



# Alabama CBF

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

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Winter 2012



## Upcoming Events - 2012

### Ministers' Gathering

January 31, 2012

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL

See inside ad for more details. Register at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).

### CBF ChurchWorks Conference

February 27 - March 1, 2012

Freemason Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA

Leaders: Brian McLaren and Ken Medema

Learn more and register at: [www.thefellowship.info/churchworks](http://www.thefellowship.info/churchworks).

### Education/Missions/Administration Ministers' Gathering

March 6, 2012

Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL

Learn more and register on our website at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).

### Ministers' Golf Outing

April 9, 2012

Timberline Golf Club, Calera, AL

Golf begins at 9 am. Learn more at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).

### A [Baptist] Conference on Sexuality and Covenant

April 19-21, 2012

Atlanta, GA

Sponsored by CBF and the Center for Theology and Public Life, Mercer University. Learn more at [www.thefellowship.info/conference](http://www.thefellowship.info/conference).

### Do Something Good: Commemorate the One-Year Anniversary of the Alabama Tornadoes

The week of April 21-28

See inside ad. Visit our website for more ways you can help.

### ALCBF Youth Summit Retreat: Called to Follow

April 27-29, 2012

Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL

See inside ad for more details.

Register on our website at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).

### ALCBF Partnership Trip to visit CBF Northeast

April 30 - May 5, 2012

See inside ad for more details.

Register with Terri Byrd by January 31: [terri@alabamacbf.org](mailto:terri@alabamacbf.org).

### National CBF General Assembly

June 20-23, 2012

Fort Worth, Texas

Learn more and register at [www.thefellowship.info/assembly](http://www.thefellowship.info/assembly).

Visit [www.alabamacbf.org](http://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 newsletter on our website.

## What Are WE Going to Do?... by Ronnie Brewer, Coordinator



As the year ends for Alabama CBF, I am remembering several phone calls on the morning of April 28th, the day after the worst tornado disaster any of us have ever seen or even could have imagined in our state. There was a common theme in those phone calls that now makes me grateful, even in

such a tragedy. Most everyone that called said, "What are **we** going to do?" I had a few calls from bordering states, mostly from wonderful friends and pastors saying, "What are **ya'll** going to do? Can **we** help with that?"

Though it is very tempting to write more fully about what all has been done in Alabama by the work cooperatively of our Alabama CBF churches, I really just want to highlight one word for the New Year from those calls that day. **We**, as in: what are "**we**" going to do? **We**.

It thrilled me to hear from so many across our state who felt in that time of crisis that **we** are indeed a "**we**". There was the belief that there was work that could best be done together, even in the face of such unimaginable and overwhelming disaster. One old friend said "you are getting paid to coordinate us, so think of something **we** can do together to help with this, and let us know." I think I liked that call the best. Together. What are **we** going to do?

**We** did do something didn't **we**? **We** couldn't do everything. **We** couldn't even be real sure how all of our plans would play out or if they would even be successful, but **we** divided up the state into small measurable areas of poverty, disaster, and despair. Then, **we** clustered our churches together and **we** began to work: together. Terri, Natalie and I cheered and coached and prayed. Leaders and heroes and strategies emerged out of our churches and their clusters. And all of us

helped our state more as a "**we**" than **we** could have alone.

This past year there seemed to be a good deal done together even beyond our work with tornado relief. We experienced support, exchange of ideas, communication of needs and resources, aid and prayer for churches in need, help for churches searching for ministers, missions education, poverty relief, and fellowship and friendship. I am sure I not remembering all of the things that we have done together this year. I do know that Alabama CBF has made some strides in 2011 in knowing one another, working with one another, and in thinking about our family of churches as better together than alone. The tornados were horrible. I think God did a good thing in them however when our churches and people asked, "What are **we** going to do?" I think he will continue to do wonderful things in our healthy family of churches in 2012. Especially if **we** continue to ask: what are **we** going to do?

rb

### Ministers' Gathering

Tuesday, January 31

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church  
Birmingham, AL

### Improvisational Leadership

With **Bo Prosser**, CBF Coordinator of Missional Congregations, and **Steve Graham**, CBF Director of Leadership for Missional Congregation

Learn more inside. Register at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).



