

VOLUME 10 • OCTOBER 2021

MERCER-THOMAS BAPTIST NETWORK

Mercer Baptist Annual Meeting

October 3, 2021

6:00 pm

Pauline Baptist Church

Thomas County Baptist Annual Meeting

October 19, 2021

5:30 pm

Boston Baptist Church



TAKE A PEEK!

INSIGHT FROM AMS - 2-3

ANNUAL MTGS- 4

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES/EVENTS - 5-12

DUAL CALENDAR - 14

FINANCIAL REPORTS - 15-16

CONTACT INFO - 17

THE G O S P E L F O R A L L

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began"

TITUS 1:2



Week of Prayer *for* Your Local Baptist Association



Dear Saints of the Living God,

God calls us to be holy as he is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15-16). He tells of a “Highway to Holiness” in Isaiah 35:7, “And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.” Further, Jesus declares in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” If we are not diligent, careful, and intentional daily, we may find ourselves traveling a road other than God has called us to travel. It is the Holy Spirit that directs us. Are we honoring, following, and trusting our LORD as we travel this life?

I have a good number of items that warrant sharing with you. Thank you in advance for your time in reading these, praying for them, and seeking first God’s Kingdom in response to them.

- A Debt of Gratitude. Yolonda and I are deeply grateful for the abundance of love, care, and encouragement given us by you, particularly through our journey with COVID. Thank you!
- Annual Church Reports—ACRs. The Annual Church Report provides a current snapshot of who each congregation is similar to photographs taken to help us celebrate, remember, and enjoy what God has done and is doing. To the churches who have completed and submitted your ACR, thank you. To the churches yet to complete and submit your ACR, thank you for doing so soon. If you have any questions or concerns about the ACR, help is available from either Robin Owens or Karen Haineault.
- Associational Annual/Fall Meetings. These family gatherings are far more than just another meeting or event. They are for refreshing, rekindling, rejoicing, refocusing, and renewing as we meet with the LORD corporately and with one another. Thank you in advance for praying for the meetings for both Associations. Mercer Baptist Association will gather on Sunday, October 3, at Pauline Baptist Church, beginning with dinner at 5:00pm. Thomas County Baptist Association will gather on Tuesday, October 19, at Boston Baptist Church, beginning with registration at 5:30pm. I look forward to seeing you at these family gatherings.
- New pastors and interim pastors. First Baptist Thomasville has called Paul Ballard as their new pastor. Paul’s wife is Libbie. Midway Baptist Church has called Dennis Norman as their new pastor. Dennis’ wife is Gail. New Growth Baptist Church has called Terry Clawson as their interim pastor. Ochlocknee Baptist Church has called Mike Nichols as their interim pastor. Mike’s wife is Laura. Thank you for praying for these as God prompts and calls you.
- October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please be intentional in communicating and giving love, care, and encouragement to your pastor/interim pastor during October. Ask God how he wants you to further bless your pastor/interim pastor according to his will. He will tell you if you ask.
- Sharing Your Faith. Sadly, the vast majority of Christ followers have yet to share their faith with anyone. Sharing your faith is simply telling your story of your relationship with Jesus Christ. Would you ask God to help you share your faith with at least one person intentionally each week of October? You and I are responsible to share our faith, to tell our story. We are not responsible to secure the decision we would like anyone to make. That is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit. Need help knowing how to share your faith? Ask your pastor, someone you believe shares their faith intentionally, or me.

·Georgia Baptist Mission Board [GBMB] update. Even Baptist entities must serve and function within current realities. Cooperative Program (CP) giving continues declining, as it has for a number of years. That means the financial resources of the GBMB are declining. As a result, difficult decisions have been made in order to live and serve within the resources available. Personnel reassignments and cuts have been made. Details of these will be announced in the coming days or weeks. I share this with you so that you may pray for our GBMB, the giving of our churches through the CP, and giving thanks to God for his sovereignty and work in the midst of all this. Know this: God is not finished. God is faithful. God is good.

·Mission Georgia and the State Missions Offering. All five (5) of the emphases identified and promoted through Mission Georgia exist in our ministry areas. For more information, please access www.MissionGeorgia.org. Thank you to the churches and individuals who have given to the State Missions Offering and who have prayed for the work for which these offerings will be spent. Please continue praying and seeking God's will on earth as in heaven for Kingdom work across Georgia, including our two counties.

