

Your

THE NEWS JOURNAL OF THE BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

D E C E M B E R / J A N U A R Y

2010-2011



HOLIDAY BREAK

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Blue Ridge Baptist Association office will be closed from Thursday, December 23, 2010 until Monday, January 1, 2011. We wish you all a Merry and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Bruce Mae
Phil
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## ✠ Ken Stalls Elected BCM/D President ✠

On Monday, November 14, Blue Ridge Baptist Association Director of Missions, Bruce Conley nominated Rev.

Ken Stalls, senior pastor of South End Baptist Church in Frederick, to be the next President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.



“With the coming changes to how things function within our

Convention, I felt we needed a strong leader for the BCM/D” said Conley. With no other

nominations being presented, Pastor Stalls was elected unanimously.

When asked how he felt about his election, Pastor Stalls said, “Please pray for me. I don’t know if I have ever felt more in need of God’s

wisdom than with this task.”

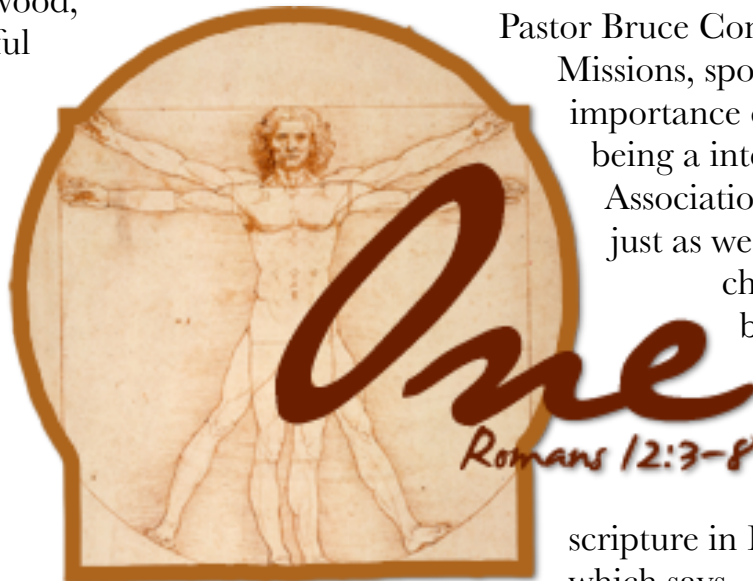
Congratulations Pastor Stalls.

Is your church doing anything to help local families this Christmas Season? We would love to hear what you are doing and how it is helping to make a difference in your community. Please write a brief article and send it to Mae Argilan for inclusion in our next news letter. Please Send submissions to [mae@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:mae@blueridgebaptist.org)



# Coming Together as One

On Monday evening, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – the Blue Ridge Baptist Association met at New Life church in Inwood, WV for our annual business meeting, celebration for what God is doing among our combined efforts, and fellowship. New Hope Church, also of Inwood, provided a wonderful spread of refreshments after the meeting, and many folks stayed after the meeting to enjoy the company and conversations available with leaders from other churches in our region.



God has richly blessed our Association this year, and some of the things celebrated were....

- *the addition of our mobile billboard which is available to all churches for advertising events*
- *the service of our summer missionary/intern, Christie Clark*
- *initializing of new association wide fellowship events, like the King's Brass concert in July*
- *increased training opportunities, and a re-start of our annual church training night*

We also got to hear from a few of our new Pastors in the Blue Ridge Association ...

- *Roger Rich of the new Lakeview Church plant in New Market shared his vision and work*
- *Earl Wentzel of the soon to start CrossTrek Community Church also shared about his vision (this church will actually start in Urbana, MD after January 1, 2011)*

Pastor Bruce Conley, Director of Missions, spoke on the importance of every church being an integral part of Association ministry and life, just as we challenge all of our church members to be active in the support of, and ministry in their local churches. He spoke from the scripture in Romans 12:4-5, which says ...

*<sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*

A new “expectation of participation” was established by the Director of Missions, and he reported that he has personally been making contact with the pastors of each church to ask them to lead their church to fulfilling these needed areas of support in the future.

- Participation in various activities and opportunities with BRBA
- Submission of (at a minimum) the short-form for the annual Church Profile survey
- Contribute on a regular basis \_\_\_\_\_ % to the ongoing work of BRBA
- Contribute on a regular basis \_\_\_\_\_ % to the Cooperative Program
- Yearly hold special offering emphasizes for
  - International Missions (Lottie Moon)
  - North American Missions (Annie Armstrong)

“EVERY church should designate a percentage of their annual budget to missions work,” Conley said. “Just as we ask our church members to tithe, every church should give at least 10% to missions work around the world.” He went on to explain, “With a percentage – if your church is hurting, then the Association hurts **WITH** you, but if God is prospering your church, then the Association also prospers **WITH** you. It just makes sense.”

