

Associational Missions Strategist: Greg Benfield ■ Ministry Assistant: Sarah Rozier

*The Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association, Inc. exists to glorify God.
As a cooperating partnership of Southern Baptist churches, we mutually equip, engage, and expand disciple-makers of Jesus Christ.*



Sanctity of
Human Life
Sunday
January 21, 2024

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Sunday, January 21
Life Chain info: page 2

Let's gather!

Executive Committee Meeting

January 25, 2024
6:30 PM Meal - 7:00 PM Meeting

RSVP:
<https://bit.ly/jan2024EXCCmeal>

POBA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 25
See page 2

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81010

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to **81010:**

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Events: **@pobaevent**
Pastors: **@pobapas**

NAVIGATING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF SCRIPTURE

(Tom Kennedy) We live in a world that grapples with complex moral and ethical questions. At the center of many of these questions is the question of Life. News media, politicians, scholars, philosophers, and social media influencers are all bombarding us with opinions. Christians however do not look for which way the cultural wind is blowing on any given day to find our answers, we have a “more sure word of testimony”, we have a Bible! The concept of the sanctity of human life stands as a foundational principle deeply rooted in sacred scriptures.

The Creation Narrative (Genesis 1:26-27): The Bible opens with the declaration that humanity is created in the image of God. Genesis 1:26-27 emphasizes the divine origin of each individual, underscoring the intrinsic worth bestowed upon us by our Creator. This foundational truth sets the stage for understanding the sanctity of human life from the very beginning.

The Psalmist's Praise for Life (Psalm 139:13-16): The Psalms beautifully celebrate the marvel of human existence. Psalm 139 poetically describes the intricacies of God's craftsmanship in forming each person in the womb. This passage reinforces the belief that life is a divine masterpiece, deserving of reverence and protection.

POBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 25

Executive Committee Meeting

January 25, 2024
Calvary Baptist Church
6:30 PM Meal - 7:00 PM Meeting

RSVP:
<https://bit.ly/Jan2024EXECmeal>

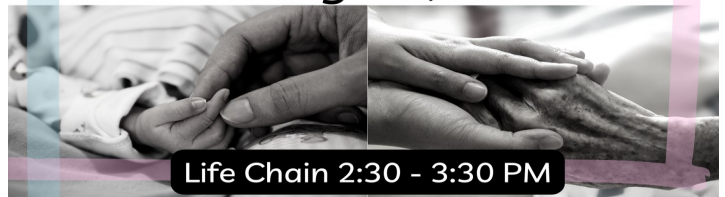
The Command to Love Our Neighbors (Matthew 22:39): In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the command to love our neighbors as ourselves. This extends beyond mere social interactions to encompass societal structures and policies. Navigating the sanctity of human life involves cultivating a culture of empathy, compassion, and justice that upholds the dignity of every individual.

Jesus' Embrace of the Vulnerable (Matthew 19:14): The Gospels portray Jesus as a champion of the vulnerable, particularly children. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus welcomes children, affirming their significance in the Kingdom of God. This narrative inspires us to prioritize the protection and well-being of the most vulnerable among us.

As we navigate the sanctity of human life through the lens of scripture, we can recognize the divine imprint on every individual. The teachings of the Bible illuminate a path that values, protects, and cherishes human life from conception to natural death. Nurturing a deep understanding of the sanctity of life contributes not only to our personal convictions but also to the shaping of a compassionate and just society that reveres the inherent worth of every soul. The world around may call abortion a “right” and a “choice”, but as Christians we stand with tears in our eyes and declare that no one has the right to murder our unborn neighbors.

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

Sanctity of
Human Life
Sunday
January 21, 2024



Ware: Jerry J's Country Cafe (Plant Ave)
Pierce: Burger King (Hwy 84)
Brantley - Nahunta: Intersection of Hwys 82 and 301
Brantley - Hoboken: Intersection of Hwys 82 and 121
Charlton: Intersection of US 1 and Main Street

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Remember these churches in prayer as they seek pastors:

First Waycross
Satilla

MINISTRY OPENINGS

Ministry openings are listed online. See them here:
www.mypoba.org/ministry-openings

THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

You can read the Baptist Faith & Message here:
<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>.