·Sunbelt AG Expo, October 19-21. This is a huge event in Moultrie, GA. Its reach is international. We have the privilege of being part of this. Our two Associations have been asked to provide volunteers on Tuesday, October 19, to serve in the Ministry Tent on the Expo grounds. Please contact me if you are willing to serve in this ministry or would simply like more information. Thank you for praying for the Kingdom work that will be accomplished during this event.

· Week of Prayer for Your Local Baptist Association—October 17-24. I am asking each of our churches to include this emphasis during the designated week or another week of your choosing. Digital resources are available to assist you with this emphasis. Prayer and praying are essential, critical, and foundational to our lives and work as individuals, churches, and associations.

· SPARK Conference. Access to the 2021 SPARK Conference is available to every church and also to individuals. For login information, please contact your pastor, who was emailed all the pertinent information in early September. You are also welcome to contact me. There is value and substance for everyone in the SPARK Conference vault. Please do not neglect or forfeit these resources.

·New Website. We are in the process of developing a new website that will be inclusive for both Mercer and Thomas County Associations. Please pray for this effort. If you have input regarding this effort, please contact Robin Owens or me. We especially welcome input from those God has gifted, equipped, and/or trained in this field.

Seeking first God's Kingdom and his righteousness,
Grant Hignight



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ANNUAL MEETINGS

Mercer Baptist Association
October 3rd, Pauline Baptist, 6pm



The keynote speaker for the MBA Annual Meeting will be Tim Dowdy, Pastor Wellness
Lead Strategist with the GBMB.



Thomas County Baptist Association
October 19th, Boston Baptist, 5:30pm



JJ Washington will be the keynote speaker for the TCBA Annual Meeting. JJ serves as Evangelism Catalyst for the GBMB.



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THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

"In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began."

TITUS 1:2



Week of Prayer *for* Your Local Baptist Association

THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

"...in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began"
Titus 1:2

Day One: Sunday

PRAY TODAY for...your own personal growing relationship with the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" which is essential to BEING a disciple. Pray that you will be with Jesus, become like Jesus and do what Jesus did. **PRAY!**

Day Two: Monday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR FAMILY...Pray for those in your household to embrace the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **PRAY!**

Day Three: Tuesday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR FRIENDS...Pray for you to have an opportunity to share the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" with a close friend in your circle of influence who does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **PRAY!**

Day Four: Wednesday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR CHURCH & YOUR ASSOCIATION...Pray for Christian brothers and sisters who regularly involve themselves in ministries through your church and local Baptist association so the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" is delivered to a lost world. **PRAY!**

Day Five: Thursday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR LEADERS...Pray for your church and local Baptist association leaders to have many opportunities to demonstrate the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" each and every day. Pray for open doors and open hearts. **PRAY!**

Day Six: Friday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR LOST WORLD...Pray for the lost people of the world, a world population which now exceeds 7.8 billion people. Pray that God would use you in your church and local Baptist association to engage lostness with The GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" that some may be saved. **PRAY!**

Day Seven: Saturday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR CALL...The unchurched people in your community need you to share the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" with them! Pray for the Lord to give you clarity concerning the specific ministry or ministries He wants you to be involved in through your church and local Baptist association. **PRAY!**

Day Eight: Sunday

PRAY TODAY for YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...Your church and local Baptist association and the county/cities/ communities/neighborhoods within are strategically and missionally located to disburse the GOSPEL "in hope of eternal life" to ALL. **PRAY!**



THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

"In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began."

TITUS 1:2



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Events

Older Adult Health Fair

Share with your
family and friends

**ACTIVE OLDER ADULT
HEALTH FAIR**
DRIVE-THRU EVENT

Friday, October 8, 2021
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location
The Gathering
12748 US-19 S | Thomasville, GA

- FOR ALL SENIOR ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS
- GATHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
- CONNECT WITH SENIOR SERVICE PROVIDERS
- GIVEAWAYS ON HAND

 Sowega Council on Aging
Contact us for more information
1-800-282-6612



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Ministry Opportunities!

Ministry Opportunities at the Expo-October 19-21

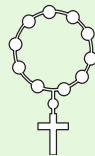
Every year, tens of thousands of visitors and exhibitors attend the Sunbelt Ag Expo and every year volunteers at the Ministries of Georgia Baptist Tent at the Expo have an opportunity to share the love of Christ with them. We are looking for volunteers to join us in this ministry! This is a great opportunity to be involved in a local mission event that reaches people from all across our state and our country!

Tuesday, 19th is our assigned day but you can volunteer one, two or all 3 days!

For more information, contact Robin at 229-225-1177.

