

Your

February/March 2020

Starting in **2020** the *Blue Ridge Baptist Association* will feature **LEADERSHIP LIFTER** teaching as part of our monthly *Pastor's Fellowship Breakfasts*. We will be asking pastors in the association to prepare a brief teaching moment (about 15 minutes) about a topic that has challenged them in ministry - that we all may have struggled with from time to time, and what God showed them when they had to address that specific situation in their own ministries. We urge ALL of our clergy to come and learn from your brother ministers in the trenches. Let's find the value in learning from each other as we gather over a meal together.

We meet the **first Wednesday of each month** with time off for the summer. We're also moving some breakfasts to more remote areas in the association in hopes that we can get more pastors to be able to benefit from our get-togethers.

**February 5th** - Cracker Barrel in Martinsburg, WV Dr. Joel Rainey  
**TOPIC: "Who should have the Pastor's Ear?"**

**March 4th** - Cracker Barrel in Frederick, MD Rev. Joe Engel  
**TOPIC: "How to handle Ministry Ups and Downs"**

**April 1st** - Bob Evans in Frederick, MD Rev. Dan Housam  
**TOPIC: "Replanting and Revitalization"**

### CLERGY IDENTIFICATION CARDS AVAILABLE TO BRBA MINISTERS



Vice Moderator of the Association, Pastor Clayton Clark, made the suggestion that the Association issue clergy identification cards for ministers who make multiple visits to multiple places in a given day. We have discovered that many pastors visit more than one hospital, jail, nursing home, rehab. center, or other location - and switching to paper visitor passes can be problematic.

For that reason, BRBA will be offering **free** CLERGY IDENTIFICATION cards for pastors interested in having them available for making such visits. All you have to do is provide us with a face shot .jpg photo and your information, and we will do the rest. The picture should be of somewhat high quality against a plain background.

Email Karen at BRBA if you'd like us to make a ID card for you!

## Showcase of February and March Events...

### FEBRUARY

- 1: Kids Ministry Conference 9-2:30pm**  
(Bethel Baptist Church Ellicott City, MD)
- 5: BRBA Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast**  
(Cracker Barrel Martinsburg, WV)
- 9: Annual Revival 11am & 7pm**  
Guest speaker **David Ring**
- 10-12: Annual Revival 7pm**  
(First Baptist Church-Hagerstown)
- 22: Church Security Conference 9-11:30am**  
(Faith Baptist Church Glen Bernie, MD)
- 29: Vacation Bible School Expo 9-1:30pm**  
(First Baptist Church Upper Marlboro, MD)

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

### MARCH

- 1-8: WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS** (Annie Armstrong Easter Offering)
- 4: BRBA Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast**  
(Cracker Barrel Frederick, MD)
- TWO DAY CONFERENCE**
- 5/6: DREAM Conference**  
(Southern Calvert Baptist Church Lusby, MD)
- TWO DAY CONFERENCE**
- 20/21: BCM/D Renovate Conference 7pm / 4pm**  
(Faith Baptist Church Glen Bernie, MD)
- 28: Special Needs Conference 9-3pm**  
(Colonial Baptist Church Randallstown, MD)
- 30-31: ReFRESH Conference** (Lancaster, PA)

# Prayer Request

How can we pray for you?

a complete healing from her condition.

\* **Niel Augustine**, former youth director at Paramount Baptist Church who is fighting pancreatic cancer and receiving chemotherapy.

\* **Our deeply divided nation** and for all of our elected leaders. Pray for peace, unity, and the movement of God in our hurting nation.

\* Our Director of Missions, **Bruce Conley** who just had cornea transplant surgery on his right eye, 3rd in 15 years, at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Pray for a speedy recovery and improved vision from this latest procedure.

\* **Pastor Thom Smith** - FBC Hagerstown who is fighting liver cancer and waiting for a possible liver transplant.

\* **Lisa Molnar**, former BRBA treasurer as she receives radiation treatment on her eyes to improve and heal the degeneration of her sight. Pray for

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR of Worship & Media

**Faith Baptist Church ~ Knoxville, MD**

#### Position Objective:

Provide pastoral leadership for the worship and media ministries and will oversee, lead, and coordinate the worship and media teams in order to accomplish the mission and vision at FBC. Responsible to help create an environment that helps people connect with God through music and video on a weekly basis. The goal is to help people experience the freedom and life that come through an ever-growing relationship with Christ. Manage all worship, sound, and media within the church; accomplished by planning, organizing, delegating, and coaching as needed to support the worship and multimedia needs within the church.

### PASTOR of Family Ministries

**First Baptist Church of Martinsburg ~ WV**

#### Position Objective / Responsibilities:

Oversee the student ministry of the church and to equip parents to lead their children and teenagers spiritually. Work alongside pastoral staff, the youth council, children's ministry leadership and the deacon body in directing these ministries. Event coordination within the ministry; recruiting, discipling, and equipping youth and children's ministry volunteers; parental equipping and encouragement; and administrative and organizational duties as appropriate to the position.

