

SAREPTA

Baptist Association

September 2020

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WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

2020 Pastor and Wives Retreat!

October 16-18, 2020

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island

This retreat is designed specifically for Pastors and their wives. Each participant will receive personalized coaching by some of the finest pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is a time to be renewed and fed spiritually, emotionally and physically. You will even be assisted with pulpit supply if requested.

Please contact Loretta Crow at lcrow@gabaptist.org (770-936-5232) or
Laura Simms at lsimms@gabaptist.org (770-936-5362) if you have any questions.
Cost: \$99 per couple/room (includes housing, meals, t-shirts, and pulpit supply option).
There are only 39 rooms available; registration ends October 1, 2020.



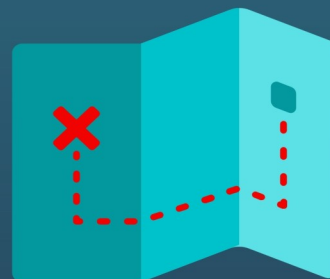
SAREPTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S FALL

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 7:00 P.M.
MEETING WILL BE HELD ONLINE, VIA ZOOM.

September 29-30

TRANSITIONAL INTERIM PASTOR TRAINING



An event for any Southern Baptist Minister that is interested in training to be a transitional pastor, leading a church through a time of adjustment. This training builds on the knowledge a minister already has and focuses on the transitional time.

Training provided by the GA Baptist Mission Board

First Time: \$115, Refresher: \$25

Cost includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner, and materials.

<https://ga.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55232499>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LAURA SIMMS (GBMB)
LSIMMS@GABAPTIST.ORG OR 770.936-5362**

SAREPTA SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY BRICEVILLE, TN BACKPACKS

- GOAL: 300 BACKPACKS
- LIMIT: 25 PER CHURCH
- CALL SAREPTA OFFICE TO SIGN UP
- BRING BACKPACKS TO THE SAREPTA OFFICE BEFORE NOVEMBER 1ST.



NEXT GEN ROUNDTABLES

Join us!

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.



Prince Avenue Baptist
Church, Bogart



NEXT GEN
GEORGIA BAPTIST

Register:
gabaptist.org/roundtables



A free conversation-driven
gathering for Next Gen
ministry leaders.

A Line from Lex

September Executive Committee - To say that Covid-19 has hung around longer than expected is an understatement. We are hard pressed to find a facet of our lives not impacted by this virus. I think the same could be said for our churches, too. I have discovered that I have taken for granted so many things, especially the ability to have in person meetings. It has already been announced that our Executive Committee will be meeting via **ZOOM on Tuesday, September 8th at 7 p.m.** Each church has the opportunity to have two attendees. The pastor is automatically a member of the Ex Co plus one elected member from the church. Since we don't have a list of those selected by the church, an announcement will be sent to our pastors and they can forward the ZOOM information to their elected member.

Sarepta Meetings and Matters Committee – Annual Meeting This committee is responsible for plans related to the Sarepta Annual meeting typically held in October. This committee met on August 11th to discuss whether to have an “in person” annual meeting or to cancel the meeting. **It was the decision of this committee to recommend to the Executive Committee that we forgo the annual meeting this year scheduled for Comer Baptist Church.** We had already been notified that our speaker, Mark Clifton (NAMB), would have to cancel his speaking engagement because of restrictions NAMB has on its staff during the Covid Crisis. Our state convention meeting in November has been reduced to one afternoon from its normal two-day convention. This Covid virus has impacted national, state, and local meetings of every kind.

