

YOUR

FOUR-1-1

**News and
information:**

For the Blue Ridge Baptist Association churches, church members, and friends.

DEC/JAN 2012

Baptists Reaching New Heights In Supporting 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 "*His heart, His hands, His voice - I am Southern Baptist missions.*"

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 December 4, and goes through December 11, 2011.

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. 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.



BRBA 2012 INSERVICE TRAINING

It is the responsibility of each Christian to seek out training to become better equipped to share the Gospel with everyone they meet. To that end, we have established an annual training event called InService.

Each year we gather together for a time of worship, practical training, and fellowship. We have a great line up of training courses for you and your fellow church members.

This year we will meet on **Monday, February 20 at South End Baptist Church in Frederick, Maryland.** The worship rally will begin at **6:45 PM.**

The course offerings this year are very exciting.

- BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM
- INTERNET INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISM - FROM YOUR HOME COMPUTER
- MILITARY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH MINISTRY
- PRISON, JAIL, AND CORRECTIONS OUTREACH MINISTRY
- CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES – GETTING IN THE GAME
- DEVELOPING A DANCE WORSHIP MINISTRY IN YOUR CHURCH



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

Little Known Facts In Christmas History

I thought I would share some interesting historical information with you this month:

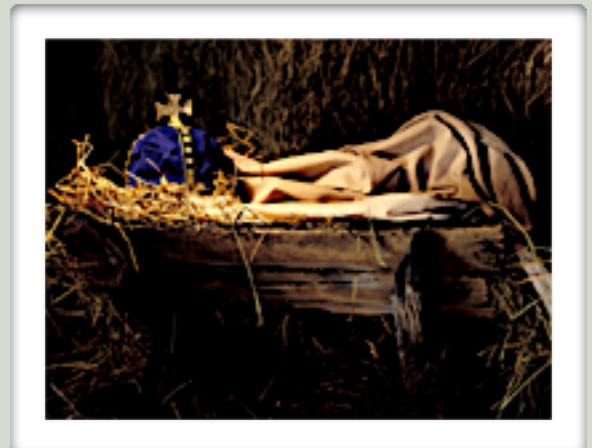
- In the early Christian church, Christmas was a moveable feast celebrated at many different times of the year. The choice of December 25th was made by Pope Julius the 1st, in the 4th century A.D. - because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice (also known as "Return of the Sun"). The intent was to *replace* the pagan celebration with the Christian one.
- According to historical accounts, the first Christmas in the Philippines was celebrated 200 years *before* Ferdinand Magellan discovered the country for the western world, likely between the years 1280 and 1320 AD.
- Contrary to local belief, America's *official* National Christmas tree is not located in Washington DC, but in King's Canyon National Park in California. The tree, a giant sequoia called the "General Grant Tree," is over 300 feet high. President Calvin Coolidge made it the "official" Christmas tree in 1925.
- Frankincense is a sweet smelling gum resin derived from certain Boswellia trees, which at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India, and Ethiopia. Tradition says that it was presented to the Christ Child by Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia or Saba. The frankincense trade was at its height during the days of the Roman Empire. At that time this resin was considered as valuable as gems or precious metals.
- In 1647 the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal. Festivities were banned by Puritan leader, Oliver Cromwell, because he considered "feasting and revelry" to be an offense on what he believed was to be a "holy day", and he considered such celebrations to be immoral. The ban was lifted only when the Puritans lost power in 1660.
- In France Christmas is called Noel. This is derived from the French phrase "les bonnes nouvelles," which means literally "the good news" and refers to the gospel.
- In Medieval England, Nicholas was just another saint - he had not yet been referred to as Santa Claus and he had absolutely nothing to do with Christmas. He had a reputation during his life and ministry for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them for cleaning, and thus - he became the model for the legend of Santa Claus.
- In the British armed forces it is traditional that senior officers wait on and serve the enlisted men who serve under them - their Christmas dinner. This tradition dates back to a custom from the Middle Ages.
- About 2/3 of Americans celebrate Christmas as a religious event. A 2009 survey reveals that 72 percent of those say Jesus was born of a virgin, and an even larger number - 81 percent believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God - sent to die for our sins and redeem mankind.

