

Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

Volume 19: October-November 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 to be on **November 30, 2026** for the **December-January** issue. Send your good news and announcements to Janice Tallant, janicetallant@yahoo.com any time. Again, PLEASE spread the word about these newsletters!

Hightower Baptist Association Meeting Highlights

(Here are notes that I, Janice Tallant, made while watching the HBA Meeting on Facebook live. Also, Joey Wallace brought me his outline, and the Committee reports that I used also to report some of the news. Thank you, Stacey Gonzales and Jodie Wallace Adams, for the pictures that I share with you. The whole session can be seen if you look on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/hightowerbaptistassociation>)



The 191st Session of the Hightower Baptist

Association met on September 30, 2026, at Coal Mountain Baptist Church. **Moderator Matthew Walker** called the meeting to order.

Bro. Jason Power led opening prayer.



Bro. Terry Martin led "We'll Work til Jesus

Comes" with **Sis. Penny Wheeler** playing the piano and **Sis. Becky Lamb** playing on the organ. **Rev. Gary Martin** welcomed everyone to Coal Mountain and read Psalm 3. All Ordained Ministers attending stood and told their church. All delegates were seated next. Then Officers were nominated and elected for next year: **Moderator-Rev. Scott Sorrells, Vice Moderator- Rev. Alan Thompson, Clerk- Bro. Joey Wallace, Assistant Clerk- Bro. Gary Hickmon, Treasurer-Sister April Pruitt. Bro. Joey Wallace** then shared that 29 ordained ministers, 161 delegates, 3 visitors were attending today for a total of 203. Bro. Terry led "Standing on the Promises" while the doors of the Association were opened for membership. No churches came forward. No queries today. Bro. Joey Wallace then made the roll call for the representatives attending from Standing Committees. **Bro. Matthew Bottoms** presented the proposed amendment changes to the Bylaws that will be discussed and voted on in the afternoon business session.



Committee Reports:

Nominations Committee: **Bro. Jason Hamby** called out the upcoming chairman of each of the standing committees and thanked those who had agreed to take this task.

Senior Adult Ministry: **Bro. Avery Gravitt** told how people should listen to the wisdom and experience of our Seniors. He mentioned the importance of building relationships with seniors through visitations and other contacts. We want to help seniors to finish well.

Representative to the Georgia Baptist Convention: **Bro. Ricky Byrd** has served in this role for 5 years now. He said there had been three GBC Executive Committee meetings this year: September 9, 2025, March 10, 2026, and September 15, 2026. He said there are 13,000 children in foster care in Georgia. Truitt McConnell college report shows that God is in control. They have 1 doctorate program, 14 graduate programs, 52 undergraduate programs. The Nursing Program has a record of 100% passing score for State Board exam. The Georgia Baptist Village had structural damage resulting from Hurricane Helene. It cost \$1.3 million to repair damages. Their skilled nursing home has no deficiencies in its inspections. They strive to have a “No, Never Alone” policy. GBC President Steve Browning reported that 1 in 4 people in Alpharetta was not born here. Many do not stay long. If we can reach them with Jesus, Jesus will go with them wherever they go. GBMB Ex. Director, Thomas Hammond, encourages all to visit the new office in Alpharetta. There is an area there for pastor and staff retreats. He said \$800,000 has been poured into evangelism and there is a partnership with other states. There is an overall increase in baptisms and church attendance in Georgia. The Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministry is in a partnership with CCI and is building dormitories at Georgia colleges. Georgia Southern has opened a Baptist facility with 100% occupancy of over 300 students. Georgia Tech and University of Georgia buildings are under construction. The partnership with CCI is paying the costs so there is no cost to the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Other universities are wanting to get these buildings as well. The CCI does pay all upkeep for these buildings. GBMB has a clean audit and is in good shape financially. Beth Ann Williams of the Baptist Women Board states there is a great need for foster care and adoptions in Georgia. The Board encourages women to help adult and children in literacy issues in Georgia. There were 4 summer missionaries that traveled around the state during the World Cup games this past summer. Shorter University has professors who share the Gospel to those who don’t know Jesus. Chris Reynolds is encouraging pastors to participate in the Pastor Wellness program of GBMB. (Ricky said he and his wife are going on one of these retreats this week at Lanier Islands.) There are new internship programs for Georgia Baptists interested in going into ministry work. Mike Griffin, Public Affairs representative for Georgia Baptists, is monitoring 43 bills being proposed. There is a clergy bill for child protection and a library exemption bill.



