

Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

Volume 18: August-September 2026

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Please check the Hightower Baptist Association Website Calendar for upcoming events in our Association at [Calendar – Hightower Baptist Association](#). Reporters, please keep telling others about this newsletter. Let us continue to glorify our Father for the many things He is doing through your churches. Let's make the next deadline for sending in the news be **September 30, 2026** for the **October-November** issue. Send your good news and announcements to Janice Tallant, janicetallant@yahoo.com Again, PLEASE spread the word about these newsletters!

Hightower Association News

Discipleship Foundations Training was held at Oak Grove Baptist Church on June 6. After a delicious meal served by Boots on the Ground folks, Rev. Tommy Weldy and Bro Jason Power welcomed all and began the meeting. **Brother Maged Atallah**, was our guest speaker and explained the Islamic worldview and how to effectively share the Gospel with Muslims in our communities. It was very interesting.



Hightower Baptist Association Meeting

Wednesday, September 30th at 9:00am will be the 191st Hightower Baptist Association meeting at Coal Mountain Baptist Church.



Attention All Church Clerks!! Bro. Joey Wallace, HBA Clerk, will need all of the CHURCH CLERKS in the Hightower Baptist Association churches to send in the names of your church delegates for the Association meeting AND the deceased members' sheet to Joey by September 21, 2026, so he will have this ready for the Association meeting on September 30. Each church clerk should have received a package with all the details in it for the Annual Church Report that the Association needs. If you have any questions, please contact Joey at joey@hightowerbaptist.net or call him at 770-633-9000. All **other church information** for our 2026 Association minutes should be sent to Joey by November 15, 2026. There are other instructions in the package that each church clerk received.

Joey said that the **Georgia Baptist Convention** will mail out their forms directly to the churches this year. I looked online at what numbers will be needed for the Georgia Baptist Annual church report. They are the same as last year: Total membership, average weekly In Person Worship attendance; average weekly In Person Small Group (Sunday School) attendance; total number of Baptisms; number of other additions to church; total VBS enrollment; undesignated receipts; gifts to local Baptist Association. This online report does also ask for names and addresses for various leaders in our churches. You can do this report online. I believe you can find this at <https://ga.sbcworkspace.com> (you will need your church user name and password that will be in your GBC ACR package).

According to the 190th Hightower Baptist Association Minutes, 26 of the 53 Associational Churches did not have any church members reported. I know most of these churches do have members and are very active churches. Please look in these minutes to see how many members that you have in your church. If your church was not reported, please check with your church clerk. I am clerk of Friendship Baptist Church, and I use these Hightower Association minutes regularly to find other clerks to contact or who are WMU leaders or who has Senior Groups, etc. It is a valuable source of information to me as church clerk and as a member of the Hightower Association History Committee and for these newsletters. Didn't get 2025 minutes? Check out the last Association Meeting minutes at https://hightowerbaptist.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/190th_Session_2025.pdf Please see information elsewhere in this volume about the HBA 100th Anniversary in 1935 held at Coal Mountain Baptist Church. Thank you! Janice Tallant

Load the Truck



Of course, we are talking about the annual drive for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home collections that the Association has been doing for a few years. In the last several years, WHAT we load on the truck has

changed. I remember at one time our Associational churches were asked to bring in certain household items to the Association meeting to "load a truck" with such things as paper towels, dishwashing detergent, canned vegetables, vegetable oils, etc. Other Associations were asked to take other foods or household goods which were divided out for Children's Home cottages. Around the Covid 19 pandemic we started collecting Gift Cards or cash (or checks) only for "Load the Truck". This year our Association is asked to make donations of **Walmart, MasterCard, or Visa gift cards**. You may also give **cash or a check** made payable to GBCHFM. Please place your donations in an envelope with the TOTAL of your donations written on the envelope so that the amount collected from Hightower Association can be quickly counted. **Chris Martin will be at the meeting at 8 a.m. to receive your donations for the Children's Home until the meeting commences at 9 a.m. and the total will be announced at the 191st Association meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.**

Boots on the Ground



On August 1, 2026, Boots on the Ground held a Back to School Community Outreach Event: Sharing God's Love- Lending a Hand in the Dawson County Jr. High parking lot. Lunch was provided. Available supplies were given out including clothes and school supplies. Free haircuts were given.



