

Blood River Review

NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



February

14th - Dedria Moore, Sharpe Baptist

25th - Cornelia Walker, Gilbertsville Baptist

25th - June Brasher, Oak Level Baptist

Church Anniversary

1st Sunday

Jack Henshaw (New Mt. Carmel 2016)

2nd Sunday

Jason Medley (Sharpe Baptist 2010)

4th Sunday

David York (Old Salem Rd 2016)

Royce Dukes (Lakeview 2017)



February 28th

Chris & Dedria Moore, Sharpe Baptist Church (1992)

Feb. 8th 9am-11:00am & 1pm - 4pm Bro. Don Spencer, Church Financial Benefits Consultant for KBC will be at the Association to help Pastors, Staff Members, Church Treasurers, & Finance Committee Members with any questions you may have. He had to cancel last month due to weather conditions.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday March 10th there will be a Strategy Review and Dream Session at Blood River Baptist Association

9:00 am - 12:00pm



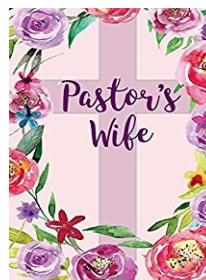
Disaster Relief Training or Recertification

Mexico Baptist Church February 10th @ 9:00 am

175 Mexico Rd. Marion KY 42064

Phase 1 and 2 offered at cost of \$40, to recertify cost will be \$20 and will be Phase 2 at 1:00 pm

You can register on the KBC website under disaster Relief and if you would like to carpool please call Bro. Larry Doughty @ 270-493-0552



Reminder: March 4th is

Pastor's wife Appreciation Day

Please remember her and take time to say "Thank You"

Happy
Valentine's
Day




Quarterly WMU Meeting

Hamlet Baptist Church

3923 Egners Ferry Road, Benton KY

January 22nd @ 10:00 AM

Everyone Welcome



Don't forget about the children's Racer event at Dexter Baptist Church March 10th @ 9:00am Please call Blood River Baptist Association if you are in need of a kit so Ms. Sandy can be ordering them for you.

NOTES FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

God continues to bless this ministry. In Dec. we were able to help 116 families. We gave out 3209 food items, 309 Bread and 202 hygiene items.

We want to thank everyone for your continued support without it we wouldn't be able to do this.

January - December 2017

We were able to help 1160 families, we gave out 30,166 food items, 3519 bread items and 4379 hygiene items and 125 Thanksgiving Baskets.

Thank You and God Bless

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

Hamlet Kirksey	Salem	Poplar Springs New Harmony	New Zion Old Salem Rd
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**UPCOMING
Events**

January 2018

21	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
22	10:00 AM WMU Quarterly MTG Hamlet Baptist

February

2	Groundhog Day
8	6:30 PM Exc. Board Mtg. Sinking Springs Baptist Church
10	Strategy Review & Dream Session 9am - 12 @ BRBA with Eric Allen
11	Race Reconciliation Sunday
12-18	Focus on WMU
12	Lincoln's Birthday
14	Valentines Day
22	Washington's Birthday

March

4	Pastor's wives appreciation Day
5-11	Week of Prayer for North American Missions/Annie Armstrong Offering
8	6:30PM Mission Board Mtg. New Zion Baptist Church
10	9:00 AM Children's Racer Event Dexter Baptist
11	Daylight Savings Time
17	Saint Patrick's Day
18	Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
20	Spring Begins
25	Palm Sunday
30	Good Friday Office Closed

New Bethel: On Dec. 5th, our Young At Heart Seniors had their annual Christmas Dinner in the FLC, with good food, fellowship and lots of fun. On Dec. 10th, our New Bethel Christmas Program "One Small Child" was performed by our Choir, and it was great. Also on Dec. 10th, we had our annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Holiday meal and good food and fellowship abounded. On Dec. 16th, some of our New Bethel men delivered Christmas Baskets filled with goodies to our shut-ins and other needy folks. On Dec. 20th, we had our Children's Christmas Program, and the kids were great—afterward there were refreshments in the FLC. On Dec. 24th, we had a beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as our morning service, with songs, readings of the Christmas Story, the Conception of Jesus, the Birth of Jesus, the Shepherds Worshiping the Savior and the Magi Bringing Gifts—all of this just emphasizing the true Reason for the Season—the birth of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. On Dec. 27th, Jimmy Cash was here to explain the Tabernacle from Scripture and with a scale model to aid his presentation. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ended on Dec. 31st. Centershot is getting ready to start back up. Keep Bro Mark and Jackie in your prayers, pray for each other, pray for our leaders and pray for our country.

