

A monthly publication of Thankful Baptist Church



FEBRUARY 2026
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 10

THE THANKFUL TIMES

A CELEBRATION OF THREE DECADES

Pastor Dwight L. Sims
1218 Union Point Rd.
Stephens, GA 30667
706-743-5088

Thankful Baptist Church Celebrates
**PASTOR DWIGHT L. SIMS
& FIRST LADY RHONDA SIMS**



30th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

8:00 AM, 9:50 AM & 1:30 PM, DINNER SERVED AT 12 NOON
DR. MICHAEL GRESHAM || DR. JOHN H. SMITH || DR. LEROY HUDSON

THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH | 1218 UNION POINT RD. | STEPHENS, GA

WORSHIP SERVICES: Sundays at 9:50 AM BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

A CELEBRATION OF THREE DECADES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
8:00 AM Deacon Ministry
9:50 AM Honorable Judge Steve Jones

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
10 AM - NOON
Pastor Dwight L. Sims &
First Lady Rhonda Sims
Come out and honor them on this day!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Pastor Dwight L. Sims &
First Lady Rhonda Sims 30th Pastoral
Anniversary
Please wear Red & Black
8:00 AM Pastor Dr. Michael Gresham
& Thankful Grove BC, Carlton, GA
9:50 AM Dr. John H. Smith, Pastor
Emeritus - Welcome Friend BC,
Ellenwood, GA
1:30 PM Pastor Dr. Leroy Hudson
Thankful BC, Gibson, GA
-Dinner served @ 12 NOON-

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:50 AM Pastor Dwight L. Sims

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
8:00 AM FOOD BANK
ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
8:00 AM Elder Shawanda Wingfield
9:00 AM TBC YOUTH SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Sacrificial giving of \$100 for Life center
8:00 AM Sis. Sadie Jones &
Sis. Lira Davenport
9:50 AM Youth Sunday
Minister Christopher, Jr. of Hunter Hill
Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 cont'd
1:30 PM Pastor Dwight L. Sims &
TBC @ Huff Grove Baptist Church
Deacon Ordination Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
8:00 AM Deacon Ministry
9:50 AM Pastor Dwight L. Sims

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
9:50 AM Pastor Dwight L. Sims

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
8:00 AM Pastor Stanley Armstrong,
Anon Grove Baptist Church
9:50 AM Pastor Dwight L. Sims
Deacon Ordination of
Bro. Freddie Lay
7:00 PM @ TBC Deacon Fellowship,
Pastor Christopher Watson, Fork
Bethel Baptist Church

 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**
6 PM - 7 PM HAPPY 62nd
BIRTHDAY PASTOR SIMS 

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
9:50 AM Pastor Dwight L. Sims

(SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**Check your email for weekly
schedule updates from Pastor.
Wednesday Prayer Line link
sent weekly via email. Prayer
line link also on back of this
newsletter. Just point and
click.**

CHURCH MISSION

**The church is the
vehicle of Christ's
Mission to the world.
The commission to
the Church is a
worldwide one. The
triumphant, Living
Lord sends forth His
ambassadors to
proclaim His Gospel
throughout all the
world. The purpose
of the Church is to
make disciples of all
kinds of people.**

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On Sunday, January 11 Thankful packed the pews to listen to a message from The Honorable Michael Thurmond. He is a native of Athens, Paine College Alumnus, University of South Carolina School of Law graduate, former CEO of Dekalb County and former Georgia State Representative. Most recently he has joined the race to become Georgia's next Governor.

Brother Thurmond's message came from Ezekiel 22:30 where God was looking for "just one" but couldn't find none. This message was used to drive a point home, it doesn't take a whole lotta folk to get something done, it can be done with just one person, like Rosa Parks was that "one" to start a movement. It was a message of Christ using just one to bring about change. He asked the congregation, *"Are you that one that will break curses inflicting our people?"* He also spoke of his track record when he was a State Representative and as CEO of Dekalb County, proving that he is "the one" to get results as the next Governor of Georgia.

