

# BCF students urged to fear, hear and cheer God

GRACEVILLE (BCF)—Immersion in prayer and the Bible were the focus of a recent prayer conference at The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville.

The Sept. 17-19 conference featured Wayne Barber, senior pastor of Woodland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Rick Shepherd, team strategist for Prayer and Spiritual Awakening of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Each morning, faculty and students gathered in the R.G. Lee Chapel and worshiped together preparing their hearts for the inspirational messages of Shepherd and Barber.

Monday morning, faculty and students sang, "We raise our white flag, we surrender all to you, all for you," which coincided with the message of complete surrender by Shepherd and Barber.

Shepherd asked students, "Do you fear God?" and explained what it means to truly fear God. He reminded students that fearing God is realizing the greatness and glory of God and

walking in purity simply because of who God is.

For the latter half of the service, Barber preached from Joshua 1 instructing students to surrender completely to God.

"The Christian life is not a changed life, but an exchanged life," he said as he encouraged students to give themselves to God. Barber stated that Christians ought to meditate on God's Word and let the truth possess them especially now that "our nation is at a critical time."

Tuesday morning, the BCF Male Chorale led worship with hymn favorite, "How Marvelous," which also paralleled the message of the prayer conference.

Shepherd presented a second question to students: "Do you hear God?" He went on to explain the original Greek word used in the biblical text and stressed that hearing God meant to obey Him.

As Barber read Joshua 23, he encouraged students to stand firm

and cling to Christ. He emphasized the importance of knowing God and explained how knowing more of Christ should automatically lead to serving Him and loving Him more. "It's a growing relationship," he said.

He also warned of the consequences of not devoting one's life to prayer and reading God's Word, "Sin will take you farther and hold you longer than you ever intended."

Barber and Shepherd also joined BCF students for a special time of praise and worship Tuesday night during a Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) meeting. Barber encouraged students to experience the joy in their calling as he referenced multiple scripture passages. Shepherd added, "Don't let the Bible become a textbook and Jesus just a philosophy of life."

Wednesday morning at the close of the conference, Shepherd asked his final question, "Do you cheer God?" He then went on to explain that cheering



**PRAYER CONFERENCE** Wayne Barber speaks to BCF students during Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) meeting of recent prayer conference.

God meant to applaud God for what He has done, boast about God, and recognize Him as God. He proclaimed that cheering God was a result of truly fearing and truly hearing God.

Barber felt led to go a slightly different direction Wednesday morning as he preached from 1 Corinthians 13. He accentuated the fact, "without love,

we are nothing" and pointed out characteristics of a people who truly fear, hear, and cheer God. Barber focused on each characteristic of love that Christians should emanate. "This love must be present in everything we do," said Barber.

The prayer conference is an annual event on the BCF campus.

## FBSC messages available in audio and video formats

JACKSONVILLE (FBC)—Recordings of sermons and messages delivered during the annual Florida Baptist State Convention Nov. 12-13 at the First Baptist Church of Orlando will be available as audio and video downloads.

The recordings are available from the Convention's website and in CD format during the meetings. DVDs can be ordered and will be mailed at a later date.

Convention speakers include State Convention President David Uth, pastor of the host church; Jeffery Singletary, pastor of Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church; John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; and John Cope, pastor of Keystone Community Fellowship, Montgomery County, Penn.

Inspirational messages will be presented by Lt. Clebe McClary, Emerson Eggerichs, Mrs. Cindy Winters and John and Lena Yeh.

CDs can be purchased for \$5 each; Packages of the eight convention speakers, plus the discussion panel can be ordered for \$35. DVD's can be ordered and shipped for \$9 each or \$55 for the entire set.

Order online at [www.fbaptist.org](http://www.fbaptist.org) and select "Order Line;" email [media-services@fbaptist.org](mailto:media-services@fbaptist.org); or mail the order form with a check for full amount to: Florida Baptist Convention, Media Services, 1230 Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32207. For more information or to order by phone, contact the Media Services Department at 800-226-854, ext. 3157.



## Florida Focus

A one-time announcement of special events is a free service provided by the Witness to Florida Baptist churches. Please e-mail materials at least three weeks before the date of the event to [cnichols@goFBW.com](mailto:cnichols@goFBW.com). Information may also be mailed to Florida Baptist Witness, 1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207; faxed to 904-346-0696; or submitted via the Web site: [www.goFBW.com](http://www.goFBW.com).

