

Mell

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Planning Ahead

September

- 1 Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Noon, MBO
- 7 Labor Day (Mell Office Closed)
- 11-12 Dental Clinic Ministry
- 14 Mell Pastor's Prayer, 8:00 AM, MBO
- 15 Mell Minister's Luncheon, Noon, MBO
- 16 Mell Evangelism/Missions, Noon, MBO
- 24 Mell Administrative Team, Noon, MBO
- 26 J.A.K.E.S Day Ministry

October

- 6 Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Noon, MBO
- 12 Mell Pastor's Prayer, 8:00 AM, MBO
- 15 Mell Evangelism/Missions, Noon, MBO
- 18 Mell Annual Meeting, 5 PM, Lakeview
- 20 Mell Minister's Luncheon, Noon, MBO

November

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 3 Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Noon, MBO
- 3 Election Day
- 9-10 GBMB Annual Meeting
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Mell Evangelism/Missions, Noon, MBO
- 16 Mell Pastor's Prayer, 8:00 AM, MBO
- 17 Mell Minister's Luncheon, Noon, MBO
- 19 Mell Administrative Team, Noon, MBO
- 26 Thanksgiving (Mell Office Closed)
- 29-12/6 Week of prayer for International Missions

December

- 11/29-12/6 Week of prayer for International Missions
- 1 Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Noon, MBO
- 3 Mell Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, 6:30 PM, TBA
- 10 Mell Evangelism/Missions, Noon, MBO
- 14 Mell Pastor's Prayer, 8:00 AM, MBO
- 17 Mell Administrative Team, Noon, MBO
- 18 Santa's Helpers/Toys for Tots Ministry
- 21-1/3 Christmas Holiday (Mell Office Closed)



J.A.K.E.S. Day Ministry
Saturday, September 26, 2026
Paradise Public Fishing Area,
Enigma, Georgia
8 am - 1 pm+



The Mell Baptist Association has once again been asked to participate in this terrific outdoor event. The Mell Baptist Association provides FREE bottles of water to everyone that attends. This is a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ! With every bottle of water, we provide a Gospel Tract and for those interested, engage them in a Gospel centered conversation to share the love and salvation of Jesus Christ.

We need volunteers also for setting up the two inflatables, monitoring the use of the two inflatables, setting up and manning the popcorn machine and sno-cone machine. This is a great mission project for a youth group!

Please let us know if you plan to volunteer by emailing thocutt@gmail.com or calling 229-733-8911.

The Mell Baptist Association was established in 1887 and exists to encourage churches, strengthen churches, and partner with churches to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

AM Thoughts



We want to welcome our new ABAC Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Campus Minister, Matt Howell. See his article on the back page of the newsletter. Please pray for him in this new ministry. ABAC is a great mission field, and we are blessed as an association to be a part of ministering through BCM.

Praise the Lord for the 69 volunteers that were reported to me from nine of our churches (Brookfield, Brushy Creek, Calvary, Eastside, FBC Chula, FBC Tifton, Omega, Mt. Zion, Salem) who Prayer Walked eleven schools. To God be the glory!

On August 8th, twelve volunteers from four of our churches (Brookfield, Calvary, Enigma, and Northside) who built the longest ramp we have ever built. We have a waiting list of ramps to build. We will build another in September but do not know the date as yet.

The Mell Baptist Association will conduct a Dental Clinic for lower income and with no dental insurance Friday and Saturday, September 11-12, 2026, at Eastside Baptist Church. Tom is recruiting dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, nurses, and other volunteers to help with this ministry. We need volunteers who will share the Gospel with those who come. Please let Tom know if you can help with this ministry. Mell's Ministry at J.A.K.E.S. Day will be Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Paradise Lakes from 7 am-2 pm. See the front of the newsletter for more information. This is a great ministry for youth groups!

It is time for the Annual Church Profile (Report) or ACP(R) again. The association will mail a hard copy to the church this week with an additional form that needs to be completed and returned to us by September 24, but you can login to <https://ga.sbcworkspace.com> and complete the statistical and leadership form online anytime prior to September 24. Login information is on the copy of your ACR that will be mailed to you. The church year to be covered is September 2025-August 2026. Let's have 100% completion by the deadline this year. Thank you for your cooperation! PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION THE CHURCH RECEIVED FROM GBMB HAS A DIFFERENT DUE DATE. We need them completed by September 24!

Annual Meeting is just around the corner! Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 18, 2026, at Lakeview Baptist Church, and plan to attend. It is going to be a great time of business and worship! Three 4 One is going to be with us again and Chris Reynolds (GBMB) will be preaching!

