

VOLUME 8 • AUGUST 2021

MERCER-THOMAS BAPTIST NETWORK

Prayer Walk FOR OUR SCHOOLS



Area Schools will begin in August. Watch for details on the Prayer Walk for our schools.

TAKE A PEEK!

INSIGHT FROM AMS - 2

CHURCH NEWS/VBS - 3-7

SAVE THE DATE - 9-11

CALENDAR - 12-13

FINANCIAL REPORTS - 14-15

CONTACT INFO - 16



Read Georgia is a program where churches partner with local schools to work one-on-one with children on their literacy skills. The goal of Read Georgia is to see children and their families introduced to the love of Jesus and brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

<https://missiongeorgia.org/readgeorgia/>



PRAY. LOVE. SERVE.

July 15, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus tells us the Father is always working and that he does what he sees the Father doing (John 15:17, 19). What does God illuminate to you and me so that we can join him in what he is doing? Oh, that we would have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to trust and obey our LORD!

Whatever God illuminates to us, we know that we are called to pray for these people, matters, and events. We also know that we are to love and serve as Jesus himself has loved us and served us (John 13:34-35; John 13:1-14).

Here are some things God has illuminated to me which I am to share with you. God himself will tell you how you are to pray, love, and serve related to these things.

- **Schools beginning the 2021-2022 school year.** First day for students in Thomasville schools is August 2nd. First day for students in Brooks County Schools and Thomas County Schools is August 9th.
- **SPARK Conference** launches August 12th and is free through September 6th for all who register. Click this link for more information: www.thesparkconference.com.
- **BRN Outreach Events** (1) on August 21st in the Kensington Community of Philadelphia, where haircuts will be given for free and new shoes will be exchanged for old ones, (2) on August 22nd on the Jersey Shore, where backpacks will be given out as part of a school and community outreach, and (3) on August 30th in Cape May County, NJ, SOAR Church is co-sponsoring Unity in the Community.
- **GBMB Southwest Region Missions Tour** on August 23rd, 2:30 p.m., at Byne Memorial Baptist Church, Albany. This gathering will feature Pastor Kevin Williams, GBMB President, and Thomas Hammond, GBMB Executive Director. Who will go with me?
- **GBMB Disaster Relief Training** on September 18th at Lighthouse Baptist Church, Warner Robins. Watch for more information.
- **Mercer Association Annual Meeting** on Sunday, October 3rd, at Pauline Baptist Church.
- **Thomas County Association Annual Meeting** on Tuesday, October 19th, at Boston Baptist Church.
- **GBMB Pastors and Wives Retreat** coming October 22nd-24th at Lake Lanier Legacy Lodge, Buford, GA. Registration will open in August. Additional details to come. Please send your pastors and their wives to this retreat.
- **GBMB Annual Meeting** November 8th-9th at First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, GA.

Thank you for joining God in what he is doing as you Pray, Love, Serve,
Bro. Grant



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SAVE THE DATE

October 22-24

Fall 2021
Pastors and Wives Retreat

Lake Lanier Legacy Lodge Buford, GA

Registration opens in August
[@gabaptist.org/pastorwellness](https://gabaptist.org/pastorwellness)
Additional details to come!



This retreat is designed specifically for Pastors and their wives. Each participant will receive personalized coaching by some of the finest pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention. It is a time to be renewed and fed spiritually, emotionally and physically. You will even be assisted with pulpit supply if requested.

Cost: \$99 per couple/room
(includes housing, meals and t-shirts, and pulpit supply option)

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

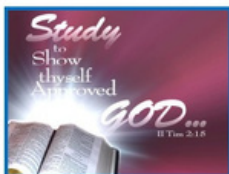
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA BAPTIST BIBLE INSTITUTE

Rev. Tim VanLandingham—Dean
Mrs. Mary Anna Chapman—Registrar and Secretary.

Educational Consultant—Georgia Baptist Mission Board

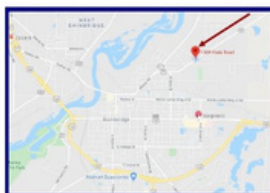
IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Fall Classes Begin on Monday, September 13th.
- Courses are also offered on Zoom for those unable to travel. Call for details.
- Registration and payment for courses are made on the first night of class by Registrar Mrs. Chapman.
- The books will be on-hand the first night.
- Call the Bowen Office for more information.



