

VOLUME 9 • SEPTEMBER 2021

# MERCER-THOMAS BAPTIST NETWORK

## 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



## TAKE A PEEK!

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Welcome  
Pastor Paul Ballard  
to Thomasville First  
Baptist Church



**PRAY. LOVE. SERVE.**

This month's newsletter will not have an article from our AMS. As most of you know, Grant and Yolonda Hignight are currently recovering from Covid. Grant is at home but Yolonda is still hospitalized. We know your prayers are making a difference and ask that you continue to petition on their behalf. They have a long recovery ahead of them.



“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20



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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. 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-October 19th, Boston Baptist, 5:30pm

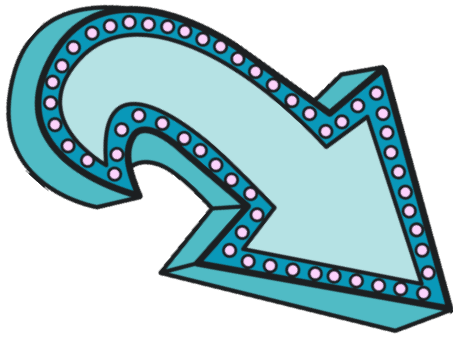
TCBA has invited JJ Washington to be the keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting being held on **October 19th** at 5:30. Boston Baptist Church will be hosting the meeting this year.

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.





# ACR DUE

The **Annual Church Report (ACR)** is the collection of information from every church in our association. It tells a congregation's story and allows the church to keep a history of leadership and statistics. The goal of the ACP is to accurately describe the relationships and changes in relationships across the SBC. However, when fewer congregations participate year after year, it's difficult to paint a clear picture. Each church in our association are members of our SBC family and we want to encourage every church to participate in the ACR.



When are reports due?



The **Annual Church Report (ACR)** is to be completed and submitted online no later than September 30th. Emails have been sent out with the necessary information to log in and complete the reports. If you have not received your email, please contact Robin. I can NOT express how important this information is. Please take the time to gather the information and enter it.

Many thanks!



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# Ministry Opportunities!

## Ministry Opportunities at the Expo-October 19-21

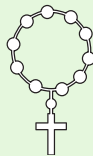
Every year, tens of thousands of visitors and exhibitors attend the Sunbelt Ag Expo and every year volunteers at the Ministries of Georgia Baptist Tent at the Expo have an opportunity to share the love of Christ with them. We are looking for volunteers to join us in this ministry! This is a great opportunity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

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!



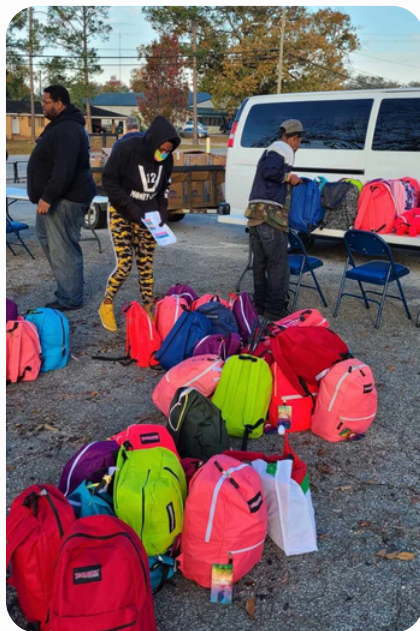
Even during a pandemic, you blessed children and teens in Georgia and Appalachia with 17,625 backpacks

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

[GABAPTIST.ORG/BACKPACKS](http://GABAPTIST.ORG/BACKPACKS)

THE OVERALL GOAL FOR 2021 IS 25,000 BACKPACKS

Backpacks should be available at the association office by September 9th.







## 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](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)



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# SUMMER MISSIONS

Mercer Baptist Association



Did we have fun? YES! Did we have struggles? YES! Did we share the Gospel of Jesus? YES! Will we do it again? YES! These questions are the ones we asked ourselves daily. God always goes before us and prepares a way for us to serve Him! The summer missionaries (Nathan Dukes and Meagan Chastain) and I were very busy this summer doing God's work! We did outreach, Vacation Bible Schools, Bible study, and so much more!

I have been blessed every summer with wonderful summer missionaries! God placed on their hearts to serve Him and that's exactly what we did. I am very thankful that some of Mercer's churches had Vacation Bible School and the summer missionaries participated in most of them. When more than one VBS is scheduled for the same week, the first church to request the missionaries will be assigned them to help, so get your dates in for next year!

