

# **BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **PLANNING AHEAD**

**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

**July 4**  
Independence Day



**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Pro 22:6)**

## **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 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)

May 2016



## Highlights

I want to take this means to introduce myself. I am Tom Hocutt, the part-time Interim Associational Missionary. I count it a privilege to serve in this role. I am looking forward to working with you, your church, and your pastor in the coming months. I was a pastor for over 13 years in Montana (11+ years) and Alabama. My wife and I were your Baptist Representatives through the International Mission Board in Israel for almost 15 years. And, for the last almost 18 years I was the Director of Missions for the Mallery Baptist Association (Albany area). I fully retired from that position at the end of 2015. I enjoyed three months of full retirement! We have a son and daughter who are both married and we have 3 grandchildren.

I am blessed that you would consider letting me serve the Lord through this place of service. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can as soon as possible. I will be visiting one of the Mell churches each Sunday morning and hopefully taking the pastor and family out to eat. My planned office hours will be Monday through Wednesday 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM with my attending Mell scheduled meetings also.

The association has a wonderful opportunity during this transition time of being without a full-time Associational Missionary to celebrate your past, determine your present reality, and then make plans for the future direction of the association. I hope to be able to assist and coach you all through this transition time. I am here to serve the pastors and churches. I want to be an encouragement to you all as well as a resource person to you. I certainly don't know all the answers, but we know who does!

I am convinced that this whole process of determining the future and finding a new Associational Missionary must be submerged in prayer. Therefore, I would request that you begin now to pray for the Administrative Team and me as we seek God's will for the future of the Mell Baptist Association. Pray that we would know the mind of the Lord as we move forward.

I have observed some good things happening in the churches in the association! The association has some great ministries and resources available. The cooperation of the churches to provide food for the food pantry and the lives that are touched by this ministry is just one example of how the churches are working together to be a blessing to those in need of food. The resources the Lord has provided the association for the churches to use are great assets: the Evangelism Trailer and the vans. Then the 4<sup>th</sup> Street property provides an asset that God desires to be used for His honor and glory. We are grateful that Vida Abundante is being able to use the facility at this time. God is a work in this area of South Georgia! May we have eyes to see where He is working and join Him in His activities!

Please feel free to drop by the office. I would love to meet you. Please call before you come (if you can), just to make sure that I am there. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at [thocutt@gmail.com](mailto:thocutt@gmail.com) or 229-733-8911. I will also be available for supply. Just send an email or call me. Thanks again for letting me serve you!

**Tom**

## National Day of Prayer

America needs Christians to bow before God and lift our voices, asking God to forgive us for allowing our great nation to move away from our Creator. Join fellow Christians in Tifton at the **Veterans Memorial Park on May 5th at noon**. Let our voices be heard by God and by our national leaders.

**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

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/>

### **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

### May

#### Birthdays

- 9 Jose Lopez  
20 Kathy Jones

#### Wedding Anniversaries

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

#### Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

- 6 Gary Cadwell Brookfield 2007  
11 Gary Aikens First Tifton 2009

### June

#### Birthdays

- 7 Dorothy Layfield  
8 Charlene Fogarty  
27 Brandy Baker

#### Wedding Anniversaries

- 6 Rev & Mrs John Hughes  
9 Rev & Mrs William Fogarty  
12 Rev & Mrs Dan Eidson  
15 Rev & Mrs Kevin Harris  
26 Rev & Mrs Benji Rowland

#### Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

- 1 Andy Ring Salem 2011  
1 Mark Myers First Tifton 2008  
3 Pete Jones Enigma 1984  
9 Zack Polk First Chula 2014  
20 Fred Evers Northside 1999



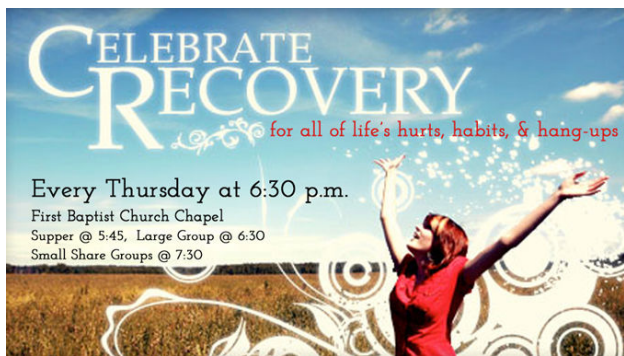
<http://superwow.com/jekyll/>

As the **Crown Jewel of Georgia's Golden Isles**, Jekyll Island's exquisite natural beauty with miles of beach, marsh, and maritime has long drawn guests to its barrier shores.

**SuperWow** will be held at the newly rebuilt Jekyll Island Convention Center in the heart of the island, within easy driving distance of all hotels and rental homes that churches typically use.

**Recreation and Mission Projects** are available each afternoon, but if your group would like alternative local attractions, please visit the [Discover Jekyll Island](#) web site for more info.

**New for 2016 – Mission Track!**



#### Food Pantry

Churches can reserve a month in 2016.

Call 229-386-0865

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

**2016**

May	Brookfield
June	Chula
July	OPEN
August	Eastside
September	Journey
October	Northside
November	OPEN
December	OPEN

### 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**

Last week I had an opportunity to meet with a girl who has been coming to BCM for the past 2 years and she has changed so much. She will be graduating and wanted to apologize to me for something. She told me she was mad at me because the last time I talked with her I had asked her, "How do you know you are saved?" That statement made her mad. Well, she thought about it and began to process the past 2 years. She grew up in a home that went to church every time the doors were open but, it was not lived out at home. She said that her Mom was very abusive at home so her idea of the church was just a bunch of hypocrites. But, God in His love for her pursued her by sending her some good Christian friends who loved her, prayed for her, and asked her to church and BCM. One Sunday just to get her roommate to leave her alone she went to church and later to BCM and realized there were some people who actually believed in God and acted like it! As time went on she began to read her Bible and seek a relationship with God. When we talked she informed me that she is now a Christian and loves to read the Bible. She is amazed at how this old book comes alive when you actually take the time to read it!! If you just knew this girl it would be very evident how God has transformed her life! Please pray for C as she graduates and goes on to who knows what. Please pray she will find a church wherever she finds a job and will find someone who will continue to disciple her and encourage her in her faith.

This past week we also had an Engage outreach. In this evangelistic time the students were encouraged to share a spiritual survey with some friends. One guy shared with a friend from out of state and was upset when his friend said that all he knew about Jesus was that He was a character in a book! This rocked my student's world. It really opened his eyes to the lostness of our campus! Another guy asked a guy the same survey and he was shocked at the boy's answer. His fellow said that he believed that when we died we went to another time line and lived again. To him Jesus was someone who was more enlightened than the average person. Can you believe this in Georgia there are people who believe this? This has been enlightening to my students and their eyes have been opened to the need to be intentional with classmates and family.

We are wrapping up the semester and students desperately need your prayers. Many are realizing that they have only a short amount of time to reach their friends. Also, many are being bombarded with last minutes projects and tests. Stress is at an all time high. Please pray for peace and recall during this time.

Again, thanks for all you do and we are encouraged by your prayers! **Penny**

**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)

**The Mell Baptist Association office hours for the months of June and July will be:**

**Monday—Thursday  
8:00—Noon**

The Associational Missionary will be available Monday-Wednesday 9:30—3:30.

**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  
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(229) 382-8708