



Mell Baptist Association
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Tifton, GA 31793
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Chula, GA 31733
Permit No. 5

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If you would like to host one of the quarterly events during 2016, please contact this office.

May—Aug—Nov
Open TyTy Open

It has been suggested the Men's Ministry events be changed to two times yearly. What are your thoughts? Let us know.

BCM NEWS

This year we have really pushed for students to read their Bibles. We post daily passages on the BCM page and it has worked. Just today I had a student tell me what he read. As he told me what he read we sat and talked about how to apply it to his life. As we pulled the verses apart and talked about them individually, it was amazing to see how the light bulb went off and he came up with examples of how God might want him to use them in his life! It was like seeing a child begin to read.

We also, have another young man who struggles in school but somehow seems to have a photographic memory when it comes to scripture. He can read a passage and when he finishes there is usually a verse that he will quote throughout the day to people. It has been fun to see how God is using scripture to transform this young man's life.

Another young lady started reading her Bible daily fall semester and she has blossomed in her walk with the Lord. She has grown and is now leading a group of girls. Every time we meet this young lady always has a word to share about how God is moving in her life. The Word of God is truly a doubled edged sword that cuts through a life and molds it into what Christ wants.

Thank you for your prayers this year for us to grow in the desire to read the Bible. Please pray for us as we lead 2 DNOWS and plan for our spring break mission trip. We have taught 45 students this semester how to share their faith and we are praying that they will accept the challenge to go share with their friends. We are asking people to bring a friend and we will pay for their friend's way to go see **Risen**. Please pray that students will bring friends and that they will be able to use the movie to strike up good conversations about God. Who know what seeds will be planted. God is moving!

Penny

**Don't forget to
SPRING FORWARD
on March 13th.**



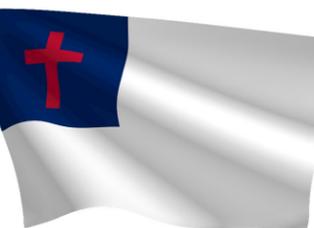
Winter Suppers

Mar 7	Zion Hope
Mar 21	First Baptist Tifton
Mar 28	Eastside
Apr 4	Northside
Apr 11	New River
Apr 18	Crossview

Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), formerly known as BSU (Baptist Student Union), is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, however, we welcome everyone to join us. BCM is a great way to make friends, have fun, learn about Christ, and get involved at ABAC.



Club Advisor
Penny Chesnut
ABAC 595
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601
(229) 382-8708



PLANNING AHEAD

March 6—13
Week of Prayer for
North American Missions

March 8
VBS Informational Session
Northside Baptist Church, Tifton
6:30 P.M.