Pleasant Valley Baptist: New Year....New Beginning! There is no better time of the year to reflect over what has occurred than at the New Year. 2017 is history. It is a good time for us as individuals to see how we have measured up but also as a church. What did we do well? What went wrong? What changes do we need to make? 2018 lies in front of us and as one saying goes. We are the Author of our own life story as well as the church members are writing the history for their home Church. Are we leaving a good example to our youth? Are we being a light within the community? Are we telling others about Jesus? Since last writing, we did enjoy a spectacular Christmas program presented by the youth. They worked hard since November but to the ones of us who simply got to sit back and enjoy the show. It was an honor to our Lord and we want to say thank you to Robin Bedwell for leading it and to all of the helpers, Deanna Pearson, Kim Morris, and Laurie Byars. The Hospitality crew rewarded them and the rest of the church with a nice spread of chex mix, fruit, desserts, and punch. They also gave each of the youth an individual present for all their efforts. It was much appreciated. There was a van load of us who did some old fashion Christmas Caroling and delivered fruit baskets. We had 11 baskets but only 9 folks we went to sing to. If you haven't done this, we encourage you to go as you always receive such a blessing. We came back to enjoy some hot cocoa and refreshments by the Hospitality crew. Another blessing on top of a blessing. We like to recognize our youth and this month we commend Christian Byars who is involved in his school in the Interact Club which is a branch off the Rotary Club. He participated in helping with receiving donations at Mike Miller Park Christmas event last month. He is also involved in his school club Marshalls for Christ. We are very proud of him and all of our youth. They are great representatives. Bonnie Gibson Received a Blessing Jar from Amy McNeely and Laurie Byars in her Sunday school class. Another very neat idea to write down blessings from 2018 and then open the jar up on New Year's Eve and read what the blessings you received over the year. One other cool idea is starting February 1 is to make a heart and tell your child or grandchild what is so special about them. May God's richest blessings be upon each church and every member. May we stay in His will, keep the faith, and see what great plans He has planned for us. No doubt an exciting year lies ahead.

Dexter Baptist: Dec. is a busy month for everyone. The WMU had their annual open Christmas Party with gift exchange/taken game they always (especially the men) like to play. The children and youth were able to go Christmas Shopping for their families with thanks to all who donated items for them to shop for. Our Christmas program was Bro. Tim Bertram God's Graffiti Art with Christmas message and a delicious Christmas dinner afterwards and a special guest for the kids "Santa" with gifts for all the children and youth. Ms. Susan did a children's choir Christmas program for the PM service. Bro. David did a wonderful Christmas eve morning service. We will be going to Job Corp. to give out coats, hot chocolate, baked goods and lots of love all are welcome to come and join us.

Pleasant Hope: Well it has been a couple of months so a lot to catch up on at Pleasant Hope. We have had a lot out for different sickness but think most are doing better, Bro. Johnny has been one of the sick ones but he is finally better. We had our church Christmas program on the 17th it was a Blessing as always, Thanks to Donna and Georgetta. Then on the 20th we had our Wednesday Worship Youth Program and had over 70 in attendance and all the Youth did a great job telling the story of Jesus's Birth. Several loaded in the van and went to Paducah to visit one of our members that is in rehab there and of course we stopped and ate on the way back. Our Wednesday Night Youth Worship is still growing and we have started work on an Easter Program, we learned about Jesus's Birth and all the New Testament Books at Christmas, and now are learning about His death and resurrection and started learning the Old Testament Books. Hope the New Year brings New Blessing to all your churches.

Union Ridge: We had a very busy December. Our members enjoyed a good time of fellowship and good food at our Christmas Dinner. Our Sunday School Classes enjoyed going to Willow Pond for their annual Christmas Party. Sixteen of our members went to see the Cirque Dreams Holiday performance in Nashville, TN. They also enjoyed eating out and shopping at the mall. Several people went caroling and delivering fruit baskets to the shut-ins, widows, and widowers. This year our church set a goal of \$1200.00 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We passed our goal with a total of \$1586.75.