Where We Are:

Located in the Bowen Baptist Association Building next door to: Morningside Baptist Church



S.W.G.B.B.I.
1309 Vada Rd
P.O. Box 551
Bainbridge, Ga. 39818

The Bowen Baptist Association
Rev. Tim VanLandingham
Associational Missionary
Mary Anna Chapman
Ministry Assistant

Phone: 229-246-1871
Fax: 229-246-1896
E-mail: bowenassoc@mediacombb.net
www.bowenbaptistassociation.org

Southwest Georgia Baptist Bible Institute

FALL 2021 COURSES

Please Note: The SWGGBI reserves the right to change a course and/or instructor without notice when necessary.



In Cooperation with the



Fall 2021 Course Offering

Class #1

Time: Mondays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Instructor: Rev. John Crisp

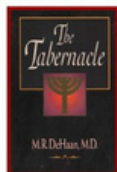
Book: The Tabernacle

By the late Martin Ralph DeHaan M.D., who was an American Bible teacher, the founder of the Radio Bible Class, and the co-editor of the monthly devotional guide *Our Daily Bread*.

COST:

Tuition - \$45
Book - \$15
Total - \$60

The Old Testament's wilderness tabernacle was designed by God Himself during the Israelites' journeyings. "...It is a picture, a type, and a shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ, where God meets man, and where deity and humanity meet in one person. Every detail points to some aspect of the person and work of our Savior."



SWGABBI Faculty



Rev. Tim VanLandingham

Rev. Tim VanLandingham was born at Ft. Benning, GA and grew up in Cairo, GA. Bro. Tim earned his MDiv. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, then served four SBC Georgia churches over a thirty plus year period. He is currently our Associational Missionary in the Bowen Baptist Association, having begun March 15, 2020. Bro. Tim is excited to be a part of this great learning.



Rev. John Crisp

Rev. John Crisp is a Tennessee native and a graduate of TWU with degrees in Mathematics, History, and Education. He is finishing his MDiv. at Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary. Bro. John served as a Pastor in Tennessee, where he also taught middle school students. He is now the Pastor at Rocky Ridge Baptist Church, Donaldsonville, GA. We are happy to have Bro. John join us as a teacher this fall.

Fall 2021 Course Offering

Class #2

Time: Mondays, 8:30 - 10:00 PM

Instructor: Rev. Tim VanLandingham

Book: History of Southern Baptists, Revised Edition

By Dr. Roger C. Richards who is the John Sullivan Chair of Baptist History, Curator, Florida Baptist Archives, and Professor of History and Christian Studies at The Baptist College of Florida, Graceville, FL.

COST:

Tuition - \$45
Book - \$15
Total - \$60

This study traces Baptist history from our roots in England and Holland to America. It presents the growth of Baptists in America along with the movements that flowed from the growth of the Baptist movement. We shall also consider the history of the Southern Baptist Convention as our ministries have grown.



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News to Know



NEW PASTOR START DATE

This past Sunday, First Baptist Thomasville, voted to call Paul Ballard as their next senior pastor, and he has accepted the position! Paul's first official Sunday will be August 15. Please be praying for Paul and his wife Libbie during this time of transition. Learn more about Paul [here](#).

If you missed Paul's message on Sunday, you can watch it [here](#).



Morven Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School 2021

Moses & Malachi and
Bible
Lesson



Through The Red Sea

Crafts



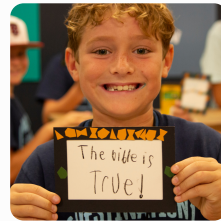
Opening Rally time

Music "Shalom"



Games

Closing Rally



Morven Baptist Church VBS

Thomasville First Baptist Church VBS

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ANNUAL MEETINGS

Mercer Baptist Association

The keynote speaker for the MBA Annual Meeting will be Tim Dowdy. Tim is the Pastor Wellness Lead Catalyst with the GBMB. Tim and Christie have been married for 39 years and they have one son, Micah. He and his wife, Kelly, have two sons, Jack and Wyatt. For 31 years Tim served as the Lead Pastor of Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church until May 2020. He led the church from a mission with 38 people in 1989 to a church and Christian Academy, with an enrollment of 1000 students, sharing a 141 acre campus. During his time as pastor the church averaged baptizing 2.4 each week for 31 years. From 2004-2012 Tim served as a Trustee of the North American Mission Board and served as chairman 2010-2012. In January of 2020 he became the Lead Strategist for Pastor Wellness for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and is grateful to be able to serve pastors and their families across the State of Georgia.

We are excited to hear what God leads him to share! The annual meeting will be held on **October 3rd** at Pauline Baptist Church, 6pm.



