

Mell BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Planning Ahead

October

- 5 Mell Pastor's Prayer, 8:00 AM, MBO
- 6 Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team,
Noon, MBO
- 8 Mell Administrative Team, Noon, 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)

A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.
Proverbs 16:9 KJV



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!

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

I fell Friday (9/11) while trimming palm fronds at the office and tried to catch myself with my left hand. All my weight did a number on my arm and wrist. It was evident to me that I had broken something! I called Martha and she took me to the ER. Because my hand was askew, they took me back quickly! X-rays indicated a broken radius at the wrist. They put on a splint and made me an appointment with Dr. Cawley, orthopedic surgeon at Sports Medicine, first thing Monday morning (9/13). After looking at the X-rays and showing us, he indicated that it was a very bad break with bone fragments. He referred me to a hand specialist in Macon—Dr. Lavina at Ortho Georgia, and got me an appointment on 9/15. She indicated surgery was needed to put my wrist back together. The break is of the radius bone near the wrist joint with bone fragments that needed to be put back in place. I describe it as I shattered my wrist joint! I had surgery on Friday (9/18). Martha told me after the 2 1/2 hour surgery that the surgeon talked with her and showed her the break X-rays and the after-surgery X-rays. I evidently have two rods and several screws in my wrist/arm! I had a good night's sleep Friday night because of the nerve block! Came home with a splint that will turn into a cast September 30. Pain has been manageable. I am still taking high-powered ibuprofen. I want to especially thank Martha for her care of me, to Don Pirkle, long-time missionary friend, for driving us to Macon, and all of you who have prayed for me/us. Thanks for your continued prayers. I have a ways to go to be back to 100%. Also, please pray for Martha—she fell backwards and severely bruised her hip bones. She continues to have pain a week later when she sits. Thank you in advance! Thanks also to Kristie for covering the office while I have been out.

Please make your plans to attend Annual Meeting. It is going to be good--business session music by Three 4 One, mission trip testimonies, and preaching by Chis Reynolds (GBMB)! Sunday, October 18, business session at 5 pm and worship at 6 pm, at Lakeview Baptist Church. See you there!

Tom

Events



Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life ...

Life in Cambodia was hard in the years after war and genocide. Lyda and her mother suffered from extreme poverty and vulnerability. It was soon clear that her single mother could not protect Lyda and provide for her at the same time. Lyda was welcomed into her uncle's Christian family, where he became like a father to her. At 12 years old, she received a shoebox gift at her uncle's church! Hear how Lyda witnessed the impact of the Gospel in children's lives through Operation Christmas Child and The Greatest Journey discipleship program.

Shoebox Recipient Speaker

Date: Friday, October 9
Time: Lunch, 12:00 pm; Program, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Place: Leroy Rogers Center
315 W 2nd St, Tifton GA
Contact: Kristie Horton, 229-386-0865
RSVP: metbapt@friendlycity.net



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
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Selah SOUTH
An Equipping Retreat for Women's Ministry Leaders

Sign up today and meet us at Sherwood in Albany for a one-day training intensive! Bring your team, and join us for this Selah style training a little further down south.

October 10, 2026 | Albany, GA

Save the Date
NOV 8-10

GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION
ANNUAL MEETING

SECOND BAPTIST | WARNER ROBINS, GA

Sunday, Nov 8, 2026 6:00 PM -
Tuesday, Nov 10, 2026 5:30 PM EST
Second Baptist Church of Warner Robins
Registration:
<https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/annualmeetingevents-2026/635747/register>



Operation Christmas Child 2026
Collection Week: November 16-23
Order free materials at samaritanaspurse.org
Note: Central Drop Off Location: Eastside Baptist

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, call Richard Gaines at 229-326-9213. Help collect shoeboxes from our area so that children and their families can experience God's love and salvation in Christ!

Thanks so much,
Richard

CELEBRATIONS!

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	BCM

Church Anniversaries for Pastors/Staff

1	Rev. Alan Gotthardt (2024)	Journey
15	Rev. Danny Culpepper (2021)	Eldorado
19	Rev. Brandon Martin (2021)	Northside

Wedding Anniversaries

11	Rev. & Mrs. Danny Culpepper	Eldorado
14	Rev. & Mrs. Brandon Martin	Northside

This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24 NKJV

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	29 Served
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

August 2026

Funds Received:	\$ 9,266.00
Actual Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 10,194.40
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.

