

# **BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **PLANNING AHEAD**

**April 4—8**  
Spring Break  
Tift County Schools

**May 5**  
National Day of Prayer

**May 8**  
Mothers Day

**May 8**  
Senior Adult Day

**May 21**  
Armed Forces Day

**May 30**  
Memorial Day (Observed)

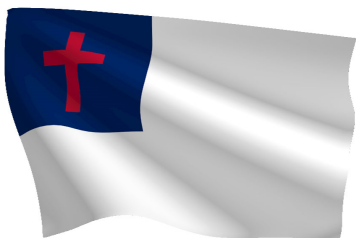
**June 5**  
Religious Liberty Sunday

**June 14**  
Flag Day

**June 19**  
Fathers Day



**Zechariah 10:1 Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.**



**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](http://www.mellbapt.com)

April 2016



## Highlights

My final column for the Mell newsletter will probably not be earth shattering, but I do want to reflect on the last two and a half years of my ministry here. God is faithful, always has been, always will be, and in my life, He has always demonstrated it, especially in seasons of change. So just let me declare His faithfulness.

God called me to preach the gospel when I was 21 years old. I have been doing it ever since. He has always been faithful in His supply of the Holy Spirit to anoint that preaching, even when I have been only a jar of clay. In the last year or so, He has been faithful to remind me of that calling. I have felt compelled to preach and pastor again, and this is the reason I am transitioning from my position here at the Mell to a role of church planter. Our church here in Tifton will be called The Road, and its goal is to glorify God through reaching others with the gospel. Just to relay a commitment I've made to the other pastors of the Mell association churches; we do not want church members who are actively involved in other Mell churches, and we are discouraging invitations to those individuals. Our commitment is to advancing the kingdom, not simply reshuffling the deck. Know that our goal is to be a part of the Mell someday (begin giving immediately), and in the meantime, link arms with you to reach Tifton.

God's faithfulness has also been shown to churches. Some in our association that would have been counted out by others have been blessed by God with growth. Some that were doing good, are now doing great. God has been faithful to their pastors who have gone through various trials, and God has carried them through those seasons.

God's faithfulness has also been demonstrated in the relationships between pastors and churches. Truly there have been enough difficulties between the two, but God has been faithful. Can I take just a minute and give a small plea related to this issue? Based on what I have seen in the last couple of years, the process by which pastors are chosen is very tedious, and can lead to difficulty for both in the future. This piece is far too small for a full treatment of the subject, but let me mention a couple of things. Please be really honest with prospective pastors. Tell them about all the problems openly. Also, please treat them like potential family, not a potential employee. You are inviting a shepherd to love you, not a hireling to do the bidding of the sheep. Finally, love them. Even if they are new, without years of caring bonds, love them. Bear their burdens, help them with family, take care of their needs. Even if a parting of ways is inevitable, love them. I wish I could speak to all prospective pastors, but I can't, although I have thoughts just based on my short time as a DOM looking into the workings of 26 churches.

Finally, God's faithfulness is evident through the graciousness of allowing me to work with the Mell. He has blessed my time here. He has blessed my family here. He has blessed the Mell while I have been here. You have treated me and my family wonderfully. I want to thank my administrative team(s) for being so kingdom-minded. I want to thank all the pastors for being supportive. I can't think of any that didn't support me. I want to thank the members of the churches for all that they do for each other through the Mell. I am just glad I could be a small part. I want to thank God for His faithfulness toward me. May the Lord continue to bless the Mell as it seeks to serve.

Looking forward to continuing to serve, only in a different capacity,

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](http://www.gabaptistwomenspringevent.com)

The Mell Baptist Association is praying for volunteers to fill the following positions:

WMU Director  
RA Director  
Vacation Bible School Director  
Sunday School ASSIST Director  
Discipleship Training Director

If you are interested in serving in one of these areas, call the office at 229-386-0865

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](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net).

### **Our mailing address is:**

Mell Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 1547  
Tifton, GA 31793

## **Alapaha Baptist Church Spring Revival**

April 10-13

Led by: Reverend Dan Eidson  
of Victory Baptist Church in Tifton

4/10/2016 @ 6:00 PM

4/11 & 12 @ 7:00 PM

4/13 Covered Dish Meal & Fellowship @ 6:00 PM  
with worship service following @ 7:00 PM

*Come See God Move in a Great Way*

### **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

### 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

### May

#### Birthdays

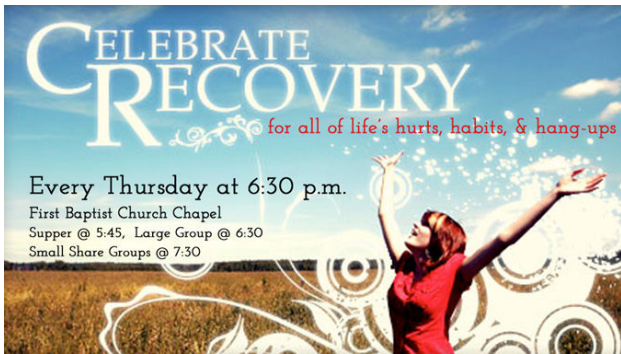
9 Jose Lopez  
20 Kathy Jones

#### Wedding Anniversaries

23 Rev & Mrs Jose Lopez  
30 Rev & Mrs Brad Baker

#### Church Anniversaries

6 Gary Cadwell Brookfield 2007  
11 Gary Aikens First Tifton 2009



#### Food Pantry

Churches can reserve a month in 2016.

Call 229-386-0865

Or email [mellbapt@friendlycity.net](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net)

**2016**

April	Salem
May	Brookfield
June	Chula
July	Open
August	Eastside
September	Open
October	Northside
November	Open
December	Open

## CWJC

Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) is a faith-based agency providing a Christian context in which women in need are equipped with life and employment skills needed to help achieve self-sufficiency. Women mentor Women. CWJC operates under the umbrella of a 501c3, The Bridge of Tiftarea, Inc. who is working to establish Tiftarea House of Hope.

