



# Smyrna Baptist Association

March 2026

As we move into the spring season, there are several exciting opportunities and important moments ahead for our Association. God continues to open doors for ministry, partnership, and growth. We are grateful for the way our churches are working together to strengthen gospel impact across our communities.

I continually hear pastors and church members tell me how they are not reaching young families as they should, and their congregations are getting older. Our annual Spring Training plans to help with that need. We are honored to welcome Dr. P.J. Dunn, a national leader and expert in next-generation ministry, who will help us think biblically and strategically about reaching children, students, and young families in today's culture. This gathering will be more than a teaching event, as churches will spend time sitting together in guided strategy discussions. P.J. will help leaders consider practical ways to apply these principles in their own congregations. We encourage pastors and key leaders to attend as they prayerfully seek God's direction for their churches' future.

Our upcoming Spring Executive Committee Meeting will also be an important time for our Association. The committee will be considering several significant matters, including welcoming new churches into watchcare with our Association and making final decisions regarding the purchase of a dedicated truck to safely tow and deploy our Disaster Relief Shower Trailer. These decisions reflect both the continued growth of our Association and our commitment to strengthening ministry effectiveness and preparedness for service opportunities. Every church needs to be represented at this meeting.

We are also excited about a developing partnership with the Columbus Baptist Association. This summer, mission teams made up of students and adults will come alongside our churches to assist with outreach ministries, including Vacation Bible School, block parties, community events, and cleanup projects. This partnership reflects the strength of Baptist cooperation and provides new opportunities for churches to expand their impact in summer ministry.

As summer approaches, now is the time for churches to begin preparing for Vacation Bible School. An upcoming VBS workshop will equip leaders with ideas, training, and encouragement as they plan for one of the year's most effective evangelistic ministries. Churches are encouraged to begin gathering and organizing their leadership teams now so they are ready to make the most of this opportunity to reach children and families in their communities.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief State Leadership Team. This role allows our Association to stay closely connected with statewide disaster response efforts and helps position our churches to be ready when ministry opportunities arise during times of crisis. Our desire remains to serve communities with compassion while sharing the hope of Christ.

God continues to work through our churches as we cooperate together in mission and ministry. Thank you for your faithful partnership, your prayers, and your commitment to advancing the gospel across our Association. We look forward to all that God will do in the months ahead as we serve together.



## Spring Training 2026

Reaching the Next Generation

March 24, 2026

St. Illa Baptist Church

Meal begins serving at 5:30

Session starts at 6:30

Our Spring Training gathering this year will focus on one of the most important ministry opportunities facing our churches today—reaching the next generation.

We are honored to welcome Dr. P.J. Dunn, a national leader and expert in next-generation ministry, who will help us better understand the challenges and opportunities churches face in connecting with children, students, and young families in today's culture.

This training will be more than a conference—it will be a working session. Churches will spend time sitting together for guided strategy discussions, allowing pastors and leaders to think practically about how these principles can be implemented within their own local church context.

You will leave encouraged, equipped, and with actionable ideas for reaching the next generation in your community.

Plan now to join us as we learn, collaborate, and prayerfully seek God's direction for the future of our churches.



## Spring Executive Committee Meeting

Join us for our Spring Executive Committee Meeting as we gather for fellowship and important association business.

This meeting is for Pastors or Staff designee and one layperson from each church.

March 19, 2026

Northside Baptist Church, Douglas

Meal at 6:00 PM

Business Session to Follow

Key items include welcoming new churches into our Association and making final decisions regarding the purchase of a truck for the Disaster Relief Shower Trailer, strengthening our shared ministry and preparedness for service.

Please make plans to attend.

SPRING



## Shower Trailer and Disaster Response Update

We are excited to share an important milestone for our association's Disaster Relief ministry. Our newly acquired shower trailer is scheduled for its first deployment beginning March 5 at Lumber City Baptist Church, where it will support a rebuild team helping in Helene recovery through Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief.

This deployment marks the first operational use of the shower trailer and represents months of planning, partnership, and preparation. The trailer will provide much-needed shower facilities for volunteers who are assisting families and communities as they recover and rebuild. We are grateful to Lumber City Baptist for hosting and supporting this effort as ministry takes place both practically and spiritually.

Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief teams have already seen God at work this year. During February, teams serving in Corinth, Mississippi, reported 45 gospel presentations and 4 professions of faith as volunteers met physical needs while sharing the hope of Christ. These numbers remind us that Disaster Relief is not only about recovery—it is about ministry and gospel impact.