Using humor and facts, Brother Michael Thurmond spoke to the congregation about finding a good man, his work with fathers and the child-support court system, falling down and getting back up and also hope and reconciliation. At the end of the service the entire church took a photo with the guest of the hour for his memento.



Pastor Sims with the Honorable Michael Thurmond

CALLING ALL 2026 GRADUATES!!

If you have a scholar graduating in 2026 from high school, technical college, a career training program, or college/university Please reach out to Minister Veronica Johnson at cedarjag95@gmail.com. This year's graduate celebration will be held on Sunday, June 7th during our Youth Sunday Ceremony!



ABOUT OUR PASTOR

This year Thankful Baptist Church is proud to celebrate the 30th year of Pastor Dwight Lelane Sims as it's Shepherd. Under his leadership since February 1996, Thankful has grown sizably, not only in membership but in faith also.

A native of Athens and a graduate of Cedar Shoals High School (Go Jags!), Pastor Sims has been married to our wonderful First Lady Rhonda for 23 years. He is the son of the late Clarence Sims and the late Lula Catherine Sharp and Samuel Sharp. He has one sister, Pamela, and is a father of four and a grandfather of two. As a descendant of the famous "Howard Sisters", he always knew that God had a hand in his life. He grew up singing in the choir at Shiloh Baptist Church in Athens and later became a deacon. It was during his tenure at Shiloh that he accepted his calling into the ministry and was ordained by the late Pastor B. S. Jackson.

It was not long after accepting his calling that God led him to a little white church in Stephens, GA. With big shoes to fill after the retirement of the late Rev. C. P. Wright, God ordained him as the Shepherd to lead the flock at Thankful Baptist Church. Since the inception of his ministry, Pastor Sims laid the foundation of increasing God's house through the principle of tithes and offerings. Prior to pastoring Thankful, he was employed by McClane Southeast Company and retired after sixteen years of service to pastor full time.

Known to many as Dwight, Pastor Sims is not an arrogant man by any stretch of the imagination. As a matter of fact, he is the complete opposite, humble and down to earth describes him best. True to his upbringing, he believes in showing respect unapologetically. One of his most noticeable traits is his voice, his LOUD voice! That voice in the pulpit is the same voice you'll get if you run into him outside the church walls. That voice, is what all have come to gravitate to when learning the word of God. He is a "cry loud, spare not" type of preacher, delivering messages that convict and not condemn, making him a champion for winning souls for Jesus Christ.

His preaching style can be described as "street" and he often uses humor to communicate God's Word, which has allowed him to reach so many, young and old. Because of his own transparency and his ability to tap into the core of the people, this allows them to relax and open up to receive what God is saying through him. As an encouraging and inspiring disciple, his method of teaching plays an important role in drawing individuals to Christ. Many will tell you, if it were not for his unique style of preaching and teaching, they would not have the better understanding of the Bible that they have today.

"My initial calling was to help the broken hearted. I saw so much going on when I was a young man. Even in my own family, I saw so many of them making bad decisions. God called me to 'reach the people' and to relate to them in a joking manner to get His point across. Jeremiah 1:7 reminds me of God's call, 'But the Lord said unto me, do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.'" Having only a high school education, I believed I lacked the ability to talk and reason with the broken hearted. This scripture helps me to reach and reason with God's people to obey His commands."

His ability to reach people, especially the youth, is one of the many gifts with which God has graciously blessed him with. He appeals to them on their level, constantly reminding them to obey their parents and respect themselves and those around them. Many of his sermons are filled with messages for the youth, instilling in them that they are somebody and that they do matter. He is a familiar face in the Clarke County School District where he volunteers as a mentor at Cedar Shoals. His decision to further his own education led him to Gwinnett Hall Baptist College. In May 2009 he received his Associates Degree in Biblical Education and his Bachelors Degree in 2011. He went on to earn his Masters in 2016.