### APALACHEE

**First Baptist Church in Blountstown** has called **Timothy F. Rhoads** as pastor. He most recently served 12 years as student pastor of Eastern Shore Baptist Church in Daphne, Ala., while also teaching student ministry as adjunct professor at University of Mobile. Rhoads previously



RHOADS

served as minister to students with Twelfth Street Baptist Church in Gadsden, Ala., and Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Quincy. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University in Starkville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Robbie Ann, have three children.

### CHIPOLA

**Lovedale Baptist Church in Bascom** will celebrate its 113th homecoming Nov. 4. Former pastor Mitch Nelson will speak and Lovedale musicians will sing in the 10:30 a.m. service. The congregation will honor the Bevis Family and members who died during the year. Lunch will be served. For more information, call 850-592-5415.

### FLORIDA

**First Baptist Church, Wakulla Station** has called **Kyle Marks** as pastor. He is a junior at Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, and worked as a youth volunteer at Lake Ellen Baptist Church where he was ordained. He and his wife, Mindy, have two children.

### JACKSONVILLE

**First Baptist Church in Orange Park** will host an "Orphan Day" event Nov. 4 for families interested in adoption or foster care. Jerry Haag,

president of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, will speak in the 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. Randy Harrison, North Florida administrator of the FBCH in Jacksonville, will lead a panel discussion at 6 p.m. Rick Cleveland, FBCH director of community ministries, and Jerree Sanders, FBCH foster care family counselor, will join Cleveland to discuss opportunities for involvement with at-risk children and the need for adoptive parents. For more information, call 904-264-2351, or go to [www.opfirst.org](http://www.opfirst.org).

### MARION

**First Baptist Church of Sparr in Citra** has called **Brian Caples** as pastor. He previously served 12 years as associate pastor of music and worship with First Baptist Church in Ocala. Caples is a graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also served churches in Melbourne and Miami. He and his wife, Dianne, have two children.



CAPLES

## PBA adds MDiv degree

WEST PALM BEACH (PBA)—Palm Beach Atlantic University will offer a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program beginning next fall.

President William M. B. Fleming, Jr. said the Board of Trustees approved the program proposal at their September meeting.

"The establishment of an MDiv program at PBA has long been awaited and perfectly reflects the founders' vision for the University," Fleming said. "For 45 years, PBA has stood as a beacon for Christ. Now we have the opportunity to prepare graduates for even more fruitful careers in ministry."

"With the faculty, facilities and technology in place, the trustees believe that this is the right time to launch this graduate program," Fleming continued.

Randy Richards, dean of the School of Ministry, said the degree program will be offered in the traditional three-year format, an accelerated two-year format, and a part-time four-plus year format to meet the needs of students. The degree can be completed in as few as five semesters and includes a required apprenticeship in ministry.

In addition, a "3 +2" format is available consisting of three years of undergraduate ministry studies and two years of graduate coursework. Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays in morning and afternoon sessions.

Jimmy Scroggins, a trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, said the seminary will be "cutting edge in every way."

"The emphasis on integration of practice and learning, the missional focus, the global perspective and the unwavering evangelical stance make this M.Div. tremendously useful for ministry situations in the 21st century," Scroggins said. "Palm Beach Atlantic's location in southeast Florida places their students in one of America's central gateways to the world. I give them my wholehearted support."

The pastor of First Presbyterian Church of North Palm Beach, an university trustee Walter B. Arnold III said he enthusiastically supports the program.

"I believe it will make accessible theological education to ministers and ministerial candidates in South Florida in a very helpful way," Arnold said.

The new MDiv program is pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Commission on Colleges. All current PBA programs have this full tier-one accreditation. The M. Div. program also has been designed to meet the requirements of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The normal processes and timetables are being followed with the expectation of full approval from both accrediting boards, Richards said.

"In conversations about this degree program, local pastors have expressed enthusiastic support and look forward to partnering with our students," Dean Richards said. "Those called to ministry can receive integrated graduate training without leaving their current ministry responsibilities."

Presently, Palm Beach Atlantic offers master degree programs in Counseling Psychology, business administration (M.B.A.) and leadership. In addition, PBA offers a professional degree in pharmacy (Pharm.D.).