Salem: The Lord has certainly blessed us with a winter wonderland! We are praying for all those men and women who are operating the snow plows, first responders, policemen, firemen and electric company workers to keep us all warm and safe. Our Wednesday night studies and handouts from Bro. Jim have been very enlightening and have hit close to home several times. That hedge of protection that we pray for around our family and loved ones works! We have learned from this study how to be more specific in our prayers, about being more effective prayer warriors and being a praying church. We have several in our church family who are out sick and some who will have surgery this week. We pray for good surgical results and improvement in their health. We are thankful Bro. Ferrel is back in church and recovering from an accident. We thank you Lord, for your many blessings.

Sugar Creek: 31 but those who hope the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Winter has arrive, it has sure gotten cold these last few weeks. We Hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. This past month a Sugar Creek Baptist church we had our Christmas program where the youth performed a black light play to four Christmas Songs that explained what Christmas is all about and the kids did a great job showing the love of Jesus, we had a great turn out and we were so proud of all their hard work. Coming up on Jan. 21st we have the Baptist Men's day, the men of the church will be arriving early to cook breakfast and it will be served before Sunday School that begins at 9:45. Come and visit us at Sugar Creek Baptist Church. **The Giant in front of you is never bigger than the GOD inside of you.**

Oak Grove: The New Year has arrived and we at Oak Grove have reflected on what God has done for us this past year. We have truly been blessed. December was a very busy and wonderful time as we prepared for the celebration of Christ birth. We started the month with the Hanging of the Green on Dec. 3rd. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful decorations that adorned our auditorium the entire month. Friday night, Dec. 8th, the Senior Adult Sunday School Class had its annual Christmas party with lots of food and games and exchange of gifts. On Sunday night, Dec. 17, we were blessed with presentation by our children and youth. This was followed by our annual church fellowship Christmas dinner and the appearance of Santa with gifts for all the kids. It was a great time of food and fellowship. Christmas Eve Morning, with a full house, our choir did an outstanding performance on the Christmas Cantata entitled, "I Have Seen the Light". We thank all who participated and gave of their time and talents. We ended the year by collecting \$1,000 for our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church expresses deepest sympathy to the family of one of our members, Mrs. Freda Humphreys. To all our sister churches we wish you a very Happy and Healthy 2018.

**Blood River Baptist Association Board
Meeting
February 8th @ 6:30 PM
Sinking Springs Baptist Church
4185 Wiswell Rd.
Murray Kentucky**

Mark's Memos

Due to the bad weather we had the week of January, 12, Don Spencer from the KBC did not make the trip from Louisville to meet with interested pastors. He has graciously rescheduled for Thursday, February 8. So, I want to encourage any pastors, finance committees; pulpit search committees or church treasurers that might have questions about pastor's pay packages to call the Blood River Baptist Association and schedule a consultation with Bro. Don.

The Blood River Baptist Association partnered with Sampson Resources out of Dallas TX to provide **FREE VIDEO STREAMING** to all of our pastors, churches, and church members for all of 2018. Each church has been mailed or emailed instructions on how to use this service. If however, you need help, please don't hesitate to ask. I hope and pray that our pastors, churches, and members find these video resources beneficial as they seek to grow in their faith and lead others to grow in their faith.

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Bro. Eric Allen, Team Leader for the Missions Mobilization Team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will be meeting with us to perform a Strategy Review. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to see Blood River Baptist Association and its member churches expand their influence; reach more people for Jesus Christ; and be obedient followers of Christ in the future.

I know it is in the midst of winter, but the LBL Area Ministries will soon be scheduling pastors and volunteers to lead Sunday morning worship services at 5 LBL campgrounds. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact me or Bro. John Bedwell.

Please pray for our sister churches seeking Pastors (Hamlet; Kirksey; New Harmony; New Zion; Poplar Springs; Old Salem Road; and Salem) and the interim pastors that are currently leading these churches.

There will be a Phase I and II Disaster Relief training in Marion KY, at Mexico Baptist Church on February 9-10. To obtain more information or, register go to www.kybaptist.org/dr or calling 1-866-489-3527.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark

January 19, 2018

EMAIL US AT

bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org

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



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