Areas to volunteer: Greeters/General Hospitality, Evangelism, Popcorn Poppers, Faith Bracelets, Balloon Art, Face Painters

We will also offer a **Diaper Changing Station** and **Infant Nursing Room** and we need volunteers to help keep the changing station clean and provide hospitality for nursing moms.





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Ministry Opportunities!

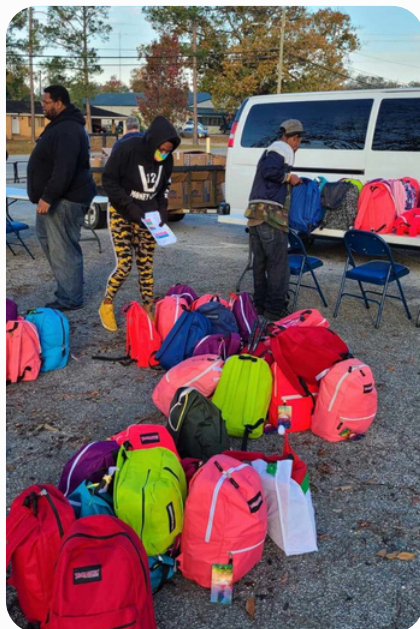


Even during a pandemic, you blessed children and teens in Georgia and Appalachia with 17,625 backpacks

It's not too early to begin planning for your church's participation in this great project!
GABAPTIST.ORG/BACKPACKS

THE OVERALL GOAL FOR 2021 IS 25,000 BACKPACKS

Backpacks have been on backorder but we are hoping to have them in the office by October 7th. They will be around \$4.35 this year. Like everything else, they have gone up. Packed backpacks will be due in our office mid November. More details will be coming soon! We have committed to packing 250 this year but we can always do more!





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**Instant Happiness Lifelong Joy
By Terri Staines**

Through a simple shoebox gift, a child learns that God loves them!

What is it?

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse International Relief (SP) that began in 1993 by sending 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in war-torn Bosnia. What began as a single outreach to hurting children in one country has grown to reaching millions of children in over 170 countries who are receiving shoeboxes and hearing that God loves them for the first time.

How it works.

This ministry is only possible because every year caring individuals like you pack millions of shoeboxes full of quality toys, clothing, school supplies and hygiene items that become a tangible expression of God's love to each recipient. Once collected, OCC collaborates with local churches and leaders around the globe to arrange for shoebox distribution and presentation of the Gospel.

What is its purpose?

Evangelism - OCC's global vision is to evangelize, disciple and multiply, so through one shoebox, a child's instant happiness often turns to lifelong joy when they receive Christ as their Savior. In 2020, OCC collected 9.1 million shoeboxes. Through Build a Shoebox Online (BASBO), OCC delivered nearly 800,000 shoeboxes to over 25 hard-to-reach countries. With approximately 1.9 billion children in the world, OCC is making progress, but the work is not over.

Discipleship - Following the Gospel presentation, local teachers invite the children to participate in the 12-week discipleship program called The Greatest Journey (TGJ). Since its inception in 2009, Samaritan's Purse has trained 1.1 million teachers to lead TGJ; 26.9 million children have enrolled in TGJ, with 18.7 million graduating; 12.6 million children have made professions of faith in Christ. What this means is that, on average, for every 100 shoebox gifts, 21 children are saved!

Multiplication - In communities without churches, shoebox gifts open doors. Many children are surrendering their lives to Christ and in turn leading their families and friends to faith in Christ. Communities are changed and hundreds of churches are planted each year around the world because of this ministry. The ripple effect is exponential.



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One person's story

Alex grew up in an orphanage in war-torn Rwanda. At 7 he received an OCC shoebox, changing his life forever. Click on this link to hear Alex's amazing story: [Sharing God with a Gift \(samaritanspurse.org\)](http://Sharing God with a Gift (samaritanspurse.org)). Hear Alex in person Tuesday, October 19, 6 p.m., at Victory Fellowship Church, 19150 Hwy 19 N, Thomasville, Georgia.

Dates and goals to remember

National Collection Week is November 15-22, 2021. Thomas County Baptist Association will be a Drop Off location this year and will be needing volunteers to staff it. Contact Robin Owens at the Associational Office, 229-225-1177, for more information or to volunteer.

In Matthew 28: 19-20 Jesus commands us, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

****Thomas County is a part of the multi-county Valdosta Area Team.**

Amanda James, Area Coordinator, amandajames86@gmail.com, 912-212-6046

Robin Hawke, Logistics Coordinator, rhawke@bellsouth.net, 229-561-1513

Terri Staines, Administrative Support, terri.staines@windstream.net, 229-300-4969





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National Collection Week Nov. 15–22, 2021

Exciting News!