History: **Bro. Ben Finley** reported the changes in our society over how we preserve the legacy of our churches. Over the last 40 years, there have been transitions from paper to microfilm, to tapes, to discs, thus the burden of preserving history continues to change. He read Deuteronomy 32:7 and Psalm 78:4. After talking to Joey Wallace, the Committee project for the year was to scan, digitize, and upload more of our HBA Minutes onto the HBA website at <https://hightowerbaptist.net> (There are minutes online back to 2010. Ben has scanned many others that will be loaded on the site soon.) Thank you to the member churches for the work that they have done since 1835 in continuing to stand for Jesus Christ, prayer, Biblical preaching, and mission work in the ever-

darkening world. He also gave reports about the HBA newsletters that have been compiled and sent out over the last year. We encourage all churches to have a Historian in the church to preserve your church history. The Committee welcomes any suggestions of projects that you would like us to research.

Evangelism and Church Growth: **Bro. Adam Kidd** told US Church attendance has fallen below 50 %. 47% of Americans are currently members of a church. The Committee spoke to members of various HBA churches and gathered examples of strategies that have been successful in encouraging church growth. Some of these are using the HBA food truck for events in your church and provide free food to members in your community; promote VBS, Trunk or Treat, Live Nativity scenes and invite community out; hosting a doughnut drive by giving doughnuts out as you invite people to your church, using social media to promote activities in your church, serve local school groups such as athletic teams. Total church membership in our Association has increased by 1 % from 2024-2025 and VBS enrollment increased by 8 %. He read Matthew 28:19. Our task as members of the body of Christ is to GO.

Food and Clothing Bank: **Bro. Paul Bagley** reported. Our #1 job is to tell ALL who Jesus Christ is. There have been over 100 souls saved at the Food Bank during this last year. 2900 families have been served (~14,000 people), 332 backpacks given out in July, and 1125 children received Christmas gifts. The greatest need the F/C Bank is someone to share Jesus with others. He reached out to believers to share Jesus. You don't have to be a minister to share Jesus. Third District churches (see elsewhere) are asked to serve this fall quarter.

Benevolence/Disaster Relief report was read by **Bro. Gary Hickman**. He spoke of Mark 14 which tells about Jesus talking about helping the poor. The Benevolence Committee has helped with several shelter needs and fire displacement needs throughout the year. We are now offering spiritual support to these folds through our Tuesday night Bible Study and meal at the food and clothing bank. We ask you and your youth group to volunteer with us on these days to share the Love of Jesus. We all go through storms in our lives. We have been blessed to not have many disaster needs in our area this past year.

Bro. Terry led "The spirit of the Lord come down on Me". **Rev. Hunter Burt** brought the Introductory Sermon. He read from Romans 8: 9-14 and 1: 7. Saved people have the Spirit of God living in us so are dead to the flesh. Let your light shine. There is darkness in the world. Peace and fellowship come from God. Discord among fellowship is not of God. Follow after God. Let Him lead you.

After a 15 minutes Break, **the Discipleship Training Committee** reported. **Bro. Jason Power** began by asking Lucas Watson to sing, "Come Awaken Us Today". He gave this quote from Rev. Baker James Cauthen in 1979. "Let us pray, give, go, send, preach, teach, bear witness to the lost, the hungry, the poor, the broken, the distressed, and, if need be, suffer and die that the name of Jesus Christ be made known to every human being on the face of the earth." (Be sure and read his whole report when the 2026 HBA Minutes come out.) He had a guest speak, Jason Willoughby, to tell his testimony of being saved as he and his family have been attending the Boots on the Ground Bible Study in Dawsonville. (There was a standing ovation during this testimony.) Jason P talked about the Quarterly Discipleship Training dinners that have been held this year with good attendance. These will meet again in January 2027 and through the year. The Georgia Baptist Mission Board will talk to us. He also announced a big event coming in downtown Dawsonville on October 30 with a meal and showing the movie "A Great Awakening".