Conley also commented that the Blue Ridge Association had less than 50% participation in completing the ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE last year. “Failure of our churches to report on the ACP not only prevents us from seeing where specific needs might be that the Association can help churches with, but it also causes us to have less representation on the General Mission Board of the Baptist Convention, and ultimately less funding and finances being available to our churches from Lifeway and the North American Mission Board.” All of these things are tied to the Annual Church Profile report – which

makes it imperative that ALL of our churches do at least the short form.”

Conley closed the meeting with a quote from author Phillip Yancey, in his book “WHAT’S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE”:

*“The world can do almost anything as well as – or better than the church. You don’t need to be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. But there is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer the grace of God.”*

The challenge was for EVERY church in the Blue Ridge Association to work together in cooperation and service for the one common cause – the cause of Christ.

“If we can accomplish this, then we will – as a group of regional churches truly *Come Together As One!*”

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The image shows a membership application form for the Blue Ridge Baptist Association. The form is titled 'APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP' and includes the following fields and sections:

- Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Church Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Church Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
- Church Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of current members: \_\_\_\_\_

Below the form fields, there is a section titled 'My desire to enter into a covenant relationship with the churches which constitute the Blue Ridge Baptist Association. The church has discussed and agreed to agree to provide with the Spirit, Gifts and Message, and the goals, direction and mission of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association and its member churches.' This is followed by a list of commitments:

- Participate in the various activities of Blue Ridge Baptist Association
- Obey to the Association and its policies
- Contribute to the Cooperative Program \_\_\_\_\_ % of our church's yearly offerings for International and North American relief

At the bottom of the form, there are sections for 'Signature', 'Date', and 'Application Received'.

# Is Your Church on Facebook Yet?

*from your Media Minister - Phil Graves*

Your church should be on Facebook. Plain and simple. Last year Facebook grew 276% in users aging from 35-54, so you can't ignore this communication tool. Here are some great reasons to get in the game.

1. **Effective Communication** – People are already using it. One challenge that we constantly face in ministry is the competition for people's attention. I think it is hard for those on the receiving end to weed through the daily information overload and actually figure out what is important. Instead of sending people more snail mail and e-mail to sort through why not use a tool they are already using to aid in the communication process. It is an easy way for churches to stay in touch with your congregation and the community.
2. **Share Photos** – People love to see pictures of something they were a part of, plus great pictures can be a tool for people to show their friends how much fun a church can be!
3. **Share Video** – Facebook makes video so easy. Not only can you quickly record off your pc camera to share a video message on Facebook but you can also embed links to great tools like Vimeo and YouTube.
4. **Connection Point** – Church websites are great, but lets face it, a church website is a **one way** conversation. When people visit your fan page on Facebook they can see regular people, just like them, posting thoughts, sharing photos, and interacting with one another. It also is such a great way to see when someone is in need. Since people will often respond quicker on Facebook than email, it is a great way to get the word out when someone needs help, prayer or encouragement. Jesus did a great job of meeting broken people right where they lived.
5. **Easy Invitation** - Since Facebook makes it so easy for a conversation in an online environment, it can also be a great way for your people to invite others to church. When new people see your church on Facebook and begin using your fan page as a “connection point” it can really make the unfamiliar seem more familiar, thus helping people muster up the courage to visit on a Sunday.
6. **Staff Visibility** – As churches grow larger, it can be challenging for the average person that attends church to know who does what on your staff. Encouraging your church staff and key leaders to use Facebook and interact with the church page can be a great way for people to learn about your team and other serving opportunities in your church.
7. **Celebrate Success** – Sometimes in ministry it feel seems like we spend so much time focusing on areas we need to improve, that we forget to celebrate what we're doing right. When interacting on Facebook, you can see first hand the impact that a worship service or event has had on others. You actually end up with a documented timeline of events after you've been at it a while, which makes it easy to remember and reference the good times.
8. **Rally The Troops** – After you've got a good following, Facebook can be an easy way to communicate a need quickly. Since many check the website at least once per day, or some even through their cell phones, so you can get quite a quick response.
9. **ITS FREE** – You can use Facebook for free, just like the people that already use it in your church... so what are you waiting for?

