

# North Central News

Serving the Churches of the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations

August 2018



## Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 - 9:00 AM

Coal Mountain Baptist Church, 3220 Dahlonega Highway, Cumming 30040



**Georgia Baptist Children's  
Homes and Family  
Ministries, Inc.**

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home truck loading for churches in the Hightower Baptist Association will take place at the Annual Meeting at Coal Mountain Baptist Church on October 3.

Items requested are:

canned chicken, 100% juices (especially orange), salad dressing (French & Ranch), snacks (individually wrapped), 55 gallon trash bags and gift cards.

## Etowah Baptist Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Worship Service at 7:00 PM

North Central Area Missions Office, 4206 North Arnold Mill Road,  
Woodstock 30188



**Georgia Baptist Children's  
Homes and Family  
Ministries, Inc.**

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home truck loading for churches in the

**Etowah Baptist Association**

and the

**Roswell Baptist Association**

will take place October 30 beginning at 5:00 PM.

Items requested are:

Styrofoam cups/bowls, plates and plastic forks and spoons, liquid laundry detergent, liquid dishwashing detergent, and gift cards.

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact us at  
[janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or call 770-384-8548.

## Pastoral Changes

**Foothills Community Church** in Marble Hill (Etowah Association) has called **Rev. Charlie Parish** as **Senior Pastor** effective July 1, 2018.

We welcome Charlie, along with his wife, Lacy, and their children, Andy, Lincoln, Abel, Luke and Haven.

**Dr. Jim Gaines, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Dawsonville** (Lanier Baptist Association) has announced his resignation effective September 2, 2018.

We thank Jim and his wife, Debbie, for over 20 years of faithful service at First Dawsonville.

Our prayers and best wishes go with them as they continue serving in Christian ministry.

**Rev. John Lay, Senior Pastor at North Lanier Baptist Church** (Lanier Baptist Association) has announced his resignation.

We thank John and his wife, Karen, for almost seven years of faithful service at North Lanier.

## New Churches in the North Central Area

**GracePoint Church**, a new church plant out of Alpharetta First Baptist, joined the Etowah Baptist Association effective May 15, 2018.

**Rev. Chris Harrington** is serving as **Pastor**.

We welcome Chris, his wife, Emily, and their daughter, Lucy.

Grace Point is located at 75 Crowe Road, Alpharetta, and will hold its official launch service on Sunday, August 12, at 10:00 AM.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ourgracepoint.com/> or email [charrington@fbca.com](mailto:charrington@fbca.com).

**Friends of India Ministry**, a church plant affiliated with First Baptist Cumming and Living Stones Church, joined the Lanier Baptist Association effective June 21, 2018.

**Rev. Joshua Sunderraj** is serving as **Pastor**.

We welcome Joshua, his wife, Aruna, and their children, Jaeden and Abigail.

Friends of India Ministry meets at Living Stones Church in Cumming.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thelivingstoneschurch.com> or email [joshua.aruna@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.aruna@gmail.com).

**Hope Fellowship**, a new church plant in Cumming, joined the Lanier Baptist Association effective June 21, 2018.

**Rev. Barry Crocker** is serving as **Pastor**.

We welcome Barry and his wife, Denise.

Hope Fellowship meets at 7465 Wallace Tatum Road, Cumming (Liberty Middle School).

For additional information, please visit <https://www.hopefellowshipga.com/> or email [barry.crocker@hopefellowshipga.com](mailto:barry.crocker@hopefellowshipga.com)

**Lifeline Church**, a church plant affiliated with North Lanier Baptist Church, joined the Lanier Baptist Association effective June 21, 2018.

**Rev. Sanjeev Katikala** is serving as **Pastor**.

We welcome Sanjeev and his wife, Sabina Mary, and their daughter, Jemima.

Lifeline Church meets at North Lanier Baptist Church, 829 Atlanta Highway, Cumming.

For additional information, please visit <https://www.lifelinechurchatlanta.org/> or email [sakatikala@yahoo.com](mailto:sakatikala@yahoo.com).

## Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

### The Lesson from Elijah - “Conviction, Confidence, Commitment”

We are continuing in our multi-year study of Old Testament characters and what they can offer us today. I am constantly amazed at how often I see the words of Christ, “written in red” in some Bibles, being vividly lived out in the lives of these characters relegated to a time before the majesty of Christ was revealed. Their discipline, exploits, wisdom, leadership, and relationship with God makes them prime examples for us to learn from and pattern our lives after. Though they did not meet the Incarnate Savior, Jesus Christ, they offer blueprints of His teachings in living color.