Bro. Terry led "Just A Closer Walk with Thee". **Rev. Greg Hamilton** brought the **Doctrinal Sermon**. He read from Hebrews 13, John 3:16-17, Acts 26, 2 Timothy 3: 10-4: 1-9. Paul shared his testimony with King Agrippa on the day he met Jesus. Greg told about the day he met Jesus. Paul charged Timothy to "Preach the Word". He spoke about his headstone and said he wants the word "saved" in the dash (-) on his headstone.

Women's Missionary Union (WMU): Sister Stacey Gonzales shared that the 2026-2028 two-year national theme is "Meant for the Mission" that focuses on reminding believers that God personally chooses and appoints every Christian to bear fruit. She read John 15:16-17. Jesus tells his disciples to bear fruit, pray in His Name, and to love one another. She also shared a list of missions that the WMU in reporting churches had sent her. These activities categorized in GBMB initiatives, additional mission projects, and WMU sponsored "In Church and In-Community" Activities. The WMU Fall Missions' meeting will be held at New Harmony Baptist Church on October 18 at 6 p.m. She thanked Haw Creek Baptist Church for hosting the Spring WMU event that was held in April. She encouraged all churches to promote the WMU or a lady's mission group within their church. The largest WMU mission project is preparing Christmas backpacks that once again will be collected for the Summerhill Baptist Association in south Georgia. Eight of HBA churches plan to donate 605 backpacks that will be dropped off and stored at Friendship gym and delivered by Brookwood to southwest Georgia.

Youth Ministries: Bro. Lucas Watson said the HBA youth have taken initiative to cultivate scripture-anchored disciples among their peers. The main focus was on Bible teaching, evangelism, relational small group discipleship, and active local mission engagement. There were joyful praises at VBS, courageous conversations in school hallways, and faithful Wednesday night gatherings where they glorified God's name. Young souls were saved at church camps, retreats, and at FCA groups in schools. He encouraged churches to please reach out to the Youth Committee.

Deceased Members: Bro. Gary Hickman read 1 Peter 1:3-4. This past year, 47 churches reported that 4 Ordained Ministers, 9 Ordained Deacons, 2 Licensed Ministers, and 125 lay members for a total of 139 have passed away.

Moral Issues: Bro. Heath Wilkie read Amos 7:7-8 about the plumbline and what it is. Jesus Christ is the perfect standard of plumbline which we should all measure ourselves by. How do we line up? No moral issues have been brought up to the committee this past year.



As the group broke for lunch, **Bro. Kevin McGinnis** was asked to collect the donations for the GBCH and Ga Baptist Village. **Bro. Stephen Sheffield** led the blessing. The group shook hands with **Rev. Hunter Burt** and **Rev. Greg Hamilton** as they went to lunch. A delicious meal was served by Coal Mountain Baptist Church.

The Afternoon Session began with Bro. Terry leading "Somebody Loves Me". **Bro. Michael Green** led prayer. **Bro. Chris Martin** gave the report that \$41,966.68 was collected for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministry this morning for the Load the Truck campaign.



Rev. Lucas Watson gave the **Missionary Sermon**. The text was “Looking up (to God), Looking In (to yourself) and Going Out”. A vision with a task makes a missionary. He read Isaiah 6:1-10. Isaiah sees visions of the spiritual side of things. King Uzziah was a “good” king. He had been struck with leprosy because of misuse of incense. He read Matthew 12:34. Out of the abundance of the heart is who you are. Go and tell is the goal of a missionary. He read Romans 10:13-15 and Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus has authority. Go, teach, baptize, and make disciples. Lead someone to Christ.

Sunday School: Bro. Tucker Stowers reported that there was a Sunday School Association meeting on August 26, 2026, for Sunday School officers and teachers at Silver City Baptist Church. Eight churches were represented with a total of 12 people in attendance. Sunday School in our churches are growing and doing well. Tucker said that all churches were encouraged to set aside a day for “invite a friend to Sunday School”. Sunday School is an essential part of our churches.

Vacation Bible School: Bro. Jarrad Parker reported the theme was “Junkyard Redemption: God’s Master Plan to Remake Our Broken World.” He thanked Mt. Tabor for their hospitality during the clinics. He also thanked all the VBS Clinic Team, the churches, and all that work for VBS promotion. He read Proverbs 3:5-6.

Music: Bro. Jarrad Parker read the report for Sis. Levada Roop. The report mentions how important music has been since the beginning. It is mentioned from Genesis 4:21 through Revelation 15:3-4. It is an important part of worship. Hymns allow us to worship, praise, celebrate, mourn, and teach. The report closed with “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” Psalm 100. Jarrad read the words to the song, “Let Us Sing”.