HYMN STORIES: HE IS SO PRECIOUS TO ME

(Sam Stack) He is So Precious to Me first appeared in the collection Joyful Praise, in 1902. It was written by the prolific hymn writer Charles H. Gabriel. It is set to the tune PRECIOUS TO ME, written for the text by the author.

Originally the first stanza was as follows:
I'm happy in Jesus, my Savior, my King,
And all the day long of His goodness I sing
To Him in my weakness I lovingly cling
For He is so precious to me.

In 1907, E. O. Excell, purchased the rights to the song from Gabriel. It was at this time that the alterations to the stanzas were made.

Charles H. Gabriel was born in 1856, in Iowa, and spent the first seventeen years of his life on the family farm. His parents were able to purchase a home reed organ (pump organ) and Gabriel soon taught himself to play. By the age of sixteen, he was teaching singing schools. He soon became widely known as a teacher and composer. After spending some years in California, he moved to Chicago, where he became a part of the Homer Rodeheaver, publishing company a position he held until his death in 1932.

During his lifetime he edited/composed thirty-five gospel songbooks, eight Sunday School songbooks, seven books for men's groups, six books for ladies groups, ten

PRAY: MISSIONARIES OUT OF POBA



Aaron & Rebekah Harris (& Family)
(Laura Chapel Baptist)
Bible Translation
Fulani of West Africa
www.pioneerbible.org/aaronandrebekahharris



Scotty & Jadison Hayes (& Family)
(Emmanuel Baptist)
Church Planting
Peru

<https://ebchurch.net/ftm/>

children's books, nineteen collections of anthems, and twenty-three cantatas.

Other songs found in our hymnals include: I Stand Amazed in the Presence, In Loving Kindness Jesus Came, Send the Light, O That will be Glory, and Higher Ground to name a few.

He Is So Precious To Me

Verse 1

So precious is Jesus my Saviour my King
His praise all the day long with joy do I sing
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling
For He is so precious to me

Chorus

For He is so precious to me
For He is so precious to me
'Tis Heaven below
My Redeemer to know
For He is so precious to me

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

Resource: Companion to Baptist Hymnal (1975), William J. Reynolds

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY



Take advantage of the opportunity to engage college students through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

POBA churches can host a meal (for 20) and share a devotional on Mondays during spring semester at *South Georgia State College, Waycross campus*. Contact the POBA Office at (912) 285-8161 or complete this form: <https://bit.ly/BCMmealsSGSCWaycross>.

SGSC Waycross Students: A coffee bar will be made available on the Waycross campus from 8 AM—10 AM on January 8, 2024 to kick off the spring semester. See mypoba.org/bcmgscwaycross for additional info.



PASTORS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL

2024
- PASTORS DAY AT THE CAPITOL -
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

7:30 AM TO 2:00 PM
FLOYD ROOM, SLOPPY FLOYD BUILDING, ATLANTA
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, GO TO:
GABAPTIST.ORG/PUBLICAFFAIRS

SPEAKERS:

 KELVIN COCHRAN	 JIM GARLOW	 MATT SHARP	 CHLOE COLE
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SAVE THE DATE

ROYAL AMBASSADORS RACER DERBY & CAMPOREE

POBA RA Racer Derby

February 10, 2024
9:00 AM
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

POBA RA Camporee

March 8-9, 2024
Lake Wendi (5901 Central Ave, Waycross)



CHURCH FINANCIAL CONFERENCE



There will be a Church Financial Conference (formerly known as the Financial Compliance Seminar), at FBC Hazlehurst on **February 8, 2024**.

Topics churches may benefit from:

- Ideal Compensation Package for Pastors
- Personal Investing and Retirement Planning
- Internal Controls to Protect the Church's Finances
- QCD's Made Easy
- Strategy to Maximize Your Church's Reserve Funds

These breakout sessions, which church teams may select based on their congregation's needs, will be hosted by Georgia Baptist Foundation staff, GuideStone Financial Resources representatives, and church finance expert, Tony Neal.