Pastor Sims is already leaving a legacy for future generations. With a growing congregation and community, he saw a great need for more space. Thankful, now housed in its current building since March 2003, is a result of Pastor Sims' vision. A Life Center that will serve the church and community through athletics and education will be the next facility constructed on the church campus. Twenty-five ministers have been ordained under his leadership with a number of them leaving the nest and starting their own ministries. Sons and Daughters of the ministry are encouraged to bring the Word and show their works through obedience in the Lord. It is with the full support of Pastor Sims and the Thankful Baptist Church family that these ministers are thriving in their callings. Deacons as well as other leaders in the church are also given the opportunity to teach throughout the year.

Dwight L. Sims is a steward that values what God has entrusted him with over the years. His devotion is to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first and then to his family. In his spare time, he can be found cleaning at the church or fishing and gardening, all the while singing praises to the Lord.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR SIMS

In honor of his 30th year, Pastor Sims took the time to answer some questions for The Thankful Times.

The Thankful Times: What have you learned from your time pastoring a church?

Pastor Sims: You must be spiritual and have thick skin and if Jesus is not in the plan you are wasting your time. I also learned that people are very sick physically as well as spiritually.

TTT: Knowing what you know now, what would you say to yourself when you first started your ministry?

Pastor Sims: Be patient and learn how to follow the spirit of Christ. If He says don't move then don't move.

TTT: What are the rewards of being a pastor?

Pastor Sims: The reward would be going to heaven. I deal with and have gotten to know a lot of Pastors and Ministers from different denominations, I have been a lot of places due to the ministry.

TTT: Do you work or volunteer in any capacity outside of TBC? If so, what do you do?

Pastor Sims: I volunteer 4 days a week 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m at Cedar Shoals High School and I make sure I get coach back to campus on Friday night for football. I mentor 9-12 grade at Cedar and I don't work no where else because the ministry takes a lot of my time.

TTT: How do you define "faith", especially during times of doubt?

Pastor Sims: Your faith is in the word of God. You must trust the word of God when the flesh tells you that ain't going to work that's where you must kill the flesh and stand on your faith.

TTT: How do you feel about your 30 years of pastoral ministry? Is this a milestone worth celebrating?

Pastor Sims: It is so real yes it is worth celebrating if one thing I have learned is smell your flowers while you are living. Whom much is given much is required of thee.

TTT: If you could ask Jesus to change one problem in the world today, which problem would you pick?

Pastor Sims: Our government where the laws are made, our laws are against the common people.

TTT: What are your plans for the rest of your ministry?

Pastor Sims: I am praying the folk get a relationship with Jesus and my hope is that my health is good.

TTT: Where do you see TBC in the near future?

Pastor Sims: A mixed congregation and our Life Center built.

TTT: As church members, what can we do to encourage/support you?

Pastor Sims: Get into the scriptures, it is right before us. Know that I need all the members to keep loving on me and touching me, that means the world to me.

TTT: What has kept you focused/committed over the course of your ministry?

Pastor Sims: Being saved makes a huge difference and the Lord has been good to me and my family but I also fear God for He is not mocked.

TTT: If you were not the pastor of Thankful today, what would you likely be?

Pastor Sims: Probably would have a BBQ business and a Fire Wood business.

TTT: Do you consider yourself to be a "successful" pastor? Why or why not?

Pastor Sims: On the spiritual side yes, it is all about the soul everything else doesn't matter. This word "successful" doesn't have nothing to with a big congregation or a big building or membership or material things. One thing I know is that when I, Dwight L. Sims hangs his hat, I know I told the people the truth. That is my success, because telling the truth is not popular, that's where faith comes in.