We have looked at both the obvious and the more obscure, but this month we will look at the life of one of the most famous, “lightning rod” prophets in the Bible – Elijah. Elijah begins in 1 Kings 17 and is carried away in a “chariot of fire” in 2 Kings 2, yet he (along with Moses) is present also in the New Testament. (That’s quite a unique characteristic in and of itself, one of the only two people present in both Testaments). In a quick overview, the fiery prophet served Israel through two evil kings, Ahab and Ahaziah, and performed about 10 miracles, most of which are quite dramatic. Even his introduction on the scene is quite the exciting ‘opening act’ of this amazing man of conviction, confidence, and commitment. (1 Kings 17:1)

The first mention of Elijah is after wicked king Ahab, along with his deserving witchy wife, Jezebel, had done more evil and caused God to be more angry with him than any king that had come before him. He sacrificed his two sons in the foundations and the gates of the rebuilding of Jericho, a place God said to never rebuild (1 Kings 16:34). They had also massacred many of the prophets (1 Kings 18:4) putting Elijah in quite a vulnerable position when he felt called of God to just show up one day and announce that God was going to punish all of Israel because of what he had done. Now that’s a man of **conviction!** He did not care that this duo had been slaying prophets left and right, and now with the happy news that God was going to hold back rain and dew until he said so, I can imagine it was a sticky moment. He was **confident** that he was doing the right thing. He was **committed** to carry it out, even though it would put him, too, in great distress and discomfort.

Immediately after Elijah delivered the news, God whisked him away by the Brook of Cherith, where he was fed by ravens and drank from the brook. Apparently, this brook would never be considered an appropriate place for anyone, thus King Ahab’s goons never went looking for him there. (1 Kings 18:10 states that there was not a nation or place on earth that Ahab had not sent spies to hunt for him). Well, as I said earlier, he was impacted by this judgment of God upon all of Israel as well, and the Brook of Cherith dried up. So, God moved him to Zarephath where he met a widow. Now I’m just thinking out

loud here, but I would not want to have to rely on the aid of someone in worse shape than I was in, but that is exactly what God did. A poor, broke, widow, single mother, with not enough food to feed herself became the caregiver for this mighty prophet. One thing is certain, Ahab and Jezebel would never look there either. Oh, he brought back to life the widow’s son that died from some unnamed sickness using an odd form of early mouth to mouth resuscitation coupled with powerful praying.

The greatest story of this hairy prophet was the showdown at Carmel found in 1 Kings 18. The odds were 850 to 1. The entire story is quite like an Old Testament version of “Showdown at the OK Corral.” This is an underdog story of biblical proportions! The miracle of this event defies physics and comprehension. The dousing of the altar, wood, sacrifice, and even the trench around it with buckets of water may have seemed like Elijah was showing off, but he had to capture the heart of the crowd of people that were watching. To me, the most impressive part of this event was during Elijah’s prayer, right before the fire came out of heaven. His words were, “*Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God and that You have turned their hearts back to You again*” (v. 37). Even after being so distant, so callous, so vile, and so rebellious, God was turning their hearts back to Him. How can we not see GRACE in this passage?!

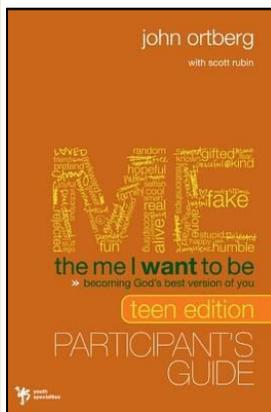
(Continued on Page 9)

**South Cherokee Baptist Church** is in the pastor search process.  
Interested parties should contact/send resumes to Faye Doss at  
fdoss@woodstockga.gov.

**First Baptist Holly Springs** is looking for a **part-time, interim worship leader**.  
Blended worship style.

Please send inquiries and resumes to pastor.phil@fbchollysprings.com.

## New Discipleship Kits available through North Central Area Missions



Reveals how there's a real you (the one God intended) hiding under the one you pretend to be.  
There is a God (it isn't you).  
Your life is a project (it isn't yours).  
The real you is waiting (it isn't hard).  
God's best version of you is waiting.