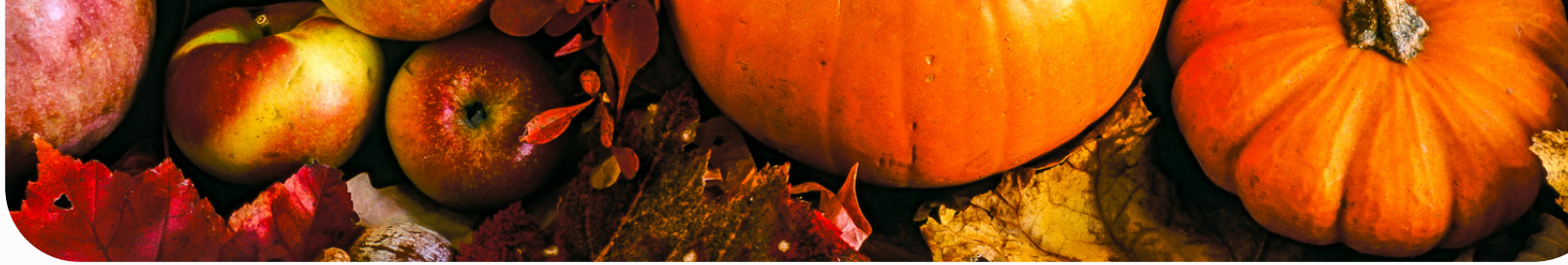
Last month we posted that we will be partnering with
Operation Christmas Child

to serve as the Christmas Shoebox collection center for this area. Our site coordinator will depend on volunteers to make this happen.

Can I add your name to the volunteer list? Collection week is a busy week but you can sign up to work what's convenient for you! Please pray about this area of ministry and if you feel God leading you to join with us, contact Robin!

There will be more info coming soon.





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PASTORS & WIVES
Don't miss this retreat!
Revive, refresh, refill!



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
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)

Legacy Lodge Lobby



Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7 ESV).



Pastor
Appreciation
October 10th



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OCTOBER

Sun Oct 3, 2021

**4:30pm MBA Annual Meeting,
Pauline Baptist Church**

Wed Oct 6, 2021

**10am Pastors Prayer Time [Wed] In Person & Zoom,
TCBA Office**

Thu Oct 7, 2021

10am Pastors Prayer Time [Thu] - Zoom Only

Fri Oct 8, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Sat Oct 9, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Sun Oct 10, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Mon Oct 11, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Tue Oct 12, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Wed Oct 13, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

**10am Pastors Prayer Time [Wed] In Person & Zoom,
TCBA Office**

Thu Oct 14, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

10am Pastors Prayer Time [Thu] - Zoom Only

Fri Oct 15, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Sat Oct 16, 2021

Columbia Vision Trip - SW Region Partnership

Tue Oct 19, 2021

Sunbelt AG Expo

**9am Brooks County Ministerial Association,
First Baptist Church Quitman**

6pm TCBA Annual Meeting,

Boston Baptist Church, 143 S Main St, Boston

Wed Oct 20, 2021

Sunbelt AG Expo

**10am Pastors Prayer Time [Wed] In Person & Zoom,
TCBA Office**

Thu Oct 21, 2021

Sunbelt AG Expo

10am Pastors Prayer Time [Thu] - Zoom Only

Fri Oct 22, 2021

**GBMB Pastors & Wives Retreat (Pastor Wellness),
Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge,**

7000 Lanier Islands Pkwy, Buford, GA

Sat Oct 23, 2021

**GBMB Pastors & Wives Retreat (Pastor Wellness),
Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge,**

7000 Lanier Islands Pkwy, Buford, GA

8:30am Life Skills Conference for Girls,

Pauline Baptist Church, Morven, GA

Sun Oct 24, 2021

**GBMB Pastors & Wives Retreat (Pastor Wellness),
Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge, 7000 Lanier Islands**

Pkwy, Buford, GA

Wed Oct 27, 2021

**10am Pastors Prayer Time [Wed] In Person & Zoom,
TCBA Office**

Thu Oct 28, 2021

**10am Pastors Prayer Time [Thu] - Zoom Only,
TCBA Office**

Sun Oct 31, 2021

**5pm Trunk-or-Treat • Sponsors: Morven, Morrison,
Pauline**

**Lawson Peach Shed, 8545 Valdosta Hwy #133, Morven,
GA**



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**Mercer Baptist Association Giving Report
January 1-August 31, 2021**

