



Mell

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PLANNING AHEAD

July 4
Independence Day
Office Closed

July 18
Mell Ministers Meeting
Location TBD
Noon

July 25
Senior Adult Lunch
Eastside Baptist Church
Noon

July 27
Mell Admin Team
Noon

August 1
Tift County Schools
First Day of Classes

August 11
Tiftarea Academy
First Day of Classes

August 12
Mell Ministers Meeting
Mell Office
Noon

August 24
Mell Admin Team
Noon

September 4
Labor Day
Office Closed

September 15
MinistrySafe Skillful Screening Training
Eastside Baptist Church
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

September 19
Mell Ministers Meeting
Mell Office
Noon

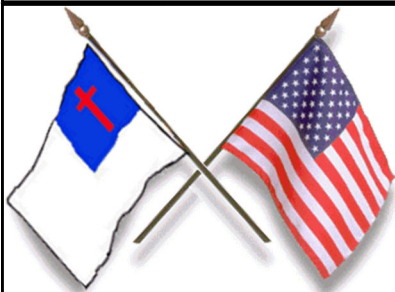


Senior Adult Lunch

July 25th, 2017
Eastside Baptist Church
Noon

To reserve your spot at the table, call the church office at 229-382-0730

Fun-Food-Fellowship



The Mell Baptist Association exists to Encourage Churches, Strengthen Churches, and Partner with Churches to Reach People with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Established 1886.

www.mellbapt.com

June 2017

AM THOUGHTS

God is at work in and through the association! I have heard good reports of attendance and those who have made decisions for Christ at Vacation Bible Schools. Did you know that VBS is the largest evangelistic emphasis that Southern Baptists have? Thanks to all those volunteers in our churches who give of their time, talents, and energy to make a difference in children's lives!

The Mell Evangelism/Missions Team has been meeting and planning. This team has developed a set of goals that will be presented to the Administration Team for approval. You will be hearing more about these in the future.

We are still working on getting the Mell Encouraging/Strengthening Team in place. Please pray for those who have been asked to serve on this team.

Finances is something that we don't prefer to discuss, but is necessary at times. It is interesting that Jesus talked a great deal about stewardship yet we seem to shy away from this subject. I hope that as your church begins to plan its budget for next year that you will consider increasing your giving to the association. Traditionally Southern Baptists have encouraged every church to give 3% of their undesignated receipts to associational missions. If our 29 churches and missions would have done that last year we would have received over \$200,000. Instead we received a little over \$107,000. Quite a difference! What could have been done in terms of ministry here in our area and around the world with that amount of money? I just hope your church will consider a small increase; it will make a difference as we move forward in our evangelistic and mission goals for the next few years.

Here is a quick update on the progress at the new office building: trees trimmed, shrubs removed, outside pressure washed, one load of dirt distributed where shrubs pulled up, doorway made to back room, flooring completed, new windows installed, sign hung, electrician at work presently, new front door assembly to be installed this week, new chairs on their way, painting scheduled to begin June 26. Tentative moving week will be July 11-13. We will need able bodies and some pick-ups and/or trailers to move the contents of the old office to the new office. Please let us know if you can help at that time. We also still have a load of dirt to distribute and some sod to place. Any help would be appreciated! Ribbon cutting and dedication to be planned at a later date.

Here is an excerpt from an email I received from Thom S. Ranier (LifeWay president) on May 17, 2017. Something to think about! "There are eight clear signs evident in many churches on the precipice of closing. If a church has four or more of these signs present, it is likely in deep trouble.

1. **There has been a numerical decline for four or more years.**
2. **The church does not look like the community in which it is located.**
3. **The congregation is mostly comprised of senior adults.**
4. **The focus is on the past, not the future.**
5. **The members are intensely preference-driven.**
6. **The budget is severely inwardly focused.**
7. **There are sacred cow facilities.**
8. **Any type of change is met with fierce resistance.**

Churches with four or more of these signs have three choices. They can embark on a process of change and revitalization. Or, they can close the doors for a season and re-open with a new name, a new vision, and some new people. Of course, the third choice is to do nothing. That is the choice to die. Thousands of churches will unfortunately do just that the next twelve months."

Tom

Prayer Suggestions

- ◆ Pray for the churches without pastors: Alapaha, Eldorado, Lakeview, New River, and Omega.
- ◆ Pray for the victims of the recent tornados and those assisting them.
- ◆ Pray for the President and all government officials.
- ◆ Pray for the Association Missionary and the Administrative Team that they will have God's wisdom.
- ◆ Pray for the Encouraging/Strengthening Team and the Evangelism/Missions Team that they would have God's wisdom.
- ◆ Pray for God's guidance and God's wisdom as we proceed with the remodeling of the new office building.