Isaiah 9

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

*May you and your family have the most wonderful & meaningful Christmas ever – because Jesus **IS** the reason, for the season.*

Bruce M. Conley



NEW BRBA CHURCHES

Five new churches join the Blue Ridge Baptist Association

- **10/2010 Boonsboro Bible Church** -
Robert Welty, Pastor
 - **8/2011 Emmitsburg Community Bible Church** -
*Gary Buchman, Pastor **
 - **9/2011 Harvest Pointe Community Church** -
Jason Smith, Pastor
 - **10/2011 Jesus Community Baptist Church (Korean)** -
Stephen Kim, Pastor
 - **12/2011 Battlefield Bible Church** -
*Brian Colbert, Pastor **
- (* indicates "watch-care" status for 1 year)



BRBA Welcomes New Ministers

Phil Graves - new Pastor of First Baptist - Brunswick, MD

Phil received his undergraduate degree in History from Cedarville University and his Masters in Biblical Studies from Antietam Bible Seminary. Phil has been serving as the media minister for Blue Ridge Baptist Association since August of 2002. He will continue to serve in that capacity as he serves FBC Brunswick.

Jonathan Beall - new Pastor of Adamstown Community Church

Pastor Jon Beall is a graduate of Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina - with a concentration in church planting. His father is the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Laurel, MD. We welcome Jon to the area, and the BRBA family.

Everett Powell - new Pastor of Myersville Baptist Church (a 90 day trial period)

Everett is the former church planter of Crossroads Community Church in Falling Waters, WV, and Blue Ridge Community Church in Front Royal, VA. He is already a part of the BRBA family, but we welcome him as much as the new faces God is sending to our region.

Brian Colbert - new Pastor of Battlefield Bible Church

David Hayes - new Assoc. Pastor of Battlefield Bible Church

Both Brian and Dave have recently been through an ordination council at the Blue Ridge Baptist Association offices, as requested by Battlefield Bible Church. We anticipate they will be ordained by their church on January 29th, 2012 at 6:00 PM. Come out and support these two new Pastors to our Association!

Gary Buchman - Pastor of Emmitsburg Community Bible Church

Gary is the former Pastor of Taneytown Baptist Church in Carroll County, MD and a long time supporter of SBC missions. Welcome, Gary.

Nathan Cherry - new Generations Pastor at Harvest Pointe Community Bible Church

Nathan grew up as a pastor's son and has served in two churches over the past ten years under his dad's leadership. In his previous positions, Nathan has served as Connections Pastor, Praise and Worship Leader, Discipleship Director, Outreach and Servant Evangelism Director. Also, he is also currently the Regional Development Coordinator for The Family Policy Council of West Virginia.

Post Christmas Holiday Brunch

To Honor All Pastors, Church Staff, and their Spouses



Saturday - January 14th, 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, KAREN ENGLAND !

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 mae@blueridgebaptist.org

The menu includes:

Assorted Fruit Danish

Red Potato Home Fries

Homemade Quiche

Crisp Bacon

Seasonal Fresh Fruits and Berries

Chilled Juices

Coffee and Tea Service

Whipped Sweet Butter ~ Assorted Jams and Jellies

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!

About our Guest Artist: Karen England

Karen began performing for ministry events at the age of sixteen. As an active member of her church youth group in Minneapolis, she had numerous opportunities to pursue and strengthen her musical talents. It was through these experiences that Karen discovered her love for music ministry and decided to pursue a degree in music.

Currently Karen's main pursuit is being a wife and mother. She and her husband Bill have 2 children Alex and Victoria. Karen is a worship leader at Grace Community Church and is currently recording a worship project. Three singles from the project are expected for release in the fall of 2011.

You can find out more about Karen and listen to her music at her website, karenengland.org





**HONORED FOR
THEIR SERVICE**

Helping BRBA Help Others
 Certificates were given to all those who helped to equip and outfit our Disaster Relief Communications Unit.



Disaster Relief Training Event Takes Place at Faith Baptist Knoxville

Faith Baptist Church in Knoxville, Md., hosted the Disaster Relief Fall Regional Training Oct. 29. It was a on a cold, snowy, wind driven day that didn't keep the disaster relief volunteers from attending.

Classes were offered in: Introduction to Disaster Relief, Feeding Unit, Recovery Unit, Laundry Unit, and Communication Unit.

In addition to the training, participants prayed over and commissioned the new Communication trailer and gave special recognition to those who retrofitted the Communications Unit for Disaster Relief, as well

as those who were deployed to help with hurricane relief in recent days.

Among those recognized were Matthew St Croix, an Eagle Scout from Frederick, Md.; Vincent "Zeke" Zarrella of Point of Rocks, Md. (also from the Boy Scouts); electrician Terry Molnar of Hagerstown, Md. (Virginia Ave. Baptist; Carl Brill of Germantown, Md. (Poolesville Baptist - Montgomery Association; James V. Devilbiss of Frederick, Md. (First Baptist, Frederick); Steven Caho of Middletown, Md. (Faith Baptist, Knoxville); Thomas Stimson of Thurmont, Md. (Mt. AIRY Communications); and David Wilt of Knoxville, Md. (Faith and Fellowship Baptist)



Thank You!