2026 IS THE **100TH** YEAR
OF BLACK HISTORY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH and it's origin

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WAS
FOUNDED BY **DR. CARTER G.
WOODSON IN 1926**. HE IS
KNOWN AS THE **“FATHER OF
BLACK HISTORY”**

IT WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS
NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

WHY FEBRUARY? BECAUSE IT IS THE BIRTHDAY MONTH OF
BOTH ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FREDRICK DOUGLASS, 2 GREAT
AMERICAN SYMBOLS OF FREEDOM

UNDER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD,
“NEGRO HISTORY WEEK” BECAME
BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN 1976

CELEBRATE
BEYOND FEBRUARY

OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH FAMILIAR ICONS, BLACK HISTORY
MONTH IS ALSO ABOUT **UNCOVERING THOUSANDS OF
STORIES** ONCE IGNORED

BLACK HISTORY
IS AMERICAN HISTORY

HOW TO CELEBRATE?
READ A BOOK BY A BLACK
AUTHOR, BUY FROM A BLACK
BUSINESS, EXPLORE BLACK
HISTORY ON YOUR OWN,
ATTEND A BHM EVENT,
CREATE YOUR OWN



*Mt Zion
Church*

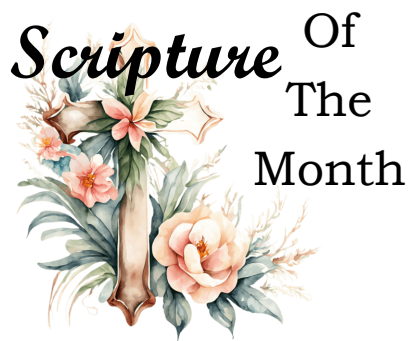
BRUNCHES OF *Love*

SAT. FEBRUARY 21, 2026. 11AM

Come out to spread Love and Fun
in our open forum brunch.

Please bring you ideals for open
discussion ideas in saving our
youths and churches.

Lots of Food, Fun and prizes.
Contact Sis Daphane Hull-Hayes
for more info 706-621-8994



"For the vision is yet for the appointed [future] time
It hurries toward the goal [of fulfillment]; it will not fail.
Even though it delays, wait [patiently] for it,
Because it will certainly come; it will not delay.
Habakkuk 2:3 (Amplified Bible)

The Kounseling Korner, LLC



Looking for support for your middle or high schooler?

I'm Inesha K. Howard, M. Ed, a Professional School Counselor with a deep passion for helping adolescents navigate the challenges of growing up academically, emotionally, and socially.

With years of experience working with students and families, I specialize in preparing teens for the real world while building their confidence and resilience. My approach is all about keeping it

R.E.A.L.:

***Relatable. Empathetic. Authentic.
Laughing.***

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\$140 MONTHLY (INCLUDES 1 HOUR SESSION ONCE PER WEEK)
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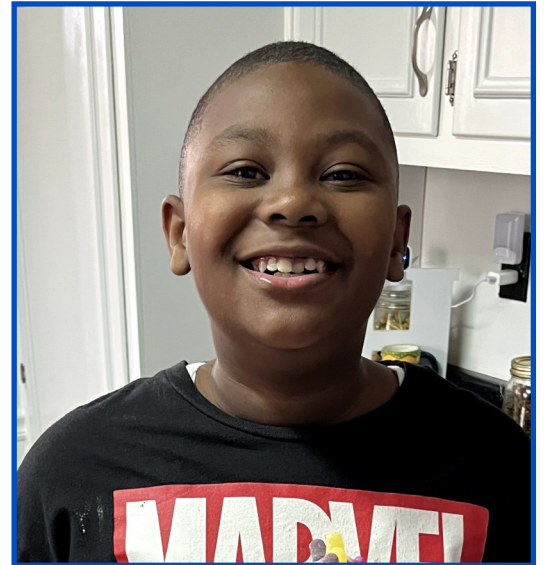


CONGRATULATIONS!! JADA THOMAS AND DJ SIMS



Sister Jada Thomas is a sophomore at Kenne-
saw State University. She received all A's Fall Se-
mester and also made the President's List with a
4.0 GPA. Congratulations to Jada, she is the
niece of Sister Heather Campbell.

Brother Deionte "DJ" Sims, Jr. is excelling in math
at Flint Hill Elementary School in Covington, GA.
He received a certificate of academic excellence
for his achievement in January. He was awarded
by his teacher Mrs. Jenkins. Keep it up DJ. He is
the son of Brother Deionte Sims and grandson
of Pastor and First Lady.



ARE YOU AN ALUMNI OF CEDAR SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL?