The Tiftarea House of Hope will provide emergency and transitional shelter for women and women with children along with guidance to available resources to empower women to become self-sufficient. We aim to be a leading partner insuring that no women/child in the Tift County area has to spend the night on the streets because she cannot find or afford safe housing. We will provide a hand up-not a hand out! We ask for your prayers, donations of money and time. Your giving would mean the world to many, providing HOPE from failure...HOPE from fear...HOPE from hunger...HOPE for a future. Proverbs 11:25 "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself." Tiftarea House of Hope practices the gospel mandate to care for the poor and vulnerable. We believe all human beings deserve the basic needs of shelter, food and clothing.

"Faith...it does not make things easy, it makes them possible"

Martine J Hill, Executive Director, CWJC  
229-382-9010  
Visit us at [www.cwjctift.org](http://www.cwjctift.org)

### **Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Children's Home Day May 8, 2016**

#### **Fragile: Handle with Prayer.**

Every day at Georgia Baptist Children Homes, we handle the most fragile thing on earth; the heart of a child. We cannot provide these ministries without your help. Since we don't receive Cooperative Program funding, we are dependent on our Georgia Baptist churches across the state who place us in their church budgets and recognize Children's Home Day.

**For more information  
contact Sandra Hammonds at 770-463-3800.**

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



Mell Baptist Association
400-A North Central Avenue
P.O. Box 1547
Tifton, GA 31793
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PH: 229-398-0865
mellbapt@friendlycity.net
www.mellbapt.com
Jason Jones, Associational Missionary
Cell: 229-339-1383
sabsp4hm@gmail.com



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

Today I listened to one of my student's share with a young man we were eating with about his walk with the Lord. He spoke with wisdom and authority in the Word! He shared with this guy the need to study the Bible in order to grow! When I first met this young man, his idol was UGA football. It was a great moment sitting in the restaurant thinking about how much he has grown over the past few years! That is what BCM is all about - taking students where they are and pouring into them then watching to see how God works!

During Spring break we went on a mission trip to Camp Kaleo. We worked on the camp helping to get it ready for the boys who will be attending camp this summer. It was one of the hardest trips I have been on. They worked like dogs but we were able to spend a lot of time at night on Bible studies. I love these trips because we get to spend a lot of time together just sharing. I was able to see the growth in one young man. He came to ABAC with a cocky attitude and was full of himself. I knew this was really a cover up from a lack of love. He had very few people in his life that really cared about him and encouraged him. On the trip I noticed how God had been working in his life. As he began to study the Word of God personally, he began to transfer his security from worldly things to God. Also, others began to love on him and encourage him and his attitude has begun to change. It reminds me of the verse "He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it." It is amazing what the Word of God, God's unconditional love, and the love of some Christian brothers and sisters in Christ can do for someone.

Thank you for your prayers this past month! I can tell it is working. We will be selecting new officers this next month. Many of our leaders will be graduating so it is very important we seek God in filling these positions. Please keep praying as we seek new leaders! Thank you!

Penny

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/

A Message to all Churches in the Mell Baptist Association

Go ahead and put on your calendars, the annual meeting of the Mell Baptist Association will take place on

October 23rd at 6:00 PM.

(Details to Follow)

BCM Suppers

Apr 4 Northside
Apr 11 New River
Apr 18 Crossview

If you wish to assist in the Fall, contact Penny at the phone number shown below.

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

## REFLECTIONS

On a wall near the main entrance to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, is a portrait of a man with this inscription underneath. "James Butler Bonham--no picture of him exists. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom."

No literal portrait of Jesus exists either. But the likeness of the One who died to set all men free can be seen in the lives of those who truly follow Him. If we are truly following Christ others will see it in our appearance, our attitudes, and our associations. They will see that we have truly been with Christ.

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## GO GEORGIA

**August 5-6**  
**Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens**

GO GEORGIA is a statewide church leadership training event with over 100 breakout sessions relating to various church leadership roles. There will be something for you—whether you work with kids, teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, lead worship, coordinate youth, direct the women's ministry, serve on the church finance team, or work with almost any ministry! There will also be nationally recognized speakers and leading practitioners from Georgia.

**GO GEORGIA will help your church reduce lostness and make disciples.**  
**GO GEORGIA because Georgia needs to hear the Good News.**

For more information, or to register, go to: [www.gogeorgia.net](http://www.gogeorgia.net)



The advertisement features a blue background with several inset photos. One photo shows a man speaking at a podium on a stage. Another shows two men in conversation. A third shows a man speaking into a microphone. A fourth shows two men in a discussion. The text on the right side of the ad reads: "A Day with Adrian Rogers Pastoral Leadership Videoconference April 5, 2016 First Baptist Church Valdosta, GA \$35 includes workbook and lunch 229.242.0484 • ministry@fbcvaldosta.org". At the bottom left, there is a quote: "You will never be the same after spending a day with Adrian Rogers." —David McKinley, pastor, Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, GA.

## **The Southeastern Gospel Music Association** **33rd Annual Sing**

**Brighton Road Baptist Church**

**Saturday April 23, 2016**  
**Start Time: 3:30 PM**

***Acts of Faith; Another Journey; By His Grace; Just Blessed; Shades of Grace; Trinity's Call***  
***Jerry Hamner; The Freemans; Glorybound; Roger & Norma Quick***

For More Information

Tom Morton 229-896-7684 for 229-560-4408; Charles Farmer 229-349-3304; Jim Palmer 229-869-7108; Larry Cummings 229-985-3892