

Blood River Review

NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



January

- 2nd-Jana Kee, Union Ridge
- 9th - George Culp, Jr., Pleasant Valley
- 10th - Carl McNeill, Oak Grove
- 13th - Glenn Cope, Flint
- 14th - Jack Studie, Hamlet
- 17th - Jackie Thweatt, New Bethel
- 25th - Jo Ann Josleyn, Scotts Grove

Church Anniversary

1st Sunday- Randy KuyKendall (2012)

Larry Salmon, (2002)

Terry Josleyn, (2016)

2nd Sunday- Philip Bazzell (2017)



1st - Martin & Ginger Severns (1983)

6th - Hal & Mary Barrow (1963)

7th - Philip & Teresa Bazzell (1972)

10th - Rodney & Gail Wallace (1964)

17th - Jack & Judy Studie (1970)

31st - David & Dawn York (2013)



The Blood River Baptist Association
Office
Will be Closed
December 22 - Jan. 1, 2018



Retirement & Insurance Review

Featuring: Don Spencer

Church Financial Benefits Consultant for
KBC

Who will Benefit?

- Pastors
- Staff Members
- Church Treasurers
- Finance Committee Members

Friday January 12, 2018 9:00-4:00PM @ BRBA



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MAY EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU
HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A BLESSED NEW YEAR FROM EVERY-
ONE AT BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION



Quarterly WMU Meeting

Hamlet Baptist Church

3923 Egners Ferry Road, Benton KY

January 22nd @ 10:00 AM

Everyone Welcome



December 21st First Day of Winter

NOTES FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

November was another busy month for us. We were able to help 130 families. We gave out 2980 food items, 570 bread and 290 Hygiene items.

We were also able to give out 125 Thanksgiving baskets. These contained 2023 food items.

We want to thank everyone for their continued support allowing us to be able to do this.

Don't forget "Bags of Hope Sunday" coming up Jan. 7th.

Please be in prayer for more volunteers at Bags of Hope.

Merry Christmas and God Bless

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

Hamlet
Kirksey

Salem
New Harmony

Ledbetter

**UPCOMING
Events**

December

22-31
25
31

Office Closed for Christmas
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve

January 2018

1
5
7
8
11
12
14
15
16
17
21
22

New Year's Day
Deadline for Scholarship App.
Bags of Hope Sunday
4:30 1st Place meets Memorial
6:30 1st Place Orientation
Westside Baptist
6:30 PM Mission Board MTG
Memorial Baptist
Bro. Don Spencer meets with
Pastors about Retirement
Blood River Baptist Assoc.
1st Place meets weekly 4:15pm
Memorial Baptist
Martin Luther King Day
Office Closed
5:00 pm 1st Place Meets every
Tuesday
12:00pm Minister's Prayer Lunch
August Moon
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
10:00 AM WMU Quarterly MTG
Hamlet Baptist

February

2
8
10
11
12-18
12
14
22

Groundhog Day
6:30 PM Exc. Board Mtg. Sinking
Springs Baptist Church
Strategy Review & Dream
Session 9am - 12 @ BRBA
with Eric Allen
Race Reconciliation Sunday
Focus on WMU
Lincoln's Birthday
Valentines Day
Washington's Birthday

New Zion: Jeremiah 3:15- "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

Greetings from New Zion! With Christmas just around the corner and the end of the year drawing near, this has to be the toughest letter yet I have to write. I love Christmas and everything about the true meaning of it. What I don't like about the end of the year is that we have to say goodbye to Bro. Rodney Wallace and Ms. Gail. As he retires at the end of December, we all wish him the very best and pray that his retirement is filled with many blessings and much needed rest. I could write for hours about all they have done in almost 9 years, yet you don't have to look far to see the benefits of their true and dedicated work for the Lord. The flock of New Zion thanks you both, says God Bless You, and you better be sitting in the pew on April 1st. Nov. 17th and 18th we held 24 hours of prayer to earnestly pray for our Pastor Search Committee. Nov. 19th we held a baby dedication service and the Lord's supper. Nov. 25th our amazing cook fed breakfast to the decorating committee and the decorated the church for Christmas. Special thank you to everyone who helped. December 3rd Bro. Mark Sickling filled our pulpit while Bro. Rodney was on vacation. Thank you for two wonderful sermons. Dec. 6 we held our Tree of Remembrance ceremony. Dec. 9, Bro. Jordan Roach preached in our morning service and what a blessing he is to us. Dec. 15, our Sr. Saints attended the Variety Christmas Extravaganza at Badgett Playhouse and enjoyed supper at Majestic. Dec.17, our youth presented "Still Her Little Child", we held our church wide Christmas dinner and Bro. Tim Bertram was our guest speaker.

