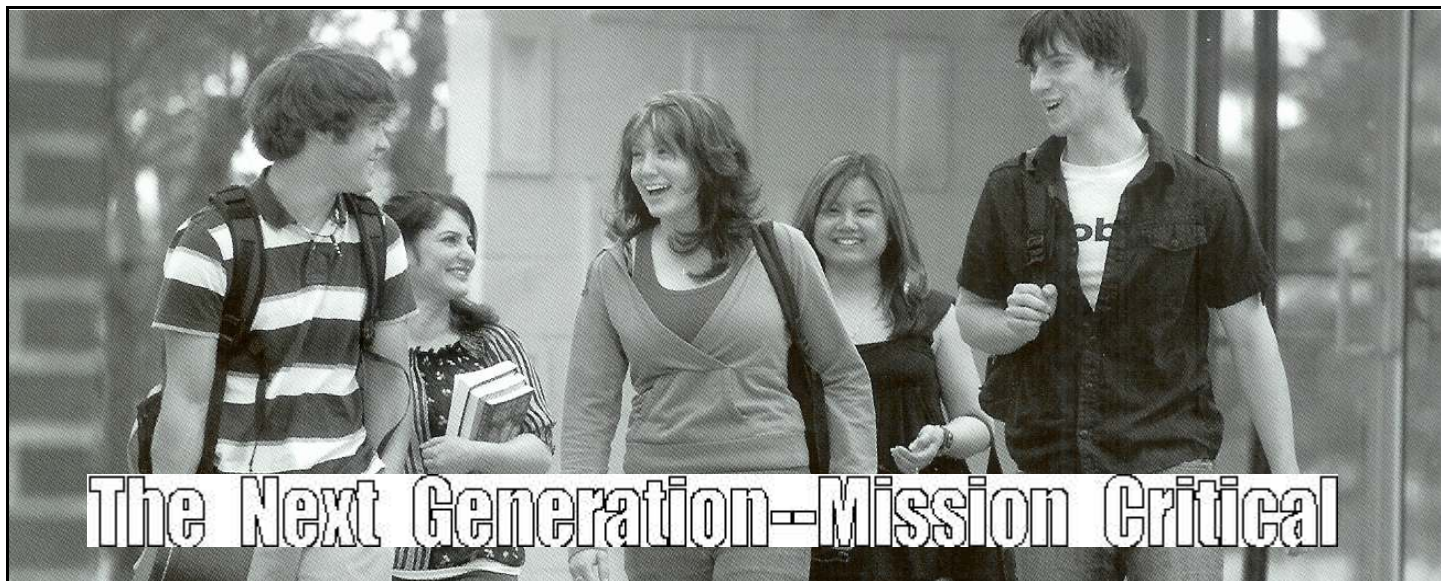
Study on Voddie Baucham's book *Family Driven Faith* will begin September 7. Pastor Andy Blankenship will lead the study on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Contact the pastor for more information.

Valerie Latham of New Frontiers Harvesters, a medical ministry to unreached frontiers, will share about her and her husband's ministry at an associational WMU meeting on September 6 at 10:00 a.m. at Houston Baptist Center. A soup and salad luncheon will follow the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Rhonda and Ed Youngblood hosted a pool party for last month's Bible Bookmark mystery trip. Those enjoying the party were Sarah Averill Brannen, Grady McGullion, Mandy Smith, Quint Smith, Kate West, Kylie West, Russ Wilkes and Matthew Youngblood.. The next mystery trip will be in October. Contact Rhonda for more information about the Bible Bookmark Program, which encourages children to read their Bible daily.

Sixteen youth participated in the Discipleship Now Weekend August 23-23 led by Pastor Andy Blankenship and Radney Green. Special thanks to other leaders Nick Blankenship, T. J. Mauldin, John Schroeder and Laura Schubert. Thanks also to Debra Walling-Preston and William Preston and Jill Brannen for hosting the youth overnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Thank you to Suzy Grantham and Rhonda Youngblood for helping with the meals at the church house and also all those who provided food and drinks.