Early-bird tickets for the general public can be purchased for \$20 until January 5th, then will increase. Tickets include the cost of admission, a conference packet, a seated dinner, and more.

Register: <https://events.idonate.com/cfc24-hazlehurst>

GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION



The Georgia Baptist Foundation will hold a Roundtable about writing endowments for the church at the POBA Office on February 8, 2024 from 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

RSVP by calling the POBA Office at (912) 285-8161) or online at: <https://bit.ly/Feb24GBFroundtable>

FAMILIES 4 FAMILIES



FAMILIES 4 FAMILIES

<https://www.families4families.cc/>

Christian Foster Care Organization
Informational Meeting

January 30, 2024

11:30am - 1:00pm

The Christian Foster Organization "Families 4 Families" will be having an informational meeting January 30, 11:30am-1pm at Bridge Church located at 419 Main Street in Blackshear, GA.

This will be in hopes of getting a Christian Resource for families in our area who want to foster through an organization that will be a support to them in the long run. To help equip churches to better support local foster families and to hopefully see the number of foster families in our region out number the children in care one day soon!

RSVP to Phillip Cochran at cochranphillip@hotmail.com.

GBMB CHURCH STRENGTHENING ROUNDTABLE

GBMB Church Strengthening Roundtable

Four Gateways of a Healthy Church

When: January 23, 2024

Where: FBC Blackshear (670 Main Street, Blackshear)

Time: 10:00—11:30 AM

Register FREE: <https://bit.ly/GBMB2024CSRountable>

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Send your church news to sarah.poba@gmail.com

- Bristol Baptist is seeking a Pianist. Contact Brett Howell (912-647-5304) or send resume to bristol.5304@gmail.com.
- Bristol Baptist is seeking a Student Ministry Leader. Contact Brett Howell (912-647-5304) or send resume to bristol.5304@gmail.com.

WAYS TO ENGAGE IN & SUPPORT SANCTITY OF LIFE

Find a way to engage in and support Sanctity of Life during the month of January. Examples:

- Each year in January a *Life Chain* is held in each county (see page 2).
- Support a foster family in your community (provide gift cards for clothes, meals, basic toiletries)
- Become a foster family
- Make a donation to, support, and partner with the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes, Called to Care, Families 4 Families.
- Host a One Day Fun Day (Mission Georgia) for foster children and their host family.
- Make a donation to and support the Southeast Georgia Women's Center located in Waycross with the following items: Desitin cream, Mylicon drops, diapers (Huggies/Pampers, sizes 3 & 4), baby clothes (new) up to size 24 months, baby towels and washcloths, body wash & lotions for mamas, diaper bags, car seats
- Make a donation to and support the Skylark mobile unit in Folkston (Wednesdays) and Nahunta (Fridays)

FOR HIS GLORY STUDENT CAMP



Monday Night Preacher:
Bro. Kevin Barclift,
Pastor, CrossPoint Community Church

Tuesday Night Preacher:
Bro. Josh Reavis
Associate Pastor, North Jax Baptist Church



Wednesday Night Preacher:
Bro. Bob Richardson
Pastor, Altamaha Baptist Church

Thursday Night Preacher:
Bro. Trent Long
Pastor, Sand Hill Baptist Church



Morning Bible Study Teaching:
Bro. David Marshall
Pastor, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

When: July 8-12, 2024

Where: Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island

Cost: \$375/person

Details: Space is limited. Contact Rebecca Musgrove (912-548-5820) if you are interested in attending. Deposit of \$50/person is due by February 1. Remaining balance due by May 1. Cost includes all camp activities, books, tshirt, and snacks.