Sarepta Finance Committee - The Sarepta Finance Committee took action back in March to apply for a PPP loan for Sarepta. We have used those PPP funds as indicated in the agreement. At the same time, we did not have to use our own resources given by the church to do payroll and utilities. Those funds not expended will be transferred to our Contingency Fund which we have had to use the past two years. It has been our intention to have \$25,000 in our Contingency Fund. By replenishing the Contingency Funds with the funds not used during the PPP loan period, it will allow us to exceed the \$25,000 goal. At the end of the year, as things stabilize and we get a true picture of where the association's finances are, the Finance Committee will consider what to do with any funds that exceed the \$25,000. I appreciate the Finance Committee's response during this Covid-19 Crisis.

Task Force Groups - In our March Executive Committee Meeting, we elected two Task Force groups that were to report back at our September Executive Committee Meeting with recommendations. Those Task Force groups have met and are making plans for a recommendation to the Executive Committee. It was my opinion that because we will be unable to have an “in person” Executive Committee to discuss the Task Force recommendations, we will delay taking action until our March 2021 Executive Committee meeting when we should be able to meet “in person” to discuss their recommendations. I appreciate the work of the Task Force groups and their willingness to delay their proposals until 2021.

Sarepta Financial Status - Through the first half of our year, Sarepta's receipts from the churches have been on par with 2019 and actually just slightly ahead. I commend our Sarepta churches for having continued strong support during these challenging days. It has been amazing to see your faithfulness to support the work of Sarepta.

On a personal note, it has been six years since my bladder cancer diagnosis and surgery. I am blessed to say that I have had no recurrence of the cancer. I am also amazed at how many churches I visit in which the members will ask me, “How are you doing in regards to your cancer?” Then comes the real blessing, to hear the words, “We are praying for you.” Because I am a cancer survivor and over the age of 65, I am being very cautious in my return to visiting in our churches. As the virus subsides, my ability to resume regular visits will increase.

	M-T-D	Y-T-D		M-T-D	Y-T-D
Organization	July	2020	Organization	July	2020
Academy Baptist Church	\$100.00	\$1200.00	Ila Baptist Church	-	-
Apple Valley Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$700.00	Jefferson First Baptist Church	-	\$500.00
Arnoldsville Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$350.00	Johnson Drive Baptist Church	\$363.10	\$2004.37
Athens First Baptist Church	-	-	Legacy Baptist Church Inc.	\$259.59	\$1862.18
Athens Korean Church	-	-	Lexington Baptist Church	\$600.00	\$4450.00
Athens Vietnamese Mission Church	-	-	Living Word Baptist Church	-	\$966.48
Attica Baptist Church	-	\$543.87	Madison Street Baptist Church	\$407.00	\$2854.00
Beaverdam Baptist Church	-	\$700.00	Maysville Baptist Church	\$2200.00	\$7700.00
Beech Haven Baptist Church	\$1172.95	\$11019.70	Meadow Baptist Church	-	-
Berea Baptist Church	-	\$270.00	Milledge Avenue Baptist Church	-	-
Bethany Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$900.00	Millstone Baptist Church	\$12.00	\$36.00
Blacks Creek Baptist Church	-	\$1561.63	Montgomery Heights Baptist Church	-	\$1637.99
Cabin Creek Baptist Church	-	-	Moon's Grove Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$1400.00
Calvary Bible Church	-	-	Mount Olive Baptist Church	\$282.55	\$1139.07
Carlton Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$350.00	New Harmony Baptist Church	-	\$150.00
Cave Springs Baptist Church	\$86.39	\$683.71	New Hope Baptist Church	-	-
Center Baptist Church	-	-	Nicholson Baptist Church	-	\$2650.00
Central Baptist Church	-	-	Normaltown Community Church	-	-
Cleveland Road Baptist Church	\$116.40	\$1776.42	North Avenue Church	-	-
Clouds Creek Baptist Church	\$336.00	\$1806.39	Oconee Baptist Church	\$250.00	\$1000.00
Colbert Baptist Church	\$2376.42	\$6219.83	Oconee Heights Baptist Church	\$163.97	\$1390.14
Collier Baptist Church	\$141.52	\$1101.04	Pendergrass Baptist Church	\$143.00	\$993.00
Comer Baptist Church	\$582.96	\$4389.68	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	\$250.00	\$1850.00
Commerce First Baptist Church	\$167.46	\$1957.93	Primera Iglesia Bautista of Jefferson	-	\$748.55
Corinth Baptist Church	\$625.00	\$1750.00	Prince Avenue Baptist Church	-	\$5833.55
Crawford Baptist Church	-	\$2400.00	Prince Avenue Hispanic Baptist Mission	-	-
Danielsville Baptist Church	-	-	Providence Baptist Church	-	\$1051.00
East Athens Baptist Church	\$118.00	\$1039.00	Riverside Baptist Church	\$194.31	\$1396.95
Edwards Chapel Baptist Church	-	\$111.65	Rogers Baptist Church	\$218.85	947.32
Forest Heights Baptist Church	-	-	Salem Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$3500.00
Friendship Baptist Church	\$430.58	\$2437.61	Sandy Creek Baptist Church	-	\$400.00
Glade Baptist Church	\$130.00	\$932.00	Sandy Cross Baptist Church of NEGA	-	-
Grace Fellowship	\$75.00	\$525.00	Stevens Grove Baptist Church	\$311.00	\$1335.00
Green Acres Baptist Church	\$460.00	\$2715.00	Union Baptist Church	\$590.00	\$3435.00
Grove Level Baptist Church	\$250.00	\$1750.00	Vesta Baptist Church	\$339.00	\$851.00
Hudson River Baptist Church	-	-	Victory Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$350.00
Hull Baptist Church	\$945.96	\$4770.28	Watkinsville First Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$3500.00
Hull Hispanic Mission	\$18.75	\$47.37	Winterville First Baptist Church	\$865.31	\$4878.40
Iglesia Bautista Emanuel de Athens	-	-		\$17,433.07	\$114,817.91