Here is a picture of those baptized at the Boots on the Ground Baptism on July 12. You can watch this baptizing on Facebook. What a beautiful event! God bless all these new Christians and those who baptized these people. So thankful for all that the Boots on the Ground group are doing in our communities.

Hightower Baptist Association Church News and Announcements!!!



Antioch Baptist Church: (2465 Antioch Road, Cumming, GA)

Please see the flyer at the left for upcoming events at Antioch Baptist Church.

Revival will be on Sunday, August 16, at 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. with Rev. Dennis Bottoms.

Singing on August 30, at 6 p.m. with the Dove Brothers.

Mark your calendar for a **singing on November 15, at 6 p.m. with the Down East Boys.**

Rev. Travis Bridgeman, Pastor

Brookwood Baptist Church: (2775 Brookwood Rd, Cumming, GA)

 **4th Annual Classic Cruise-In:** Hosted by the Brookwood Baptist Church Men's Brotherhood. Join us for a day of incredible cars, delicious food, and great fellowship! All proceeds from this event directly support our mission fundraiser.

Date: Saturday, October 10th; Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

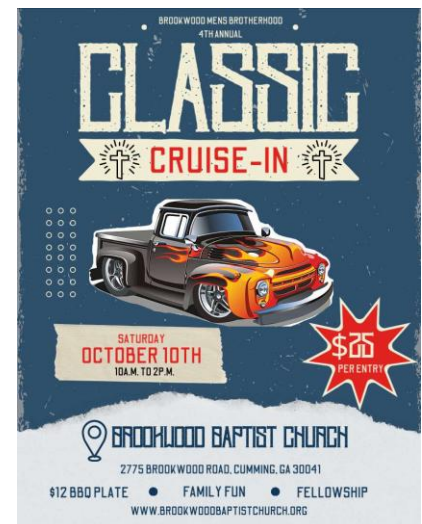
Vehicle Entry Fee: \$25.00 per auto; Food: \$12.00 BBQ Plates available

Activities: Family-friendly fun and kids' activities

Revival News: We are so thankful for the **two men who were baptized** on Sunday, July 26 and for the spirit-filled revival week with Rev. Craig Richards assisting our Pastor Tommy Weldy.

Our **Wednesday Night Program** will resume August 12th. Join us for dinner at 6:00PM with group breakouts immediately following for

Nursery, Kindergarten-5th grades, 6th-9th/10th grades, 11th-College and adult bible study.



Corinth Baptist Church: (1700 Mary Alice Park Rd, Cumming, GA)

Corinth will be hosting a **BBQ plate Fundraiser** on two days, Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please see full details in flyer on the left.

Cross Plains Baptist Church:

Cross Plains Baptist Church would like to announce the **Ordination of Brother Andy Jones into the full Ministry of the Gospel.** Brother Andy has been called to pastor Island Ford Baptist Church in Buford, GA. The Ordination service will be held at Cross Plains Baptist Church on August 30, 2026, at 3:00 PM. We would like to invite all Ordained Preachers and Deacons to attend and take part in this service. If you are unable to attend, please pray for Brother Andy and his family as he follows the Lord's calling in his life. Thank you, Gary Hickmon, Clerk of Church. Rev. Tim Biddy, Pastor



Friendship Baptist Church: (2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming)

Revival News: Rev. Lucas Watson and Rev. Caleb Byrd assisted Pastor Ricky Byrd in an uplifting and inspiring revival. **One soul was saved during revival and 6 souls were saved during VBS week.** Rev. Byrd **baptized 6 candidates** on July 19 and another baptizing will be held soon.

The 16th Annual Run for the Son Car show was very successful on August 1. Thank you to all who did anything to help with this fundraiser. Church Camp was enjoyed by all attending at Truett Conference Center in NC on July 24-26.

Wednesday Youth Programs, Choir Practices, and Bible Studies will start back on August 26, 2026. Dinner is served and all ages are encouraged to attend these evenings.

Bethel Baptist Church: (2659 Hwy 136 W., Dawsonville)

Revival News: Bethel enjoyed a spirit filled revival as Pastor Hunter Burt was assisted by Rev. Russell Burt and Rev. Jason Hamby. Following a week of great preaching and fellowship, **five candidates were baptized** on Sunday July 26th. Praise the Lord!!