Brotherhood/Men’s Mission: Bro. Brady Holbrook opened with Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpeneth iron, So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” He also read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. Their prayer is that each of the brothers “will find in himself the boldness to stand alongside our brothers against wickedness in the world and the humility to be strengthened and sharpened by our brothers. Let us each follow the call that Christ has placed on our lives...”

Executive Committee: Bro. Tommy Weldy said their mission is “Go and tell others.” Mission work is not only by preachers. The Disaster Relief food trailer has been working all year. There were enough donations given for the food trailer to purchase a building where the trailer can be stored safely and securely. The food trailer was purchased primarily for disaster relief usage, but it is available for sister churches to use for community outreach and church functions. There were also enough funds from donations to purchase a second (and smaller) cook trailer. You can sign up with Kevin Smith to use the trailer for your church. The property on the Post Road was purchased by Forsyth County to purchase the right of way for the Post Road widening project. \$190,200 was received for this land and the funds were split between a money market account and a CD. The salary of the Food Banker Director was discussed and the committee elected to increase the salary of the Food Bank director to \$65,000 as the cost of living has increased. A larger and more reliable van for the Food Bank was discussed and a 2023 Ram 2500 cargo van was purchased to meet the needs of the Food Bank. The sale of the old van and donations were used to purchase the van, and the remaining balance was paid from the Food Bank account. The Committee also decided to not have the Associational Revival this year and instead have an association wide “Church Camp”. The **Camp Meeting Crusade will be held April 15, 16, and 17, 2027** at the **Cumming Fair Grounds**. There will be multiple services with Preachers from within our Association.

There also will be other activities for all ages. Camping for up to 100 is also available with full hook ups for those who would like to stay onsite. They will start reserving campsites at the first of the year. There is hope that this will bring our churches closer to one another and closer to God while reaching out into our community to share Jesus.

Financial Report: **Bro. Alan Thompson** reported that they had met with **Sister April Pruitt, HBA Treasurer**, and they found the Financial Report from the Treasurer for each of the following accounts were accurate and current. The Committee thanks April for her many hours of volunteer service for the Association each year. They also thank each church that supports the Association.

Treasurer's Report, here are the ending balances on 6/30/2026:

General Account: \$5,357.22

Children & Christmas Account: \$62,425.29

Disaster and Benevolence and Boots on the Ground Account: \$37,034.98

Food & Clothing Bank & Food Purchase Accounts: \$184,928.51

New money market account and certificate of deposit: \$191,219.33

Committee Account opened for Association Committees: Opened with \$10,000 and ending balance is \$8,865.50.

Donations can be made on-line through The Hightower Association Food & Clothing Bank website, by mail to the P O Box, or dropped off to April at The Citizens Bank of Georgia- Main Office.

Hightower Baptist Association Clerk Training Class

Thursday, October 22nd at 7pm
New Harmony Baptist Church

We will review the procedures for the information needed for Hightower and how to make changes and/or corrections in the minutes. We will share information on how other churches review and use the information as well as see if and how we can improve and make necessary changes.

We will also discuss reporting to the GBC and how it changed last year.

This is for clerks, assistant clerks (their spouses), deacons, and pastors.

If you have questions or information you would like discussed at the class, please email to joey@hightowerbaptist.net before Tuesday, October 20th.

During the Business session, the Bylaws changes were adopted. **Bro. Joey Wallace** read the minutes of the day's activities. Joey thanked all his helpers and **Bro. Sid Bramblett** for streaming the meeting that can be seen on the Association Website for a few weeks. Announcements were made for next year's Association and Union Meetings. **Bro. Gary Hickman** read the Resolution for today. Other Announcements were made, including a **Clerk Training Class on Thursday, October 22, at New Harmony Baptist Church at 7 p.m.** and upcoming ordinations, and a local group that does Church Directories. **Bro. Terry Caylor** led the dismissal prayer. The meeting ended with a handshake to **Bro. Lucas Watson** as all left the meeting.

192nd Hightower Baptist Association Meeting will be at Harmony Grove Baptist Church, Wednesday, September 29, 2027 at 9 a.m.