*O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old — what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; **we will tell the next generation** the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, **so the next generation would know them**, even the children yet to be born, **and they in turn would tell their children**. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him. Psalms 78:1-8*

God has always been concerned for the next generation. He has always wanted us to spread His fame and His renown to the nations and to the generations. God's people in Georgia Baptist churches have always shared that concern. We have been investing time, energy, staff, finances, buildings and people to reach preschoolers, children, middle schoolers, high schoolers and college students. That desire is even reflected in the way Georgia Baptist churches cooperate through prayer and giving to create a missionary force that serves you throughout Georgia, leading the charge to connect with the next generation.

At the church house on September 7, you will find a prayer guide that calls you to pray for your state missionaries who have the assignment of strengthening our cooperative effort to reach the next generation. These missionaries utilize tools such as the Youth Evangelism Conference, Superwow, Impact, Conclave, the Student Ministry Network, WOW Weekend, Royal Ambassadors, Acteens, Bible study ministries, Youth Choir Festivals, personal church consultations and a variety of training events. Pray for these leaders of leaders and these events to be tools in God's hand to reach the next generation in Georgia.

What is unique about the next generation? In our country:

- 60% of 60 year olds and up attend church.
- 40% of 42-60 year olds attend church.
- 18% of 31-42 year olds attend church.
- 4% of 13-30 year olds attend church.

(From *The Bridger Generation* by Dr. Thom Ranier)

It has never been more important than now to invest in reaching the next generation.

- Roughly 90% of all Christians made their decision for Christ before they reached the age of 21, (campusforchrist.org).

- George Barna reported that “the greatest evangelistic
(continued on page 5)

window currently available is among young children.” According to the data gathered, children, ages 5 through 13 have a 32% probability of coming to Christ. Barna continued in the report to state “that if a person does not accept Christ as savior before the age of 14, the likelihood of ever doing so is slim.” Rainer’s research demonstrated that over half of Christians today accepted Christ before the age of 13. History and experience both reveal that children are a fertile mission field for the gospel (kidzplace.org).

- Moral foundations of children are typically solidified by the age of nine... lifelong spiritual choices regarding one’s faith and one’s relationship with Jesus Christ are generally made before reaching age 13. Those beliefs rarely change to any meaningful degree after age 13 (barna.org).

We must redouble our efforts to reach the mission force that will reach our grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, etc. Even though the statistics of our results are discouraging, it has never been easier to reach students. Even though these statistics reveal some disturbing trends, it is important for us to focus on the mission given to us by Christ, the mission field, and the mission assets at our disposal because of our cooperation as Georgia Baptists.

The Mission

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Because God gave Jesus *all* authority to reach *all* peoples of *all* nations of *all* ages, and since He promised to be with us while we seek and save that which was lost, we must boldly love students, live the Good News, and share that Jesus is available to the Next Generation with every student in our community. Jesus did not consider this mission optional, and neither should we. With a loving spirit, we must help parents become the spiritual leaders of the next generation. This mission cannot be delegated to the paid staff, the youth ministry team, the parents,

and the students – it belongs to everyone who has a relationship with Jesus.

Mission Field

According to census statistics, there are 906,000 students in grades 7-12 living in the state of Georgia. The North American Mission Board estimates that 70% of any population in the United States does not attend church. If that were the case in Georgia, this would mean that nearly 634,000 7th through 12th grade students in Georgia are not a part of a faith family.

Mission Assets

There are nearly 3600 cooperating Georgia Baptist churches. There is a mission force of 86,422 students enrolled in the Sunday Schools or small group Bible studies of those 3600 churches. To influence the entire student population in Georgia, each Georgia Baptist church would simply need to create a strategy to influence 256 students through prayer, invitation, relationship, witness, baptism and multiplication, commissioning them to join the mission force, cooperating with God to reach the nations and generations alongside us as we do the same.