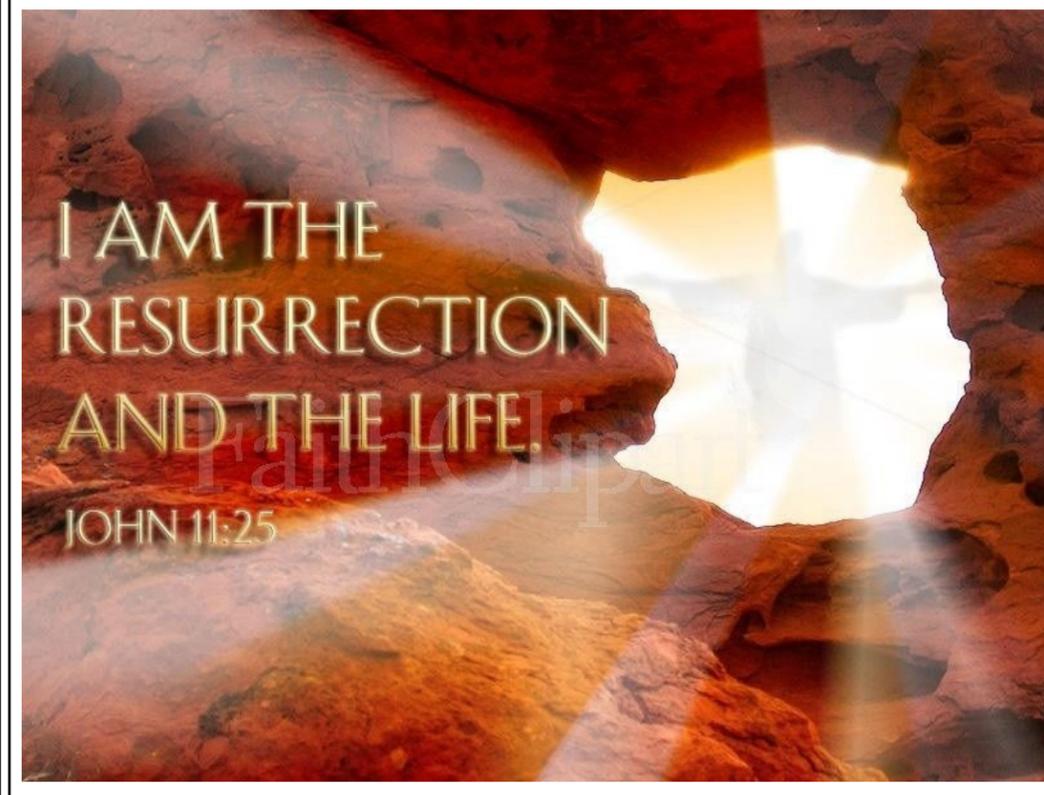
March 13
Daylight Saving's Time Begins

March 20
First Day of Spring

March 27
Easter Sunday

March 28—April 4
Spring Break
Tiftarea Academy

April 4—8
Spring Break
Tift County Schools



John 11: 25-26

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The Mell Baptist Association exists to Encourage the Pastors, Strengthen the Churches, and to Build the Kingdom, for the Glory of God. Established 1886.

www.mellbapt.com March 2016



Highlights

Jason Jones, Associational Missionary

Politics, Politics. Some of us despise it, some of us enjoy it. Some of us are passionate, and some of us are apathetic. Like it or not, the 2016 election is coming upon us. There are many systems of government, we have a democratic representative republic. We do have the right, and as good citizens, the responsibility to vote. So, I am assuming you are going to vote. Sixty million evangelical voters did not vote in the last election. Don't be like them; vote. I am not going to endorse a candidate, but I do think there is an understanding of biblical principles regarding government and conscience that we must consider.

Order rather than chaos: The bible teaches that this is one of the purposes of government. Anarchy, the absence of government, is defined this way according to Merriam-Webster: a situation of confusion and wild behavior in which the people in a country, group, organization, etc., are not controlled by rules or laws; a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority; absence or denial of any authority or established order. God is a God of order. Therefore, just as in the home, just as in the church, He has established an authority structure; to rebel against government is to rebel against God, and bring judgment on yourself, Romans 13:2. Just like the home, just like the church, God, as the author of order, is its head, Romans 13:1. All authority is given by give him. Jesus told Pilate that he would have "no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above," in John 19:10-11. So the purpose that we draw from scripture is that government exists to give order. As you vote, consider this.

Good rather than bad: The bible also teaches that one of the purposes of government is to ensure welfare of the people. The main way this is carried out is by rewarding good behavior and the punishing bad behavior. Romans 13:3-4, and also in 1 Peter 2:14, we are told that the government is to recognize (and help society recognize) what is good. It is given the power to execute punishment (God's wrath) on criminals; even capital punishment. Therefore, as we vote, ask the question: does the candidate I vote for understand right from wrong, good from bad? Even from a non-religious standpoint, any leader must have this basic understanding to govern well, or at least to achieve this biblical point of the creation of government.

An observation rather than a purpose: God uses government to accomplish His purposes. He uses leaders whether they are good or bad, to ensure that His will is done. Whether it is Pilate, Darius, Cyrus, Nebuchadnezzar, the kings of all the nations displaced by Israel in the conquest, or Pharaoh, whom God specifically told, "for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth," in Exodus 9:16, God used evil rulers to shape world events, as well as the biblical meta-narrative of salvation, for His glory. Therefore, this is an instance like Phil 2:12-13, John 1:12-13, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Col 1:29, and Matt 10:18-20, where we labor and do all that we can to affect a situation, and God uses that to bring about His plan. So, consider that regardless of the outcome of this election, our vote does count in electing God's choice to lead our country.