Church Camp is planned for August 7-9, 2026, at Camp Hope in Dahlonega.

Wednesday night services will resume on Wednesday night September 9th at 7pm.

Planning is also underway for **Bethel's annual care show**. The date for this year's show will be Saturday October 31st.

As summer break winds down, we are thankful for the souls that have been saved, the great revivals held across the association - and beyond. We pray for our teachers and students as they return to the classroom and those who are still lost in sin. (Thank you, Lanier Swafford for reporting.)

Macedonia Baptist Church: (11230 East Cherokee Drive, Ball Ground, GA)

Macedonia's church camp will be held during Labor Day Weekend at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, Georgia.

Revival News: We had **six baptized** after revival this summer. **Two were saved** during our summer revival and the others were saved earlier. (Thank you, Marie Warbington!)

New Harmony Baptist Church: (4952 Heardsville Rd., Cumming)

Revival News: New Harmony Baptist Church had **4 souls saved** at VBS in June, and a great revival with spirit filled preaching from Rev. Dennis Bottoms, Rev. Sylvester Ridings, Rev. Mark Bottoms and Rev. Larry Waddell with **two baptized**. We thank God for the souls saved and baptized and the wonderful week of Revival.

New Harmony Baptist Church Camp is September 11th, 12th & 13th at Camp Hope in Dahlonega.

Oak Grove Baptist Church: (5640 Oak Grove Circle, Cumming, GA)

Oak Grove church camp will be at Strong Rock in Cleveland, Ga on August 7-9, 2026.

Shady Grove Baptist Church: (6910 Shady Grove Rd., Cumming)

Revival News: We had a wonderful revival with Pastor Jerry Fraizer and helpers Wilson Pruitt and Johnny Purcell. We had **1 soul saved**.

Church camp is at Strong Rock August 28-30. (Thank you, Angie Bagley)

Thank you, Lord, for these 22 people who were baptized in these reporting churches this summer!



Hightower Food and Clothing Bank

Church Volunteer Schedule 2026

We are asking that all **1st District churches** plan to send volunteers and ministers for our 3rd Quarter HBAFCB distributions. **ALL CHURCHES are welcome to volunteer anytime.** **2nd District Churches will work 3rd Quarter.**

On August 8 and September 12, 2026, 2nd District Churches are asked to volunteer at the Food/Clothing Bank. These churches are: Bethel (D and F), Concord, Cross Roads, Dawsonville, Etowah, Goshen, Harmony, Harmony Grove, Juno, Liberty, New Bethel, Ridgeview

Next distributions dates are August 8 and September 12. We meet at 7:30 am for prayer before we open the doors at 8am.

Web site: www.hbafoodbank.org, [Hightower Association Food Bank](http://www.hightowerassociation.org) , 8630 Wallace Tatum Rd, Cumming, GA 30028 · (770) 205-2464

Hightower Baptist Association WMU News

There is an abundance of resources and inspirational materials available to our WMUs. Need help starting a WMU, strengthening your current WMU, or looking for new mission ideas at your church across all age groups?

Has your church changed Directors for the upcoming church year? If you are a new WMU Director or are not currently receiving Associational updates, or need assistance with WMU development, please email **Stacey Gonzales** at hightowerwmu@gmail.com.

Join Selah 365: Women's Ministry Online Leadership Training on August 10 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM via Zoom. This quick session is ideal for WMU Directors and women's ministry leaders. Registration details will be emailed to WMU directors soon. Please share with your church!

The Georgia Baptist Mission Board has an incredible lineup of events starting in August designed to equip our local churches, empower leaders, and ignite faith and purpose across all age groups. There is a tailored workshop waiting for you!



The Total Church-Equipping Conference

Who is SPARK for?

Lay Leaders, Children's Leaders, Women's Ministry Leaders, Men's Ministry Leaders, Missions Coordinators, Student Pastors, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors... anyone involved in ministry and equipping.

Everyone can benefit!

