



COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS



18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone: 222-3009/Email: covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com
Proclaiming Jesus And Serving Churches Since 1856

Director of Missions

Otis Corbitt

Community Ministry

Director

Katie Cooper

Office Manager

Wayne Linton

February 2024

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Dear Friends,

One of the most common causes of conflict in church life in recent years is church worship music. I was raised in a church that sang hymns, and which had an excellent choir and many talented musicians. I was introduced to praise choruses in England, and then when I moved to Covington County, I learned about shaped-note hymns. Because my wife and I visit different a different member church almost every Sunday, I have a few observations about the worship practices of churches in our county.

First, people sing the songs that they know the best. Often this means singing from a hymn book, but this is not always the case. Worship leaders who want to hear their congregation singing enthusiastically should do their best to introduce new songs to their church members in a way that will help them to learn them so they can feel comfortable singing them. Conversely, church members need to be willing to learn new songs. Many years ago in an instructors training course, I learned that the factor most likely to provide confidence to an instructor is knowledge of the subject. I would say the same thing is true of the hymns, choruses, and worship songs that we sing in our churches today.

Second, the genre of music used in worship does not matter as much as its quality. I must confess that I am not a huge fan of Southern Gospel music, but I am blessed by high quality Southern Gospel music. We should do the very best we can for our Lord in all parts of our life, but particularly in worship. Poorly played music, which is poorly planned, and poorly conducted, will squelch the spirit of worship on a Sunday morning. High quality music may not guarantee high quality worship, but it does not inhibit it either.

I can worship from the Baptist Hymnal or from a shaped note hymnal or with worship songs or by listening to Southern Gospel. I worship best, however, when I know the songs and the songs are well led. I encourage us all to pursue these ideas in our worship going forward.

Every blessing, Otis Corbitt

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

Mt Gilead Youth Minister Search

Mt Gilead Baptist Church is seeking a youth minister to lead and guide their middle and high school students. The goal of this position is to help all students understand how Jesus can change their lives, what salvation means, and how to be disciples. To apply send your resume to: mtgileadinfo@gmail.com

Rawls Baptist Pastor Search

Rawls Baptist Church is prayerfully searching for a pastor to lead their congregation. Those seeking to apply should contact Ronnie Taylor at 334-804-5426 or you can email him at: ronniet36474@gmail.com

Special Prayer Request

Pray for these churches who are searching for pastors: Beulah, Brooks, East Highland, Fairmount, Lockhart, Rawls, Salem, Victory

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

February 2024 Food Bank Donors

Bethany, Red Oak, Buck Creek, Judson, Hopewell, Oak Grove, Sweet Home, Westview, West County Line, Adellum, Harmony, Mill Creek, Salem

Praying For Each Other In 2024

This month, please join us in praying for a different member church each week:

February 4: Rawls

February 11: FBC Gantt

February 18: Mt. Gilead

February 25: Cedar Grove

United Youth Conference 2024

Save the date now for UYC on February 9-10, 2024 at Andalusia High School! Our 2024 theme is *Epicenter* and the focal passage is Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Our speaker will be Rechab Gray and our worship band will be Rush of Fools. Cost will be \$30 per person. Please register your youth group in advance at: www.uycus.org

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

Deadline For Submission of Church News to The CBA Newsletter

Our deadline for submission of church news is the 20th of each month. Email to:

covingtonbaptistnewsletter@gmail.com

Covington Christian Women's Job Corps News

We are part of the Church and Community Ministry work of the Association. Your church supports this ministry when it gives to the association's budget for this ministry is included in the budget. You support this ministry when you give above and beyond that with a special offering. You support this ministry when you serve as a mentor on a weekly basis or on our board. You support this ministry when you prepare a meal on Friday for us to enjoy. You support this ministry when you give of your time to share your "life skill expertise." You support this ministry when you pray for us. And in your praying, you feel led to support this ministry by becoming a mentor to provide weekly fellowship with the participants. For all of this SUPPORT, we are grateful, and we say THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We still meet every Friday from 9:30-12:30 in the food room at the Andalusia service center. This time with the participants includes one hour of parenting and life skills, one hour of Bible study and one hour of one-on-one mentoring. Lunch is also provided. We are about to be recertified by national and state WMU as a CWJC site.

We have three important dates coming up for which we would like you to pray: 1. Friday-Sunday, February 2-4, 2024 at Laguna Beach Retreat: This will be a special time away for the mentors and participants to focus on the theme, "Devoted." 2. Friday, February 23, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Association Office: Covington CWJC Graduation of our 4th class. 3. Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Bethany Baptist Church: Crossover Ministry Graduation.

To find out how you can become involved with CCWJC, contact Judy Phillips (850-228-5020/jujaphillips@gmail.com) or Shirley Smith (334-488-4715/shirley23214@gmail.com).