NOTE: This is the Teen Edition of this Study

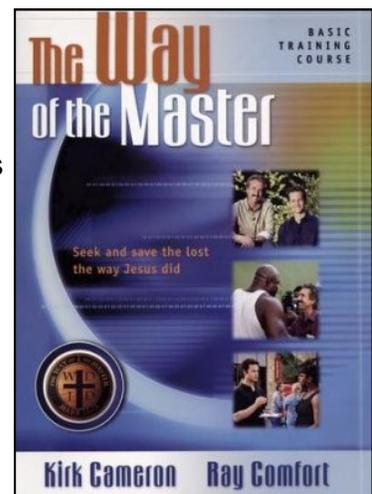
Underneath the me you pretend to be (the one that acts cool while fearing you're not) and the me you fail to be (the one that doesn't always feel very excited about life) you will discover something remarkable.

Sessions include:

1. Discovering the Spirit
2. Renewing My Mind
3. Redeeming My Time
4. Deepening My Relationships
5. Transforming My Experience

Based on the award-winning TV series "The Way of the Master," this course will teach you to overcome your fears by using a proven, powerfully effective way to make the gospel make sense to those you care about. Learn to bypass the intellect (the place of argument) and speak directly to the conscience (the place of knowledge of right and wrong) - the way Jesus did. Ideal for groups of all sizes; weekly homework assignments will gradually coax you out of your comfort zone to begin sharing your faith confidently and biblically.

8 sessions - total study run time is 292 minutes





## **TROY BURNS FAMILY**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 2** | 11 am to 1 pm | Just \$6 (includes lunch)

Call 770.781.5433 to reserve a seat or email [northlanier@northlanier.org](mailto:northlanier@northlanier.org).

North Lanier Baptist Church  
829 Atlanta Highway  
Cumming

*For additional information, visit <https://northlanier.org/northlanier/home1>*



# **EVEN SO**

*Women's Conference 2018*

**Revolution Church  
125 Union Hill Trail  
Canton 30115**

**October 26 & 27, 2018**

**Guest Speakers: Lysa TerKeurst & Whitney Capps**

**Revolution invites all the women in the community**

For more information, please visit  
<https://revolution.church/event/818973-2018-10-26-womens-conference/>



## **MinistrySafe Skillful Screening Training**

**Is your church screening staff members and volunteers effectively  
'keeping the wolf out of the sheep pen'?  
Are kids safe in your church?**

*MinistrySafe Church Safety Training equips church staff members with awareness, tools and strategies to help protect children from sexual abuse in ministry contexts. This training is vital for full-time and bi-vocational pastors, executive pastors, student ministers, children's ministers and lay leaders.*

This MinistrySafe Skillful Screening Training is being offered in the North Central Area Missions region as follows:

Crabapple First Baptist Church  
12760 Birmingham Highway  
Milton, GA 30004

October 30, 2018  
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Cost: Free and lunch is provided

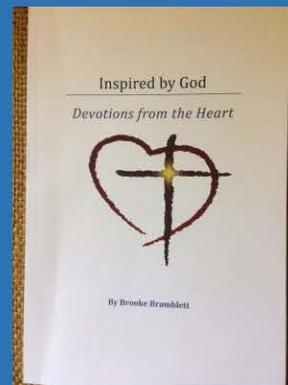
If you have questions, please contact Kris Hall at [khall@gabaptist.org](mailto:khall@gabaptist.org)  
or Greg Williams at [gwilliams@crabapplefbc.org](mailto:gwilliams@crabapplefbc.org).

If you would like to register for the Training, you may do so at  
<https://gabaptist.org/event/ministry-safe-child-abuse-awareness-training/>



Friendship Baptist Church WMU  
is  
Proud to Present:

*Local Author:  
Ms. Brooke Bramblett*



Our Seventh Annual “Ladies Night Out” on  
**Friday, August 10, 2018**  
**6:30 PM: A Full Catered Meal  
with Coffee & Homemade Dessert**

Following we look forward to  
An Amazing Worship thru music,  
A Spirit-filled devotion  
& just a Good old Fashioned Girl Time with our Savior

\$20 per Ticket requested.  
Ages 5 and Over Please.