## Staff

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## Administrative Committee

Jud Reasons  
Past-Moderator  
First Baptist Huntsville

Mary Oliver  
Moderator  
First Baptist Williams, Jacksonville

Gary Furr  
Moderator-Elect  
Vestavia Hills Baptist, Birmingham

Hal Espy  
Treasurer  
Trinity Baptist, Madison

Sherry Loper  
Recorder  
Riverchase Baptist, Hoover

## Coordinating Council

Leigh Anne Armstrong  
Auburn First Baptist

Stan Breaux  
Mountain Brook Baptist, Birmingham

Gary Burton  
Pintlala Baptist, Hope Hull

Amanda Cassity  
Calvary Baptist, Tuscaloosa

Dixie Bearden Ford  
Crosscreek Baptist, Pelham

Fisher Humphreys  
Baptist Ch. of the Covenant, Birmingham

Tim Kelley  
Southside Baptist, Birmingham

Robin Norsworthy  
University Baptist, Montevallo

Kelly Reese  
First Baptist, Mobile

## National Coordinating Council

Chris Aho  
Hillcrest Baptist, Mobile

Christopher George  
First Baptist, Mobile

Amy Hatchett  
Trinity Baptist, Madison

## ALL Ministers' Gathering

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

Birmingham, AL

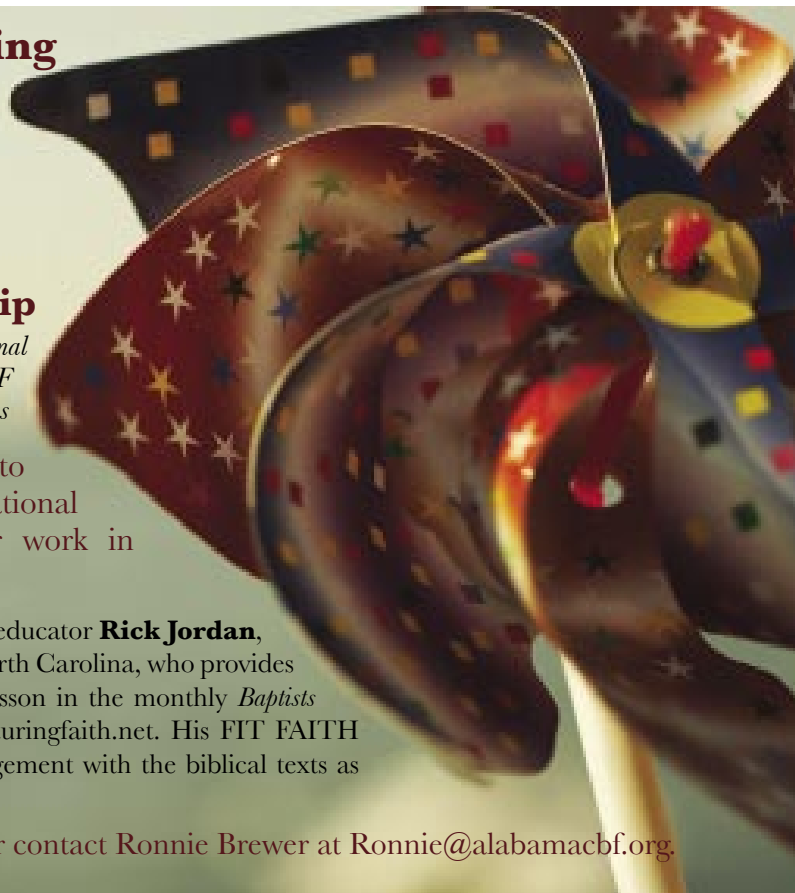
## Improvisational Leadership

With **Bo Prosser**, CBF Coordinator of Missional Congregations, and **Steve Graham**, CBF Director of Leadership for Missional Congregations

This gathering will include a time to explore the ways in which improvisational techniques can contribute to your work in ministry.

In the afternoon, we'll hear from Christian educator **Rick Jordan**, of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, who provides a teaching plan for each Sunday School lesson in the monthly *Baptists Today*. His work can be found at [www.nurturingfaith.net](http://www.nurturingfaith.net). His FIT FAITH approach to teaching allows for class engagement with the biblical texts as well as with one another.

Register at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org) or contact Ronnie Brewer at [Ronnie@alabamacbf.org](mailto:Ronnie@alabamacbf.org).



