

Blood River Baptist Association

Mission Board Meeting

New Bethel Baptist Church

January 10th @ 6:30 PM

Blood River Baptist Association
Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions
P.O. Box 18, 47 Aurora Hwy.
Hardin, KY 42048-0018
270-437-4203/Fax: 270-437-4228

Mark's Memos

As we approach the end of 2018 and look forward to what God is going to do in our lives, in the lives of our families, in our churches and in our association, I think it is appropriate to stop and reflect upon what He has done over the past year.

On February 12, 2018, we received notice that we would have to vacate our Bags of Hope Building at the 4-way stop here in Hardin. After a lot of prayer, discussion, and research God provided not one building, but two on Mayfield Highway to house the Bags of Hope Food Pantry and Clothing Ministry of Blood River Baptist Association.

I am so grateful for the leadership of our Bags of Hope Building Committee, our Director Marvin Gore, the Mission Board, and all of our churches for how you have responded to this move. God has blessed us greatly, and in turn we have had the privilege of blessing many others during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Comparing our ACP reports from 2017 to 2018 revealed a mixed bag of results. Total Membership declined, and the 187 baptisms in 2018 was down from 204 in 2017. Not too surprisingly, Sunday School attendance and worship attendance also continues to decline. But, every area of our giving from CP giving; to Associational Giving; and total Missions Giving increased. So, do we have some work to do? Yes, but praise God there are a lot of Great things happening in the churches of Blood River Baptist Association.

Many other things are worth noting, but space is limited. I thank the LORD for all of our pastors and churches, and for their support of the many ministries of Blood River Baptist Association in 2018 and look with great anticipation to what God will do in and through us in 2019.

I pray that each of you, have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Serving Him,

Bro. Mark Sickling



December 19, 2018

EMAIL US AT:

bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org
Remember to limit your words to 175
& have your information in by the
20th of each month.

Volume 7 Number 1

Blood River Review

January 2018 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



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

Church Anniversary

First Sunday

- Randy Kuykendall, Westfork (2012)
- Larry Salmon, Coldwater (2002)
- Terry Josleyn, Scotts Grove (2016)

Second Sunday

- Philip Bazzell, Sugar Creek (2017)



- 1st Martin & Ginger Severns, Memorial (1983)
- 6th Hal & Mary Barrow, Blood River (1963)
- 7th Phillip & Teresa Bazzell, Sugar Creek (1972)

Notes From Bags of Hope

In November we were able to help 125 families. We gave out 3946 food items, 471 bread, and 147 hygiene items.. Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

We were able to make and give out 155 baskets to families for Thanksgiving

Thank you



Deadline for Scholarship Applications

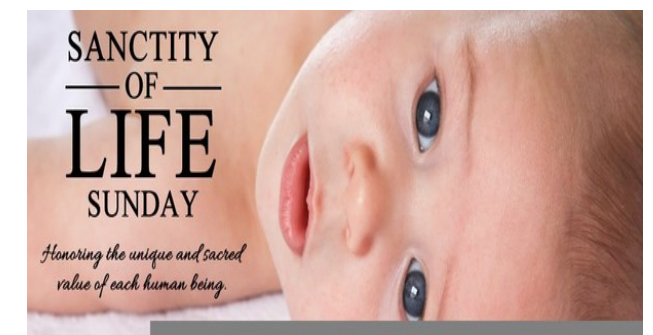
Friday January 4th at the Association Office



Quarterly WMU Meeting

January 28th

10:00am @ New Harmony
Baptist Church



Sanctity of Human Life

Sunday January 20th



Minister's Luncheon Sirloin Stockade

January 16th

Murray KY @ 12:00 PM



Missions Committee

Missions Committee Meeting

January 8th 2:00PM

Blood River Baptist Association



Office Closed January 21st in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

With the resignation of our Associational Secretary, Mrs. Sandra Little, The Blood River Baptist Association is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant (30-hour work week /Mon.-Fri.) . Qualified applicants must have great interpersonal skills and be proficient in QuickBooks; Excel; Word; Publisher; and be efficient in the creating; editing; publishing; and filing of various documents and reports from these and other computer programs. Interested applicants may send their resume to Blood River Baptist Association; C/O Bro. Mark Sickling; P.O. Box 18 Hardin KY 42048. Resumes' must be received by Jan. 18, 2019 to be considered.