For His Glory Student Camp is a ministry of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING

The table below reflects giving January—December 2023, as of 12/19/2023. This list does **not** include designated gifts:

Church	Contributions
Astoria	200.00
Beulah	1,800.00
Blackshear First	31,749.13
Bridge Community	2,250.00
Bristol	2,000.00
Browntown	
Calvary	3,710.04
Camp Pinckney	6,927.07
Central	9,140.04
CrossPoint Community	150.00
Deenwood	4,778.57
Emmanuel	44,678.43
Folkston First	3,850.00
Grace Chapel	3,595.00
Hacklebarney	1,544.03
Haywood	7,451.52
Hephzibah	200.00
Hickox	11,489.03
Hoboken	
Jamestown	14,579.34
King Memorial	2,500.00
Laura Chapel	1,000.00
Lees Chapel	7,307.00
Liberty	5,030.16
Lulaton	4,324.45
Manor Community	625.35
Mershon	2,000.00
Millwood	100.00
Mt Calvary	5,289.46
Nahunta First	
Newbern	3,005.70
Oak Hill	4,020.26
Offerman	8,242.50

Church	Contributions
Patterson	13,174.00
Pine Grove	3,409.06
Pineview	1,600.00
Pleasant Hill	3,000.00
Pleasant Valley	13,784.80
Rehobeth	3,250.00
Riverside Chapel	1,200.00
Sand Hill	4,226.87
Satilla	2,578.65
Set Free	2,505.00
Shady Grove	5,130.00
South Gate	1,425.00
Southside Nahunta	2,400.00
Spring Hill	165.00
St George First	1,400.00
Sweat Memorial	3,000.00
SweetWater	3,293.86
Ten Mile	8,199.40
Twin Rivers	2,793.00
Walkerville	1,600.00
Ware Terrace	304.51
Waycross First	4,616.74
Waycross Community	
Waycross Second	4,531.39
Waynesville	9,412.06
West Carswell	
Williams Chapel	3,540.26
Winokur	505.74
Whosoever	500.00
Youmans Chapel	5,205.62
Total Unrestricted Giving	300,288.04



Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association

2104 Alice Street , Waycross, GA 31501
Phone (912) 285-8161, Web: mypoba.org

CALENDAR

January

- 1 New Year's Day, office closed
- 4 BTCP
- 8 Baptist Collegiate Ministry Coffee Bar
- 11 BTCP
- 15 Music Minister Lunch
- 15 February Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Administrative Committee Meeting
- 18-20 Conclave
- 18-20 GBMB Ministry Wives Retreat
- 19-20 REELFest Worship Weekend
- 21 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 22 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 23 GBMB Church Strengthening Roundtable
- 25 POBA Executive Committee Meeting
- 29 Baptist Collegiate Ministry

February

- 5 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 6 Pastors' Day at the Capitol
- 8 Georgia Baptist Foundation Roundtable
- 8 Church Financial Conference
- 9-10 NAMB Serve Tour, Augusta
- 10 POBA RA Racer Derby
- 12 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 12 Youth Minister Network Training
- 15 March Newsletter Deadline
- 19 Music Minister Lunch
- 19 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 19 GBMB ReTool
- 20 Administrative Committee Meeting
- 26 Baptist Collegiate Ministry

March

- 1-3 GBMB Pastor & Wife Retreat
- 4 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 8-9 POBA RA Camporee
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Starts
- 13-15 GBAMA Conference
- 18 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 18 Music Minister Lunch
- 19 Administrative Committee Meeting
- 25 Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 31 Easter



Celebrating in January

Active pastors/staff & their spouses celebrating this month



Birthdays

- Melodie Boatwright—5
- Andrew Fountain—11
- James Lightsey—11
- Mitch Hall—12
- Ray McMillan—15
- Charlie Dunn—18
- Laura Finley—18
- Andrea Stone—19
- Olivia Colley—19
- Buddy Griner—29
- Melanie Beal—29

Anniversaries

- Randy & Tammy Carson—2
- Barry & Sarah Rozier—19



Download *The Associational Advisor* at mypoba.org
Associational Missions Strategist: greg.poba@gmail.com
Ministry Assistant: sarah.poba@gmail.com

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