Tom

Georgia Baptist Mission Board

<https://gabapt.org/events/>



The Georgia Baptist State Missions Offering is emphasized the month of September. This offering funds the work of Mission Georgia.

Mission Georgia and Georgia Baptist churches partner together to reach their communities and share the gospel.

In addition, we encourage churches to pray and consider how they might participate in reaching their communities for Christ by identifying the needs of their neighbors and meeting those needs.



Every Woman. In Community. On Mission.

 Georgia Baptist Women

Women on Mission Retreat
September 18-19, 2026
Pinnacle Retreat Center, Clayton
"Singular Pursuit," Philipians 1:27
Keynote-Sandy Wisdom-Martin, national WMU Executive Director



**2025
SPARK
CONFERENCE**

Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026
Time: 3:45 PM - 8:15 PM
Location: Crossroads Baptist Church
Address: 3001 Country Club Dr, Valdosta, GA 31602
Cost: Only \$15 per person

For: Lay Leaders, Children's Leaders, Women's Ministry Leaders, Men's Ministry Leaders, Missions Coordinators, Student Pastors, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors... anyone involved in ministry and equipping.

Schedule:
03:45 PM - Doors open/Registration
04:30 PM - Worship and Message - Jimmy Scroggins
05:35 PM - Dinner and Meal & Learn
06:25 PM - Breakout #1
07:25 PM - Breakout #2
08:15 PM - Dismiss

CELEBRATIONS!

September

Birthdays

4	Rev. Bobby Pittman	New Bethel
9	Mrs. Lisa Patillo	Oak Grove
10	Rev. Tom Hocutt	Mell
11	Mrs. Hope Falotico	Enigma
25	Rev. Jimmy Parker	Brushy Creek

Church Anniversaries for Pastors/Staff

6	Rev. Mike Patillo (2020)	Oak Grove
19	Rev. Kenny Miller (2018)	FBC Tifton

Wedding Anniversaries

1	Rev & Mrs. Daniel Hardy	Northside
2	Rev. & Mrs. Alan Gotthardt	Journey
18	Rev & Mrs. John Smith	FBC Ty Ty
28	Rev & Mrs. Brian Jones	CrossView
29	Rev & Mrs. Mike Patillo	Oak Grove

October

Birthdays

3	Mrs. Allyson Cook	FBC Tifton
10	Mrs. Bambi Loggins	FBC Chula
15	Mrs. Brandi Smith	FBC Ty Ty
23	Rev. Mike Patillo	Oak Grove
28	Rev. John Falotico	Enigma

Church Anniversaries for Pastors/Staff

2	Rev. TJ Mauldin (2013)	FBC Tifton
10	Rev. Stacy Phillips (2021)	Northside
23	Rev. Barry Cook (2017)	FBC Tifton

Wedding Anniversaries

14	Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Parker	Brushy Creek
26	Rev. & Mrs. Jim Constable	Victory
29	Rev. & Mrs. Terry Smith	Omega

November

Birthdays

12	Rev. Kiet Le	FBC Tifton
23	Mrs. Sam Harden	Brighton Road

Church Anniversaries for Pastors/Staff

8	Rev. Jimmy Parker (2006)	Brushy Creek
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Wedding Anniversaries

6	Rev. & Mrs. Steve Tucker	Liberty
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December

Birthdays

10	Rev. Keith Norris	Eastside
11	Mr. Barry Cook	FBC Tifton
13	Rev. Rodney Peavy	LakeView
14	Mrs. Amy Marchant	New River
15	Rev. Matt Strevel	The Road
21	Rev. Steve Tucker	Liberty
23	Mrs. Nerily Lopez	Vida Abundante
30	Mrs. Sarah Howell	FBC Tifton

Church News

Victory Baptist Church is seeking a Minister of Music as well as a pianist. Must be able to read and teach music. Salary is negotiable. Leave message at church (229) 382-2211 or email resume to jamie@vbtifton.org.

Churches wishing to inform the public of upcoming events, please send the information about the event to our office by the 20th in order for it to be included in the Newsletter.

Useful Links

Southern Baptist Convention
www.sbc.net

North American Mission Board
www.namb.net

International Mission Board
www.imb.org

Georgia Baptist Mission Board
www.gabaptist.org

Mell Baptist Association
www.mellbapt.com

Christian Index
www.christianindex.org

Food Pantry

January	36 Served	July	35 Served
February	40 Served	August	FBC Chula
March	41 Served	September	FBC Ty Ty
April	36 Served	October	Brookfield
May	37 Served	November	Northside
June	45 Served	December	Mt. Zion

Please let the office know ASAP if there is a problem with these schedules.

