





Blood River Baptist Association Ministry Volunteer  
Christmas Dinner

Thursday December 7th @ 6:30PM

Blood River Baptist Association Building



## LOTTIE MOON: Supporting International Missions



Support International Missions  
Through Southern Baptists' Annual  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 10th Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



December 21st First Day of Winter

### NOTES FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

October was a busy month, we were able to help 154 families. We gave out 3,235 food items, 400 bread and 431 hygiene items.

We want to thank everyone for your continued support without it we would not be able to do this.

We would like to encourage you to make cards out for the grocery sacks. It make a good mission project for kids. Thank you Pleasant Hope for making some last month.

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless

### CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

Hamlet  
Kirksey

Salem  
New Harmony

Ledbetter

## UPCOMING Events

### November

19 Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise  
Children's Services

23 Thanksgiving

23-24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

### December

3-10 Week of Prayer, Lottie Moon  
Offering

5 First Place Christmas Stars  
Banquet, Westside

14 6:30 pm Pastors/Board Members/Wives  
Christmas Dinner @ Altona

22-31 Offices Closed for Christmas

25 Christmas Day

31 New Year's Eve

### January

1 New Year's Day

5 Deadline for Scholarship App.  
7 Bags of Hope Sunday

8 4:30 1st Place meets Memorial  
6:30 1st Place Orientation

Westside Baptist

11 6:30 PM Mission Board MTG  
Memorial Baptist

12 Bro. Don Spencer meets with  
Pastors about Retirement

Blood River Baptist Assoc.  
14 1st Place meets weekly 4:15pm

Memorial Baptist

15 Martin Luther King Day  
Office Closed

16 5:00 pm 1st Place Meets every  
Tuesday

17 12:00pm Minister's Prayer Lunch  
August Moon

21 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday  
10:00 AM WMU Quarterly MTG

22 Hamlet Baptist

**New Bethel:** Here at New Bethel on October 1st there was a potluck at 12:00 noon to celebrate the success of the Inasmuch Mission Project. This was also Skip Lunch Sunday for Kids Against Hunger and \$140.00 was donated. October 3rd was Ladies Night Out at Jackie's with lots of food, fun and fellowship. October 15th was Exceptional Sunday with donation going to the Exceptional School. Also on October 15th there was a Laser Tag event for everyone of all ages, and then later on, there was a Fellowship Picnic at Mike Miller Park with BBQ, Chips, Drinks and Desserts. On October 25th Pastor Samuel Kiguli spoke to us about his journey to Uganda and he was a real blessing. On October 29th, we observed the Lord's Supper in the morning service and then in the afternoon we had our Harvest Time Party with a Chili Supper, fun and games, Trunk or Treat and a Hayride. The Bags of Hope Ministry is planning to give out 100 Thanksgiving Baskets in November to needy families in our community, with donations provided by each member church of the BRBA. We love and appreciate Brother Mark and Jackie-keep them in your prayers and pray for each other pray for our leaders and pray for our country.

**Pleasant Valley:** Tis the season to be busy yet full of opportunities for blessings. That has certainly been the case in our little church home. We had 30 people participate in the corn maze and 30 people came out despite Corey English confirming why he readily admits he should not be the leader as he lead a small group in circles in what should have been a five-minute trail that turned into a 45 minute adventure. Travis from Wisconsin was falsely accused for flying corn pellets when it all actuality it turned out to be our very own Pastor being mischievous. Our church joined with Briensburg Baptist Church to help with Friday Night Lights effort. We fed the football team one evening at the high school before the game. Robin Bedwell helped coordinate the project. Mitzi English ordered Fazolis and got the meal together and we are grateful for the crew there to serve. The beauty of it is that a devotion was given to each student there...many of which might never enter into our churches so thru a ministry we were able to present the gospel to them while filling a need. We had our annual Chili and Halloween Dessert Contest. Congratulations to the winners. Megan Pugh won the chili contest and Robin Bedwell won the dessert contest with what looked like green slime. Bro. George was a little afraid to dive into it but it was tasty despite its look. We want to thank our member for pulling together 56 toys to help with the Freda Harris toy drive. Proud of all the association for surpassing the goal of 1400 toys. We have had two weddings. Jordan and Tevan Harper were joined in Holy wedlock in a beautiful ocean scenery while our newest newlyweds were Travis and Cari Erlich who got married just this past Veteran's day at the church. Bro. George anointed several with tubes of bubbles he got at the guest register. He anointed the couple with blessings, the church bell ringer, the pianist, and the list continued to grow. However, at the end of the wedding, Bro. George noticed he was surrounded and caught up in the middle, suspicious something was up. The anointed crowd did their own Bubble Blessings to him. We had a lot of fun. Despite the corn pellet throwing and bubble blasting's, we did have a Pastor Appreciation meal this past month. We love Bro. George and Joan very much. We have a lot of fun but get a lot of soul food from him as well. Bro. George has a true pastor's heart and loves his flock. We want to commend him and all of the veterans for their service to this great country. He work tirelessly in Veteran services. May God bless America and continue to bless his children.

**Pleasant Hope:** Well another month has gone by, we had a great turn out for our Trunk or Treat but we like to have froze, but the Chili and Hot Dogs helped with that. We have had a lot of member having some health issues, but hopefully everyone is getting better, still one more surgery coming up soon. We were able to donate 102 toys to the Freeda Harris Toy Drive. It was really great we exceeded the goal of 1400 and have gotten 1513, Thanks to all that gave. We enjoyed a great day on the 12th as we had our Thanksgiving meal and was glad Bro. Mark and Kristin was able to join us. We had a ton of food and lots of good desserts (YUM). Hope we all remember to thank Our Lord and Savior for He has given to us and for us. God Bless until next time.

