

**Bethel  
Baptist  
Association**

**June 2020**

“Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ”

the BETHEL NEWSLETTER 2020

**Executive Committee Meeting on Monday, June 22 at Arlington Baptist Church, 7 pm**  
(in the Sanctuary, implementing “social distancing”) The Committee consist of the Pastor and 2 others from each church.

Bethel Associational Strategist - James Holloway

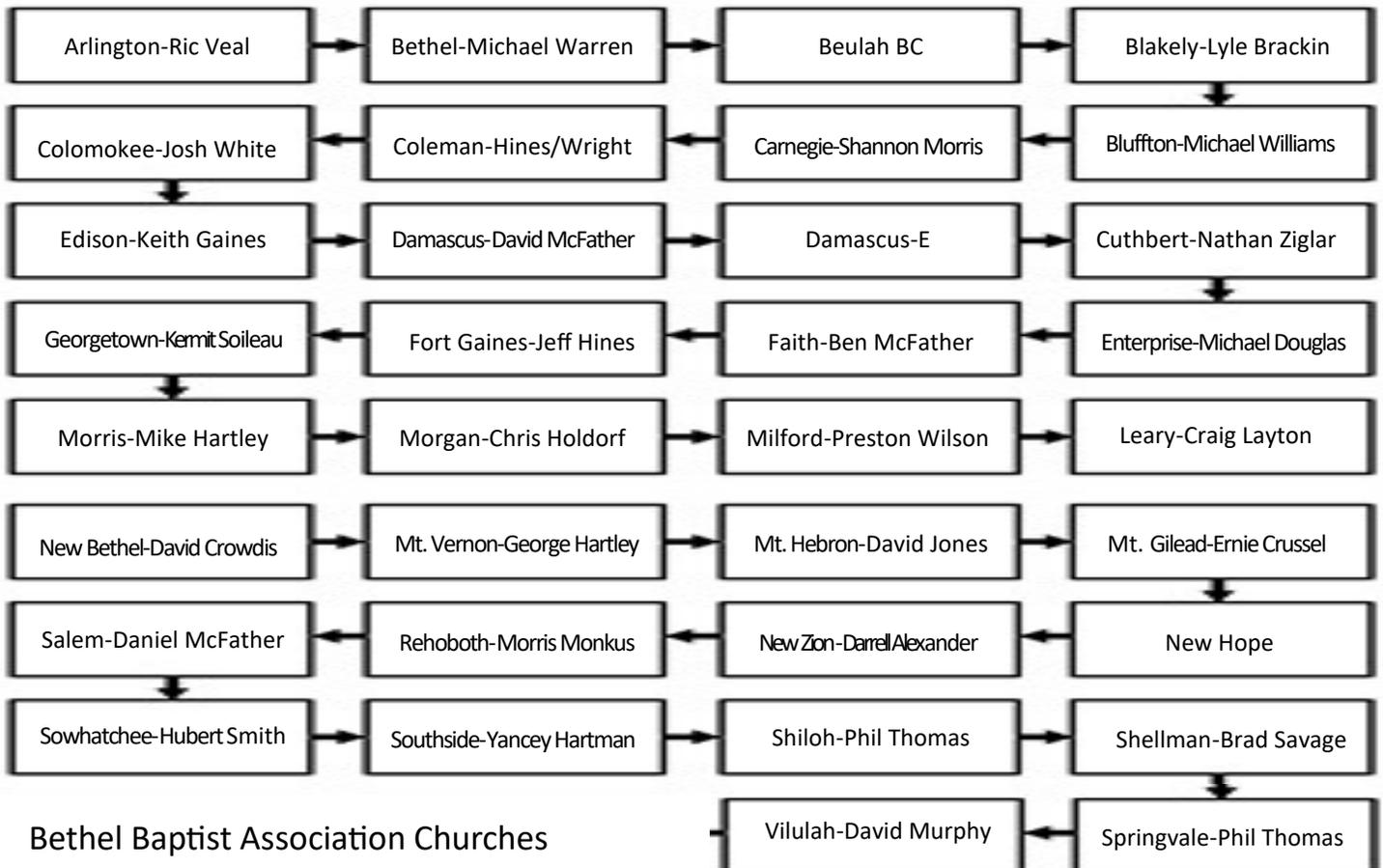
Associational Moderator - Michael Williams

Vice Moderator  
David Murphy

Treasurer  
Alan Braswell

Assistant Treasurer  
Andy Owen

Clerk  
Kathy Hardwick



# Missionary Musings



These are very unusual times, to say the least! As I write this, it has now been 10 weeks since activities began to shut down here in SW Georgia due to the **Coronavirus Pandemic**. In recent days, we have finally begun to see some loosening of restrictions on businesses and personal movement. We still have a long way to go, but the public health statistics suggest that we are now on the downhill side of the COVID-19 “bell curve.” Praise the Lord for that! In spite of what any politician may say about it, God **is** in control and He alone can get us out of this mess. Yes, we each must do our part (“social distancing,” wearing masks, washing hands, etc.), **and** continue in our prayers and steadfast trust in Him.