It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry; there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level! These are 1-day only conferences from 3:15PM-8:15PM. \$15 fee, dinner provided. **40** breakout sessions to choose from ranging in topics such as Church Revitalization, Grief Care, Discipleship, Evangelism, Hispanic, Men's Ministry, Missions, Next Gen Kids, High School & Collegiate Ministry, Women's Ministry, Worship Music, etc.

Choose from six Georgia locations: Thomson (8/16), Cartersville (8/23), Hiawassee (8/30), Americus (9/13), Fayetteville (9/20), Valdosta (9/27) Register & Learn More:

https://www.thesparkconference.com/2026_dates



Register & Learn More: <https://gabaptist.org/mens-ministry-events/>

Stronger Together Conference | Warner Robins | August 22 | 8:00AM – 5:00PM

Strong Homes. Effective workplaces. Thriving Churches.

Georgia Men's Summit | Vidalia | October 8 | 6:30-9:00PM

What's at stake for men. A men's rally for the next generation leaders.

Register & Learn More:

<https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/Women-in-Ministry-Retreat-2026/626131>

A weekend retreat for women of all ages. Register & Learn More:



September 18-19, 2026 | Pinnacle Retreat Center

<https://georgiabaptistwomen.org/womenseries/>

Keynote Speaker: Sandra Wisdom-Martin, Executive Director-Treasurer, national Woman's Missionary Union. The retreat starts Friday afternoon and ends Saturday afternoon at 3:00PM. Registration deadline: September 1

Register & Learn More:



Be Part of the First NextGen Girls' Conference

A brand-new event for 6th–12th grade girls is coming to Georgia.

On **September 26**, girls from across the state will gather at **Calvary Baptist Church in Columbus** for a day of worship, biblical teaching, and encouragement centered on one shared purpose: *Jesus*.

Featuring keynote speaker Amanda Mejias, Lifeway Girls Brand Specialist, the inaugural NextGen Girls' Conference will help students grow in their faith and take their next step in making Jesus known.

All attendees must register as part of a group.

<https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/nextgen-girls2026/630406>

Up to 4 adult leaders per group may attend at no cost as guests of Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Register & Learn More: <https://confluencega.com/>



Are You A Woman In Ministry? Join Us in September.

As a woman in ministry, you encourage, organize, teach, listen, lead, and faithfully serve in ways that often go unseen. The relationships you build and the ministry you provide make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

With that in mind, please make plans to join us for the **2026 Georgia Baptist Women in Ministry Retreat, September 10–12**, at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands.

Whether you serve full-time, part-time, or bi-vocationally, this retreat is designed with you in mind.

It's an opportunity to step away from the routines and responsibilities of ministry for a few days, enjoy meaningful conversations with other women who understand ministry life, share plenty of laughter, worship together, and simply receive encouragement.



Bring Your College Students to Confluence in October

College and university students from across Georgia will gather October 9–11 at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church for a weekend centered on Jesus.

Through worship, biblical teaching, community, and fun, students will be challenged to grow in their faith and make Jesus known on their campuses.

Keynotes: **Levi Skipper** and **Shane Pruitt**

Worship led by **Daniel Doss**

Registration is for church and BCM groups only.

Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting 2026: Save the Date!

The 204th Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will be held **November 8-10, 2026, at Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins, GA.** <https://gbcannualmeeting.com> If your church donates to the Cooperative Program, check and see how many delegates that your church may send to the Convention meeting. The meetings are very interesting and you hear great sermons and inspiration to carry back to your church.

Mission Story



Friendship Baptist Church once again sponsored one of their members, **Joseph Vandergrift**, on a collegiate mission trip to the Dominican Republic during Georgia Southern University's spring break week, March 14-21, 2026. Joseph, along with eight of his Phi Delta Theta fraternity members, and approximately 80 other students from various fraternities and sororities at Georgia Southern University (GSU) traveled to the community of Doña Ana, to deliver and install water filters to the community so that families could have clean drinking water.

The group, working through Filter of Hope and Cru Ministries partnered with local church leaders and visited families in the rural areas of Doña Ana to install water filters into 5-gallon buckets at the homes of local families. Each water filter installed would provide up to 250-gallons of clean drinking water each day and would last for at least 10-years with a once daily cleaning of the water filter. In addition to installing water filters, each family was given a Spanish translation of the New Testament Bible, and the groups shared their individual testimonies with the families. At the end of the mission trip, the group had installed a total of 576 water filters, which would impact a total of 2,888 people in Doña Ana, 991 people had heard the gospel, and 170 people prayed and received Christ as their Savior. Not only were the people of Doña Ana positively impacted, but approximately 20 of the GSU students on the mission trip prayed and accepted Christ as their Savior.