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

**New Mt. Carmel Kirksey Salem
Altona**

UPCOMING Events

December

21-Jan 1 Office Closed for Holidays
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve



2019 January

1st Happy New Year (Office Closed)
4th Deadline for Scholarship Applications
5th 8:15-11:45AM 1st Conference @ Hamlet
6th 4:30 PM 1st Place Orientation, Memorial
7th 6:30 PM 1st Place Orientation, BRBA
8th 2:00 PM Missions Committee @ BRBA
8th 5:00 PM Scholarship Trust Fund Meeting
10th 6:30 PM Exec. Board Mtg. Bethel Baptist
13th 4:15 PM 1st Place meets weekly at Memorial
13th 2:00 PM Arizona Mission Trip Meeting @ Sharpe
14th 5:00 PM 1st Place meets weekly @ Memorial
16th 12:00 PM Minister's Luncheon Sirloin Stockade Murray KY
20th Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
21st Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)
28th 10:00 AM WMU Quarterly Mtg. @ New Harmony

February

2nd Ground Hog Day
10th Racial Reconciliation Sunday
11th - 17th Focus on WMU Week
12th Lincoln's Birthday
14th 6:30 PM Mission Board Mtg. Kirksey Baptist
21st 6-9PM "Being a Biblical Deacon" @ Sharpe
22nd Washington's Birthday

New Zion: Luke 2:11 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Greetings from New Zion and Merry CHRISTmas! It's that time of year again and so much is going on here at New Zion. Old mother nature's ice caused us to cancel our Thanksgiving supper this year but rest assured we will make up those extra pounds in the coming weeks. On November 11th we honored our Veterans and Bro. Dale preached a powerful message on our Allegiance to Two Bloods. November 18th we prayerfully searched our hearts and then participated in The Lord's Supper. December 1st our decorating committee and several others decorated the church for Christmas and special thanks to everyone who came and worked so hard. December 5th our Senior Saints went to the Country Christmas Show at the Kentucky Opry and December 9th our youth held their Christmas party. December 8th the Adult Sunday School class held their Christmas breakfast at Cracker Barrel and the Ladies class held theirs at Ponderosa. December 16th we will have preaching at 9:30 followed by the Youth's Christmas play "The Guiding Star" and then we will have our Christmas meal after that. December 30th we will be having a baby dedication and if you would like to participate please turn in your child's name to Bro. Dale or Ronda. Special thanks to all who took a name from the tree to help make some very special children have a Christmas present to open. Don't forget to sign up for the Christmas fruit baskets for shut-ins and caroling!! As CHRISTmas Day is almost here let us come together in love and celebrate the greatest gift we as Christians have ever received. Take time to thank and praise God for sending us His One and Only Son! Prayers for 2019 to bring many blessings to each and every one.

Salem: The youth, adults and children participated in the Christmas parade again this year and had a great time! The float they worked so hard on was awesome! We appreciate our youth leaders. They are now working on the Christmas play entitled "12 Symbols of Christmas" which can be seen at Salem on December 16 at 6:00 p.m. with finger foods following the play. We are looking forward to that event. We have plans to go caroling on the 16th and take goodie baskets to our shut-ins. That is always fun, and Bro. Charles and Annita do a great job leading the singing. We decorated the Christmas tree in the auditorium in memory and in honor of our loved ones, and the auditorium is filled with beautiful poinsettias. We are thankful for Bro. Curtis and Marlene and their ministry at Salem. It's that time of the year to be thankful and count our blessings. 2018 has been filled with many blessings from the Lord, and we are looking forward to 2019. You are wished a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Salem Baptist Church.

Symsonia Baptist: We had a wonderful night at our annual "Hanging of the Greens" the end of November. Our sanctuary is beautifully decorated now! We had a large group made a trip to Tennessee to see the Bethel Renaissance Choir's Christmas program this month. Our Seniors enjoyed a trip to Sirloin Stockade for a nice lunch. Our Christmas Supper was this month as well as our Children's Christmas program, "Angels Say What?!" The children did a great job as usual and cookies and milk were enjoyed after the program.

