OGEECHEE RIVER BAPTIST NETWORK

A Family of Churches Making Christ Known

Ogeechee Missions Visionary

December 2025—January 2026

"Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me..." Acts 1:8

Member Churches and Missions

Agape
Bethel
Blitchton FBC
Brooklet FBC
Cedar Street
Christ
Clito
Eastern Heights
Eldora
Elmer
Emit Grove
Excelsior
Fletcher Memorial
Friendship
Iglesia Cristiana Hispana
Lawrence
Leefield
Lighthouse
Macedonia
Metter FBC
New Life
Oak Grove
Old Fellowship
Olive Branch
Pine Grove
Portal FBC
Pulaski
Register
Salem
SonLight Community
Southbridge Community
Statesboro FBC
S'boro Mision Bautista Bethel
Statesboro Korean Mission
Temple Hill
Trinity
Union

Greetings from our Missionary

Looking Back; Looking Ahead
December is a unique month. As the year draws to a close, we naturally find ourselves both looking back and looking ahead. Very soon, we will begin to see lists highlighting the events of 2025. Some will inspire us—"The Most Memorable Moments in Sports"—while others will grieve us—"Celebrities We Lost in 2025." But we do not look only at what is behind us; December also prompts us to look ahead, to what is coming, and to what we are anticipating in the year ahead.

As I think of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus, there is a similar rhythm of looking back and looking ahead. For hundreds of years, the prophets foretold His coming (Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6–7; Micah 5:2). That is our "looking back." Yet in the prophecy of Simeon, we also look ahead and see the coming sacrifice of God's own Son for the sins of humanity:

> "Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, 'Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed— and a sword will pierce your own soul— that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'"
> *(Luke 2:34–35)*

For our Network, this month is also a time of looking back and looking ahead. We can look back and see how far we have come over the past twelve months—from the initial meetings of the Strategy Development Team to the overwhelming approval of God's vision for us at our annual meeting. We have seen meaningful partnerships formed between churches, between our Network and other associations, and between our Network and our denominational partners at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now we look ahead to 2026 and beyond as we work together to implement God's vision and fulfill the Great Commission. There will be opportunities for your church to join with other Network churches to advance the gospel and expand the kingdom of God. There will also be opportunities for your church to participate in training so that we may be better equipped to serve the Lord faithfully and effectively.

It is my privilege to serve as your Network Missionary. I am available for consultations on a wide range of topics and issues related to church life and ministry. If your church needs pulpit supply or a speaker for a ministry event, I am honored to assist.

On behalf of my family and the staff of the Ogeechee River Baptist Network, we wish you and your family a very **Merry Christmas!**

I look forward to serving alongside you in 2026 and in the years to come.

Jeff

News from our Churches

BROOKLET FBC—*(1)***Sundays:** *Sunday School-all ages* **(9:15am)**, *Morning Worship* **(10:30am)**, *Evening Worship* **(6pm)**. *(2)***Wednesdays:** *Wednesday Night Supper* **(5:30pm)**, *Prayer Meeting & Children Missions* **(6:30pm)**.

CEDAR STREET—*(1)***Sun., 12/7; 5pm:** *"Christmas Concert!" (2)* **Wed., 12/17; 6:30pm:** *"Christmas Candlelight Service."*

EASTERN HEIGHTS—*(1)***Sun., 12/14; 6pm:** *"Christmas Party!"* Join our family. Please bring finger food to share. *(2)***Wed., 12/24; 4pm:** *"Christmas Eve Service."*

EMIT GROVE—*(1)***Sundays:** *Early Worship Service* **(8:30am)**, *Sunday School-all ages* **(9:45am)**, *Morning Worship* **(11am)**. *(2)***Wednesdays:** *Supper* **(6 pm)**, *Prayer Meeting, Youth & TeamKid* **(6:30pm)**. *(3)* **Thursdays; 2-4:30pm:** Popcorn/ Movie - **12/4/25)***"God's Not Dead."*

EXCELSIOR—**Wed., 12/3; 5:30 pm:** *"Kids Caroling."*

ELMER—**Sat., 12/6; 11am-1pm:** *"Drop-in Lunch with Santa!"* Enjoy a complimentary hotdog lunch, craft and take your own free picture with Santa. Registration is encouraged (but not required). *see below

FLETCHER MEMORIAL—EVENT: **Wed., 12/24; 5pm:** *"Christmas Eve Candlelight Service."* NEWS: *(1)***Sundays:** *Sunday School-all ages* **(9:30am)**, *Morning Worship* **(10:45am)**. *(2)***Wednesdays:** *Service* **(6pm)**.