October	5	Mt. Zion	December	2	BCM
	12	New River		7	Officer's Christmas Party BCM
	19	Fall Break			
	26	Calvary			
November	2	Salem/Omega			
	9	FBC Tifton			
	16	Inaha			
	23	Friendsgiving			
	30	BCM			

Matt Howell

ABAC Campus Pastor

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

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

Mell Baptist Association
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Non-Profit Organization
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

God Is Stirring Hearts at ABAC

Still Amazed by the Privilege

Grace upon grace... I love being the college pastor at ABAC. Every Monday I walk into the BCM and I am reminded that God has handed me one of the greatest assignments I could ever ask for. I do not take it lightly, and I hope I never get used to it.

Since our first gathering in August, God has kept sending students. Week after week, 200 or more students have walked through our doors on Monday nights. I do not want to rush past that number. Two hundred college students choosing to gather around the Word of God on a Monday night is not normal. That is not a program working. I believe it is God stirring hearts.

I see it in the students who linger after we dismiss. So many students gather after service to ask questions, pray, and simply be present with each other. I see it in the honest questions about Jesus, about sin, about what it actually means to follow Him. As we walk through Ecclesiastes together, students are wrestling with what lasts and what does not, and the hope is that they are finding the answer is Christ. The Spirit is at work on this campus, and we get a front row seat.

I Love the Local Church

Let me say it plainly again: I love the local church. It is God's plan for His people, and there is no plan B. That conviction shapes everything we do at the BCM.

One of our four goals as a collegiate ministry is to connect students to a local church. We take that seriously. The BCM is a gift to students for a season, but the BCM is temporary; the local church is a lifetime. Graduation will come quickly for these students. When it does, we do not want them walking away from a college ministry. We want them rooted in a church family that will walk with them for the rest of their lives.

That is why I long for local churches to be involved in reaching this next generation of college students. Our students need more than a Monday night. They need older brothers and sisters who will open the Bible with them, pray over them, and show them what a faithful life looks like over decades, not just semesters. They need the body of Christ. The church must be the church outside of the church.

There Is a Place for Your Church

Churches, I want you to know there is a wealth of opportunity to make kingdom impact at ABAC. Some of the most meaningful ministry happens in simple ways. I believe holiness cultivates in the ordinary. You can provide a meal on a Monday night and feed a room full of students who will hear the gospel that evening. You can simply be present, sit at a table, learn names, and begin cross generational discipleship that can carry a student well beyond their time here. You are always invited when we gather every Monday at 6pm or any other time we meet.

When a church shows up on campus, students do not just hear about the local church, but they meet it. And many times, that first handshake over a plate of food is what leads a student to walk into your church on a Sunday morning. Reaching students for Christ and connecting them to the body is not something the BCM can do alone. We need you. We do not exist without you.

Confluence Is Coming

On October 9-11, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board is hosting the Confluence Conference. Last year we brought over 60 students from ABAC. This year, after just the first week of signups, we have already passed 50. God is clearly doing something, and I cannot wait to see how He uses this weekend in the lives of our students.

The trip costs students \$75. For many college students, that is a real barrier, and I never want money to be the reason a student misses a weekend where they may hear the gospel, grow in their faith, or sense God calling them. One of the most practical ways your church can get involved right now is by providing a scholarship for a student in need.

If your church would like to help meet that need, please reach out to me at mhowell.bcm@gabaptist.org. I would love to talk with you.

It Is All About Jesus

At the end of the day, none of this is about the BCM, and it is certainly not about me. It is about Jesus. It is about students at ABAC hearing that Christ died for their sins and rose again, trusting Him, and being joined to His church for a lifetime. That is the mission, and I am grateful to be on it with you.

Thank you for praying, for giving, and for showing up. The best is yet to come.

Matt Howell

MELL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRAYER UPDATE

Volume 10, Number 10

October 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 Journey Church (Alan Gotthardt, Pastor), Lakeview Baptist Church (Rodney Peavy, Pastor), and Lenox Baptist Church (Tim Harris, Pastor).
3. Pray for the churches without pastors: Mt. Zion, 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 Baptist Association Annual Meeting, Sunday, October 18, at Lakeview Baptist Church.

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.
6. Pray for those affected by the numerous natural disasters here in the U.S.
7. Pray for the revival of God's people and the spiritual awakening of our nation and the world.
8. 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 26 volunteers from five of our churches who built a ramp on August 29.