We get caught up in rhetoric, debates, and personalities, but we must attempt to maintain a biblical mindset. Issues are important (some are deal-breakers), policies are important, and agendas are important, but think about government, not just politics. Even though at family get-togethers we are not supposed to bring up religion or politics, for the believer, one should not separate a biblical worldview, as it relates to government, from thoughtful consideration prior to and at the polling place.

Bro Jason

Georgia Baptist Women's Spring Event

April 15-16

Jekyll Island Convention Center

Inspiring Worship, Relevant Conferences, Missions Challenge, Encouraging Friendships, and Spiritual Renewal.

For more information or to register, follow the link: www.gabaptistwomenspringevent.com



VBS Clinic 2016

First Baptist Church
211 South Lee Street
Americus, GA

Register on line at: gabaptistgroups.org
Cost: \$25 Per Person
(Childcare is not available)

Churches wishing to inform the public of upcoming events, please forward the information about the event to our office via email or snail mail so that it will arrive by the 20th of each month. Our email address is: mellbapt@friendlycity.net.

Our mailing address is:

Mell Baptist Association
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Chula Baptist will host a Ministry Safe Conference on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

The Conference is sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Convention. There is **no cost** to attend. The conference will start at 9:30 and end at 2:30. Lunch will be provided. We are very fortunate to have this conference in our area. The training and information provided in this conference will prove to be invaluable to our churches. We are the only church within a 100 mile radius to host this conference. You can go to gabaptist.org and click Ministry Safe and follow the instructions to register.

Useful Links:

Southern Baptist Convention
<http://www.sbc.net/>

North American Mission Board
<http://www.namb.net/>

International Mission Board
<http://www.imb.org/>

Georgia Baptist Mission Board
<https://gabaptist.org/>

Mell Baptist Association
<http://mellbapt.com/>

CELEBRATIONS

March

Birthdays

9 Kimberly Hulsey

Wedding Anniversaries

14 Rev & Mrs Andy Ring
31 Rev & Mrs Christian Colson

Church Anniversaries

2 Steve Tucker Liberty 2008
4 Bill Hughes First Tifton 1991

April

Birthdays

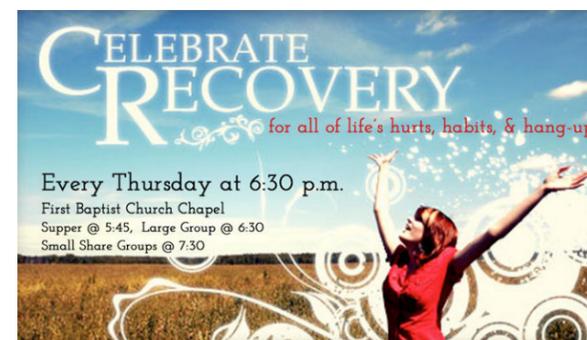
10 Fred Evers

Wedding Anniversaries

3 Rev & Mrs Larry Layfield

Church Anniversaries

1 Kevin Kilgore Northside 2007
23 Glenn Ford Calvary 1998
28 Jim Donovan First Tifton 2003



Food Pantry

Churches can reserve a month in 2016.

Call 229-386-0865

Or email mellbapt@friendlycity.net

2016

March	Oak Grove
April	Salem
May	Open
June	Chula
July	Open
August	Open
September	Open
October	Northside
November	Open
December	Open

Two Dangerous Words

You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' (Isaiah 14:13-14)

Two of the most dangerous words we can use are the words "I Will."

The Christian Index will no longer be published in paper format. So that you won't miss the wonderful articles and information the Index offers, I've included a link to the online version below. To read the current and future editions of the Christian Index, click on the link or copy and past the link into the address bar in your web browser.

<http://christianindex.org/>

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Luke 24:4-6a

Churches who wish to participate in stocking the **Food Pantry**, please let our office know.

And Jesus came and said to them, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** (Mat 28:18-20)