



# Mell

## BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### PLANNING AHEAD

DECEMBER 3  
MELL ENCOURAGING/STRENGTHENING

DECEMBER 3  
MELL MINISTERS/WIVES  
CHRISTMAS BANQUET

DECEMBER 5  
MELL EVANGELISM/MISSIONS TEAM

DECEMBER 12  
MELL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

DECEMBER 18-JANUARY 1  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  
(MELL OFFICE CLOSED)

JANUARY 2  
MELL OFFICE REOPENS

JANUARY 16  
MELL EVANGELISM/MISSION

JANUARY 19  
SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

JANUARY 20  
ML. KING DAY (MELL OFFICE  
CLOSED)

JANUARY 21  
MELL MINISTERS' MEETING

JANUARY 23  
MELL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

JANUARY 28  
MELL ENCOURAGING/STRENGTHENING

JANUARY 28  
MELL SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON



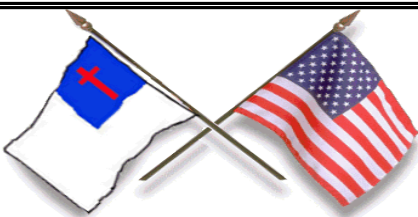
I SAW

A GREAT MULTITUDE

FROM EVERY NATION AND ALL TRIBES... [REV. 7:9](#)

imb

LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®



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

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

Established 1887.

December, 2019

Check us out on Facebook

### AM THOUGHTS

Praise the Lord for the 61 representing nine churches attending the Mell Senior Luncheon, October 22 at Lakeview Baptist Church. Thanks to Lakeview for lovely decorations, good food, excellent fellowship, and nice door prizes! You all did great!

I will be recognizing the churches in different categories based on the Annul Church Report in coming months, but this month I wanted to give you a picture of the association this year as compared to last (reporting in 2018 and 2019).

Baptisms	154	210
Other Additions	180	277
Resident Members	8,137	8,723
Average Worship	3,959	4,209
SS Average Attendance	2,751	2,945
Discipleship Enrollment	1,598	1,805
Total Receipts	10,527,155	11,189,293
Cooperative Program	624,867	632,219
Giving to Mell	102,901	102,607
Mission Participants	1,780	1,963
VBS Enrollment	2,875	2,862
Church Music Enrollment	1,142	1,126
Men's Ministry Enrollment	795	759
WMU Enrollment	537	499

Note, that out of these fourteen categories we were up in eight of the categories. I think that is an indication that good things are happening in our association—especially Baptisms, Worship Average, SS Average Attendance, and Total Receipts. To God be the glory! Let's stay faithful!!!

Don't forget to be praying daily for the Tiftarea Celebration with Will Graham March 20-22, 2020 and all the preparations that need to be done between now and then. Also be praying for your Bring a Friend list.

Martha and I want to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. We will be taking a week of rest and relaxation in Panama City Beach the week of Thanksgiving. Since we do not do a December newsletter, we want to wish each of you a very Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Thank you for letting me be your Associational Missionary. Great days are ahead for Mell Baptist Association if we work together. Remember, we work *better together*

**Tom**

## Community News:

### **GRIEF SHARE**

A grief support group for those with a significant loss in recent years.

Thursday, 4:00 pm  
Family Life Center  
First Baptist Church Tifton  
For more information, please contact  
John E. Patten  
229-300-3182



**March 20-22. 2020**  
**UGA Tifton Campus**  
**Conference Center**  
**15 R D C Road**  
**Tifton, Georgia**  
Willi Graham, Speaking  
Great musical Guests

**An outreach for everyone**  
**All seats are free**

#### 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

### December Birthdays

8	John Werner	Lake View
14	Stacy Ring	Salem
21	Steve Tucker	Liberty
23	Nerily Lopez	Vida Abundante

### Anniversaries

9	Rev/Mrs. Rodney Owens	FBC, Ty Ty
18	Rev/Mrs. Allen Mullis	Omega

### Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

28	Les Gilbert	New River
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### January Birthdays

2	Dana Hughes	FBC, Tifton
8	Jamie McHan	Alapaha
15	John Hughes	FBC, Tifton
18	Steve Davis	Brookfield

### Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

4	Brian Broome	Northside
14	Darryl McHan	Alapaha

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.

#### Our mailing address is:

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

[mellbapt@friendlycity.net](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net) Or call (229) 386-0865

## **Pastors Prayer Breakfast**

**December 5, 2019**

**8:00am**

**Leroy Rogers Senior Center**

**315 2nd St W**

**Tifton, Georgia**

A special meeting for Pastors and their spouses to enjoy breakfast and words of encouragement as we honor your for your service.

## **CELEBRATION PROMOTION SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER , 2019**

CHOOSE A SUNDAY IN DECEMBER TO SET ASIDE FOR YOUR CHURCH TO TAKE A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OFFERING, HIGHLIGHT EVANGELISM, AND/OR PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE CELEBRATION.

