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**Thursday, May 25, 2023**  
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



## BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along." 2 Cor. 11: 28b*

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 am-4 pm – Closed Fridays

### Its Green, Green They Say

A story is told of two people in a large hospital in the downtown district of a big city. Both were desperately sick. One had the window bed and the other the bed by the door. They spent day after day in the room with only the occasional doctor or nurse to come by. It was lonely. But they had each other to talk to. The person next to the window would often raise the bed and look out the window. He would describe in detail what was happening. A group of boys playing baseball. A young couple walking hand in hand. A mother strolling her baby in a carriage. A man swinging his child on the swing. Flocks of birds. Sunny blues skies. Ducks and Swans on the pond. A two-person bicycle coasting down the hill.

The person in the bed by the door enjoyed the descriptions and the conversations that grew out of what was going on in the park. After some time, the man had a thought that came into his mind. "Why, does my room mate have the privilege of having the window bed?" Then another, "Couldn't the nurse swap them occasionally so I could see out the window?" After more contemplation the man began to resent his fellow patient. This man's envy of wanting the window bed festered. It grew into the angry thought that he deserved that bed. Then early one morning the man woke up and heard the man in the window bed struggling to breath. The man just kept on coughing. It seemed the man was almost unconscious. He had a thought to press the alarm to call the nurse. Then he thought of the window. He took his hand off the button. He waited long hours until the morning nurse came in. The other patient was dead. They took care of the business of removing the other patient. After what he considered a respectable period of time he asked if he could have the window bed. In due time the staff moved him to the window bed. As soon as everyone left the room, he raised his bed in eager anticipation of viewing the outside world. Instead . . . he viewed a brick wall. He sadly realized that his fellow patient had a great imagination and was gifted at conversation. The man, that his jealousy had let die, had been a great source of encouragement and joy.

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before jealousy? Jealousy can destroy – a romance, a life, a job, a church, a government.

We need to recognize jealousy when it creeps into our own life so that we can stand before jealousy and defeat it before it destroys something very valuable in our lives. How does it express itself. Jealousy cannot stand it when others are doing better. Jealousy is sad at the happiness of others. Jealousy makes us hostile to those who have never harmed us. Here are some biblical illustrations: Cain and Able. Joseph's brothers. Haman and Mordecai. The officials who were jealous of Daniel. The Jewish leaders jealous of Jesus. The folks who were jealous of Paul's ministry.

The dreadful consequences of jealousy. It belittles God by failing to acknowledge that God knows what He is doing in giving us gifts and opportunities. It can kill a reputation. It will rot your bones by the hatred that emerges from jealousy. It will give birth to suspicion. It breeds a destructively critical spirit. It will ruin our spiritual appetite for God's word. Read 1 Peter 2:1-2. It is a forerunner of chaos. Read James 4.

The cure. Recognize it for what it is – sin. As sin, I must deal with it when I recognize it arising in my life. I must confess it and seek God's forgiveness. 1 John 1:9. I must resist it. I must reject it. I must refuse it a place in my life. I must put the rejection of jealousy into practice moment by moment. How? By being aware that I am united with Christ. I have His power to give me the victory. I have the power to take it off like an old dirty garment. In Christ I can put on the garments of Christ. In Christ I can produce the fruit of the Spirit which includes self-control. I can focus on the eternal instead of the temporal. I can be more than a conqueror through Jesus. I can slay the green monster of jealousy by the resurrection power of Jesus.

Please avoid looking back over a decision made in a jealous fit and regretting losing God's gift of someone, or something that is a source of joy, encouragement, and love.

### Coming Up...

**May 29 - Memorial Day**

**June 03 - "The Chuck Wagon Gang" will be at Braehead Lucile at 6pm**

**June 04 - Homecoming at Sixmile 10am Guest singers "Beyond Blessed"**

**June 06 - Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 meal - 7:00 meeting.**

**Emphasis: Disaster Relief**

**June 25 - Homecoming at New Hebron 11am worship, lunch, and singing**

### Vacation Bible School

**First Baptist Church of Woodstock**

**June 25 - 29**

**6:00 - 8:45 pm**

**K5 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**



### Schultz Creek Baptist Church

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Guest Speaker  
11:00 am

Samuel Kiguli  
of

Light with Truth Ministries



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Centreville Baptist



KINDERGARTEN-6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

KICKOFF

Sunday, June 11, 2023  
5:30PM - 7:30PM

Monday-Wednesday  
June 12-14, 2023  
8:30 - 11:30AM

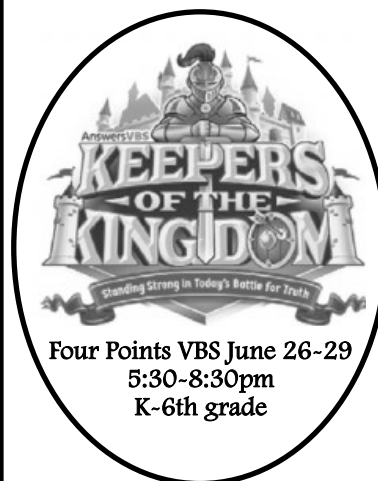


**Pineview VBS June 4th-8th**

**6pm-8:30**

**Ages 3 years-6th grade**

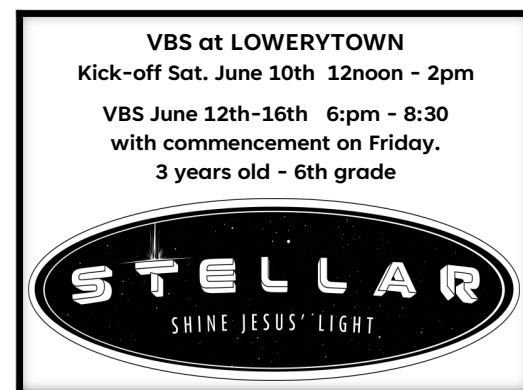
**Commencement June 9th 6pm**



**Four Points VBS June 26-29**

**5:30-8:30pm**

**K-6th grade**



### VBS at LOWERYTOWN

Kick-off Sat. June 10th 12noon - 2pm

VBS June 12th-16th 6:pm - 8:30

with commencement on Friday.

3 years old - 6th grade

Let's pray together for all our churches!  
This month...

Old Union - Rev. Butch Carl Doss

New Life - Rev. Ken Blake

New Hebron - Rev. Chuck Allen

Mt. Zion - Rev. Bobby Odell