Thomas County Baptist Association

TCBA has invited JJ Washington to be the keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting being held on **October 19th** at 5:30. Boston Baptist Church will be hosting the meeting this year.

JJ Washington grew up in Clearwater, FL, and Stone Mountain, graduating from Stone Mountain High School in 1999. JJ earned a football scholarship to play cornerback for the North Carolina State Wolfpack from 1999-2003. During the Fall of 2000, against their rivals, the University of North Carolina, he tore his ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) in his left knee, which ended his season. During the rehabilitation period following surgery, JJ was introduced to a local pastor at a campus Bible study in the summer of 2001. JJ, seeking someone to pray over his knee, ended up having a life changing experience when Rev. David Cameron shared the Gospel with him.

On that night, JJ repented of his sin and personally accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior & Lord and the rest is history! JJ quickly got involved with several campus ministries, and within one year (2002) he began to preach the Gospel on the campus, and led devotionals and Bible studies on a weekly basis. In 2003, with one year of eligibility remaining, JJ decided to forgo his last year of football, graduate with his B.A. in Communications, and enter the ministry.

Since 2003, JJ has served as a children's pastor, youth pastor, and participated in several church plants. After later serving several years on the staff at First Baptist Church Woodstock as an assistant to Dr. Johnny Hunt, JJ served as the pastor of their sister church Woodstock Church- Austell thru 2019. JJ later joined the church strengthening team for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board in January 2020. Prior to transitioning to the Evangelism Catalyst for the church strengthening team in January 2021, JJ served as the Missions Consultant for the West Central Region. JJ is a licensed and ordained minister, and he holds a Master of Arts Degree in Leadership (Luther Rice Seminary), a Master of Divinity Degree (Luther Rice Seminary), and a Doctor of Ministry Degree (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary). JJ has been married to his wife, Tamara B. Washington for 17 years and they have two children, Jairus age 14, and Jayla age 9.





It's not too early to begin planning for your church's participation in this great project!

GABAPTIST.ORG/BACKPACKS

Even during a pandemic, you blessed children and teens in Georgia and Appalachia with 17,625 backpacks

THE GOAL FOR 2021 IS
25,000 BACKPACKS

How many will your church pack?

Exciting News!

We will be partnering with Operation Christmas Child to serve as the Christmas Shoebox collection center for this area. We would like to thank Michelle Aldridge for volunteering as our Site Coordinator. Please pray about this area of ministry and if you feel God leading you to join with us, contact me! There will be more info coming soon.



The logo for the SPARK 2021 Conference features the word "SPARK" in a large, bold, black font with a lightning bolt symbol integrated into the letter "S". Above "SPARK" are the numbers "2 0 2 1" and below it is the word "CONFERENCE". To the right of the text is a stylized rocket ship with a red nose cone and tail, and a white body with a blue window. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. In the top left corner, a red banner says "FREE". In the top right corner, the Georgia Baptist logo is visible.

FREE

Georgia Baptist

Attention Ministry Leaders

REGISTER FOR

2 0 2 1

SPARK

CONFERENCE

ONLINE CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

TheSparkConference.com

OUR TOTAL CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE IS BACK!

FREE AND 100% ONLINE!

OVER 40 BREAKOUTS COVERING NEARLY EVERY AREA OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY!

KEYNOTES: TONY EVANS, CHARLES LOWERY, DAVID KINNAMAN, BEN MANDRELL

>> SAVE THE DATE <<

LIVESTREAM AUGUST 12, THEN 3 WEEKS OF FREE ACCESS TO ALL CONTENT!

>> SIGN UP AT <<

[HTTPS://WWW.THESPARKCONFERENCE.COM/](https://www.thesparkconference.com/)

Coasting on pre-pandemic momentum is not an option for ministry today. SPARK is here to deliver "rocket fuel" so that you can equip yourself (and your leaders) in a post-pandemic world. Last year SPARK equipped over 6,500 local church leaders, and this year you can expect an even better conference.

Our objective: get your ministry to a level you could only previously dream about.

THOMAS COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WILL HOST A SPARK EVENT ON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12.

PASTOR PRAYER TIME WILL BE MOVED OR CANCELLED FOR THAT DAY.



PASTOR WELLNESS
GEORGIA BAPTIST

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING

Aug. 9 – 10, 2021

Bethany Baptist Church, Juliette, Ga.