## An Update from our Moderator, Mary Oliver

The storms of April 27 brought historic destruction and loss to our state, but the churches of Alabama CBF were the hands and feet of Christ providing relief in every area affected by the tornadoes. God worked through so many people to offer help to our neighbors. I am very thankful for the leadership of Ronnie and Terri. Along with many other tasks, they coordinated the delivery and distribution of supplies as well as linking mission teams with churches in the rebuilding homes. There is still work to be done, and ALCBF will continue to be involved in the recovery efforts.

The Coordinating Council is happy to welcome new members. Leigh Ann Armstrong of FBC Auburn, Amanda Cassity of Calvary Baptist in Tuscaloosa, and Robin Norsworthy of University Baptist in Montevallo will each serve three-year terms. Stan Breaux of Mountain Brook Baptist will fill a vacancy and serve two years. Hal Espy of Trinity Baptist of Madison will serve as treasurer. Chris Aho will complete a one-year term on the National Coordinating Council. We are all grateful for their willingness to serve ALCBF. It is an exciting time for our organization, and I know God will continue to bless our efforts to share Christ's love in our state.

## Financial Report through November 2011 from Treasurer, Hal Espy

General Funds - \$49,867.32  
Designated Funds\* - \$56,648.78  
Total Funds - \$106,516.10

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

The 2012 budget has been approved by the council and is available by request.  
**Coordinating Council Meetings**  
**January 28, 2012 and May 12, 2012**

## Called to Follow



## ALCBF Youth Summit Retreat ~ April 27-29, 2012

Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL

Featured worship leaders ~  
Daniel Ingram & Marnie Fisher-  
Ingram from Passport, Inc.

Cost: \$99 per person.  
Lodging, food, & program included.

For questions, contact Terri Byrd at [Terri@alabamacbf.org](mailto:Terri@alabamacbf.org) or 205.835.8117.  
Register at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org).

## Soul Food: Just Folk Coffeehouse by Terri Byrd for *Baptists Today*

An excerpt from the November edition of *Baptists Today*

In Elba, Alabama, the place to be at lunchtime is the **Just Folk Coffeehouse** right off the town square. Just steps away from the courthouse across the street, it's where the locals who are working in town walk to for the daily special, conversation, and a piece of pie. It also happens to be the church office for Covenant Community Church and where the pastor, Mart Gray, spends time talking with people. ...

"Some people may ask why a church runs a coffee house," said Mart. "But the people of Covenant really believe that this is our signature ministry. It's a way to connect to the people of our community."

Since opening Just Folk, the church has grown. "We've had some people join Covenant, but we also have people who have simply become part of a fellowship of people who come to meet and talk at the coffee house," said Mart. "In some ways, we've become the church on the square. There are days when you may just need someone to talk to ... and a piece of pie."

Read the full article on our website at [www.alabamacbf.org](http://www.alabamacbf.org). This article was first printed in the new Alabama version of *Baptists Today*, which now offers Bible study material in each edition. Orders may be placed at [www.baptiststoday.org](http://www.baptiststoday.org) or 877-752-5658. Subscribe today!



## April 30 - May 5, 2012

# ALCBF Partnership Trip to visit CBF Northeast

Alabama CBF will make a trip this spring to visit our partners in the CBF Northeast family. This trip is great for ministers or mission committee members who would be interested in future mission opportunities with our CBF Northeast partners. We would love for you to join us!

We will visit Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, Connecticut; Waterbury Baptist Ministries, Connecticut; Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries, New York City; and have a free day in New York City.

Total cost: \$850.00\* Includes flights, hotel, and ground transportation. Participants will need to provide some meals during the week and activities in NYC. \*Cost subject to change due to air travel costs.

**Registration deadline is January 31** with a deposit of \$100. Space is limited! Contact Terri Byrd at [Terri@alabamacbf.org](mailto:Terri@alabamacbf.org) or 205.835.8117 for more information or to register. Visit our website to learn more.

## Do Something Good: Commemorate the One-Year Anniversary of the Alabama Tornadoes



Alabama CBF is sponsoring a week of service, giving, & prayer to mark the one-year anniversary of the tornadoes of 2011 that swept across our beautiful state of Alabama. Do something good during the week of **April 21-28** in an area still recovering, give a financial gift for rebuilding, and/or lift up prayer for families and individuals still recovering from loss. Visit our website for specific ways you can help.