## December Offering for International Missions and Missionaries

Southern Baptist churches all around the world use this season of giving to collect funds for the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. The sole purpose of this emphasis is to support missions around the world, and every penny that you give goes to the International Mission Board's overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work.

The world wide goal for this year's offering is \$175 million.

Has your church set a goal yet? The theme for this year's effort is "*Are We There Yet?*" More than 1.5 billion people are missing the opportunity to hear the Gospel. They are living in pockets of lostness, hidden behind cultural, physical, political and language barriers to a Gospel witness. Yet God calls every church and every believer to

be on mission with Him to break down those barriers.

The week of prayer for International Missions kicks off beginning November 28, and goes through December 5, 2010. Please pray daily for this fund raising endeavor, as well as for missionaries who serve in areas of our globe where physical, cultural, political and language barriers challenge their Christian witness.



During the week of prayer for International Missions you can visit the daily prayer web site for inspiration at [imb.org/main/pray](http://imb.org/main/pray). The handy guide will help you know how to pray, and bring your heart closer to the work of IMB missionaries.

May God bless you as you support the world wide outreach of the love and grace of our God.

# Spotlight on Blue Ridge Church

Fourteen years after planting Crossroads Community Church in Falling Waters, WV, Everett and Jennifer Powell are now planting a new work in Front Royal, Virginia - Everett's hometown. A little over a year ago, Everett was reading the book *One Month to Live* by Carey Shook, when he was wrestling with the question, "If you had only one month to live what would you regret not doing?" For Everett - that answer was doing ministry in Front Royal and Warren County again.

Following the call of God, Everett began **Blue Ridge Community Church**, which now meets in a local elementary school on Sundays with a launch preparation team of about 30 people. Their outreach efforts have focused on numerous servant evangelism tasks, such as free car washes, New Testament distributions, and water and popcorn giveaways. Blue Ridge now has two small groups, including one that meets of Sundays, and a Wednesday night Bible study.

Recently the new mission conducted one of two planned 'preview services', on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It went well, but Everett said they learned a lot in this first attempt about what they needed to improve on, before they vastly reach out beyond the core group. A second preview service is planned for Christmas week on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. They plan to notch up visitor attendance and participation up to the church's official launch/grand opening on Sunday, January 9. Please pray for this new mission work regularly, and drop a note of encouragement to them at [pastor@blueridgechurch.net](mailto:pastor@blueridgechurch.net), or to BRCC, P.O. Box 1234 Front Royal, VA 22630.

The mission is still in need of a worship leader, and Pastor Powell asks for especially fervent prayers on this great need.

The planting of Blue Ridge Community Church (like many others) is made possible by your sacrificial gifts to the Cooperative Program, through the North American Mission Board.



## **Post Christmas Holiday Brunch for All Pastors, Church Staff, and their Spouses**

Saturday - January 8th, 2011  
from 10 AM - 2 PM

at the ....

### **Historic Ceresville Mansion**

8529 Liberty Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

**THIS YEAR WE'RE PROUD TO PRESENT  
GUEST ARTIST, CHRIS WRIGHT !**

Chris has won many national songwriting contests, and awards from Word Music and The Gospel Music Association. He has recorded with Integrity & Maranatha. His gifts are used by God in a powerful way, as Christian artist and worship leader.

This is a **FREE** event for all pastors and staff. We want to express our deep appreciation for all that you do in and for our churches. **BUT** - you must **RSVP** with Mae Argilan at the BRBA office no later than January 2nd, to make your reservations. Please call (240) 818-8760, or e-mail Mae at [mac@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:mac@blueridgebaptist.org)

Note: Please bring a "Yankee Swap" or "White Elephant" gift with you for a gift exchange. Re-gifting of items that you received at Christmas is fine, especially if it will get a laugh. Please choose inexpensive items, and wrap what you bring with no gift card on it.

Come and enjoy great food, fun, worship music, and fellowship with us!



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Birthdays

#### *December*

5 Mae Argilan  
21 Bill Cooper  
25 Jesus Christ  
30 Wendell McClellan

#### *January*

2 Elizabeth Lang  
4 Thom Smith  
9 Karen Heslop  
13 Ender Zambrano  
13 Sandy Marsico  
23 Gail Scheffers

### Anniversaries

#### *December*

23 Ender and Aidza Zambrano  
30 Jason and Beth Lang





*Event Calendar*

**November 28 - December 5**

Week of Prayer for International Missions.