Most of the church VBS's were in June and we held outside VBS's in July. When you go and set up, you never know who you will meet. We were blessed to have children and parents join us and show interest in the Bible stories we taught. We had three children accept Jesus and we had such a celebration!!!

We were also blessed by a Love Offering from one of Mercer's churches. That was an answer to prayer! We also had more volunteer participation this year from several churches. God is so good and He prepares us to serve Him! God does not call the equipped, He equips the called! What is He calling you to do? Are you listening to Him? Is He calling you to work for Him next summer? Let me know. We don't stop because summer ends. We continue to take Jesus with us throughout the year and serve Him whenever and wherever we are. Come, join us and spread God's love!

Karen Haineault  
Mercer Baptist Association  
Summer Missions

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Mercer Baptist Association

# SUMMER MISSIONS



The summer of 2021 would be my 3rd official year as a missionary, with these years under my belt I can say that I have experienced a lot of struggles and trials. I would say that my main hardship was staying motivated, I was working 2 other jobs starting at 6:00am and would rush to get from one place to another on time, which I failed multiple times. I would start my days off at 6:00am work until I needed to get off for my next job and do that until my jobs were completed late that afternoon. To stay healthy and uphold this temple God has blessed me with I would then go to the gym with some buddies every night and wouldn't get home till after midnight and wake up and do it all again the next day. After a few weeks of doing that my body began to feel it, I wasn't getting enough rest and I would become tired and my body would ache and there would be times I considered skipping out on a few events, however I would pray and tell myself "if you skip now, that's one less lost soul that you could reach" so I would ask God for guidance and strength to keep pushing on. My second personal hardship would be my ability to connect with children, I tend to do better with older children, but most of our students would be younger. I would try my best to connect and show the love of God but there was always that thought of doubt in my head that I'm not going to be able to connect. Besides my personal struggle, I believe the biggest struggle that affected us as a team was the weather, we had to cancel, cut time short, and move events around.

With these struggles comes peace, peace knowing that we are doing the Lords work which is why the devil attacked us so much. The most beautiful thing to witness is someone surrendering their lives to the one true God, and I witnessed 3 children do that at Hill Street later in the weeks of summer. Before Hill Street, at my home church, we had a magician come and perform for the vbs at FBC Quitman and this little boy named Preston pulled me aside after the show and said that he prayed the prayer to accept God into his heart but was too scared to tell anyone. He chose to come to me and tell me and we talked it out and prayed and I gained another brother in Christ, the biggest blessing I could ever ask for.

I am sad to see the summer end and must go back to school, but because the summer ended does not mean that my duty as a missionary has. I am blessed to be able to come to college and continue the spreading of the word of God. Working as a summer missionary always helps me improve and strengthen my relationship with Him and as my 3rd year, I can say I'm not done growing yet. Every year is something different, new challenges, pandemics, and new people. Just like the summer I never know what to expect, but I do know that whatever I do, the Lord is walking beside me and guiding me wherever I go.

Nathan Dukes, Summer Missionary



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Mercer Baptist Association

# SUMMER MISSIONS



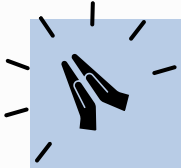
As a missionary this summer, I have encountered many new people and experiences while sharing God's grace. The circumstances were not always in our favor whether it was because of rain or a lack of interest from people. Some of the hardships I faced doing this work included preparing myself for lessons and getting over my uneasiness when talking in front of strangers. Throughout this summer, I also had to get used to relying on myself to remember when certain events took place that weren't on our calendar, like weekly meetings. Being in south Georgia, we were also faced with unconventional weather conditions that interfered with our plans on different occasions.

With hardships come blessings, which there were plenty of this summer. Even when the odds seemed to be against us, God provided people for us to share his message with. As the summer went on I became more comfortable talking to strangers, especially when I got to see the effect the message had on people. At one point, there was a man who added on to our message by telling his favorite bible stories and there were multiple kids who accepted Jesus into their hearts after hearing more about God. This summer I've also become more independent because of the responsibility of creating bible lessons and having people rely on me to show up and spread the word of God. Even when the weather wasn't working in our favor, we would still disciple to people by showing up and making our presence known.