Union Meetings:

1st District: Pleasant View Baptist Church- Friday, May 7, 2027. 6 p.m.

2nd District: Juno Baptist Church- Friday, May 14, 2027, 6 p.m.

3rd District: Ophir Baptist Church- Friday, May 14, 2027, 6 p.m.

4th District: Oakdale Baptist Church- Friday, May 21, 2027, 6 p.m.

Boots on the Ground (Dawson County)

Boots on the Ground has been working hard the last few months with distributions, clean-up projects, providing food and other necessities to families in need, providing school supplies, clothes and shoes for many families, and spreading the gospel to all of those we have been in contact with. God's grace has been so evident in the lives of many of our members as well as the communities in which we are serving. We continue to hold Bible Study and dinner every Thursday night beginning at 6:30pm and church service and dinner every Sunday night at 6pm at our Dawsonville location. The Lord has greatly blessed our ministry here. We are averaging around 70 or so people at church on Sunday evenings and Bible study has a great gathering as well.

On August 29th, we were blessed to be able to feed and worship with a homeless community in Gainesville. We will continue to serve and minister to this community every 5th Saturday throughout the year. If you are interested in being a part of this, contact any Boots member for information. God has led the group to start a Bible Study at the Hightower Food and Clothing Bank every Tuesday night. Dinner will begin at 6:30pm with Bible Study directly after. We are praying that God will use this ministry to meet the spiritual and physical/emotional needs of many that are in the area. We pray that God will use this to grow his flock as we are hoping it will also lead into Sunday night services at this location.



In September, we were blessed with the opportunity to feed and minister with the people in the Etowah River Campground. Good food, fun, and most of all fellowship in the Lord was had by all. We would love to have more churches, church groups, etc. volunteer to serve meals at either location for Bible Study on Tuesday in Cumming or Thursday in Dawsonville, and for

Sunday night services in Dawsonville. If your church, youth group, women or men's group, etc. would like to serve a meal, please reach out to any Boots member or Audra Townley at the Dawsonville location or Clarissa Smith at the Cumming location.

We are looking into possibly purchasing a shower trailer and washer/dryer trailer to use for homeless and other events. Please be much in prayer for this. We continue to help provide vehicles for many who need them. Food, clothes, and necessities are provided often to people in our community.

Please help us pray as we ask God to give us wisdom and guidance in leading our group. There is much to pray for! There is much to look forward to! May God lead our steps and direct our actions. We have one goal - to follow the Bible and spread Jesus!! If you know of a need in your community, please reach out to a Boots member and let us know about it. If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to have you!!! Thank you, Kim Weldy

Boots on the Ground (Hightower Food/Clothing Bank) Bible Study Begins



The Hightower Food/Clothing Bank Bible Study started on September 15 at the clothing bank. Prayer was led by **Bro. Shane Faulkner**. Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church provided us with a delicious meal. **Bro. Justin Densmore** welcomed all and read John 4:35. He said there is a need for us to compel people to come to God. He also read Romans 10:11. **Bro. Paul Phillips** told what booklet that we would follow as we study God's Holy Word. **Bro. Jason Power and Bro. Andy Wallace** and several others talked about some of the

many blessings they had been receiving at the Dawson County BOTG services and events. As big as the F/C bank is we could have break out sessions at the same time such as a Hispanic group. The Bible Study session has gone on now for 3 weeks. It is starting at Genesis as we study where we came into God's plan. God is a Personal Creator. We have studied the Characteristics of God. 1. God is love. 2. God is holy. 3. God is righteous. We are enjoying some trivia questions after the meal and before we start the Bible Study each week. Reach out to those who do not come into our churches and invite them to this Bible Study. We are having a good turnout at these gatherings. Just keep on inviting others to join us. You and they will be blessed. If you would like for your church or group to sign up to provide a meal, please contact Clarissa Smith at caksmith04@gmail.com.

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 that inspires you that you can carry back to your church.

Rev. John Byrd Roden



John Byrd Roden passed away on August 27, 2026. He was born in Collinsville, DeKalb County on September 22, 1943, and settled in Forsyth County, Georgia in 1957. He graduated from Forsyth County High School in 1961. He worked at a few different places. He served his country in the US Army 1964 to 1966 mostly at Fort Benning Georgia. He married Ida Earlene Anderson, February 11, 1966, and they had over 60 1/2 happy years together. John was an Ordained Deacon and Minister belonging to Pine Crest Baptist Church and former pastor of Etowah Baptist Church in Lumpkin County. He loved his Lord and Loved to talk to people about Him. He is survived by his wife **Earlene Roden**, sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren and brother, Raney and Joan Roden. His funeral was at Ingram Funeral Home Chapel and his interment followed at Sawnee View Memorial Gardens. Please pray for his family.