Dear Blue Ridge Baptist Association,

It was such a blessing to be with you at the recent annual meeting and to hear the numerous things God is doing in and through the local churches and cooperative efforts of the BRBA. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to set up a table and share about the ministry God has called our family to in Nicaragua. I was very surprised to receive your gracious gift and can assure you it will be used to honor God and further the mission He has called us to.

May God richly bless the BRBA, its staff, and all of the churches as they strive to exalt Christ and thus glorify God!

In Christ,
Jason & Beth Lang
(Mikayla, Andrew & Benjamin)



NEW RESOURCES COMING TO THE BRBA

JANUARY 2012 - FORD 12 PASSENGER VAN

We will need a list of possible drivers to give to our insurance company on the van, so please contact Mae in advance with driver's license info. of anyone who you might designate to drive the Association van when your church borrows it. There is room in the rear for luggage or storage, and it is capable of towing a small trailer.

APRIL 2012 - BLOCK PARTY TRAILER

This unit will be equipped with a moon bounce, concessions, games, a 10 x 15 canopy, folding tables and chairs, a PA system, and many other items to assist your church in doing neighborhood outreach projects.





Birthdays

December

- 5 Mae Argilan*
- 15 Everett Powell*
- 22 Fred Argilan*
- 25 Jesus Christ*
- 30 Wendell McClellan*

January

- 4 Thom Smith*
- 9 Karen Heslop*
- 13 Sandy Marsico*
- 16 Roger Rich*
- 23 Gail Scheffers*



EVENT CALENDAR

December

- **Dec 2 - 4** - reBOOT Student Winter Retreat @ Skycroft Conference Center for info visit ampedministry.org
- **Dec 4 - 11** - Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- **Dec 7** - Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast at Bob Evans on Rt 40 in Frederick.
- **Dec 22** - Winter Begins
- **Dec 25** - Christmas Day

January

- **Jan 1** - New Year's Day
- **Jan 4** - Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast at Red Byrd in Keedysville
- **Jan 7, 14** - ESL Two Day Workshop at FBC Laurel. For more information and to register, visit bcmd.org/esl-16-hour-workshop
- **Jan 14** - Pastor and Church Staff Appreciation brunch at Ceresville Mansion in Frederick, MD
- **Jan 15** - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- **Jan 16** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (observed)
- **Jan 19 - 20** - Soul of the Servant Spiritual Leadership Retreat. For more information visit bcmd.org/sos1

- **Jan 24** - Minister's Tax Seminar at the BCM/D. For more information and to register, visit bcmd.org/tax-seminar.

- **Jan 29** - Day of Prayer for SBC

Mark your
Calendars

February

- **Feb 3** - Focused Living for Church Planters at the BCM/D. For information and registration, visit bcmd.org/FL-Registration.
- **Feb 4** - Children's Seminar at Covenant Church in Ellicott City. For more information and to register, visit bcmd.org/childrens-seminar.
- **Feb 6 - 8** - Still My Soul: An Extended Silence Retreat at Skycroft. For more information and to register, visit bcmd.org/restoremysoulretreats. Registration deadline is January 23 - so register NOW.

Plain Tea Cake

(As made by Lottie Moon)

As a way to earn the trust of the people and show her goodwill, Lottie Moon made tea cakes for the children in her village in China. Once the children ate the cookies, they would take Lottie to their homes where she would share the gospel with their mothers. The children began calling Lottie "the cookie lady" instead of "foreign devil."

Three teacups of sugar
One teacup of butter
One teacup of sour milk
Four pints flour
Three eggs, well beaten
Half a teaspoon of soda
Flavor to taste, roll thin, bake in a quick oven.

Adapted recipe:

2 cups flour
½ cup butter
1 heaping cup of sugar
1 well-beaten egg
1 tablespoon cream

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and mix well. Add the flour and cream. Dust a board with flour. Roll the dough very thin. Cut cookies with a round cookie cutter. Place on a buttered or nonstick cookie sheet. Bake at 475 degrees for about 5 minutes.



IN THE CHURCHES...

HARVEST POINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH - Charlestown

December 24 **Christmas Eve gatherings** at 5:00 and 6:30 pm. During our gatherings we will be taking a look back to the reactions of Joseph and Mary to the good news of Christmas through music and drama. Each gathering will end with a time of communion and candle lighting in celebration of Christ's first advent.



What's happening in your church?