## **Regional Prayer Gathering**

**January 7, 2020**

**7:00am**

**Leroy Rogers Senior Center**

**315 2nd Street W**

**Tifton, Georgia**

### Food Pantry 2019

December Brighton Road

### Food Pantry 2020

January	Liberty
February	FBC, Tifton
March	Zion Hope
April	
May	New River
June	Salem
July	Unity
August	
September	FBC, Ty Ty
October	Brookfield
November	Northside
December	

The Food Pantry served 15 households in October.

If your church would like to sponsor the Food Pantry for a month in 2020, give us a call at 229-386-0865 and let us know which month you would like to have.

## **Christian Life and Witness Course**

**January 20 to February 8, 2020**

This training is for your entire church. Please encourage everyone to attend this 3 week Course. Anyone may take the course. Those who wish to serve as counselors of the Celebration must attend this training. Celebration counselors must be at least 13 years of age. Many pastors say this course is the greatest benefit gained from their Celebration involvement. This course and all related materials are provided at no cost.





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Tifton, GA 31793  
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www..mellbapt.com

### BCM News

Next time you go to a restaurant, look at the people seated around you. You will see families looking at their phones and children playing on their iPad. Little interaction takes place. Most of the younger students I have now, grew up just like this. Sitting at the dinner table, talking, and sharing about your day for many of them seldom happened. It just breaks your heart. I have talked this past month, with many students who have a hard time giving and receiving love because they have never really felt loved. Many of them came from homes where their parents did love them, but they were so distracted by devices and work that they did not take the time to communicate with their children. I see this with students who grew up in nice homes where they had what they needed and many what they wanted but felt disconnected from their parents and siblings. When you grow up like this it affects your ability to give and accept love, especially love from God. They grew up where the only way they were acknowledged was when they excelled in performance of some kind. This makes them think that to get God's love, they must work for it. It affects their acceptance of God's unconditional love. They struggle so much with low self esteem that it is heartbreaking. I sat recently with a young lady that felt so unworthy of God's love that she just did not think he could ever love her, and she could have a real relationship with Him. She is very much the norm today.

A young man from a good family, told me that the first time he felt loved was when something had happened to him and his Christian family gave him a group hug. He said he never thought anyone cared enough for him to cry over his hurts and happy for him when good things happen to him. I can not tell you the number of nights I have sat up late listening to students talk about how they feel so unloved and useless.

These feelings so distort their view and ability to accept God's love and grace. Please pray for me and all the people in your church who work with young people as we seek from God how to reach this generation with the love of God and show them how they can find love and purpose in Christ.

Please parents, take time to speak with your children daily and grandparents you are such a pivotal person in the lives of your grandchildren. Many of the students I have that do have a healthy relationship with God had grandparents who poured into their lives. I appreciate your prayers for these students. They are precious in the sight of God.

**Penny**

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

### Mell Monthly Financial (October, 2019)

Funds Received:	\$8,226.85
Expenses	\$9,826.41
Budget Needs:	\$9,673.36

## MELL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRAYER UPDATE

Volume 3, Number 11, December 2019

### Urgent Prayer

1. Pray for a spirit of prayer to sweep through our churches that would usher in true repentance and 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 are praying for our churches and pastors per an alphabetical list of churches. Pray this time for Alapaha Baptist Church (Darryl McHan, pastor), Brighton Road Baptist Church (Clark Harden, pastor), and Brookfield Baptist Church (Steve Davis, pastor).
3. Pray for the churches without pastors: Eldorado, Enigma, New River, and Oak 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 the Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Evangelism/Missions Team, and Administrative Team.
9. Pray for the Mell Baptist Association staff (Tom Hocutt and Charlene Fogarty).
10. Pray for the Baptist Campus Ministry at ABAC and Penny Chesnut as she leads.
11. Pray for the Leadership Team, Bob & Kristin Hickling (Celebration Director), Will Graham, and preparations that will need to be made for the Tiftarea Celebration with Will Graham March 20-22, 2020.

### State

1. Pray for our state government officials.
2. Pray for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board: its Executive Director (Thomas Hammond), its ministries, and other State Missionaries.
3. Pray for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board personnel in the transition to a new structure.

### Nation

1. Pray for our national government leaders.
2. Pray for the North American Mission Board, its president (Kevin Ezell), staff, and its missionaries.
3. Pray for the Southern Baptist Convention; Ronnie Floyd, CEO of the Executive Committee; and J. D. Grear, SBC President.
4. Pray for the revival of God's people and the spiritual awakening of our nation and the world.
5. 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 1.8 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, and for the peace of Jerusalem.
5. Pray for protection for our armed forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and around the globe.
6. 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.
7. Pray for the persecuted Christians of the world.

### ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Praise the Lord for the 61 from nine of our churches who attended the Senior Adult Luncheon at Lakeview BC on Oct 22