We can accomplish so much more, so much faster when we pray, give and go together. Let’s be the movement of God, and reach the next generation right now. As you pray, give to the State Missions Offering, and go – you can be sure the Georgia Baptist mission force will lead the way!

Relentless
Pursuit



Reaching the next generation
Georgia Baptist State Missions
Season of Prayer and Offering
September 7-14, 2008

Prayer guides and offering envelopes will be available at the church house.



Schedule of Volunteers for August					
Please remember it is up to you to arrange coverage if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
Date	Flowers	Nursery AM	Nursery PM	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Sep. 7	Open	Amy/Anthony Burch	Katrina/Kyle West	Jimmy Lockerman	Ronnie Hatcher Clinton Brannen
Sep. 14	Open	Robin/Mark Peavy	Sue Thompson Rhonda Youngblood	Arthur Roney	Frank Thompson Daniel Thompson Matthew Youngblood
Sep. 21	Open	Katrina/Kyle West	Suzy Grantham	Mark Smith	Mark Smith Quint Smith
Sep. 28	Open	Sue Thompson Rhonda Youngblood	Patricia/Joe Kent	Curtis Lamberth	Jimmy L. Hendrix George Massey

August Stats

Sunday School–Bible study for all ages

Senior Adults	14
FBIC	13
CIA	5
VOC/Berean	10
Young Adults	10
Older Youth	8
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	3
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	7
1 st & 2 nd Graders	6
Older Preschoolers	6
Younger Preschoolers	6
Nursery	3
General Officers	6
TOTAL	97

Wonderful Wednesdays

Youth	13
Older Children	9
Younger Children (Children in Action)	15
Preschoolers (Mission Friends)	13
Nursery	4
TOTAL	54

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Inez and Jimmie Collier on the arrival of their fourth great grandchild, Anna Marie Elrod.

Financial Summary

July receipts

General offerings	\$10,801.79
Special–Hailey Barrett Fund	500.00
For stove	5.00
TOTAL	11,375.79

July disbursements

General expenses	6,741.17
Local missions	722.37
Cooperative Program	1,132.31
Houston Baptist Association	471.80
TOTAL	\$ 9,067.65



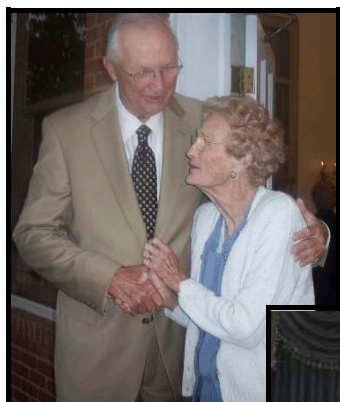
To Byromville Baptist,

Pinehill Nursing Center wants to thank you for the generosity shown to the residents during your Vacation Bible School and you all placing the bird feeders and the bird houses up in our courtyard. We have since landscaped the area to further enhance the beauty of you all's addition to our area. Again thanks.

Editor's note: Installing the bird feeders and bird houses in Pinehill's courtyard was one of the youth's ministry projects during Vacation Bible School in June.



My how those Powell children have grown up! That's Jeffie pictured by himself. In the middle is Jeff and Rebecca holding Luke Worley. Far right is Jeff and Bethany greeting Martha Hill.



Above is Ken Haag greeting Mary Ellen Wilkes. To the right he is standing tall as always in the pulpit. Below Ken is greeting Virginia Lockerman.



Scenes from our August Revival

Visit our website to see lots more.



Above Dennis Phillips is greeting Martha Peavy. To the right Rose gives Sue Thompson a hug. Below Dennis is greeting Inez and Jimmie Collier.





Above: This picture relates to last month's article from the past about children's choir. Pictured are children's choir leaders returning home after a week of music at Ridgecrest in 1979. Left to right are Sheryl Burnam, Jean Gresham Thompson, Suzy Burnam Grantham, Judy Brinson, Angie Lockerman Burton. (Photo courtesy of Judy Brinson)

Left: Ken Haag, Gladys Johnson and Bud Johnson at a "old timey" worship service in 1976.

Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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175
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