Register at gabaptist.org/pastorwellness

COST: \$85

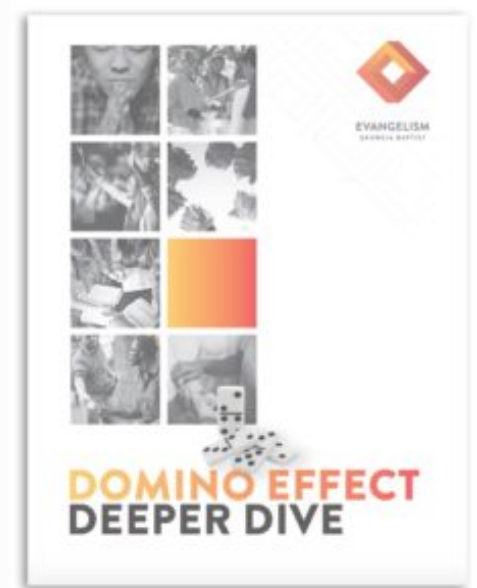
Register for this training here:

<https://gabaptist.org/pastorwellness/>

The Domino Effect outlines seven dominoes every church can push over to develop an evangelistic culture in their respective fellowships. This strategy not only names the dominoes but also walks you through a process of learning how to execute the strategy in your local church.

Download here:

<https://gabaptist.egnyte.com/dl/YdQKUKW4Nx/?>



Mercer Baptist Annual Meeting

October 3, 2021

4:30 pm

Pauline Baptist Church

Thomas County Baptist Annual Meeting

October 19, 2021

5:30

Boston Baptist Church

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Mercer Baptist Association Giving Report
January 1-June 30, 2021

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	YTD
Barney Baptist	\$ -				\$ -
Barwick Baptist	\$ 488.45	\$ 606.65			\$ 1,095.10
Beulah Baptist	\$ -				\$ -
Dixie Baptist	\$ 903.60	\$ 883.32			\$ 1,786.92
Elam Baptist	\$ 392.30	\$ 125.21			\$ 517.51
Evergreen Baptist	\$ 243.62	\$ 268.22			\$ 511.84
First Baptist	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 4,500.00
Friendship Baptist	\$ 200.00	\$ 423.00			\$ 623.00
Morrison Baptist	\$ 314.07	\$ 405.87			\$ 719.94
Morven Baptist	\$ 1,148.28	\$ 575.78			\$ 1,724.06
Northside Baptist	\$ 405.41	\$ 397.79			\$ 803.20
Ochlawilla Baptist	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00			\$ 1,300.00
Okapilco Baptist	\$ 527.00	\$ 679.00			\$ 1,206.00
Pauline Baptist	\$ 873.12	\$ 1,130.60			\$ 2,003.72
Philadelphia Bapt	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Union Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 600.00
Totals	\$ 9,595.85	\$ 8,795.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,391.29

Thomas County Baptist Association Giving Report
January 1-June 30, 2021

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	YTD
Antioch Baptist	\$ 1,943.15	\$ 720.73			\$ 2,663.88
Barnetts Creek Baptist	\$ 483.36	\$ 555.13			\$ 1,038.49
Big Creek Baptist	\$ 454.77	\$ 540.80			\$ 995.57
Big Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ -			\$ 300.00
Boston Baptist	\$ 506.02	\$ 241.52			\$ 747.54
Coolidge Memorial Baptist	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -			\$ 3,500.00
Dawson Street Baptist	\$ 3,014.88	\$ 3,014.88			\$ 6,029.76
Enon Baptist	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00			\$ 350.00
Thomasville First Baptist	\$ 4,167.33	\$ 8,336.00			\$ 12,503.33
First Newark Baptist	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00			\$ 6,000.00
Fredonia Baptist	\$ 380.34	\$ 468.76			\$ 849.10
Friendship Baptist	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00			\$ 125.00
Gatlin Creek Baptist	\$ 738.48	\$ 1,982.00			\$ 2,720.48
Little Ochlocknee Baptist		\$ -			\$ -
Meigs Baptist	\$ 1,768.34	\$ 1,459.09			\$ 3,227.43
Merrillville Baptist	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
Midway Baptist	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
New Day Christian	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00			\$ 100.00
New Growth Baptist	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
New Shiloh Baptist	\$ 557.78	\$ 207.84			\$ 765.62
Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00			\$ 700.00
Pavo Baptist	\$ -	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00
Pineland Baptist	\$ 1,249.98	\$ 1,249.98			\$ 2,499.96
Salem Baptist	\$ 1,001.40	\$ 936.36			\$ 1,937.76
Summerhill Baptist	\$ 219.00	\$ 211.00			\$ 430.00
Totals	\$ 24,134.83	\$ 23,649.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,783.92



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ASSOCIATIONAL CONTACT INFO

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