Hightower Baptist Association Church News and Announcements!!!

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

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



Bethel Baptist Church (2659 Hwy 136 W, Dawsonville, GA)

Bethel's annual Fall Cruise-in will be **Saturday, October 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** BBQ, fried apple pies, cake walk and silent auction will also be enjoyed. Proceeds benefit the Youth of Bethel Baptist Church. (Thank you, Lanier Swafford.)

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

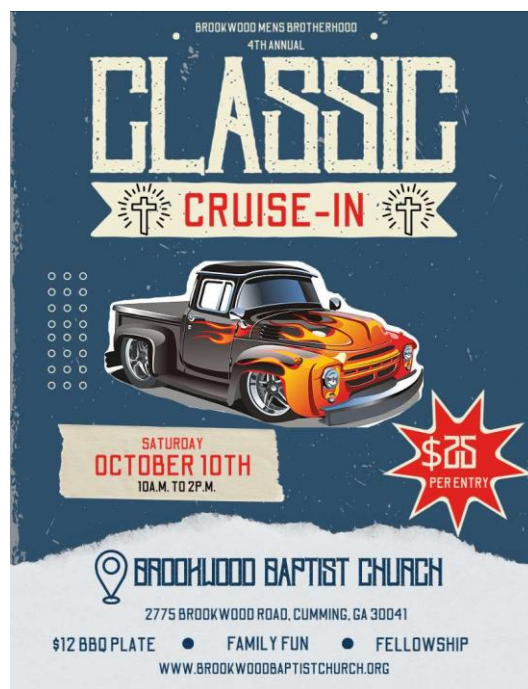
🚗 4th Annual Classic Cruise-In: Hosted by the Brookwood Baptist Church Men's Brotherhood. Join us for a day of incredible cars, delicious food, and great fellowship! All proceeds from this event directly support our mission fundraiser.

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.

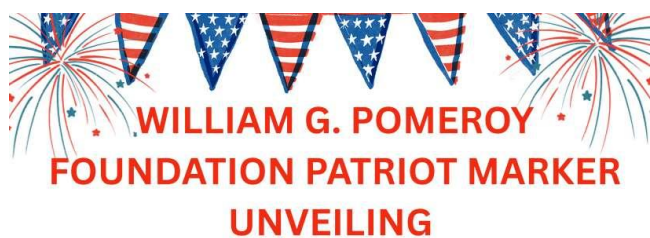


Corinth Baptist Church: (1700 Mary Alice Park Rd, Cumming, GA)

Corinth is excited to share that a new family started attending their church in June. God is still in the saving business. The mother and her daughter joined to be baptized. Then the son was saved and so on September 13, the mother, daughter, and her son were baptized. We thank God for those Blessings.

On Oct 11, 2026, there will be a **Deacons Ordination at 3 p.m. for Brothers Billy Wood and Justin Baker**. We invite all Preachers and Deacons to come out and be a part of this special day. Rev. Toby Hamby, Pastor!
(Thank you, Joanne, for the information!)

Friendship Baptist Church: (2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming)



Patriot John Nash LeGrand
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026
2:30 P.M.
Friendship Baptist Church cemetery
2250 Friendship Circle Cumming, GA



In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held inside the church sanctuary.



Reception following

attend this ceremony. The Chestatee DAR and the SAR will oversee the ceremony and reception. A documentary of Forsyth County was made a few months ago and was shown at Cumming Library in June and July. It is interesting to hear the history of our county. (Note: Mr. LeGrand is buried at a home on Watson Road and has a marker on his grave there. We do not think that Friendship had a burial ground at that time.) (Janice Tallant)

Trunk or Treat: Friendship Style will be on Wednesday, October 28, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. All are invited to join us.

Hightower Baptist Church: (3444 Hightower Rd., Ball Ground, GA)

Mark your calendar! **Hightower Baptist Church** invites you to our **Journey to Jesus drive-thru on Dec 10 & 11 from 6pm-8pm**. It's a free event where you stay in your car, drive through, and listen to and view the story of Jesus from His birth to His resurrection. We hope you can come! (Thank you, Regina, for sharing.)