LEEFIELD—*(1)***Sundays:** *Sunday School-all ages* **(9am)**, *Morning Worship* **(10am)**, *Evening Worship* **(6pm)**. *(2)***Wednesdays:** *Returns again in January...Wednesday Night Supper & Prayer* **(6pm)**.

LIGHTHOUSE—*(1)***3rd Friday each month; 6:30pm:** Join us for dinner, fellowship & conversation. *(2)***Wed., 12/24; 6pm:** *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!*

METTER FBC—*(1)***Sundays:** *Sunday School* **(9:45am)**, *Children's Church* **(10:30am)**, *Sunday Service* **(11am)**. *(2)***Wednesdays; 6pm:** *"Lighthouse Kids."* (*12/3 & 10, returns 1/7/26).

OLD FELLOWSHIP—EVENTS: *(1)***Wed., 12/17; 6pm:** *"Christmas Caroling." (2)***Wed., 12/24; 6pm:** *"Christmas Eve Service."* NEWS: *(1)***Sundays:** *Sunday School-all ages* **(10am)**, *Morning Worship* **(11am)**. *(2)***Wednesdays:** *Family Night-meal & age-level Bible Study* **(5:45pm)**.

REGISTER—EVENT: **Sun., 12/14; 10:30am:** *"Christmas Cantata."* NEWS: *(1)Weekly Services:* **Sundays -** (early service) 9am, (Sunday school) 10am, (traditional service) 11am, (youth) 4pm every other Sunday. **Wednesdays -** (supper) 5:30pm, (Awana) 6-7pm, (Bible study) 6:15-7pm, (choir practice) 7pm. *(2)Monthly Services:* **Wings -** (Women in God's service) 10am on last Sunday of each month, **Men's Bible study -** 6pm on the 2nd Monday of the month.

SOUTHBRIDGE—EVENTS: *(1)* **Mon., 12/1; 6pm:** *"Ministers & Spouse's Banquet." (2)***Sun., 12/7; 2pm:** *"Christmas Caroling." (3)* **Wed., 12/24; 5:30pm:** *"Candle Light Christmas Eve Service."* NEWS: *(1)***Sundays:** *Community Hour-group discipleship time* **(9:30am)**, *Worship* **(11am)**. *(2)* **Wednesdays:** *Bridge Students & Women's Bible Study* **(6:30pm)**.

STATESBORO FBC—*(1)***Sun., 12/14; 4pm:** *"He Is!"* Worship Ministry Christmas Presentation. *(2)* **Wed., 12/24:** *"Christmas Eve Family Service"* **(4pm)**, *"Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion* **(5:30pm)**.

TRINITY—*(1)***Sun., 12/7; 11am:** *"Wings of Christmas."* Production presented by the Drama Ministry. *(2)***Sun., 12/14; 11am:** *"The Best Christmas Present Ever."* Play presented by the Children's Choir. *(3)* **Sun., 12/21; 11am:** *"A Christmas Celebration."* Concert presented by the Sanctuary Choir. *(4)***Sun., 12/28; 11am:** *"Christmas & New Year Communion."*

December

Birthdays:

2	Deborah Gay
2	Amanda McCreary
5	Janice Jones
8	Joshua Crocker
9	Yvonne Parmer
18	Kay Abercrombie
23	Dave Parker
27	Susan Allen
29	Mike Marotte

Anniversaries:

27	Mike & Debbie Howard

January

Birthdays:

3	Bill Vansant
4	Ginger Crocker
7	Ben Gay
11	Lindsay Boyett
12	Tim Traywick
13	David FeldKamp
13	Edna Vansant
14	Lynda McCoy
15	Tim Huffingham
17	Tommy Crocker
18	Will Griffith
18	Sue Page
24	Ricky Allen
25	Martha Green
27	Tony Pagliarullo

Anniversaries:

2	Lee & April Collins
9	Fred & Lynda McCoy

ORBN Notes

~ For all members of ORBN churches, Debbie is now a Notary Public if you should need something notarized.
~ Currently, our newsletter is available via email, snail mail, and on our website. Beginning with the February 2026 issue, snail mail versions will be discontinued. If you can only receive it in this format, please contact Debbie at the ORBN office (912-764-3620) for this request.
~ REMINDER...check out our new website https://orbnetwork.org/

Camp "I Am 2026

DATES: (Jr.) July 19 - July 20
(Sr.) July 20 - July 24

PLANNING MEETINGS:
at ORBA office on 2nd Thursday each month.
First meeting is at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

Clinical Pastoral Education Class

Enrollment for Winter/Spring 2026 Clinical Pastoral Education is Open.