Associational History for this Newsletter:

As I went through old HBA minutes, I found copies of the 1935 100th Anniversary edition of the Association minutes. There was a special segment about events of the first 100 years so I am going to share some of those highlights with you as we are nearing the 200th Anniversary that will be here before we even can believe it.

The **first Hightower Baptist Association Meeting was at Silver Spring Church in November 1835** located about one mile northeast of Coal Mountain Baptist Church. This church was dissolved about 1885. Three churches have served the Coal Mountain community over all these years: Silver Spring, Mt. Moriah, and Coal Mountain.

The organization was started by eleven churches with a membership of about 500. First District was Beaver Ruin, Cumming, Island Ford. Second District was Mt. Tabor, Silver Spring, Hightower, Liberty. Third district was Providence, Little River, Mt. Zion, Arrarat, “afterward Antioch, Lumpkin County.” Union meetings were usually held for two days during July, usually on Thursday and Friday.

Elder Richard Phillips was the chosen Moderator for the first three sessions. In 1838, **Elder Alfred Webb** (February 1, 1800- October 6, 1883) was chosen as Moderator, which served in this position for 40 years except in 1839. He was ordained to Gospel Ministry in 1837. (You can find all the previous moderators and clerks listed in our current HBA Minutes in the back of the book.) Pastors, **Elder Alfred Webb** was pastor of the following churches: Concord 41 years, Mt. Tabor 42 years, Mt. Vernon 40 years, Hightower 34 years, and others. In addition to his time in Hightower Association, he was Moderator of the Catawba Association in North Carolina for 8 years. He traveled in all the states from Virginia to Mississippi, as a Missionary, with little compensation for his services. Elder Webb was married to Arrabella Hill. They had no children of their own but did raise several orphans. (I can’t imagine how much work he had to do to serve as pastors for these many churches even if they did just meet one Sunday a month. You can find some of his sermons and addresses to the Association meetings in *The Men and Missions of Hightower Volume I- Ministries*.

Here is a little information about what was going on in the Association in 1935 at the 100th Anniversary Meeting that was held August 7, 8, 9, 1935 (Wednesday-Friday) at Coal Mountain Baptist Church. It was held on the ground where “once stood Silver Spring Church, one mile north of the present location of Coal Mountain.” **Rev. C E Warren** was elected Moderator, **Rev. D M Nalley**, Asst. Moderator, and **Ivan C Otwell**, Clerk. The Introductory Sermon was brought by **Rev. J B Henderson** with text, “Return to your First Love-2 Timothy. On Thursday, the centennial sermon was delivered by **Rev. J R Stone**. On Friday, **Rev. Walter M Blackwell** delivered the sermon with the text, “There was a man sent from God.”

The Committees that gave reports over these three days were 1) Sunday School, 2) Orphans Home, 3) State of Religion, 4) Georgia Baptist Hospital, 5) Temperance, 6) Cooperative Program, 7) Finance, 8) Deceased members, 9) Christian Literature, 10) Christian Education, 11) BYPU Work, 12) Missions, 13) Woman’s Work. At the end of the 1935 Association meeting, “a motion carried asking that a suitable marker be placed on the grounds to mark the Centennial Anniversary”. Does anyone know if the Centennial Anniversary Marker is at Coal Mountain Baptist Church? If so, maybe the 2026 delegates could look at it.

The next page is the Hightower Association Statistics in August 1932. If you are looking at this online, you should be able to enlarge the numbers of our members in the Association. There were 11,539 church members in our Association 93 years ago. If we had 12,134 members in the 27 churches who sent in their reports to Georgia Baptist and Joey Wallace last year, how many members are really in the 53 HBA churches now in 2026? Some of your grandchildren may be looking at our HBA history of 2026 in the future. What a blessing to know that our Association has been spreading the Gospel over the last 191 years. Thank you, HBA!! Janice Tallant