Liberty Baptist Church: (520 Liberty Church Rd, Dawsonville, GA)

Liberty has had a great summer of Bible School, Revival and Church Camp where we witnessed **19 souls saved and 16 baptized during the church year. Praise the Lord!!**

The annual **Harvest Festival is November 7, 2026, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM** where we will enjoy food, cake walk, silent auction, fellowship and fun.

Liberty's Christmas play and meal will be December 20th at 6:00 PM. (Thank you, Nicky!)

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

Our church camp was held during Labor Day Weekend at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, Georgia, and we had a great time of fellowship, worship, and fun. Most of all, we are very thankful that **eight young people were saved!**

Pastor Appreciation Covered Dish Luncheon, Sunday, October 11 (WMU sponsored)

Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot, Sunday, October 25, 6:00 pm. (Youth sponsored)

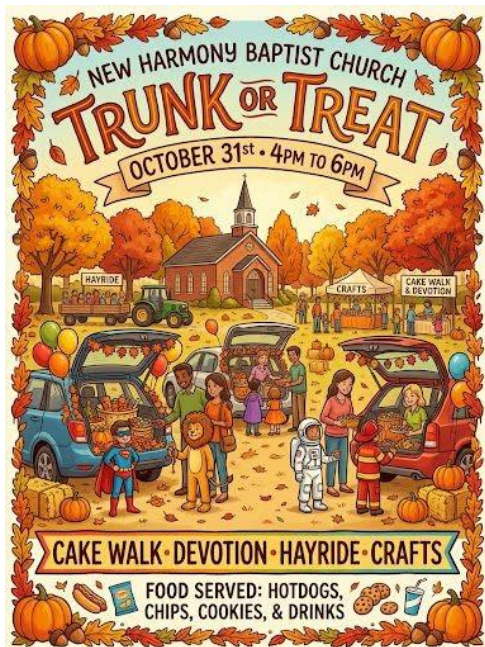
Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors and Shut-ins, Saturday, November 21 (WMU sponsored)
(Thank you, Marie Warbington!)

New Bethel Baptist Church: (1441 Highway 136 East, Dawsonville, GA)

New Bethel invites you to a **Deacons Ordination service on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 3 p.m.** Bro. **Harold McCord** and Bro. **Don Townley** have been set aside to be ordained as Deacons for New Bethel.

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

New Harmony welcomes our new pastor and his wife, **Nathan and Alicia Hester.**



In September New Harmony attended Church Camp and **we thank God for the 5 souls saved** and the sweet spirit that was with us all that weekend.

Sunday, October 11th at 10:00 am New Harmony will have a **special baptizing**. Sunday school and church services will follow.

Sunday, October 11th will be Pastor Appreciation Day at New Harmony. We will have lunch right after church to honor and fellowship with Pastor Nathan, Alicia, and their family.

New Harmony is hosting the **Hightower Association WMU Fall Missions Meeting on October 18, at 6 p.m.** (More info in WMU section.)

Saturday, October 31st from 4:00 pm -6:00 pm will be Trunk or Treat at New Harmony. We will have a hayride, crafts, cake walk, and devotion. We will also be serving hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks. All ages are invited to come and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30pm will be our **Thanksgiving service at New Harmony.** Everyone is welcome.
(Thank you, Joey Wallace!)

Roanoke Baptist Church: (2621 Roanoke Rd., Cumming, GA)

Roanoke Baptist Church will have our **annual fall festival on Friday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m.** We will serve pizza, dessert, have a cake walk and cake auction. Also, we'll be raffling for kids prizes, a Turtlebox, and themed baskets. Please join us for a night of fun and fellowship!

We will also be hosting a **Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party on Wednesday, November 11th at 6:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! (Thank you, April Jackson!)



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

Shady Grove will be having a **Fall Revival with Pleasant Grove Baptist church on October 17, 2026, at Shady Grove at 7pm and October 18, 2026, at Pleasant Grove at 7pm.**

Our **Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat** will be at **Shady Grove Saturday, October 31, from 4-7 p.m.** See flyer for more info. (Thank you, Angie Bagley!)