I have been inspired and encouraged by the way our **pastors** in the Bethel Baptist Association have responded to this crisis. In spite of limitations on public gatherings, they have continued to minister to their congregations and to their communities in bold and often innovative ways. They are wonderful gifts from God to our local churches, and I pray that we all appreciate them and continue to lift them up in prayer each and every day. Here’s an idea: Consider giving your pastor a call sometime and simply asking him, “Is there anything I can do to help you out today?” You might be surprised at his response and at the positive results for your church!

In spite of the pandemic, life does go on, and we continue on our journey. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, our **Administrative Team** was able to physically meet at the Associational Office for the first time in

two months. We are beginning the process of **calendar planning and budgeting** for the next associational year, which begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>. I am grateful to have such a wise and faithful group of godly servant-leaders to work with here in the Bethel Association!

At that meeting, I announced to our leadership my plans to **retire** from full-time associational ministry early this Fall. I will be turning 65 in August, and Mary and I have decided that the time is right for me to step aside from the role of Associational Missionary for the Bethel Baptist Association. My final day of employment as your AMS will be September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We have thought much and prayed about this decision for the past couple of years, and the Lord has given me complete peace that this is His will for us (and for our Association). After over 21 years, it is now time for new leadership and a fresh, new direction for the BBA. And with continuing health issues beginning to limit my abilities and availabilities to serve in this capacity, it is also time for a new chapter



**Bethel Baptist Association**  
Missions Coordinating Committee  
Thursday, July 23rd  
Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm  
Requests for New Work Fund  
assistance must be in to the BBA  
Office by Tuesday, July 21st..

in my own personal ministry.

I am so grateful for the wonderful blessings God has given us throughout our time here, and for all of the 32 years He has allowed me to work in full-time associational ministry. He has truly given me some unique experiences! Now, I am looking forward to continuing to serve Him and His Church during retirement through supply preaching, leadership training, and possible interim pastorate (s). For the immediate future, Mary and I plan to remain in the Blakely area, at least until God calls us elsewhere.

I have asked our Moderator, Bro. Michael Williams, to appoint a **Search Committee** to find a new Associational Mission Strategist, as dictated by our By-Laws. Hopefully, that Search Committee will be named and commissioned at our **June 22<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee** meeting, and they can begin their task. This will allow me about three months’ time that I can consult and work with them (as requested) to help them get off to a good, fast start!

I share this news today with a mixture of joy and sadness. I pray that, as our local churches begin “re-opening” for public worship services, I will be able to personally visit with many of you over the next four months. I look forward to seeing you face-to-face and being able to tell you all how much we love and appreciate you, and to encourage you to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and to His mission.

After all, it’s His church!

Bro. James

“Barnabas” Group will meet via ZOOM videoconference on Tuesday, June 2nd @ 11 am



## CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Apr. 23, - May 26, 2020	
Arlington	1,283.00
Bethel	
Beulah	118.02
Blakely FBC	1,490.90
Bluffton	334.95
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	317.92
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	343.89
Edison	122.50
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	557.55
Georgetown	833.32
Leary	212.32
Milford	580.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	45.74
Mt. Hebron	200.00
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	73.75
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	250.00
Shiloh	833.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhattee	157.35
Springvale	
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,591.71</b>
Balances May 26, 2020	
General Fund	11,504.93
Designated Fund	10,145.50
New Work Fund	7,694.16



### BBA Children's Summer Camps

(June 24-27) at Kolomoki Mounds State Park **HAVE BEEN CANCELLED** due to ongoing coronavirus concerns.



### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting—July 20th @ 6:30 pm

Associational Office

# CHURCH NEWS....

*Blakely First Baptist Church has called Rev. Lyle Brackin as their Senior Pastor. Bro. Lyle, his wife Amanda, and daughter Emily will be moving to Blakely in June to begin their ministry. Welcome, Brackin family!*

Bethel Baptist  
Association

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## *The Bethel Baptist Association*

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### **June 2020**

- 2 "Barnabas" Prayer - Videoconference, 11 am
- 21 Father's Day
- 22 Executive Committee - Arlington BC, 7 pm

### **July 2020**

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 "Barnabas" Group - TBA, 11 am
- 20 Administrative Team - Associational Office, 6:30 pm
- 23 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm

### **August 2020**

- 4 "Barnabas" Group - TBA, 11 am



**NOTE:** All dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to the ongoing public health situation. Team members and committees should watch for direct communications from us (mail, email, and text messaging) concerning each event as it approaches.