As our shower ministry continues to grow, we are currently working toward the purchase of a dedicated truck that will safely pull the shower trailer and assist in transporting additional Disaster Relief equipment when deployments arise. This step will help ensure the long-term effectiveness and readiness of our response teams.

Looking ahead, the next Disaster Relief Training and Certification Event will be held in Columbus on March 20–21. This training is an excellent opportunity for new volunteers to become certified and for current volunteers to renew credentials or get trained in other areas of Disaster Relief which will help with upcoming ministry opportunities.

Please continue praying for our Disaster Relief volunteers, for those being served through these efforts, and for the gospel to continue reaching hearts through every deployment.



Join our  
Facebook  
Group



Visit our website at [sbachurches.org](https://sbachurches.org) to sign up for this newsletter.

# THANK YOU!

We are thankful for these churches that gave to the mission of our Association in January.

Alma, First; Big Creek; Burkett; Carver; College Avenue; Douglas, First; Mt. Pleasant; Mt. Zion; New Hope; Nicholls; Northside; Pridgen; Reedy Branch; Unity; West Green; Westwood; Grace Pointe; and New City Church Alma.

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## Pray for these Churches Without Pastors

Providence  
Reedy Branch  
Westwood  
La Primera Iglesia  
Bethel  
First, Alma

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## SBA Team Meetings



Church Strengthening  
March 12th @ 2:00 PM



Great Commission  
March 5th @ 7:00 PM



Stewardship  
March 19th @ 5:00 PM

# BCM

## Baptist Collegiate Ministries

South Georgia State College, Douglas

If you want to be included in the rotation text, call Gillis Roberson at (912) 850-1395. BCM meets every Tuesday from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm. Speaking time is 20 minutes plus time for dialogue.

If your church would like to provide a meal to help reach college students, contact Kim Knight at 912-381-4191 or [davidandkim07@yahoo.com](mailto:davidandkim07@yahoo.com)

Please have the food at the college no earlier than 11:45 AM. The meeting starts at 12:15 PM.

## March Churches Serving

March 3	Westwood
March 10	St. Illa
March 17	Spring Break
March 24	Stokesville
March 31	New Hope



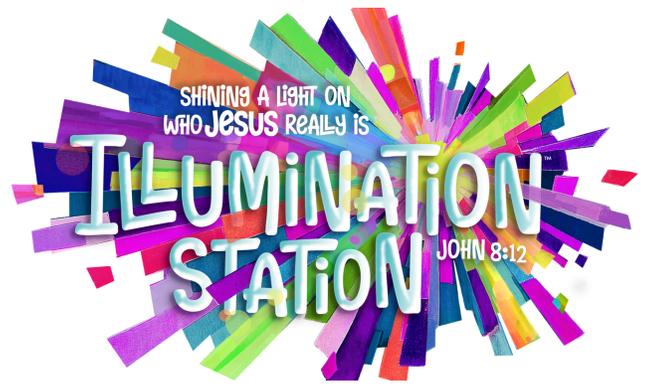
## Columbus Baptist Association Partnership

We are grateful to share an exciting new partnership forming between our Association and the Columbus Baptist Association. After meeting with their leadership, it was clear that we share a strong heart for missions, cooperation, and serving our communities with the gospel.

This summer, beginning in June, Columbus Baptist Association plans to send student and adult mission teams to serve alongside our churches. These teams are ready to assist with storm cleanup, Vacation Bible School, block parties, and other outreach efforts. They will also bring a party trailer with inflatables and resources to help create welcoming, family-friendly ministry environments.

Tim Jones will join us at our March Pastor/Staff Roundtable to begin pairing churches from both associations for these summer opportunities. If your church is interested, please make sure your pastor or a staff member attends this meeting to begin making that connection.

We are thankful for this expression of Baptist cooperation and look forward to seeing how God uses these teams this summer. If your church would like more information, please contact Mike Taylor at the Association office.



## VBS Workshop

Prepare for Summer Ministry!

Now is the time to begin preparing for Vacation Bible School, one of the most effective evangelistic ministries of the year. Join us for a VBS Workshop designed to equip and encourage your leaders with ideas, training, and practical resources for a successful summer.

April 18, 2026

First Baptist Church Douglas

9:00–11:30 AM

Churches are encouraged to bring their VBS leadership teams and begin preparing now to reach children and families in your community this summer.



March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ministry Wives Event

March 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor/Staff Roundtable

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Spring EC Meeting

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Spring Training

April 18<sup>th</sup> – VBS Training

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Spring Fling