



Alabama CBF

Helping Alabama Christians and Churches work together to fulfill the mission of God.

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Fall 2012



Upcoming Events - 2012/2013

The Institute for Theological & Ministerial Studies Begins Thursday, October 11, 2012

Auburn, AL
Read more details inside this newsletter.
Register at www.alabamacbf.org/itms.

Annual Fall Gathering of Alabama CBF Thursday, October 18, 2012

Read more details inside this newsletter.
Visit our website www.alabamacbf.org for more & to register.

Ministers to Students' Gathering Thursday, November 8, 2012

Lake Guntersville State Park, AL
More details coming soon to www.alabamacbf.org.

Dedication of New Facilities at Heritage Baptist Church Sunday, January 27, 2013

5973 Hwy 78, Heflin, Alabama 36264
Contact Les Jones, pastor - 256-453-6581, leddjones@centurytel.net.

Ministers' Gathering Thursday, January 31, 2013

Birmingham, AL - exact location TBA
Programming and more details coming soon to www.alabamacbf.org.

CBF ChurchWorks Conference February 25-27, 2013

Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas
Learn more and register at www.thefellowship.info/churchworks.

CBF National General Assembly June 26-28, 2013

Greensboro, NC
Learn more and register at www.thefellowship.info/assembly.

Visit www.alabamacbf.org for more information
or to register for any of these events.

Find us on Facebook at [/alabamacbf](https://www.facebook.com/alabamacbf).

Subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter on our website.

Exciting Possibilities with the ALCBF Family by Ronnie Brewer, Coordinator



You will see details in this newsletter about our annual meeting, and I hope you will plan to join us. We are trying a different approach this year - meeting on a Thursday afternoon and evening. We will offer affinity groups for our ministers, have afternoon breakout sessions for all before supper, and follow our meal around the table with business related to Alabama CBF. Among our agenda items will be updating our by-laws and electing three new members of our coordinating council and a new moderator-elect. We will conclude with worship and a special recognition of Dr. Milburn Price. We do not try and gather all of our folks together very often, so I hope you can make a place in your schedule for this.

I am glad we have renewed our scholarship fund for Alabama CBF ministerial students. It is an honest effort to invest in the church, while addressing a reality that our divinity students are entering their career with a great deal of debt for their seminary training. If you want to help with this, it is as simple as sending a check to Alabama CBF marked "scholarship fund." We will also use the offering time at our annual meeting to collect for this fund. Our coordinating council will oversee the distribution of scholarship moneys and will distribute the moneys collected to all applying divinity students at a partner CBF seminary who are from a partner Alabama CBF church.

Several months ago we were approached by Johnny Green, a pastor and campus administrator in Auburn, to consider dreaming with him a way to offer theological training to a peer group of mostly African American ministers in that area of the state. Many of these pastors are bi-vocational and though some have college and theological degrees, many do not. Alabama CBF called on Samford's Resource Center for

Pastoral Excellence (RCPE) for some assistance in this venture. We will use volunteers to teach several classes a "semester" on a week night and on occasional Saturdays. At the request of the local folks in Auburn, there will be a small fee for the classes, but anyone unable to pay will receive financial aid. There will be a certificate awarded at the end of 96 class hours which some may choose to achieve. Others may just treat these classes as continuing education on an individual basis. The certificate is not academically accredited but is a tangible award for their efforts from ALCBF and RCPE.

The ALCBF Coordinating council has blessed this initiative. Terri Byrd will administrate this initiative for ALCBF, and RCPE has offered to provide administrative assistance with her in the venture. There will be an advisory board to guide this venture, which currently includes Fisher Humphreys, Gary Furr, and Johnny Greene. Michael Wilson of RCPE is a valuable and enthusiastic partner.

Personally, I can tell you that I am very excited about the possibilities with this Institute and am proud we have the opportunity to serve in this way. We are blessed with highly trained ministers and laity that are connected to ALCBF. What a great way to reach into our strengths and share out of our abundance. It is also a great way to make new friends and build new relationships.

Disaster Response to Hurricane Isaac

CBF has identified LaPlace, LA, 28 miles west of New Orleans, as the site where the CBF family will assist clean-up from Hurricane Isaac.

Needed now are responders - those with NO skills, SOME skills, or MANY skills - for "mud out" and home repair. Monetary donations are also crucial.

Contact Reid Doster, Coordinator for CBF Louisiana, at (985) 778-6049 or reid.cbflouisiana@gmail.com or visit <http://missioncommunities.org/disaster>.