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	YTD
Barney Baptist	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	-
Barwick Baptist	\$ 488.45	\$ 606.65	\$ 273.74	\$ -	1,368.84
Beulah Baptist	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	-
Dixie Baptist	\$ 903.60	\$ 883.32	\$ -	\$ -	1,786.92
Elam Baptist	\$ 392.30	\$ 125.21	\$ 237.31	\$ -	754.82
Evergreen Baptist	\$ 243.62	\$ 268.22	\$ 141.30	\$ -	653.14
First Baptist	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	6,000.00
Friendship Baptist	\$ 200.00	\$ 423.00	\$ -	\$ -	623.00
Morrison Baptist	\$ 314.07	\$ 405.87	\$ 264.71	\$ -	984.65
Morven Baptist	\$ 1,148.28	\$ 575.78	\$ 1,129.03	\$ -	2,853.09
Northside Baptist	\$ 405.41	\$ 397.79	\$ 233.03	\$ -	1,036.23
Ochlawilla Baptist	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	1,800.00
Okapilco Baptist	\$ 527.00	\$ 679.00	\$ -	\$ -	1,206.00
Pauline Baptist	\$ 873.12	\$ 1,130.60	\$ 638.03	\$ -	2,641.75
Philadelphia Bapt	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	1,000.00
Union Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	900.00
Totals	\$ 9,595.85	\$ 8,795.44	\$ 5,217.15	\$ -	\$ 23,608.44

PROVERBS 11:25

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Thomas County Baptist Association Giving Report
January 1-August 31, 2021

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	YTD
Antioch Baptist	\$ 1,943.15	\$ 720.73	\$ 930.79	\$	\$ 3,594.67
Barnetts Creek Baptist	\$ 483.36	\$ 555.13	\$ 546.87	\$	\$ 1,585.36
Big Creek Baptist	\$ 454.77	\$ 540.80	\$ 293.62	\$	\$ 1,289.19
Big Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 300.00
Boston Baptist	\$ 506.02	\$ 241.52	\$ 595.91	\$	\$ 1,343.45
Coolidge Memorial Baptist	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 3,500.00
Dawson Street Baptist	\$ 3,014.88	\$ 3,014.88	\$ 2,009.92	\$	\$ 8,039.68
Enon Baptist	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$	\$ 500.00
Thomasville First Baptist	\$ 4,167.33	\$ 8,336.00	\$ 6,252.00	\$	\$ 18,755.33
First Newark Baptist	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$	\$ 9,000.00
Fredonia Baptist	\$ 380.34	\$ 468.76	\$ 290.88	\$	\$ 1,139.98
Friendship Baptist	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$	\$ 125.00
Gatlin Creek Baptist	\$ 738.48	\$ 1,982.00	\$ 1,246.98	\$	\$ 3,967.46
Little Ochlocknee Baptist		\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -
Meigs Baptist	\$ 1,768.34	\$ 1,459.09	\$ 599.10	\$	\$ 3,826.53
Merrillville Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -
Midway Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -
New Day Christian	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00	\$	\$ 175.00
New Growth Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ -
New Shiloh Baptist	\$ 417.01	\$ 207.84	\$ 326.56	\$	\$ 951.41
Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$	\$ 900.00
Pavo Baptist	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$	\$ 300.00
Pineland Baptist	\$ 1,249.98	\$ 1,249.98	\$ 833.32	\$	\$ 3,333.28
Salem Baptist	\$ 1,001.40	\$ 936.36	\$ 822.21	\$	\$ 2,759.97
Summerhill Baptist	\$ 219.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 166.00	\$	\$ 596.00
Totals	\$ 23,994.06	\$ 23,699.09	\$ 18,289.16	\$ -	\$ 65,982.31

HEBREWS 6:10

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”



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ASSOCIATIONAL CONTACT INFO



Associational Mission Strategist

Grant Hignight
mercer.thomas.ams@gmail.com
229-200-0336

Ministry Assistants

Mercer Baptist Association
Caryn Robinson
crobinson64@windstream.net

Karen Haineault
twofrogzkh@hotmail.com
229-834-4654

Thomas County Baptist Association
Robin Owens
1020 Remington Ave.
Thomasville, GA 31792
rowens@thomascountybaptist.org
229-225-1177
Office Hours: Tue/Thu 8:30-3:30

Mercer Baptist Annual Meeting

October 3, 2021

6 pm

Pauline Baptist Church

Thomas County Baptist Annual Meeting

October 19, 2021

5:30 pm

Boston Baptist Church