



COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS For September 2024

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Corbitt's Comments

Dear Friends,

Our Association consists of 52 Southern Baptist churches. Other Baptist churches exist in our county, but a number of them are not Southern Baptist churches, and another is aligned with the SBC, but it is not a member of the CBA. That fact may be confusing, but I think I can shed some light on it.

We all know what a Baptist church is: a Bible-believing, autonomous congregation that holds to believer's Baptism ("by immersion" is technically redundant in the original language). Literally dozens of churches in our county fit this description but only about 55 are Southern Baptist churches.

Southern Baptist churches have committed to cooperate together for the cause of missions and evangelism, and for the cause of ministries that support them, like ministerial education and training. SBC churches voluntarily support these causes by way of financial gifts through the Cooperative Program and the national and state mission's offerings.

Of the Southern Baptist Churches in our county, a couple are a member of a neighboring association, and one is not a member of any association. That brings us to our 52 member Southern Baptist churches, who have agreed to associate together. While the member churches of an association support their collective ministry financially, associating together is a more personal and relational activity than cooperating with our state and national conventions.

Churches which associate together do not lose their autonomy. They, as Paul said in Galatians 6, must "bear their own burdens." They also, however, as Paul said a few verses later, have decided to "bear one another's burdens." This means actively relating to each other, praying for each other, and fellowshiping with each other.

I continue to be grateful to our churches for the financial support of our Association, but I am concerned that our churches are growing further apart as each year goes by. The culture of our county is fragmented along school lines, along city lines, and along community lines. Few people seem to have a county-wide perspective, and that culture seems to have also penetrated our churches. Yet, Paul also taught us in Romans 12 that we should transform our culture and not allow our culture to transform us. Pray with me for a renewed sense of mutual interest and concern among our churches and our church leaders. Specifically pray that your next DOM will be skilled in this area!

Remember: please be sure that your church is represented at our Annual Meeting at 6pm on October 17th at Liberty Home Baptist Church when you will elect a search committee to find your next DOM.

Every blessing,

Otis Corbitt, Director of Missions
and CEO of the Christian Service Center of Covington County

Churches Without Pastors

Pray for these CBA churches are currently without permanently called pastors:
Beulah, East Highland, Enon, Fairmount, Lockhart, Salem, Smyrna, Victory, and Westview

September Food Donation List

Mt Pisgah, West Highland, Oakey Ridge, Northern Heights, Brooks, East Highland, New Hope, Pigeon Creek, Fairmount, Beda, Blue Springs, Carolina, Northside, Enon, and FBC Florala

Annual Church Profiles

ACP's have been mailed to all our church clerks. Please submit them by September 15th so we can celebrate what God is doing in our churches!

Chris Golden at Blue Springs

Chris Golden, son of William Lee Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys, will be in concert at Blue Springs Baptist Church on September 14, at 6:00pm. Admission is free, but a love offering will be received. Call Pastor Flint Harrelson at 334-222-2281 for more information.

Praying For Each Other In 2024

Please join us in praying for a different member church each week:
September 1: Mill Creek
September 8: Carolina
September 15: Hopewell
September 22: Bethany
September 29: New Song

Week of Prayer for State Mission/Myers-Mallory Offering

The week of prayer for State Missions and the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering will September 8-15, 2024. This is the ninth year of observing the Week of Prayer for State Missions and giving to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. To God be the glory for all He has accomplished through Alabama Baptists in these years! We have seen countless lives reached and changed with the Gospel message and eagerly await what God will do this year through Alabama WMU, Disaster Relief, Church Planting, Partnership Missions and Church Revitalization. The state goal for this year is \$1,200,000. **For more information go to: <https://myers-mallory.org>**