Oak Grove: In October, Our church was saddened by the death of two of our members, Debbie Lynn Ferguson and Mrs. Margaret Gerhardt, one of our oldest members. Our church family extends deepest sympathy to the families. Also, many of our member have been ill and some have been hospitalized. We were blessed on the first Sunday in October to welcome Mrs. Judy Hefner by letter to our church family. Some of our people attended the Annual Associational meeting on Oct 2-3. Oct 14, we held our annual fish fry and auction fund raiser and raised \$1,477 for missions. We donated four cases of Bibles to Bags of Hope, \$100 to buy ten back packs, and six frozen turkeys. The new security cameras were installed, and we elected a four member Safety Committee. Oct. 29, there was excitement for both young and old. Bro. Andy Paschall brought his beautiful team of white horses with a wagon load of hay. After the hay ride, we had a chili cook-off along with soup, sandwiches desserts and all the fixings. This was followed by a costume contest for all ages. The choir has begun practice for the Christmas cantata, and we began collections for the Freda Harris toy drive and Christmas shoe box ministry. Bro. Carl wants to extend a big THANK YOU to all our member who are so excited and willing to be involved in our church ministries. As the holidays approach, Oak Grove people have been very busy. Fifty-six toys were collected for the Freda Harris toy drive. November 12, the senior adult Sunday School class loaded on the van after the morning worship service and had lunch at Camden, TN. Bro. Carl and Ms. Fran attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville. Sunday night, Nov. 19, we enjoyed a joint Thanksgiving service at Sinking Spring, along with Salem Baptist. We collected 37 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and our Women of Hope prepared and delivered approximately 40 Thanksgiving baskets.

New Bethel: The Freda Harris Toy Drive ended on Nov. 5th and we pray that the toys that were donated by New Bethel and the other churches in the BRBA will make a lot of less fortunate kids in Eastern KY very happy on Christmas morning. On Nov. 7, our young at Heart Seniors went to Parcell's in Draffenville for their monthly outing. Nov. 15, the Marshall County Sheriff's Dept. met with parents, grandparents and other interested folks her at New Bethel to discuss the difficulties our Youth are facing in our community with drugs and other problems. On Nov. 19, there was a Thanksgiving Sunrise Offering for Sunrise Children's Services to help bring hope to children and families in crisis. Nov. 23rd was Thanksgiving Day, a day to give thanks to God for all the blessings he bestows upon us. On Thanksgiving Day, the items we donated to the BRBA Bags of Hope Ministry helped a 100 needy families in our community have a great Thanksgiving meal and the items donated to Needline helped provide a Thanksgiving meal for probably 700 families. December is Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - every cent of this offering goes to support International Missions. Thanks to Brother Mark and Jackie for being here at New Bethel-we love and appreciate them.

Pleasant Valley: 'Tis the season to be merry and with great reason. We are celebrating the greatest gift that was ever given. The gift of eternal life that started with the birth of our Lord Jesus. We are in full festive mode. Poinsetta's decorate the altar in honor and remembrance of loved ones. We just had our Christmas meal and if things look bigger at our church it is because no doubt we have all gained a hearty five pounds. Hats off to the Hospitality Crew that keeps our fellowship decorated and beautiful for special occasions and the food piping hot and delicious. Santa & Mrs. Claus paid our kids a visit and were a smash hit with kids and adults. We are looking forward to the kids Christmas Play next week. They have worked very hard for the past month and a half. It is always a treat and another round of applause to Robin Bedwell and Deanna Pearson for gearing up the play. Others have helped and even fed the kids for the afternoon. There is always a lot of behind the scene work that goes on. Many of us will never know what each act of service and sacrifice given to this project but God knows. We appreciate every bit of it and know the finish product will bring honor and glory to our Lord as well as be a good night of entertainment. Fruit baskets and Caroling will be going on close to Christmas. This is an old fashion way of visiting some of the shut ins and some who we just want to honor with their long commitment to our Lord. We live in a world of texts and social media but nothing ever replaces a face to face visit. We hope to tune up our voices and sing a chorus or two but mostly to let them know we love and appreciate them. Our church home to yours, may you have the merriest Christmas and a bounty of God's blessings jingle upon you.