Oak Grove: November was a busy month for Oak Grove People. The month started with the Freeda Harris Toy Drive followed by the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. The Women of Hope were also collecting items for the food pantry at Southwest Elementary School. Bro. Carl and Ms. Fran attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Pikeville, KY. Bro. Randy McClure supplied on November 11 in the absence of Bro. Carl. The Women of Hope also delivered 50 Thanksgiving baskets to shut-ins and the needy. November 18, we hosted a joint Thanksgiving service with Salem Baptist and Sinking Spring Baptist Churches. Oak Grove choir presented special music, along with the Salem Church Singers and Bro. Ron Coleman of Sinking Springs. Bro. Carl delivered the message of Thanksgiving becoming a legal holiday in 1863 and how God has blessed our Nation. Following the service a great meal was served in the fellowship hall.

New Bethel: Election Day, November 6th has come and gone, and now we need to pray that those who have been elected will lead our Country, our State, our District and our County wisely. Here at New Bethel we have participated in the Freeda Harris Toy Drive, the KY Baptist Convention's Christmas Backpack Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Bags of Hope Thanksgiving Food Drive and it's a wonderful feeling to be a part of all these programs that help ensure that many of our less fortunate folks here in our Community and our State have a Traditional Thanksgiving Meal and a Merry Christmas and also supporting our International Missions Program. November 11th was Veterans' Day as we thanked those who have served in the Military for their service. On November 13th, our Young At Heart Seniors traveled to Hazel to the Blue and White Grill for their monthly outing. Also that night there was a meeting at Church to plan Activities for the 2019 Year. On November 29th, we went to Southland Baptist Temple to see "The Gift," the story of Jesus. This Christmas, let's not forget that Jesus is the Reason for the Season—we're celebrating His Birth. The Holiday Season isn't always a happy time for everyone, so please pray for each other, for our kids and their schools and pray for Brother Mark and Jackie.

Sugar Creek: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 NKJV

Sunday December 16th will be our annual community wide Christmas play. Our children have been working so hard the past few months for this to come together. We invite you to come out and enjoy this time of fellowship with us. We will have a meal after. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dexter: Things are really busy at Dexter. WMU had a great time doing the Chinese exchange of gifts. The guys are a ball to watch. We had a baby shower for one of our members. The BRBA Christmas party for Pastors and Board Members was held at Dexter, thank you to all that worked and attended the party. The children went Christmas shopping for family from the church members donating items for them to shop from on the 16th. The children really look forward to doing that. Thank you to the church for your donations. The 19th we have our children's Christmas party where we celebrate Jesus's Birthday. The 21st is when our members are going around singing Christmas carols, giving out hot chocolate and goodies and Christmas gifts to the community. The 23rd is our annual Christmas dinner with surprise guest and that evening is our Christmas Program where the children have learned sign language to Christmas songs. Come and join us God Bless and May each of you have a very Blessed New Year.

CHURCH NEWS

Sharpe Baptist Church:

Sharpe Baptist Church will be hosting a Conference entitled, "Being A Biblical Deacon" on February 21, 2019, from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. Topics will include "The Biblical Role and Responsibility of Deacons;" "The Biblical Functions and Activities of Deacons;" "The Private Life of Deacons;" and a Question and Answer Time with the Panel of speakers. Speakers will include Dr. Curtis Woods, KBC; Dr. Larry Purcell, KBC; Dr. Charles Frazier, Zion's Cause Baptist Church; and Bro. Chris Moore, Sharpe Baptist Church; Bro. Mark Sickling, Blood River Baptist Association.

Hamlet Baptist Church:

Hamlet Baptist Church will host F1rst Conference on January 5, 2019, from 8:15 – 11:45 a.m. This will be a great opportunity to seek God's heart for you and your family in 2019. The following is the list of topics and speakers: Bro. John Bedwell, "I love Jesus; Bro. Mark Sickling, "I Love My Family;" Dr. Charles Frazier, "I love My Community;" and Dr. Faris Sahawneh, "I Love God's Word and Prayer."