Silver City Baptist Church: (6170 Jewell Bennett Rd., Dawsonville, GA)

Coat Drive: September 15- October 8, we will be collecting new or gently used coats for Jennie's coat closet in memory of our dear friend Jennie Stowers. These coats will be delivered to local elementary schools to be given to those students who need them. Contact Phyllis Bottoms at 770-789-3852 to arrange pick up.

Trunk or Treat will be on October 25, 2026, from 4:30-7:00.

Hotdog and chili dinner with games, cake auction, and hayride included.

Pancake breakfast with Santa fundraiser will be on November 7, 2026, from 9-11 am. Tickets are on sale now! (Thank you, Brooke!)

Hightower Food and Clothing Bank: Church Volunteer Schedule 2026



We invite members of all churches to volunteer anytime at OUR Food and Clothing Bank. About 100 volunteers are needed on each distribution day which is the 2nd Saturday of each month from 7:30 – 12 noon. The morning starts with prayer requests and praying. The main areas to work on these distribution days are parking assistance, registration, ministry area (all Christians can share Jesus with those coming for assistance), shopping for clothing, shoes, linens, diapers, etc., checking out shoppers and helping get bags to car and then they drive to food bank portion and someone places boxes of foods in cars and others are preparing boxes. What else? Volunteers help others in many ways. How? Welcoming, guiding from one

station to another, ministry and praying, guiding to the shopping area, assisting with shopping, keeping the racks filled with clothing or the hangers picked up, assisting with diapers and linens dispersal, etc. Being FEET of Jesus! We have volunteers come from school groups, organizations, etc. to help. Some of the helpers may need Jesus in their life as well. So many ways to help in this mission.

ALL CHURCHES are welcome to volunteer anytime. 3rd District Churches are asked to work 4th Quarter. Third District Churches: Antioch, Hightower, Lebanon, Mount Pisgah, Mount Tabor, Mount Vernon, New Harmony, Oak Grove, Ophir, Silver City, Sweetwater, Zion Hill.

The new Bible Study at the Food/Clothing Bank that was started on September 15, 2026, is also a function of the Food/Clothing Bank. Please join that Bible Study any time you can and share Jesus with those coming. The Hightower Association feels like Family to me more than ever. Please join the study anytime. Only God knows what all can be done for His Cause through this new ministry. (Janice Tallant)

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

WMU directors please invite all the ladies of your church, pastors and their wives and any other church leader or teacher interested in equipping your church for missions across all ages to the **Hightower Association Fall Missions Celebration at New Harmony Baptist Church on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 6 p.m.**

Guest speakers from Georgia Baptist Mission Board and a former missionary from the International Mission Board.

Please RSVP by text to 678-296-1463 or email with the number of attendees from your church no later than October 8.

The Hightower Association WMU is collecting Christmas Backpacks again this year.

Christmas backpack drop-off:
Friendship Baptist Church Gym
2250 Friendship Circle, FAMILY LIFE CENTER ENTRANCE (off of Roper Road entrance)

Thursday, October 29: 5-7:00pm

Saturday, October 31: 9-11:00am

The backpacks will be delivered to the Summerhill Baptist Assoc. for children in high-need, extremely rural areas across Southwest Georgia. If you have questions, please contact **Stacey Gonzales** at hightowerwmu@gmail.com.



Hightower Baptist Association WMU

Fall Missions Celebration

Sunday, October 18, 2026
6:00 PM

New Harmony Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
4952 Heardsville Rd, Cumming

WMU Directors, please invite all WMU ladies and their husbands, pastors and their spouses, and anyone interested in mission-related teaching curriculum for all ages to join us.

We are honored to host guest speakers from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and a former missionary from the International Mission Board. Come learn more about equipping our churches for missions!

To allow the New Harmony ladies to prepare, please **RSVP** with the number of attendees for your church by **Thursday, October 8** by text or email to Stacey Gonzales: 678-296-1463 or hightowerwmu@gmail.com

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." John 15:16-17

Have a Happy Fall including Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas activities. Please continue to send me news. I apologize for taking a little longer to get this issue out to you. It is FILLED with many things coming up in our churches. Please continue to promote the Newsletters in your church and tell others to do so as well. Thank you for all you do in the Hightower Baptist Association. Let's just Praise the Lord for all HE IS DOING!!! Janice Tallant (janicetallant@yahoo.com)