To Purchase Tickets, please ask a WMU Member;  
Email: [FriendshipWMU@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipWMU@gmail.com);  
or call or text, Leigh Parson at 678-427-1821

Friendship Baptist Church, 2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming, GA 30028





The Georgia Baptist Mission Board has #reachingnextgen roundtables and conferences planned in the Fall of 2018. Events scheduled in locations convenient to churches in the North Central area are:

**Roundtables**

Thursday, September 13: First Baptist Cumming  
Tuesday, September 18: First Baptist Fayetteville  
Thursday, September 20: First Baptist Social Circle

**Conferences**

Monday, October 22: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jonesboro

*For additional information, please visit <https://gabaptist.org/groups/> or you may call Groups and Faith Development at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board at 770-936-5286*



**GO Georgia**  
A TOTAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING EVENT

**AUGUST 17-18, 2018**  
Mabel White Baptist Church,  
Macon

**GOGEOORGIA.NET**

*For additional information or to register, please visit <https://gogeorgia.net/>*



**November 2-3, 2018**  
**Second Baptist Church**  
**Waycross, GA**

This two-day event will help your Sunday School more than anything else available. The GBSSDS will be highly energetic, intensely focused, quickly moving, and totally devoted to the Sunday School Director.

**Keynote Speaker: Eric Rentz**  
**Worship Leader: Darren Aldridge**

**For more information or to register visit**  
**<https://gabaptist.org/event/georgia-baptist-sunday-school-directors-summit/>**

SENIOR ADULT  
*Homecoming*  
GEORGIA BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER – TOCCOA, GA

Come join us at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in the beautiful mountains of Northeast Georgia for an unforgettable two nights of fun, fellowship, worship, and relaxation. Whether you choose to come in the spring, the fall, or at Christmas (or even all three!!), you will receive a warm welcome and will enjoy a retreat away from the bustle of everyday life. It is a time to refresh yourself in your relationship with God, renew your friendships with others, and relax in the beauty of God's creation that surrounds the conference center.

**Fall Homecoming - Session 1: October 17-19, 2018**  
**Session 2: October 22-24, 2018**  
**Session 3: October 24-26, 2018**

**Christmas Homecoming - December 3-5, 2018**

For additional information or to make reservations, call the Georgia Baptist Conference Center at 706-886-3133 or email [skaup@gabaptist.org](mailto:skaup@gabaptist.org).

## Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

(Continued from Page 3)

The attributes that Elijah displayed throughout his life (along with sarcasm (v. 27)) were conviction, confidence, and commitment. I can hear my Savior's voice saying, "*He that would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.*" (Matt. 16:24) This was Elijah! He heard the word of God tell him to go to King Ahab. He was a man of **conviction**. Ahab was leading the people of Israel down the wrong path. Judgment had to be done. Elijah stood up to the most powerful man (couple) in the kingdom and drew a line in the sand. Only a man of conviction is willing to do this. He was **confident** in the

power of God to do the impossible. Fire lapping up the sacrifice, wood, dust, and even the water and the stones was off the charts impossible, yet this man of God was confident that God's fire would prevail. Elijah was **committed** to seeing the nation of Israel return to the Lord. This commitment even put his life in jeopardy, yet it was the necessary action he had to take.

Yes, Elijah is larger than life. The showdown at Carmel, the miracles of God's preservation, salvation, and facing the toughest, meanest, married pair of political leaders (someone else comes to mind here) you can imagine, makes us prop him up on a very high pedestal. I understand the temptation to do this. HOWEVER, James 5:17 causes me to knock him off that pedestal and bring him back into

reality. "*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.*" A nature like ours. What??? A nature like ours? You mean, I could be like Elijah?

This passage changes his dynamics completely. My prayer is that I will have the conviction, confidence, and commitment to listen, hear, obey, and trust God throughout every circumstance, every trial, and every opportunity in my life. That I will make Him known through the actions, attitudes, and words that come from me. I can be like Elijah.

Think about that!

*Alan J. Morris*

# Reaching » the Nations

Race for Missions Congress



JOIN US AT CAMP KALEO!

NOVEMBER 2-3, 2018

A wonderful missions experience for your family, Royal Ambassadors, Baptist Men and girls.

Including activities such as:

Hike-a-Thon for Missions • Bike-a-Thon for Missions  
5k Wild Wood Run for Missions  
"Mission Possible Obstacle Course"

Without teamwork the mission is impossible. This is a four-person team event.

Taste of Missions Fair • Vendors • Clowns • Magician

Friday night  
worship  
under the  
stars for  
everyone  
attending  
the event!