Ramp Builders

Our ramp builders ministry has grown!

The Mell Baptist Association builds handicap ramps for those in need for those in the Tift area at no cost to the homeowner. We have a team of volunteers who give their skills, tools, and time to build these ramps. The Association provides the materials.

We currently have a waiting list!

If you would like to contribute to cover the cost of materials or volunteer contact the office for more information.

Mell Monthly Financial

July 2026

Funds Received:	\$	7,039.15
Actual Budgeted Expenses:	\$	9,942.53
Budget Needs:	\$	10,362.57



ABAC BCM Meal Schedule

"BCM" dates are open. Contact us ASAP to provide food and/or serve meals to college students during the school year.

August	17	BCM Cookout	October	5	Mt. Zion
	24	Zion Hope		12	New River
	31	Northside		19	Fall Break
				26	Calvary
September	7	Labor Day	November	2	Salem/Omega
	14	FBC Tifton		9	BCM
	21	FBC Chula		16	Inaha
	28	Eastside		23	Friendsgiving
				30	BCM

ABAC Campus Pastor
Matt Howell

Phone #: (229) 873-1153 Email: mhowell.bcm@gabaptist.org

We are thankful for your faithful support and could not do this without you!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ph: 229-386-0865
mellbapt@friendlycity.net
www.mellbapt.com

GOD IS MOVING ON THE MISSION FIELD OF ABAC

An introduction from your new BCM campus minister:

My name is Matt Howell, and I have the privilege of serving as the campus pastor for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Some of you already know me. For the past 7 years I served on staff at FBC Tifton and for the past 4 years as their Student Pastor, walking with teenagers through some of the most formative years of their lives. Somewhere in those years, God continued to grow a burden I could not shake: what happens to those students after graduation? Too many of them walk across a stage in May and out of the church by October. As someone who surrendered their life to Christ in college, my heart for college students breaks for them to know Christ.

That burden is what brought me here. My wife, Sarah, and I have three children under six, so our home is loud, busy, and full of joy. We are grateful to call South Georgia home, and grateful to serve alongside churches like yours.

I want to say this plainly from the start: BCM is not a replacement for the local church. It is an extension of it. The BCM is a beautiful opportunity for students to grow in Christ, but the BCM is temporary; the local church is a lifetime. We want to help students connect and serve in a gospel centered, Christocentric church.

Four Goals: Why BCM Exists

Ministry drifts without clarity. So we have narrowed our purpose at ABAC down to four goals. Everything we do runs through them:

1. Connect students to Christ: Nothing else on this list matters if this one does not happen. Many students arrive on campus having grown up in church without ever surrendering to Jesus. Others arrive having never heard the gospel at all. Our first and highest aim is that every ABAC student would hear clearly who Jesus is according to the Word of God and be called to follow Him.
2. Connect students to community: College is the loneliest crowd a young person will ever stand in. Students are surrounded by people and can still feel isolated. We want BCM to be the place where a freshman finds a table to sit at, a small group to be honest in, and brothers and sisters who will carry them when the semester gets heavy.
3. Connect students to a local church: This one is non-negotiable for us. BCM is a college ministry, and college ministry ends at graduation. The local church does not. We want every student worshipping with a congregation here in Tifton, serving, sitting under pastoral leadership, and building a habit that outlasts their four years.
4. Connect students to their calling. God did not bring these students to ABAC by accident. Whether He is calling them to agriculture, nursing, education, business, or vocational ministry, we want them to see their work as a mission field and their lives as an offering.

Monday Night Was a Glimpse of What God Is Doing

This past Monday, August 17, we held our first BCM gathering of the school year. Over 220 students walked through the doors.

We had an excellent meal, I laid out those four goals, and watched students lean in. But here is what made the night: eight local churches came and shared about their college ministries. Eight. Pastors and leaders introduced themselves and told our students there is a place for them.

That is not competition. That is the body of Christ doing exactly what it is supposed to do. Our students did not just hear about the local church that night. They met it. And the Sunday before, roughly 300 students gathered for a chapel service at the ABAC chapel to worship. Three hundred college students, on a Sunday morning, choosing worship over sleep.

Brothers and sisters, that is not a program working. That is God working.

The Best Is Yet to Come!

I do not say that as a slogan. I say it as a conviction. A close friend of mine first quoted that from what his grandfather told him many years ago....and it is true.