Financial Summary - July 2020	
Balance	\$ 3,309
July Budget	\$17,079
July Budget Receipts	\$17,198
July Budget Expenses	\$15,160
Budget Year-to-Date	\$119,556
Budget Receipts Year-to-Date	\$114,055
Budget Expenses Year-to-Date	\$110,746
Annual Budget	\$204,953

Designated Funds	
Mission & Ministry Fund	\$85,255
International Friends	\$2,030
Disaster Relief	\$3,086
Block Party Trailer	\$3,293
Maintenance Contingency	\$14,066
Balance in Designated Funds	\$107,730



4010 Jefferson Road— Athens, GA 30607

706.549-5872— www.SareptaBaptist.com

I didn't really expect to be personally excited about this next semester. One of the things I love most about International Friends is the raw humanity of it. Typically, all the students and volunteers gathered together in Beech Haven's Fellowship Hall, before classes began. There, over coffee and refreshments, you can hear a energetic buzz of relaxed chatter and laughter. There is a sort of collective relief among the students, relieved to be in a group where their "foreignness" doesn't stand out, relieved to be improving their English skills.

Then came Covid 19. As director, I made the decision to move our classes online for this semester.

How could we ever replicate the energy of the large groups online? The fact is, we can't.

However, as students have registered for online classes, I have been interviewing them individually via Zoom. I have found the students basking in the one-on-one attention. They are thirstier than ever for real discussions and meaningful interactions. Many of them feel so disconnected and cut off from even the people in their local ethnic community. They are so excited about our online classes beginning on September 10, and their excitement is contagious. I caught it!

We are working to make our online groups as small as possible, while still accommodating as many students as possible. It's going to be different, for sure, but I think it is going to be great. Pray for our teachers who will be going deep into conversations that might not have happened in those larger groups. Please pray for our volunteers who will be doing "porch visits" for students who are unable to participate in the online format. I am so deeply impressed by our volunteers who are willing to stretch and step out of their comfort zone, if it means reaching the students.

Thank you for your support of the International Friends ministry.

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