#### COST PER PERSON AS FOLLOWS:

**\$40.00** Lodging in cabins, breakfast, lunch and ALL events

**\$25.00** Tent Camping (space is limited), NO meals and ALL events

**\$20.00** ALL events on Saturday

Registration Deadline: 10/5/2018

#### Event Registration:

<https://gabaptist.org/event/reaching/>

Hamburgers and hotdogs will  
be sold on Saturday.



Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.



Georgia Baptists, once again in 2018, have the opportunity to provide Christmas backpacks to needy children.

This backpack ministry is now organized and made available to Georgia Baptists through the Appalachian Mountain Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

This year, Georgia Baptists are being **challenged to provide 40,000 backpacks** for children in Appalachia (North Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee) and Southwest Georgia.

You may bring your filled backpacks to the North Central Area Missions office beginning Monday, October 8, 2018. The last date we will receive backpacks is Thursday, November 1, 2018. Your filled backpacks need to be placed in 18x18x16 size storage boxes (available at Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, etc).

Two ribbons\* need to be placed on each backpack, as shown below:

Gender

Blue ribbon = Boy

Pink ribbon= Girl

Age

Yellow ribbon= Ages 4-7

Green ribbon = Ages 8-10

Red ribbon= Ages 11-15

*\*These ribbons take the place of the cards that have previously been placed on each backpack.*

Please pack backpacks according to the guidelines below:

**Toys (at least 1 item; no more than 2):** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, Frisbee, card games such as Old Maid, Go Fish, etc.

**Hygiene Items (at least 2 items, no more than 3):** toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (boxed and in a plastic bag), shampoo (securely sealed & in a plastic bag), hairbrush, comb, pony tail holders, barrettes, hair clips, washcloth, etc.

**Other (at least 2 items):** Children's or Teen Bible (KJV, God's Word or CSB version), age-appropriate Christian books, sunglasses, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

**Food (at least 2 items):** canned food items with pop-tops (nothing which requires a can opener and no plastic containers), protein bars, hard candy (NO chocolate), lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum. **No food items with peanut butter or nuts.**

**Clothing (at least 2 items. All clothing items must be new with tags/packaging):** T-shirts, underwear, socks, warm hat, gloves, scarf, ball cap, fleece pullover, warm outerwear.

**Additional items for older girls (11-15):** lip gloss, costume jewelry, scarves, friendship bracelets, craft kits, journals, fun socks & slippers, doodle books, Spirograph kit, feminine hygiene supplies.

**Additional items for older boys (11-15):** Legos, card games, hand-held electronic games, flashlights (with extra batteries), basketball, soccer ball, NERF ball.

**Please do not include any food items that are perishable or can be easily crushed or opened while in transit. Please do not include any knives.**

For additional information, please email [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or call 770-384-8548.

Churches collecting through North Central Area Missions do NOT register separately online through the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

**NOTE:** Churches in the Hightower Association should contact Leigh Parson at 678-427-1821 or [parson@sseb.org](mailto:parson@sseb.org).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## August 2018

- 2 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 8 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Clear Springs Baptist Church, 10:30 AM  
Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD
- 11 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 16 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM  
Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD
- 28 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, North Central Office, 10:30 am  
Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD

## September 2018

- 3 Labor Day - North Central Area Missions closed
- 3 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 6 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 8 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 13 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 25 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM

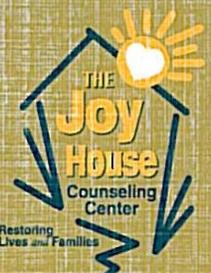
## Annual Church Report

The Annual Church Report material has been mailed and is on its way to you/your church. By completing the information requested on the Annual Church Report, your church remains current in Baptist reporting for 2018 with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and your local Baptist Association.

Please feel free to contact us at [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or 770-384-8548 if you have questions or need assistance in completing the information.



**Remember our students, teachers,  
school bus drivers, and all school staff  
as the 2018 school year begins.**



**Garry Barber, PhD**  
Licensed Clinical Pastoral  
Counselor

Ph: 678.452.2037  
Fax: 706.253.7570  
[garry@thejoyhouse.org](mailto:garry@thejoyhouse.org)  
[www.thejoyhouse.org](http://www.thejoyhouse.org)

## North Central Area Missions Team

Alan Morris - Area Missionary  
Janice Dinsmore - Administrative Assistant  
Ramona Lively - Financial Secretary

4206 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188  
Phone: 770-384-8548 Fax: 770-384-8658  
Website: [www.northcentralga.org](http://www.northcentralga.org)