ABAC is a mission field. There are students on this campus right now who have never heard the gospel, who are carrying weight they cannot name, who are one conversation away from Jesus. And God is clearly already at work here, moving ahead of us, softening hearts, and drawing students in before we ever open the doors.

If this is what the first week looks like, I believe the best is yet to come.

How You Can Partner With Us

-Pray. Pray for salvations. Pray for students far from home and far from God. Pray for the student leaders God is raising up.

-Send. If you have students headed to ABAC, tell us. Send us their names and we will find them.

-Come. Your church is welcome on this campus. If you would like to serve a meal, host students, or share about your college ministry, reach out.

Thank you for standing with us. It is an honor to serve the students of ABAC alongside you.

Matt Howell

MELL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRAYER UPDATE

Volume 10, Number 9

September 2026

Urgent Prayer Needs

1. Pray for a spirit of prayer to sweep through our churches that would usher in true repentance and real revival.

Local

1. Pray for our Purpose to become a reality: "Mell Baptist Association exists to encourage churches, strengthen churches, and partner with churches to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ".
2. We pray for our churches and pastors by an alphabetical list of churches. Pray this time for First Baptist Church Tifton (T. J. Mauldin, Pastor), First Baptist Church Ty Ty (John Smith, Pastor), and Iglesia Vida Abundante (Jose Lopez, Pastor).
3. Pray for the churches without pastors: Pine Grove.
4. Pray for our city and county officials in Tift, Cook, and Berrien Counties.
5. Pray for our schools, colleges, boards of education, superintendents, principals, teachers, and students.
6. Pray for the lost in your family and your circle of influence (work, school, recreation, neighborhood, etc.).
7. Pray for unity in the body of Christ in our association and surrounding area.
8. Pray for the monthly meetings of our teams: Encouraging/Strengthening, Evangelism/Missions, and Administrative.
9. Pray for the Mell Baptist Association Associational Missionary, Tom Hocutt, and Kristie Horton, Administrative Assistant.
10. Pray for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at ABAC and the new BCM Campus Minister, Matt Howell.
11. Pray for the Mell Ministry at J.A.K.E.S. Day, Saturday, September 26.

State and U.S.

1. Pray for our state government officials.
2. Pray for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board: its Executive Director (Thomas Hammond), its staff, its ministries, and our GBMB Southwest Regional Consultants: Samuel Ayala (Missions), Jason Jones (Pastor Wellness), Chandler Wright (Music and Worship), and Steven Wright (Evangelism).
3. Pray for our national government leaders.
4. Pray for the North American Mission Board, its president (Kevin Ezell), staff, and its missionaries.
5. Pray for the Southern Baptist Convention: Jeff Iorg, CEO of the Executive Committee, and Willy Rice, SBC President.
7. Pray for those affected by the numerous natural disasters here in the U.S.
8. Pray for the revival of God's people and the spiritual awakening of our nation and the world.
9. Pray for the protection and support of our law enforcement, fire fighters, and EMS personnel.

World

1. Pray for the International Mission Board—its president (Paul Chitwood), staff, and missionaries.
2. Pray for the 2 billion Muslims of the world that they would come to an understanding of who Jesus Christ is.
3. Pray for the Gospel of Christ to be shared to the unreached people groups in the world.
4. Pray for the protection of Israel, wisdom for Israel as they deal with their enemies, for the peace of Jerusalem, for the hostages and their families, and pray for the people of Gaza.
5. Pray for protection for our armed forces in Iraq, Syria, and around the globe.
6. Pray for the situation in Iran that God's will be done.
7. Pray that the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and North Korea would have stable governments and that they would have an opportunity to hear the Gospel and respond.
8. Pray for the persecuted Christians of the world especially in China, Nigeria, and Syria.
9. Pray for the cessation of hostilities in Ukraine, the Ukrainian refugees, those ministering to the refugees, and the believers in Ukraine.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Praise the Lord for the twelve volunteers from four of our churches who built a ramp on August 8.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Lakeview Baptist Church

2729 Lakeview Church Road, Lenox

4:30 pm	Registration Begins
5:00 pm	Business Session
6:00 pm	Worship

Rev. Chris Reynolds (Pastor Wellness, GBMB) will be preaching at the Worship Session.

Mini Concert and Music by Three 4 One

Churches, please elect your messengers and send the list to the Mell Office so that we can make messenger badges for them.

Please transfer your evening service to Lakeview Baptist Church.

Everyone is Welcome!