**Wednesday, December 1 - Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast - 8:00 AM**

Join all BRBA Pastors for our monthly fellowship breakfast at Barbara Fritchie's in Frederick

**December 3 - 5 - BCM/D reBOOT Student Conference at Skycroft**

For more information visit [ampedstudentministry.org/events/winter-retreat](http://ampedstudentministry.org/events/winter-retreat)

**December 23 - January 3 - BRBA Office Closed**

*(See page 1 for details)*

**Wednesday, January 6 - Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast - 8:00 AM**

Join all BRBA Pastors for our monthly fellowship breakfast at **location**.

**Saturday, January 8 - Ministers and Church Staff Brunch - 10:00 AM**

Ceresville Mansion in Frederick, MD

**Sunday, January 16 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

SBC Churches across the country will focus on the blessing of children and the Sanctity of Life.

**Monday January 24 - 38th Annual March for Life in Washington D.C.**

Put feet to your faith and head down to D.C. to participate in this important event.

*(For more details visit <http://www.marchforlife.org>)*

**Tuesday, January 25 - Minister's Tax Seminar - 9:30 AM**

A seminar designed for pastors, staff ministers and church treasurers to clarify new tax laws. Will end with lunch at 1 PM. Registration fee of \$25 includes materials and lunch.

Call Carol McGiffin at the BCM/D at 1-800-466-5290, ext. 204, to register for this seminar.



## Christmas In Your Churches

### **First Baptist Church Brunswick**

Celebration of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath. Four families will relate the meaning of each candle (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love) through scripture, prayer and music explaining the gospel to the saved and making it clearer to the unsaved. On Christmas Eve we will light the final candle "Christ candle".

Church Christmas Tour on December 11 from 3:00 to 7:30. There will be greeters at the church to give a short history of the church and to show off the newly renovated classrooms and social room in the basement.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. There will be special music, a short message and the lighting of our candles in honor of Jesus the Light of the World.

### **Covenant**

September 11th, 2010 Celebrate Community! was the culmination of 100 Days of Summer. Service projects were as simple as giving a ride or mowing grass, and as large as helping with Habitat for Humanity. There were teen service camps, meals cooked, help for the homeless, and more. Everything was FREE! There were two stages with live bands, illusionists, clowns, a youth talent show, and even a Zumba demonstration. Food was given away from Chik-fil-A, local pizza shops, chili, doughnuts, ice cream, hotdogs and hamburgers. A health fair offered screenings by health organizations, and we also had a helicopter and fire truck. The evening ended with a really cool laser light show just after our worship team performed.





### **West End**

Anybody know of a family that may need groceries and a hot meal this Christmas? We want to know who they are.

There was a Harvest Party Saturday November 6 at 5pm. Back by popular demand was the horse pulled wagon rides. We also had trunk or treat, face painting, and lots of fun things for the kids.

A spaghetti dinner and silent auction raised funds to go to the mission trip next summer to New Mexico.

The marriage class has been a big hit. Pastor Shane continues a video series called "40 days of love".

### **Maugansville Baptist**

Celebrating its 10-year Anniversary January 21st 2011. Pastor Scott Johnston is very proud of the willingness and in-Christ quality of each member at the church. With their humble Christian approach to Godly opportunities there is no doubt that MBC'S vision of befriending the community and making disciples over the up-coming years will come to fruition.



### **Fellowship**

We have fully moved into our new church home. In the first month we had individuals setting up events for the youth. We had others working with children, and still others who want to start support groups and Bible studies. We even had one person who wants to build an altar and a new pulpit. It's exciting to see the church getting involved with things they are passionate about as a means of ministering to others. Because we recognize the fact that we have this home because of God's might and not our own, we held a dedication service on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

# PRAYER LIGHTS

**Blue Ridge Church**, Front Royal VA submitted an application for membership in BRBA, and was unanimously voted in at the annual meeting. Praise God for His increase.

**Covenant** had over 1,000 people and many first time visitors at Celebrate Community. They were pleased to see some of those new faces on Sunday mornings. God truly blessed their efforts so much they are hoping to do it all again next year. Praise God for His creative energy.

## **Myersville BC**

Seeking God's direction in filling senior pastor position.

## **Pleasant Valley BC**

Seeking God's direction in filling senior pastor position now that Wendell has retired.

## **Greenbrier BC**

Seeking God's direction in filling bi-vocational senior pastor position. One candidate is in the last phase of the selection process.

## **Fellowship BC**

Pray for us as we seek to serve the Lord here: that those who need to hear God's truth will be drawn to our doors. Also pray for those who are stepping forward in ministries in the church, that they will be encouraged, and that they keep their service focused first and foremost to the honor of their Lord Jesus Christ.





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