Overall, this summer has taught me that anyone can make a difference. With the courage and motivation that God brings, all is possible and seeing the way that God has spoken to people through me has really strengthened my relationship with him. At first, I wasn't sure what I would get from this summer, but I am really glad that I chose to trust God and go along with His plans for me. If I hadn't, then I wouldn't have been able to meet some of the nicest and life experienced people I know today.

Meagan Chastain, Summer Missionary

# News to Know



Please pray for our churches who are currently without pastors:  
Coolidge Memorial (Jim Hayes, interim); Meigs;  
Midway (Dennis Norman, Interim);  
New Growth; Ochlocknee; and Pavo.

## How Any Christian Can Preserve and Increase Biblical Values In Culture, Policy, and Government

The Committee on Public Affairs is responsible to give voice on behalf of the Georgia Baptist Convention to its thought and position on public policy and social issues as approved in reports or resolutions by the Georgia Baptist Convention. Public Affairs Training will be held locally on **September 28**, in Moultrie. To register, click here:

<https://gabaptist.org/public-affairs-trainings-2021/>

A promotional banner for the 2021 Public Affairs Training. The top section features a photograph of a family (a woman, a man, and a child) looking at a book. The Georgia Baptist logo is in the top left. The middle section has a yellow background with the text '2021 PUBLIC AFFAIRS TRAINING' in white. The bottom section has a red background with the text 'How Any Christian Can Preserve and Increase Biblical Values In Culture, Policy, and Government' in white. The background of the bottom section shows a church interior with pews.

Georgia Baptist

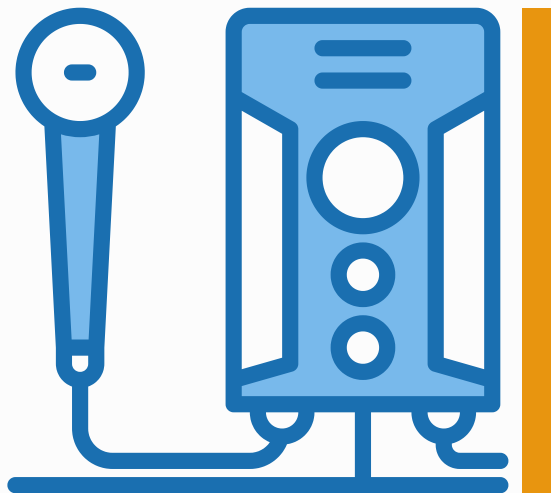
2021  
**PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS  
TRAINING**

How Any Christian Can Preserve and Increase  
Biblical Values In **Culture, Policy, and Government**



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# HELP WANTED



Since moving to Southern Pines Assisted Living with Mrs. Joyce, Bro. Harold Thomaston has been leading a Sunday morning worship session at the invitation of folks from Southern Pines. Bro. Harold has requested a small, portable sound system to better serve his fellow residents in this Kingdom endeavor. Please contact Bro. Harold or Grant Hignight ASAP if you can assist with this request.

Thomas County Baptist Association is looking for an individual or individuals to volunteer to do basic cleaning maybe once or twice a month. If you feel led to volunteer, please let Robin know.