SOUTH END CHURCH - Frederick

December 6: Freddie and Gayla Parker will be leading our Church in our **International Missions Study** beginning at 6:30 PM
December 10: **Church wide Christmas Party** from 5-7 PM at the Church Fellowship Hall - All are invited (members & non-member) RSVP
December 18: **Christmas Musical "Hope Has Hands"** at 10:30 AM
December 24: **Public Christmas Eve Service** beginning at 6 PM
December 25: **Christmas Day Service** at 10 AM

Pastor Ken Stalls was re-elected as President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland Delaware on November 14 at Ocean City, Maryland. Congratulations, Pastor Ken!

COVENANT - Shepherdstown

Friday - DECEMBER 9, 2011 **Mike Rayburn "A Very Funny Christmas"**
December 23 & 24, 2011 **"Here With Us" Christmas Eve Services** at 7:00 PM

NORTHSTAR CHURCH - Ijamsville

December 4 **Food Pantry Collection**
December 18 **Children's Christmas Program** 10:00
December All Month **Gently used coats and mittens collection**



Is something exciting happening at your church? Please share it with us. We would love to know what is happening with your congregation. Please send us articles, updates, pictures and prayer requests. You can send them to Mae Argilan at mae@blueridgebaptist.org.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - Knoxville

Dec 31 - Jan 1 Annual **New Years Lock-in** at Shadowland at FSK Mall. Cost is \$35.00 per person. Money is due by December 18th.

SMITHSBURG VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - Smithsburg

December 18 **Children's Christmas Celebration & Parents' Day Out** 12:30-4:30

SUMMIT TRACE CHURCH - Frederick

December 2-4 **reBoot Tracer camp** @ Skycroft

December 4 **Christmas Caroling** 5 PM Glade Valley Center Walkersville

December 10 **Mother Daughter Banquet** 5-8 Skycroft

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Brunswick

December 11 **Welcome Luncheon for Pastor Phil Graves and Family** at 12:30 in the church social hall.

December 4 **Christmas Eve Service** 7 PM

December 25 **Christmas Morning Worship Service** 11 AM

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH - Middletown

December 2 - **Prayer Vigil** 6 PM to Midnight

December 17 **Christmas Caroling**

Holiday Mail for Heroes Campaign

This is the the fifth year of the Red Cross **Holiday Mail For Heroes** program! They are collecting holiday cards from regular citizens all across the country and distribute them to service members, veterans, and their families. If you're looking for a fun way to give back a little bit this holiday season, this is a great option.

Send cards to the address below:

**Holiday Mail For Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456**

All cards must be postmarked no later than **Friday, December 9th**. Cards postmarked after this date will unfortunately be returned to the sender. This deadline ensures enough time to sort and distribute cards before the holidays.

CenterPointe
Counseling has launched a new
website. Take peek!
centrepointecounseling.org



PRAYER LIGHTS

Pray for the **Christmas outreach** that will be going on in many of our churches this season. Many people are more open to the things of God at Christmas time - than any other time of the year. Pray that the outpouring of God's love from Christians to those who do not yet know Him, will be fruitful, and that it will allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in the hearts of many.

Pray for our **new Pastors** in the Association (see page 4) that they may receive wisdom and guidance from God as they lead their congregations. Pray for these churches too --- that they will remain open to what God has in store for them, under each man's leadership.

Pray for **Pastor Dave Coblentz**, who has recently been released from Frederick Memorial Hospital, and will now be in rehab at the Golden Living Center, 30 North Place, Frederick, MD for the next 2-3 weeks. Why not visit Dave if you are in the area? He'd love to see you. He can also be reached on his cell phone by calling (301) 730-4546.

Pastor Bruce Conley is expecting to be going in for gastric and hernia surgery sometime soon. As soon as we have a surgical date, we will let everyone know, so you can be praying for our Director of Missions, and the surgeon and medical staff.

Pray for **New Hope Church** in Inwood, WV as they consider the possible acquisition of a new building in their community.

Pray for **Bonnie Cherry** (wife of Nathan, Harvest Pointe), and **Jamie Beall** (wife of Jonathan Beall) - as both are expecting babies. Pray that everything will go well, and that we will soon have healthy, happy babies in those homes VERY soon!

Pray for **Alan Myers, Sr.** - as he starts the new church plant in Hancock, MD. God is already blessing them in a incredible way. Pray that new members will come to this new work over the holiday season.

Pray for **Virginia Avenue Baptist Church** while they continue their search for a new Pastor.



Partnering together to reach our Communities for Christ

20810A National Pike
Boonsboro, MD 21713