For more information on the Master of Divinity degree program, call Graduate Admissions at 561-803-2122 or visit [learn-well.pba.edu](http://learn-well.pba.edu).

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA

**Duval Station Baptist Church in Jacksonville** will host its annual Judgment House drama, "Unexpected," Oct. 25-28, 6:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, call 904-751-4967.

### ORANGE BLOSSOM

**Crewsville Bethel Baptist Church in Zolfo Springs** will celebrate its 108th Homecoming Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. Guest speaker is Gaylon Buckland, director of missions of Orange Blossom Baptist Association. The Gulf State Quartet will sing. Dinner on the ground will follow the service. For more information, call 863-735-0871.

### PEACE RIVER

**South Biscayne Church in North Port** will host "Veggie Tales Live!" Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. The performance is part of the nationwide Veggie Tales' God Made You Special Tour of more than 45 cities. For more information, call 941-426-3817, or go to [www.southbiscaynesite.com](http://www.southbiscaynesite.com).

### PENSACOLA BAY

**Myrtle Grove Baptist Church** will host Mike Hagen and the Strength Team in performances Oct. 24-27 at 7

p.m., and Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. The team also will perform at 10 schools around Escambia County. For more information, call 850-455-7389, or go to [www.myrtlegrovebaptist.org](http://www.myrtlegrovebaptist.org).

### SANTA FE RIVER

**First Baptist Church in High Springs** has called **Derek Lambert** as pastor. He and his wife, Nichole, and two daughters moved to High Springs from Newhebron, Mississippi, where he was pastor of Newhebron Baptist Church since 2008. He is a graduate of Leavell College in New Orleans and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and he is pursuing a D.Min. at NOBTS.



LAMBERT

### SUNCOAST

**First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo** will host "Constitution Alive," a live presentation with Rick Green of Wallbuilders radio show, Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 727-595-3421, or go to [www.indianrocks.org](http://www.indianrocks.org).

# FBC Blountstown

the sermon. The service was followed by a luncheon at the W.T. Neal Civic Center. The Centennial Planning Committee was composed of co-chairs Howard Johnson Jr. and Doris Traylor, and Brenda Seay, Latrelle White, church secretary Sandy Marchant and Pastor Throckmorton.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND 100 YEARS

On Sept. 4, 2011, Deacon Frank "Bud" Guilford Jr. preached the first sermon of the Church's second 100 years. A new pastor, Timothy F. Rhoads, began his tenure on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012.

## CONCLUSION

Today, First Baptist Church provides worship services for all ages on Sunday morning and evening as well as Wednesday night prayer service. Current ministries include serving those in need; ministering to shut-ins with comforting visits and by furnishing them with tapes of our worship services; sponsoring camps, community programs, prison ministries and missionaries; and offering choir programs and Bible-study activities for children, youth, adults and senior adults.

Thanks to the leadership of pastors, a dedicated congregation and a faithful and loving Father in Heaven, the First Baptist Church has been richly blessed. As history is recorded over the coming years, may God be glorified by the service of His people.

## Pastors and Their Years of Service

Herman S. Howard 1911

T.F. Hendon 1912

A.L. Loftin 1913-1914

B.B. Blicht 1915

J.S. Judah 1915-1916

H.G. Kenney 1917-1918

E.L. Shuler 1919-1920

W.J. Peters 1921-1922

J.D. Wilkes 1923-1924

W.E. Findley 1925-1926

W.P. Hines 1927-1929

Henry Mangum 1930-1932

H. Bryant 1933

G.E. Everett 1934-1935

A.E. Lightfoot 1935-1939

J.O. Simms 1939

Dewey Mann 1940-1942

Rex Thompson 1942-1944

R.W. Acree 1944-1948

A.E. Lightfoot 1949-1953

Fulton Bryan 1954-1957

George Q. Edens 1957-1966

William E. Green 1966-1971

Samuel Lee 1972-1974

Rea Mangum 1974-1988

David Williams 1988-1993

Mark Rathel 1994-1996

Jerry Chumley 1997-2000

Tom Stallworth 2001-2006

David Throckmorton 2008-2011

Timothy F. Rhoads 2012-

## Choir Directors Through the Years

John Brown

Edwin Strawn

Joseph Sustarsic

Wes Johnson

Linda Adams

Shelly Chandler

Howard Johnson Jr.

Debbie Van Lierop 2001- 2012