

July 2016

The Bethel News

"Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ"

Bethel Baptist Association

BBA Summer Camps July 6-9

Covenant Camp



Camp Okitayakani

near Shellman, GA



Day Camp 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday



Overnight Camp check-in is 7:30-8:30 am
Wednesday morning.
Ends Saturday at noon with a family cookout.

*Our Bible studies for camp this year will center
around the "Covenants of the Bible"
(both Old and New Testaments).*

*But now in
Christ Jesus,
you who were formerly
far off
have been
brought near
by the blood of
Christ*

Ephesians 2:13



**Everything
to Christ in
prayer**



Happy

4th of
July

This Independence Day, we're reaching out to say
the best things in life are FREE!
Just like God's love for you.



Summer is here and soon we will be enjoying the Lord's great outdoors with our BBA Day Campers and Overnight Campers at Okitayakani. This year's **summer camps** are focused on the theme of God's **covenants** with mankind throughout the Bible. We'll study the four major covenants in the Old Testament (with Adam, Noah, Abraham, and the nation of Israel under Moses' leadership) and will relate all of these to His amazing New Covenant He made through Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross for us. There will be many opportunities throughout this study for boys and girls to hear and respond to the Gospel, so please be much in prayer for our camp staff and for the children during these all-important 4 days of **Covenant Camp** (July 6-9).

Several of our communities will be conducting run-off **elections** this month, so now is perhaps an appropriate time for me to weigh in on the current election year and its critical importance for all of us. As you know, it is not my practice to endorse any particular candidate (s) for government office in this publication and I don't intend to do that here. However, I am keenly aware that this particular Presidential election coming up in November poses one of the most difficult and problematic choices

that we as Christian citizens have faced in many years. At least, I can't think of a less satisfying choice between (probable) nominees for the office of President within **my** lifetime! And I know that many of you probably feel the same way. The temptation is great to just stay at home and not vote at all.

But I want to encourage you not to yield to that temptation. People of Christian faith not only have the right, but we have a **responsibility** to vote in our local, state, and national elections. And please do not allow any frustration you may feel with regard to the presidential election to cause you to neglect your participation in other elections which are just as, if not more, important. We have an opportunity this year to have direct input into our local (city and county), state, and federal government by voting for school board members, court officials, commissioners, judges, representatives, senators, etc. And all of these offices are vitally important to the proper functioning of our republic.

In fact, I believe that the best strategy for reversing our country's present decline is to elect Godly men and women to public office at the local grass-roots level -people who believe in the democratic ideals that made America great **and**

have a clear moral compass to guide them. It will take time, but this is the long-term solution for our present national malaise.

In the meantime, church leaders need to stay informed on the issues and be ready to respond in a Christlike manner to the legal and cultural challenges that seem inevitable in the days ahead. The Christian church in America may be facing a time of testing and purifying in the near future unlike any we have experienced so far.

But our God is still on His throne. And the cross of Jesus still saves.

For our citizenship is in heaven from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:20) Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20)

Grace and Peace,
Bro. James



...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they will mount up on wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

May 26 - June 22, 2016

Iron to Iron
The Difference Men Make in the Lives of Other Men
State Men's Conference
August 13, 2016 | Wrens Baptist Church
500 N. Main Street
Wrens, GA 30833

Speaker:
Pastor Jeff Crook

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.
Proverbs 27:17

\$20 early bird rate by Aug. 3; \$25 after Aug. 3
Visit gabaptist.org/mensministry for more information about these and other Men's Ministry events.

Administrative Team Mtg.

Tuesday, July 12th
6:30 pm; Assoc. Office.

MISSIONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Tuesday night, September 6th
6:30; Associational Office.
All project proposals and/or request for New Work Funds should be submitted to the Assoc. Office by Thursday, Sept. 1st.

Arlington	650.11
Bethel	
Beulah	618.54
Blakely FBC	1,553.14
Bluffton	411.32
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	401.04
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	349.14
Edison	149.34
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	824.67
Georgetown	500.00
Leary	168.85
Milford	222.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	524.83
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	37.34
Shellman FBC	300.00
Shiloh	708.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatchee	236.48
Springvale	
Vilulah	
Individuals	
TOTAL	8,392.30
Balances June 22 (2016)	
General Fund	20,550.87
Designated Fund	9,217.08
New Work Fund	9,734.04

Congratulations

To the following churches who were recognized by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board for their outstanding support of missions through the Cooperative Program and through our State Missions Offering in 2015:

- Association's leading contributor through the Cooperative Program - Cuthbert FBC
- Association's largest percentage contributor through the Cooperative Program - Morris BC
- Association's largest per-capita contributor through the Cooperative Program - Bluffton BC
- Association's leading contributor to the 2015 State Missions Offering - Colomokee BC
- Association's largest per-capita to the 2015 State Mission Offering - Morris BC

CHURCH NEWS

VILULAH BAPTIST CHURCH HOMECOMING

Sunday, July 17th 11 am

Speaker: Michael Tier - Special Music, Mike English.

Following the service will be a Fellowship Dinner.

REVIVAL: July 18-19 @ 7 pm.

Guest Speaker: Mike Williams

Thank you!

Bethel Baptist
Association
124 Bay Ave.
PO Box 398
Edison, GA
39846

Change Service
Requested

The Bethel Baptist Association

Dr. James Holloway, Associational Missionary
Kathy Hardwick, Ministry Assistant
Joyce Jarrett, Financial Assistant
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Permit # 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2016

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY! (Associational Office Closed)
- 6-8 **BBA Day Camp** - Okitayakani, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.
- 6-9 **BBA Overnight Camp** - Okitayakani, Wed. morning at 8:30 am (registration begins 7:30 am)
ends at noon on Saturday.
- 12 Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm

August 2016

- 2 New Zion Steering Comm. Freeman Rd., 6:30 pm
- 10 %evitalization Roundtable+- Assoc. Office, 10 am
- 20 Regional Sunday School Worker Training - Camilla FBC
- 22-26 Bro. James on vacation

September 2016

- 5 LABOR DAY (Associational Office closed)
- 6 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 15 Church Financial Compliance Workshop - Gillionville BC (Albany) 6 pm
- 20 %/hy They Stay+Seminar - Location TBA