

## Church Development Ministry 2018 Annual Report

The Church Development Ministry (CDM) of our association encompasses a wide range of ministries, missions, evangelistic opportunities and equipping events. The main areas of the CDM are: Discipleship and Family Ministries, Men and Boys Ministries, Women and Girls Ministries, Disaster Relief Ministries, Music and Worship Ministries, Student Ministries, Senior Adult Ministries, and African American Church Planting.

### Senior Adult Ministries

The annual **Senior Adult Fall Fish Fry Fellowship** was October 26, 2017 at Camp Whispering Pines. There were 153 senior adults from 14 churches. *The Kendricks* were the special musical guests. A very special *Thank You* to all the Camp Whispering Pines staff and volunteers for their help with this annual senior adult event.

Senior Adults from across Mobile County joined on February 13 for the **2018 Senior Adult Friendship Luncheon** at Cottage Hill Baptist Church. Over 340 Senior Adults participated in this year's event. The luncheon was a great time of fellowship, food, music and fun for the Senior Adults. *The Nelons* were the special musical group. They shared in a time of music and worship.

### Women and Girls Ministries

**Girls Winter Weekend** was December 1-2, 2017. The theme was *Rock Solid!* The verse was Psalm 62:2. The pastor was Kyle Allen and Lydia Smith led us in worship. After a canteen time, they headed to a campfire. Lydia Smith led in devotion as well as a time of silly songs.

Saturday morning was full of activities with the camp staff and group leaders including: rock wall, hayride, mission action, crafts, meet the missionary, Bible study, archery, and canteen. Destyne Pound was the missionary and talked about her mission trip to China. There were 21 girls at Winter Weekend, and several adults that helped with the activities. We are thankful for each one of them.

*Arise Shine...When We Rise Up; He Shines through Transformation* was the theme for the **Women's Day of Prayer**, held November 2, 2017, at Crawford Baptist Church. Thirty-nine people attended, representing 11 churches. Lisa Hixon was the guest speaker, telling of her experiences as a missionary in Yemen and the Horn of Africa. She spoke about witnessing the transformation of people as they accepted Jesus as their Savior and grew in their faith.

All in attendance divided into groups to pray for specific areas of the world. An offering of \$211 was collected for the Baptist World Alliance. A special thank you to Mary Morton and the women of Crawford Baptist Church for hosting this event and for providing the wonderful brunch.

The WMU Leadership Team once again worked with the Alabama Baptist WMU to provide backpacks for the Mississippi River Ministry. The team collected 61 backpacks full of school supplies, toiletry items, and gifts. Materials provided by the Alabama WMU, including the Christmas story, were placed in each backpack. The Mississippi River Ministry works with compassion ministry sites and church plants in eight states. Visit [alabamawmu.org/backpacks](http://alabamawmu.org/backpacks) for more information on this unique opportunity.



The **WMU/Women's Ministry Annual Celebration** was April 26 at First Baptist Tillman's Corner. The ladies enjoyed a delicious meal, encouraging and motivating words, wonderful fellowship, and a few door prizes. The speaker was Scotty Goldman from the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. His message was one of encouragement, humor, and inspiration. There were 117 in attendance from 22 churches.



The WMU presented the **Girls Mission Camp** at Camp Whispering Pines on June 25-29, 2018. Twenty girls, grades 1-6, attended the camp. The theme was *Bible Heroes*, Hebrews 12:1-2. There were several pastors who spoke including: Josh Purvis, Avery McNeil, and Darren Lynd. Jessica Strenth was the worship leader. The missionary was Destyne Pound and she shared about several mission trips that she has been on in the states, as well as one mission trip to China. The girls could learn about the importance of sharing Christ in other countries, as well as right here at home.

The girls enjoyed swimming, archery, low ropes, and climbing the rock wall. Each night had a theme or special activity. Each morning started with a group devotion time in the chapel. There was a Bible study time each day. We are very thankful for each person who came to camp to help the girls learn more about Jesus.



### **Sunday School Ministries**

The **2018 Sunday School/Small Group Banquet** was January 30 at Cottage Hill Baptist Church. This was a great opportunity for church Sunday School leaders and members to gather with other Sunday School workers from around the association. This event is always a good time of encouragement, rejoicing and great fellowship. During the banquet, recognition awards were presented to various churches for their Sunday School Ministry work during the past year.

We were fortunate to have Daniel Edmonds, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, as the special guest speaker. His message was a challenge and encouragement to all present. Kym Harding and Robert Clifton, from Cottage Hill Baptist Church, each, presented special music. A very special *Thank you* to Cottage Hill for once again hosting this event. Churches receiving recognition, in the area of Sunday School Attendance and/or Enrollment growth were:

**Enrollment Numerical Increase:**

FBC Tillman’s Corner	607
Dauphin Way	130
Shiloh	35

**Average Attendance Numerical Increase:**

Wilmer FBC	238
Highpoint	133
Bethel	42

**Enrollment Percentage Increase:**

Parkway	67%
Heron Bay FBC	50%
FBC Tillman’s Corner	46%

**Average Attendance Percentage Increase:**

Heron Bay FBC	50%
Trinity	33%
Bethel	31%



The **2018 Vacation Bible School Clinic** was May 1 at Dauphin Way Baptist Church. A very special *Thank You* to the church members and staff for hosting this year’s Clinic. Also, a very special **Thank You** to the 2018 Associational VBS team: Vicki Willis (Director), Teresa Jones (3 & 4’s), Tracey Mardis (K), Cathy Eden (1 & 2 Grade), Lori Frye (3 & 4 Grade), Carolina Burkholder (5 & 6 Grade), Tracy Posey (Crafts), Liesl Langley (Music), Joel

Valenti (Recreation), Rebecca Tanner (Snacks) and Jeannie Flowers (Missions & BYBC). Seventy-seven participants attended the clinic.