We are excited to formally launch our Cedar Shoals Alumni Web Platform and it's so much more than just a website. This is our new hub for all things Cedar Shoals Alumni. Please share this information with your classmates, friends and family who are also CSHS Jags.

Our platform is designed to keep y'all connected and informed with updates on service projects, fundraising initiatives, class news, and more. Most importantly, we've created dedicated spaces where classes can gather and organize.

Visit cedarshoalsalumni.com today

This is just the beginning! Welcome home, Jaguars!

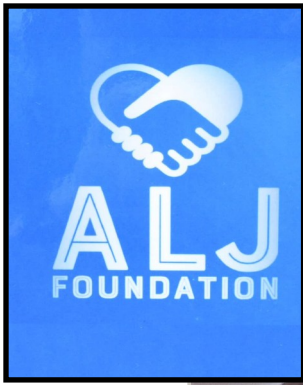
The ALJ Foundation held its first gala on January 10 at the Oconee County Civic Center in Watkinsville. The Gala was a celebration to honor the Late Elder Antonio “Pootie” Jewell who passed away in February 2024. Elder Jewell’s family has honored his life and legacy since his untimely passing with a number of events but this gala was a charity event to bring awareness to a cause near and dear to his family’s heart and to raise funds.

The MC for the evening was Brother Tarquavious Nash of Gardenview Funeral Home and the guest speaker was Dr. Cynthia Williams with *Love from Afar*, a grief recovery and advocacy organization dedicated to healing after loss and trauma. The food was catered by Dukes BBQ and Big Tymer Entertainment was the DJ. Brother John Gagliano was presented with a certificate of appreciation. He is the photographer for the ALJ Foundation and does so without any compensation, a true testament to his love for the Jewell family. It was also the birthday of Brother Phil’Drekus Jewell. He was surprised with a birthday cake at the event.



Family and friends with Brother John Gagliano, recipient of The ALJ Foundation Certificate of Appreciation





Antonio L. Jewell

FOUNDATION WINTER WONDERLAND GALA



In memory of The Late Elder Antonio “Pootie” Jewell, his mother, Sister Annette Hannah wanted to remember him by posing on his truck. This truck was how Elder provided for his family. Although he is gone he is surely not forgotten.



To the family of Elder Antonio Jewell, your TBC family continues to pray, uplift and support you. Elder Jewell’s unforgettable impact will forever be etched into the walls and family of Thankful Baptist Church. Continue to use *The ALJ Foundation* as a vessel to spread his message and may it’s impact be felt far and wide. Your beloved husband, father, son and brother will forever be missed.

Love, Your TBC Family

ANTONIO L. JEWELL ALJ FOUNDATION

In remembrance of Elder Antonio "Pootie" Jewell his family has created a memorial foundation. ALJ Foundation will support local kids in the community through scholarships, educational activities and supplies and other expenses.

Please consider donating to keep his legacy alive. He had a heart for the kids and had taken so many young men under his wings.

To donate: Cashapp - \$aljfoundation09

Zelle - aljfoundation09@gmail.com

PLEASE GIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO HELP BOTH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS
WITH YEARLY EVENTS

CLEAN HANDS PURE HEART MINISTRIES (CHPH)



About Our Ministry

Since 2019, Clean Hands Pure Heart Ministries have been committed to serving individuals with developmental disabilities by having outreach ministries. Our comprehensive training and educational resources give families the support they need to be successful. Our team love to motivate God's Especially - Special babies by taking field trips, sharing Gods love, and telling them about the Gospel.

Ways To Donate

PayPal
@ShawandaWingfield

Cash Donations Accepted

In loving memory of
David "Dave" Chafin
10/1/62 - 4/21/24

**CLEAN HANDS PURE
HEART MINISTRIES**

Elder Shawanda Wingfield is
the Founder of Clean Hands
Pure Heart Ministries, LLC.

706-424-4242
chphnonprofit24@gmail.com

Elder Shawanda Wingfield is in need of a van for her ministry to help transport the kids when necessary. Let's help her reach this goal. Visit gofundme.com and search "Shawanda Wingfield" to make a donation toward her goal.