Union Ridge: We have had a busy holiday season so far. On the first day of December we had our Annual Christmas Party at Willow Pond, In Aurora KY. We had 27 members that enjoyed a lot of fun games and great food. We had our Annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner on the 3rd day of December after our Sunday morning service. Some of our members are going to Nashville, TN to see the "Cirque Dreams Holiday" performance and enjoy lunch at Opry Mills. We have our Lottie Moon goal set at \$1,200.00 this year. We will observing the Lords Supper on the 17th of December. On December 30th we will be going out caroling and delivering fruit baskets. Please remember to keep "Christ" in Christmas this holiday season. Take the time to explain to your children and grandchildren the true meaning of Christmas.

Salem: We had a wonderful Thanksgiving message ,fellowship and meal at Sinking Springs Baptist Church and thoroughly enjoyed the evening, along with Oak Grove Baptist Church. The youth had a float in the Christmas parade again this year. They enjoyed decorating the float, and being in the parade. We appreciate the good Lord giving us warm weather that afternoon, and thankful for the crowd that attended. On the first Sunday in December each person brought an ornament and we decorated the Christmas tree. On the tenth we went Christmas caroling and took baskets to our shut-ins. What a blessing for all that went. Then we returned to the church for some wonderful refreshments. Bro. Jim went with us, and he got to meet folks he hadn't met before. We got to meet his lovely wife, Murdena. Our Youth are practicing on the Christmas play which will be coming up Sunday night at 6:00. Afterward we will enjoy finger foods in the activity building. We want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2018.

New Zion Continued: I pray you all have a Merry Christmas and that you will be in prayer for our search committee. God Bless You Bro. Rodney and Ms. Gail!!

**Blood River Baptist Association Executive
Board Meeting
January 11th @ 6:30 PM
Memorial Baptist
906 Main Street
Murray Kentucky**

Mark's Memos

I enjoy playing golf, both the real thing and the video game versions. On my on-line version of golf, one setting allows the player to have unlimited "mulligans". A mulligan is what the non-golfer would call a "do over". If the golfer hits a bad shot, he/she can take a mulligan (hit another shot) without it counting against their score. For those of us who are not pros, having the option to take a "mulligan" after we hit a terrible shot, makes the game a lot more enjoyable.

Brothers and sister in Christ, as we begin a New Year, I want you to realize that our Heavenly Father through the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the Cross of Calvary has given us unlimited "mulligans". The Apostle John writes in 1 John 1:9, **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteous."**

Furthermore, as we enter into this New Year, I hope and pray that you will take the advice of the Apostle Paul gave the Christians at Philippi: **"...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."**

I look with great anticipation on what God is going to do in and through churches of the Blood River Baptist Association in 2018.

I want to remind you of an important opportunity for pastors; finance committees; pulpit committees and church treasurers. Bro. Don Spencer of the KBC will be with us on January 11-12. He will speak to pastors and board members at our monthly meeting at Memorial Baptist on January 11. Then, on Jan. 12, Bro. Don will be available at the BRBA building for personal and confidential consulting on all things related to a pastor's pay package.

I have known Bro. Don Spencer for over 30 years. He is very knowledgeable in the area of church finances; as well as, how to best set up a pastor's salary package (salary; retirement; insurance, etc.) to avoid paying unnecessary taxes. He will be available from 9am-4pm on Friday for individual consultations. So, I want to encourage all of our pastors to call the Associational office and set up an appointment with Don on Friday for a financial review.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark

December 19, 2017

EMAIL US AT

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You MUST LIMIT your article to **200**
WORDS!



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