Deadline for application is December 8, 2025. Semester start date is January 5, 2026.

Ogeechee Area Hospice is partnering with Clinical Pastoral Education International (CPEI), to offer opportunities for local pastors, ministers, & lay-leaders to participate in CPEI's CPE training program. CPEI is affiliated with the American Association of Christian Counselors (aacc.net) and is a US Department of Education accredited program through DEAC.

Chaplain Nick Spletstoser (MDiv, MS, BCC), of Ogeechee Area Hospice, serves as the Supervisor Educator for OAH's CPE program and we are currently enrolling students for the Summer Semester. Internship sites can include your location of ministry. High School diploma required for a Certificate in Chaplaincy. Master's Degree in ministry required for Board Certified Chaplain (BCC).

To inquire about this course or learn more about this opportunity to expand your pastoral counseling and care skills and certification, contact Nick Spletstoser at 912-764-8441 or nspletstoser@oahospice.org.

To learn more about CPEI and our training program visit https://cpei.edu .

QR Code included for easy registration.

https://cpei.populiweb.com/router/admission...

Nick Spletstoser
Senior Hospice Chaplain, MDiv, MSCC
Ogeechee Area Hospice

A Special Thank-You

We would like to thank you, the network, for your generous gifts during this special time of year. It is our privilege to serve you in any way we can in helping your church grow and in reaching your community for Christ. Please call on us if we can assist you. Once again, thank you for your generosity; we appreciate it and you!

Blessings to you during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

Jeff Parmer, Associational Missionary
Debbie Marotte, Ministry Assistant
Mike Sparks & Duane Davis W.W. Mann Center

OGEECHEE RIVER BAPTIST NETWORK

17 North College Street
Statesboro, GA 30458
Phone: 912-764-3620
Fax: 912-489-4566
Website: www.orbnetwork.org
OR visit us on Facebook
Moderator: Lee Collins
Network Missionary: Jeff Parmer
E-mail: orbamissionary@orbalife.org
Ministry Assistant: Debbie Marotte
E-mail: orbaoffice@orbalife.org

Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM)
Sr. Campus Minister: Chris Bryan
(678-549-2245) (cbryan.bcm@gabaptist.org)

Choices of the Heart (Pregnancy Counseling Center)
Executive Director: Mandy Perkins
425 E. Grady Street, Statesboro, GA 30458
(912) 764-4303

Christian Social Ministries (CSM)
Director: John Long
Assistance/Food Pantry: 31 N. Zetterower Ave., Statesboro
(912-489-2407)
Statesboro Thrift Stores: 122 E. Parrish St.,
307 N. Zetterower Ave. & 2429 Northside Dr. W.

Calendar

DECEMBER 2025 *(Focus on International Missions)*
-7 Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Offering
1 Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet; Southbridge, 6 p.m.
23- Christmas Holiday, Office Closed (reopen January 5)
25 Christmas Day

JANUARY 2026 *(Focus on Christian Discipleship)*
1 New Year's Day Holiday
2-3 MOVE Conference (evangelism conference for GA teens), Wild Adventures, Valdosta, GA
5 ORBA Office re-opens for new year
8 Camp "I AM" Planning Meeting, ORBA Office, 7:00 p.m.
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed
18 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
22 Associational Executive Council Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.
23-24 REELFEST (student worship weekend), First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, GA
29-31 CONCLAVE (training for Youth leaders), Chattanooga Convention Center

FEBRUARY 2026 *(Focus on Christian Unity)*
5-6 Kids Ministry Summit, The King & Prince Resort on St. Simon's Island
9-15 Focus On WMU Week
12 Camp "I AM" Planning Meeting, ORBA Office, 7:00 p.m.
14 Valentine's Day
15 Focus On WMU Sunday
16 President's Day
20-22 [GBMB] SELAH (Women's Ministry leaders training), Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA
22 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
27- DNow, BCM@GSU & Statesboro FBC

Items in black & highlighted are our local associational events. *Items in black … holidays.*
Orange - Georgia Baptist Mission Board events. *Blue - Southern Baptist Convention events.*