-Leadership Training

-Breakout Sessions

-National Speakers

A TOTAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING EVENT
AUGUST 25-26
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TIFTON

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 for inclusion in the newsletter.

mellbapt@friendlycity.net

Our mailing address is:

Mell Baptist Association
P.O. Box 1547
Tifton, GA 31793
Or call
(229) 386-0865

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/>
Christian Index
<http://christianindex.org>

CELEBRATIONS

July

Birthdays

7	Mark Myers	First, Tifton
8	W. E. Fogarty	Unity
14	Jim Donovan	First, Tifton
15	Casey Kilgore	Northside
18	Misty Harris	Oak Grove
20	Glenn Ford	Calvary
20	Krista Staton	Northside

Anniversaries

Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

1	Wayne Roe	First, Tifton
1	Jose Lopez	Vida Abundante
7	Brad Padgett	Brookfield
23	Don Harris	New Bethel

August

Birthdays

2	Bryan Mullis	Omega
8	Leslie Gilbert	New River
11	Michael Marchant	New River
17	Frances Eidson	Victory
20	Leslie Broome	Northside
21	Brian Broome	Northside
25	Nancy Hughes	First, Tifton
27	Wayne Rod	First, Tifton

Anniversaries

4	Rev & Mrs Wayne Roe	First, Tifton
20	Rev & Mrs Mark Myers	First, Tifton
23	Rev & Mrs Casey Shaw	Lenox
23	Rev & Mrs Clark Harden	Brighton Road

Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

26	Brad Baker	Pine Grove
29	Sam Jones	Northside
31	Larry Layfield	Mt. Zion

Food Pantry

2017

July	Chula, First
August	Eastside
September	Brookfield
October	New River
November	Northside
December	Brighton Road

The Food Pantry served 23 households in May.

ANNUAL TRUCKLOADING

Georgia Baptist Children's Home

Baxley Campus

September 11—14
(details to follow)



Righteous Manhood

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Mabel White Baptist Church, 1415 Bass Road, Macon

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.)

Cost: \$20 until August 4; \$25 after August 4

For more info and to register go
to righteousmanhood.com.

Edwin L. Hodges Ministries in a non-profit, Christian literature ministry that receives new and used Christian literature and ships it to missionaries and Bible schools all over the world.



If your church wishes to donate used Sunday School, VBS, and other literature to the ministry, please bring them to the **Mell Baptist Association** office. We will hold them until a representative from the ministry comes and picks up the donated materials.

MinistrySafe Skillful Screening Training

An effective screening process must address the risk of hiring an applicant whose motives are wrong. Criminal background checks alone will not protect children from sexual abuse. Statistically, less than 10 percent of sexual offenders are ever criminally prosecuted, because two out of three children don't report abuse until years later, if ever. As a result, over 90 percent of offenders have no past criminal conviction to check.

To address this risk, every ministry should have a system of protection in place, as opposed a single screening or training element. MinistrySafe provides state of the art tools and training to help churches successfully screen future hires. Training is being offered at the following location. There is no cost and lunch will be provided.

Eastside Baptist Church of Tifton
September 15, 2017
9:30 AM—2:30 PM

To register, go to the following link:

<https://www.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55227676>

REFRESH

ReFRESHconference.org

...for those who thirst for revival

ReFRESH® is designed to lead pastors and lay leaders to seek the face of God through focused times of corporate worship and prayer, as well as biblical teaching on revival, repentance, and the Spirit-filled life. Join with other like-minded believers in Albany as we "repent and return...in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

ReFRESH SOUTH
September 17-20, 2017
Sherwood Baptist Church
Albany, Georgia
To register, call (229) 883-1910 Ext. 1200



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

FALL SUPPER LIST

AUG. 21 - BCM
 AUG. 28 -BCM
 SEPT. 11– Northside
 SEPT. 18 –Crossview
 SEPT. 25 – FBC Tifton
 OCT. 2– New River Baptist
 OCT. 9– BCM
 OCT. 16 – Fall Break
 OCT. 23 –First Baptist Chula
 Oct. 30 – BCM
 NOV.6 – Mt. Zion Baptist
 NOV. 13- TY TY
 NOV.20 - Crossview

Please let me know if you need to make changes. We are thankful for your hard work!

BCM NEWS

Students have left for summer mission trips and some have even gone and returned. My guy who went to Brazil was so excited last week when he returned to tell his stories. He was on a medical mission trip but he was one of the few students who instead of taking medical supplies took coloring books and stuff for kids. Since he did this, he was designated the kid person and the one who talked with people while they waited. It was a perfect fit because this guy loves to talk. He told story after story about how God allowed him to lead worship and share. There is no telling where this guy will end up after having a taste of what it is like to be away from technology and the world’s stuff and connect with people about God. It is evident that God has put a yearning in his heart to share the love of Christ and I would not be surprised if it was somehow through missions. Please pray for him and others as they sort through what God is saying to them as they serve.

Please pray for many of the students on campus. During the summer, many do not get financial aid so they struggle to make ends meet with low paying jobs. There are so many that have no family support, lack of funds, and in dire need of food, and a place to live. I have struggled to help some find places they can afford to live on their income. Pray that God will use these opportunities and work in their lives to strengthen their walk with Christ. I have seen God work miracles in some student’s lives where He has used people to meet their needs.

I am leading a team next week and then will return the first of July to begin full force working on fall semester. I need prayer because when you look at the time and all that needs to be done, it can get pretty overwhelming!

Thank you again for all you do. Your prayers are so appreciated!

Penny

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

**Mell Baptist Association
 Summer Office Hours
June & July**

**Missionary: Monday—Thursday
 8:00 AM—4:00 PM**

**Admin Asst: Monday—Thursday
 8:00 AM—Noon**

**Monthly Financials
 (May 2017)**

Budget Needs: \$9823.41
Funds Received \$7529.05
Expenses: \$11331.49