The **2018 Associational Sunday School and Small Group Leader Training Conference and Rally, Reaching the Next Generation**, was held August 12. The event was hosted by Dauphin Way Baptist Church. Special guest Steve Parr shared with attendees. The Mobile Baptist Association and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions sponsored the event.

The first hour was a Q & A with Dr. Steve Parr for pastors and one other staff member from each church. There were 45 attending this session. *Keeping Kids Connected to Church for Life* was the training session for all Sunday School workers. Over 185 in attended. The night concluded with a Worship Rally: *When Generations Collide: Reach the Next Generation while Attending to All*. The gathering was a time of encouragement, music, praise, worship and thanksgiving.

**Men and Boys Ministries**

There were 16 participants at the annual **RA Racer Tournament**, which was February 3 at Government Street Baptist Church.

**Race:**

**Lads:** Carter Lund, Irvington First (1<sup>st</sup>), Frank Wilson, Irvington First (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Cody Muelbrandt, Bayou Sara (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Crusaders:** Drew Little, Irvington First (1<sup>st</sup>), Samuel Itza, Bayou Sara (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Brycen Reed, Bayou Sara (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Design:**

**Lad:** Cody Muelbrandt, Bayou Sara (1<sup>st</sup>), Nate Perkins, Bayou Sara (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Jake McClain, Bayou Sara (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Crusaders:** Holt McClain, Bayou Sara (1<sup>st</sup>), Brycen Reed, Bayou Sara (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Alex Strickland, Bayou Sara (3<sup>rd</sup>)

The 2017-18 MBA **Challenger Basketball League** had over 150 players, coaches, and referees involved. This ministry is a great opportunity to build friendships and for the Gospel to be shared with the participants and their families. A very special *Thank You* to the Challengers Basketball Ministry Director, Derek Blackmon, the league team coaches, staff, referees, and participants' parents for their help with this year's Challengers Ministry.



**Disaster Relief (DR) Ministries**



This past year has been a busy one for Disaster Relief. In the fall of 2017, Baptists from all over Alabama were busy responding to the four hurricanes to hit the United States, including massive damage to Puerto Rico. In particular, the laundry unit from FBC Satsuma deployed in Houston for several months for Hurricane Harvey relief. Many other churches responded to Houston and South Florida with supplies and volunteers.

Disaster Relief buckets were collected from our churches and forwarded to areas with severe flooding. As a nation, we were overwhelmed with the needs, but as always, the Southern Baptist Convention, and particularly the Mobile Baptist Association, were there meeting those needs as well as sharing the gospel and providing spiritual comfort.

Today, we are currently reaching out to those affected by Hurricane Florence in the North and South Carolina areas. Much like Harvey's effect last year, residents will be recovering for months to come. Alabama Baptists will stay on alert and respond to the needs as directed by North and South Carolina Baptists. Thank you for your interest and investment in the lives of people affected by disasters. It is always an opportune time to present the gospel and further the Kingdom of Christ.

Managers and response teams are encouraging monetary donations and gift cards. Donations can be made through [ncbaptist.org](http://ncbaptist.org), [scbaptist.org](http://scbaptist.org), or [alsbom.org](http://alsbom.org). The MBA will also receive gift cards and donations toward hurricane relief and forward them to the appropriate associations in the affected areas. Thank you for your generous giving!

Please continue to promote and give to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering (<https://myers-mallory.org/>), as it is the primary funding for Alabama Disaster Relief.

Carolyn Battle, volunteer Disaster Relief Coordinator

## **Discipleship and Family Ministries**

The annual ***Associational Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament*** was April 12, 2018 at Cottage Hill Baptist Church. Thirty-four children, four youth, and one high school student participated. There were 39 participants from eight churches. *Thank you* to Cottage Hill for their support of Bible Drills.

The annual ***Church Clerks Conference*** was July 31, 2018. There were 32 Church Clerks and Ministry Assistants in attendance. Carol Henderson, the MBA Administrative Assistant, led the conference. Kelly Jones, MBA Receptionist and Church Development Assistant taught the online program.

On August 23, the MBA hosted ***Church Security Training***. State missionary, Mark Wakefield, led the training. The training offered some basic questions churches should consider. Some of the topics discussed included: most likely security issues churches may face, types of policies a church should address, types of training for volunteers and how to address recovery from an event.

These are just a few of the various ministries that make up the Church Development Ministry. Followers of Jesus from all walks of life, ages, backgrounds and ethnic groups are ministering to friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives across Mobile County and around the world. They are sharing the *Good News of Jesus' Love*.

### ***A Special Thank You... to all our Volunteers!***

No one person can do all of the ministry tasks in the association. It takes a team of very dedicated volunteers that are called by His Spirit, equipped by His Son and led by Him to accomplish His purposes. Thank You for following Him and using all He has given you to make an eternal impact in the lives of the people of Mobile, Alabama, USA, and the World. The Church Development Ministry is constantly seeking volunteers to help in the various ministry areas. What are the unique experiences, abilities and gifts that God has given you? Are you using them in His Kingdom? Contact me at 251-661-7111, or [cdavis@mobilebaptists.org](mailto:cdavis@mobilebaptists.org) and let's talk about how you might use your gifts through ministry in the associational Church Development Ministry.

Blessings!

Chuck Davis

Director of Church Development and African American Church Planting