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SEPTEMBER

**Wed Sep 1, 2021**

9:30am SW AMS Zoom Prayer Mtg

**Thu Sep 2, 2021**

10am Pastors Prayer Time

TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave, Thomasville, GA

**Tue Sep 7, 2021**

7pm MBA Men's Meeting

Location TBD

**Wed Sep 8, 2021**

9:30am SW AMS Zoom Prayer Mtg

**Thu Sep 9, 2021**

10am Pastors Prayer Time

TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave, Thomasville, GA

**Wed Sep 15, 2021**

9:30am SW AMS Zoom Prayer Mtg

2pm AM Peer Learning via Zoom ~ Lex Bowen, Facilitator

**Thu Sep 16, 2021**

10am Pastors Prayer Time

TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave, Thomasville, GA

**Tue Sep 21, 2021**

9am Brooks County Ministerial Association

First Baptist Church Quitman, 509 W Screven St, Quitman, GA

**Wed Sep 22, 2021**

9:30am SW AMS Zoom Prayer Mtg

**Thu Sep 23, 2021**

10am Pastors Prayer Time

TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave, Thomasville, GA

**Wed Sep 29, 2021**

9:30am SW AMS Zoom Prayer Mtg

11am SW Region Consultants

TCBA Office

**Thu Sep 30, 2021**

10am Pastors Prayer Time

TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave, Thomasville, GA



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

	<b>Jan-Mar</b>	<b>Apr-Jun</b>	<b>July-Sept</b>	<b>Oct-Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Barney Baptist</b>	\$ -				\$ -
<b>Barwick Baptist</b>	\$ 488.45	\$ 606.65			\$ 1,095.10
<b>Beulah Baptist</b>	\$ -				\$ -
<b>Dixie Baptist</b>	\$ 903.60	\$ 883.32			\$ 1,786.92
<b>Elam Baptist</b>	\$ 392.30	\$ 125.21			\$ 517.51
<b>Evergreen Baptist</b>	\$ 243.62	\$ 268.22	\$ 59.80		\$ 571.64
<b>First Baptist</b>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 750.00		\$ 5,250.00
<b>Friendship Baptist</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ 423.00			\$ 623.00
<b>Morrison Baptist</b>	\$ 314.07	\$ 405.87	\$ 119.75		\$ 839.69
<b>Morven Baptist</b>	\$ 1,148.28	\$ 575.78	\$ 397.66		\$ 2,121.72
<b>Northside Baptist</b>	\$ 405.41	\$ 397.79	\$ 114.03		\$ 917.23
<b>Ochlawilla Baptist</b>	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 1,800.00
<b>Okapilco Baptist</b>	\$ 527.00	\$ 679.00			\$ 1,206.00
<b>Pauline Baptist</b>	\$ 873.12	\$ 1,130.60	\$ 297.30		\$ 2,301.02
<b>Philadelphia Bapt</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
<b>Union Baptist</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 600.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 9,595.85</b>	<b>\$ 8,795.44</b>	<b>\$ 2,238.54</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 20,629.83</b>

**PROVERBS 11:25**

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

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

	<b>Jan-Mar</b>	<b>Apr-Jun</b>	<b>July-Sept</b>	<b>Oct-Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Antioch Baptist</b>	\$ 1,943.15	\$ 720.73	\$ 471.62		\$ 3,135.50
<b>Barnetts Creek Baptist</b>	\$ 483.36	\$ 555.13	\$ 179.05		\$ 1,217.54
<b>Big Creek Baptist</b>	\$ 454.77	\$ 540.80	\$ 144.62		\$ 1,140.19
<b>Big Ochlocknee Baptist</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 300.00
<b>Boston Baptist</b>	\$ 506.02	\$ 241.52	\$ 413.08		\$ 1,160.62
<b>Coolidge Memorial Baptist</b>	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 3,500.00
<b>Dawson Street Baptist</b>	\$ 3,014.88	\$ 3,014.88	\$ 1,004.96		\$ 7,034.72
<b>Enon Baptist</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 450.00
<b>Thomasville First Baptist</b>	\$ 4,167.33	\$ 8,336.00	\$ 4,168.00		\$ 16,671.33
<b>First Newark Baptist</b>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 8,000.00
<b>Fredonia Baptist</b>	\$ 380.34	\$ 468.76	\$ 137.76		\$ 986.86
<b>Friendship Baptist</b>	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		\$ 125.00
<b>Gatlin Creek Baptist</b>	\$ 738.48	\$ 1,982.00	\$ -		\$ 2,720.48
<b>Little Ochlocknee Baptist</b>		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
<b>Meigs Baptist</b>	\$ 1,768.34	\$ 1,459.09	\$ 271.54		\$ 3,498.97
<b>Merrillville Baptist</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
<b>Midway Baptist</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
<b>New Day Christian</b>	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 150.00
<b>New Growth Baptist</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
<b>New Shiloh Baptist</b>	\$ 417.01	\$ 207.84	\$ -		\$ 624.85
<b>Ochlocknee Baptist</b>	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ 700.00
<b>Pavo Baptist</b>	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -		\$ 300.00
<b>Pineland Baptist</b>	\$ 1,249.98	\$ 1,249.98	\$ 416.66		\$ 2,916.62
<b>Salem Baptist</b>	\$ 1,001.40	\$ 936.36	\$ 822.21		\$ 2,759.97
<b>Summerhill Baptist</b>	\$ 219.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 107.00		\$ 537.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 23,994.06</b>	<b>\$ 23,699.09</b>	<b>\$ 10,236.50</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 57,929.65</b>

**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**