Staff

Rev. Ronnie Brewer
Coordinator
ronnie@alabamacbf.org
256.509.8342

Rev. Terri Byrd
Associate Coordinator
terri@alabamacbf.org
205.835.8117

Natalie Aho
Communications Specialist
natalie@alabamacbf.org

Administrative Committee

Mary Oliver
Moderator
First Baptist Williams, Jacksonville

Gary Furr
Moderator-Elect
Vestavia Hills Baptist, Birmingham

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Past-Moderator
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Christopher George
First Baptist, Mobile

Amy Hatchett
Trinity Baptist, Madison

Annual Meeting of Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Thursday, October 18, 2012 ~ Vestavia Hills Baptist, Birmingham, AL

Schedule of Events

3:00 pm ~ Ministerial Affinity Groups
~ Pastors, Associate/Education/Missions, Music, Students, Children, Chaplains
4:15 pm ~ Breakout Sessions
~ Conversation with Jade and Sheila Acker
~ Social Media & the Minister with Natalie Aho
5:30 pm ~ Dinner and Business Session
6:45 pm ~ Evening Worship Service
with Jade and Shelah Acker and honoring Dr. Milburn Price

Breakout Sessions

Conversation with Jade and Shelah Acker, CBF Field Personnel in Uganda
Learn more about their ministry Refuge and Hope, which aims to assist the poor and marginalized, advocate for children of war, partner with churches and organizations, and promote social justice.

Social Media and the Minister: Tips and Tricks for Engaging Online with Natalie Aho
Learn best practices for Facebook, Twitter, blogs and other sites as well as necessities for your church website. We'll also discuss the motivation behind using these social media platforms and a few cautions. Natalie Aho is the ALCBF Communications Specialist.

Evening Worship Service - 6:45 p.m. Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

We will hear from **Jade and Shelah Acker**, CBF Field Personnel who live and serve in Uganda.



We will also honor **Dr. Milburn Price**, Dean of the School of Performing Arts at Samford University and contributing author to the *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*, through a joint choir made up of singers from our local churches.



More information and registration at www.alabamacbf.org. Childcare is available; register ahead of time.
Join us for resources and fellowship at our annual General Assembly!

Financial Report through July 2012 from Treasurer, Hal Espy

General Fund:	\$60,909.44	Budget To-Date:	\$119,380.33	Upcoming Coordinating Council Meeting January 26, 2013
Designated Funds*:	\$45,493.48	Income To-Date:	\$113,689.72	
Total Funds:	\$106,402.92	Expenses To-Date:	\$110,811.55	
		Gain/Loss To-Date:	\$2,878.17	

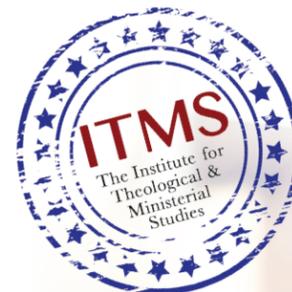
*Includes Disaster Relief funds and Sowing Seeds of Hope funds.

Ministerial Scholarship Fund

Alabama CBF has renewed a scholarship fund for any of our students from an Alabama CBF church attending a CBF partner seminary. We believe this is a very practical way to impact the church for years ahead and to assist students who are called into vocational ministry. The coordinating council will administrate the fund and our hope is to be able to begin to offer assistance to students in the fall of 2013. Please earmark your gift: "Alabama CBF Ministerial Scholarships."

Give to National & State CBF

This is the season many churches will design budgets for the 2013 year. At our August meeting, our coordinating council discussed, "What might be a formula to suggest to churches for giving to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship?" We came away with the idea that perhaps in your missions giving to CBF 70% might go to National CBF while 30% could stay home with Alabama CBF. Whatever you choose to do, it is hopeful that you will look intentionally as a church this budget season at your giving to CBF. As always, thanks for your partnership with Alabama CBF.



The Institute for Theological & Ministerial Studies



Educational classes in theological and ministerial studies for bi-vocational ministers and interested lay-persons of any Christian denomination.

Classes for fall 2012 will be taught at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church (136 East Magnolia Avenue), Auburn, AL. Students will pay a fee of \$5.00 for each hour of class. **Learn more and register on our website at www.alabamacbf.org/itms.**

Fall 2012 Schedule

Thursday, October 11, 2012 - 7 pm - 9 pm
Forgiveness with Dr. Fisher Humphreys

Saturday, October 13, 2012 - 9 am - Noon
Biblical Foundations for Preaching & Ministry with Dr. Gary Furr

Thursday, October 25, 2012 - 7 pm - 9 pm
Dealing with Conflict in the Church with Rev. Ronnie Brewer

Saturday, October 27, 2012 - 9 am - Noon
The Book of Ruth with Dr. Robin Norsworthy

Thursday, November 1, 2012 - 7 pm - 9 pm
Tending the Flock, Tending the Soul with Dr. Doug Dortch

Launched by the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence at Samford University.

Learn more and register at www.alabamacbf.org/itms.

Like a Mustard Seed Conference:

Supporting and Celebrating Smaller Church Leadership Through Samford University RCPE
October 8-9, 2012 ~ Birmingham, AL
Topics include leadership, pastoral care, Christian education, bi-vocational pastoring, leadership in a rural context, leadership in an urban context and much more, all with a focus on small membership churches.
www.samford.edu/rcpe/mustard-seed.aspx

Ministers to Students' Gathering

Thursday, November 8, 2012
Lake Guntersville
State Park, AL

More details coming soon to www.alabamacbf.org.