**Sugar Creek: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."** 1 Thessalonians 5:18. It is hard to believe that fall is here, and Thanksgiving is upon us. Sugar Creek has so much to be thankful for, God is so good to us. We have completed the nice covered pavilion and we hope to put it to good use throughout the year. Stop by and visit and let us show you what God is doing at Sugar Creek. We will be having our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday night, November 19th at 6:00p.m. This is such a wonderful time to give thanks for all our blessing and have good food and fellowship. The youth is getting ready for our Christmas program and it is going to be something totally different than anything they have done before. They are practicing hard and having so much fun getting ready. Thank you to everyone who is helping the youth with this program. This will be such a blessing for everyone , so please make plans to come for this special program and a potluck dinner on Sunday December 17th at 6:00p.m. Come and visit us at Sugar Creek. ~**God gave us a gift of 86,400 second today, have you used one to say Thank you?**

**Salem Baptist:** The last few weeks have been filled with changes at Salem. Bro. Jim Simmons is now serving as our Interim Pastor while the Pastor Search Committee continues to search for a pastor. He is starting a twenty-four week study on the "Power of Prayer". We are all looking forward to this exciting study. The Fall Festival was a big success with many in attendance. We appreciate Sherri and Charlie organizing this big event. We had ten pots of chili, and our chili cookoff winner was Jenna Crouch. Congrats to her! Our youth went to Judgement House in Princeton in October, and two young men accepted Jesus as their Savior. They will be baptized on November 26. We are looking forward to a joint Thanksgiving meal with Sinking Spring and Oak Grove on November 19. It's always a time of good food and fellowship. The youth are planning to be in the Murray Christmas parade again this year. We appreciate our youth and KWAM leaders. God is so good to us.

**Union Ridge:** Our church collected several toys for the Freeda Harris Toy Drive this month. We also donated two turkeys for Bags of Hope Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving baskets that will be given to their clients on November 20th. We had 18 people to go on our trip to Lambert's Café, in Sikeston, Mo. They enjoyed a good time of fellowship. Our members are looking forward to good food and fellowship at our Thanksgiving meal. We are very thankful for everyone in our church family and our visitors that we have been blessed with. **In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonian 5:18**

**Dexter:** We had a great turnout for the Fall Festival Trunk or Treat on Oct 25th. We had plenty of games, food and fun for all ages. Bro. David has been keeping the baptistry busy with all the blessings of people coming to know the Lord in Salvation. WMU met Nov. 6th with 6 present and planning for the Thanksgiving dinner we are hosting with Scotts Grove providing the music and Flint Baptist Bro. Glenn Cope bringing the message on November 19th starting at 6:00pm. We are having a ladies night out where the men are cooking dinner for the ladies and then they are going to Beautiful Life Tour at Trace Creek. Thank you Dexter for giving the ladies of the church a night out. Ms. Sandy will be taking the children out to Mr. Gatti's with the help of the youth and delivering a Thanksgiving Basket to a family that they helped to put together. Looking forward to the WMU Christmas party where it is always fun watching someone "steal" a gift that someone else chose. Bro. Terry's bar-b-q deer meat is always something we look forward to. We pray everyone has a very Happy Safe & Blessed Thanksgiving.

**BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
PASTORS/ BOARD MEMBERS/WIVES  
CHRISTMAS DINNER  
6:30 pm  
ALTONA BAPTIST CHURCH  
5827 US HWY 62  
CALVERT CITY, KY 42029  
270-851-3527**

Blood River Baptist Association  
Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## Mark's Memos

As I sit at my computer to compose this article, I am reflecting on the past few days spent at the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville. I must confess, I have mixed emotions about this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Without a doubt this year's KBC was filled with great times of worship where the messengers and guests had the opportunity to worship and praise the LORD and be challenged by the Word of God from the Convention preachers. I especially enjoyed hearing the musical selections of Doxology, an ensemble from Southern Seminary of which my son, Brandon is a part; and a young blind girl named Marlana Van Hoose.

I also enjoyed hearing some good preaching from Dr. Johnny Hunt; Dr. Bill Langley; and Bro. Tommy Reed.

However, it is sad to me that more pastors and churches do not send messengers to the annual meeting of the KBC. When I started attending the KBC in the late 1980's there would be thousands of messengers attend. This year, we only had 686 registered messengers.

Unfortunately, the decline in messengers to the annual convention is probably proportional to the decline in attendance most of our churches are seeing on Sunday morning; Sunday night; and Wednesday night.

So, as we approach the busy and sometimes hectic Christmas Season and approach the beginning of a new year, I hope you will join me in doing a little soul searching. I hope you will evaluate how you spend your time; how you spend the money and resources God has given you; the relationships you have and how you treat the ones you say you love; and your faithfulness to God's Word and His church.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope to see many of you at our Volunteers Christmas Dinner or our Pastors/ Board Members/ Wives banquet in December, but if I don't I hope and pray that God will bless you, your family, and His Churches in 2018. Likewise, I pray that you and yours will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And finally, I look with anticipation what God is going to do in and through our lives and the churches of Blood River Baptist Association in 2018.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark

November 19, 2017

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