Sick and Shut-In & Bereaved Families

*May
the Lord
BLESS YOU*

AND PROTECT YOU. MAY THE LORD
SMILE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS
TO YOU. MAY THE LORD SHOW YOU
HIS FAVOR AND GIVE YOU

His Peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

BEREAVED FAMILIES

*During your times of prayer please
remember the bereaved*

Mrs. Doreen Hull & The Family of Pastor Paul Hull

SICK & SHUT-IN

*During your times of prayer please
remember our sick and shut-in*

Sis. Plashetta Howard

Bro. Harry Dalton

Bro. Bill Coward

Bro. William Scott

Bro. L. B. Hitchcock

Bro. Joe Kennedy

Sis. Kris Faust

Sis. Lois Standley

Bro. William Jones

Bro. Joseph Kenney

Sis. Abby Vendrillo

Sis. Betty Webb

Bro. Eddie Walter

Sis. Sandra Johnson

Bro. Eddie Lee

Sis. Rosa Ellis

Bro. O. J. Faust

Sis. Brianna Thomas

Sis. Georgianna Campbell

Mother Mamie Howard

Sis. Linda Terrell

Bro. Mateo Brown

THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH

**now has a Grief Support
Ministry that meets on
Wednesday evenings after
bible study.**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**February 1 – Bro. Bryson Taylor and
Sis. Anita Thompson**
**February 2 – Minister Robbie Faust and
Sis. Gloria Pender**
February 3 – Sis. Maya Stattelman
February 5 – Sis. Tomaro Faust
February 6 – Sis. Inesha Carruth
February 7 – Sis. Leteryl Davenport
February 8 – Bro. Donterris Evans
**February 10 - Sis. Lakeisha Stephens and
Sis. Stephanie Williams**
**February 12 – Sis. Treon Austin, Sis. Patrice
Pittman and Sis. Leteryl Davenport**
**February 14 – Dea. Leroy Derricotte, Jr., Sis. Shelion
Dious and Sis. Tiffany Clarke**
**February 15 – Sis. Kendra Johnson and Bro.
Ferrico Brookins**
February 16 - Sis. Jada Thomas
**February 17 – Sis. Lolethia Faust and
Sis. Kyle Mattox**
**February 18 – Sis. Vivian Evans and
Bro. Kimauri Barnes**
**February 19 – Sis. Elbony Taylor, Bro. Tyler
Hitchcock and Sis. Mycheala
Gamble**
February 21 – Bro. Bernard Starks, Jr.
**February 24 – Sis. ShaRae Daniel and
Bro. Kendrick Johnson, Jr.**
**February 25 – Sis. Makayla Bennett, Sis.
Kalen Bennett and Sis. Taliyah
Thomas**
**February 26 – Sis. Dorothy Lattimore and
Sis. Fran-cot Freeman**
February 28 – Sis. Alvecchio Perlotte

Send your:

Church & Ministry Events/News
Birthdays & Anniversaries
Graduations & Congratulations
Baptisms/New Members
Births & Memorials
Sick Notices/Prayer Requests
Testimonies
Wedding Announcements
Messages of Thanks
Inspirational/Devotional Messages
Other Announcements
to be featured in the newsletter.

For your convenience,
Thankful Baptist Church accepts

zelle

Use this email:
thankfulbaptch@windstream.net

WON'T YOU JOIN?
FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT



THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH

Prayer Line

Join The Prayer Line
Every Wednesday
Morning At
9:00 am

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83554954265?pwd=1vMY63bPaVQjVGprTM2c7tOLX1TRYe.1>

**Click to
access the prayer
line link**

Meeting ID: 835 5495 4265
Passcode: f5rMb2

Thankful Baptist Church - Dwight L. Sims, Pastor
1218 Union Point Rd. Stephens, GA 30667 706-743-5088
On the web: www.thankfulbaptistchurch.net Church email: thankfulbaptch@windstream.net