### SENIOR PASTOR

**Country & Town Baptist Church ~ Mechanicsburg, PA**

#### Position Objective:

Qualities of a godly shepherd and spiritual leader, one who will mentor our four staff pastors, preschool director, administrative personnel and the lay leadership. Guide the church in discovering and embracing God's will and vision and excelling at communication and team building to advance the mission of the church. Must have at least three years of senior pastor experience, including oversight of two or more full-time pastoral staff. Education requirements include a Master of Divinity (doctorate preferred) from an accredited Baptist seminary (preferably Southern Baptist). Please submit a resumé and cover letter on or before February 8th

[search@countryandtownbc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:search@countryandtownbc.onmicrosoft.com)

### CHAPLAIN

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

Serve at Camp Sinoquipe in Fulton County, PA for 7 weeks from June - July 2020. This is a paid position (temporary) with housing and meals provided while you serve. Interested persons should contact Ranger Jack at (717) 422-4458 to apply.

## IN THE CHURCHES

Pastor Joe Richardson



### COVENANT WELCOMES Student Ministries Pastor Joe Richardson

Pastor Joe is a native of south Florida, and for the last 8 years has served as Youth Pastor at Covenant Christian Church of Covington, Louisiana. He will graduate in May from Liberty University, after which he plans to pursue seminary studies. He and his wife Jenna have been married for 15 years and have four children. Pastor Joe will begin his duties February 17, which include the oversight of Middle School students, High School Students, College Students, and the Covenant Young Adult Ministry. We are excited to welcome Pastor Joe to our growing faith family!



### COVENANT WELCOMES Director of Communications Shawn Schroyer

Shawn has been part of the Covenant family for many years, and will transition to this new position from the Youth Ministry. He will oversee information systems, internal and external messaging, and social media. Shawn's background includes rich corporate experience with Wal-Mart and Amazon.



A very special **THANK YOU** to Rev. Fred Caudle of First Baptist Church of St. Charles for facilitating our Deacon Training on January 25, 2020 at South End Baptist Church. Ten men attended to learn from Fred's expertise and guidance. One deacon at SEBC said the training event "was a blessing - giving us a lot to be considered as we serve". We're grateful for South End's partnership and hosting this much needed local training.

## Replanting Myersville Baptist Church

My name is Dan Housam and I had been the lead pastor of Summit Trace Church (STC) for 11 1/2 years. STC meets in Frederick, MD. Several years ago, I had a nudge in my spirit that said I was not the best person to be leading STC. I shared it with my lead team at the time, and it was not received well. So, I stayed the course with STC. I did not know it then, but God had plans way beyond my awareness, and this nudge was just one small piece of it. It was like one piece of a larger picture that God was working on.

Fast forward to December 2018. It was time for STC to transition from being a portable church to having a permanent home. We moved into a commercial facility. While the rent was more expensive than the elementary school we were in, everyone saw God's hands at work opening doors to make a financially viable move. We started worshipping there on 24 March 2019 and it felt like home. We knowingly moved in the new place expecting to have a financial shortfall of nearly \$10K – and that was with faith built into the budget. As we went into the spring, giving exceeded expectations, and we were in the black. Along with that, we were also selling land that we had in the Jefferson, MD area. STC was in a new home, and we were financially stable. Praise God!

The nudge returned. As I surveyed STC, we were in a very healthy condition and my associate pastor, Rob Downs, was exercising his leadership gifts. I felt he was ready to lead. Looking back, I can describe it using the leadership metaphor of a bus. I was on the wrong seat of the bus. Rob needed to be in my seat. Continue in the metaphor, I was actually on the wrong bus. If I could get out of my seat and give it to Rob, other people would start moving around in their seats. Jesus was at the wheel of STC and ready to do some musical chairs. It time for me to leave the STC bus and get on a new bus. So, I made the decision that it was time for me to step down from STC. This piece of God's larger picture was in place.

Now let's transition away from STC to Myersville Baptist Church (MBC). The spring and summer of 2019 was a difficult season for MBC. Without getting into the details, MBC was on life support. It was only by the heroic efforts of Bruce Conley, our DOM, that MBC survived at all. This is the piece God knew about in His larger picture that none of us could have ever expected to happen.

As I am discussing transitioning out with the STC leadership team, MBC is in grave need of a new pastor. STC's leadership team invited Bruce into a discussion, and it quickly became apparent to everyone that my nudge from God to depart STC was going to provide an opportunity to serve MBC. God was at work doing something bigger than any of us could have ever guessed. By September 2019, all of the sharing, discussing, meeting, and voting had taken place in STC and MBC. Rob was taking the helm at STC, and I was taking the lead at MBC. Cooler yet, I was not just leaving STC, they were sending me off. STC sent me and 6 other people to MBC as a Restart Team. And STC committed to supporting us through prayer, participation, and provision. Praise God for my brothers and sisters at STC. I love you all.

As I invited more people, like Michael Crawford from the BCMD, into the conversation about what to do for MBC, it started to look like the best next step for MBC was to be replanted. After plenty of opportunities for questions, discussions, and healing for everyone involved, on 17 November 2019, MBC voted to be replanted to become North Valley Church (NVC). Our initial season was spent bringing together the original MBC people with the STC Restart Team. We were about 14 people who needed to spend some time sharing stories and getting to know each other.

Our current season is working to implement our strategy for 2020. Over the next three years, NVC's goal is to grow into a healthy church. We are using the Eight Qualities Of A Healthy Church as described by the Natural Church Development group. In 2020, we are focusing on three of the eight qualities. Since we are only a small group (which is okay – Jesus started with 12), we are relying on partnerships with various churches, organizations, and people to accomplish what we believe God is calling us to do. Those partners are fueling our work through their prayers, participation, and provision. Our replant partners are another piece of the picture God had been working on to bring NVC to fruition.

The story of Replanting Myersville Baptist Church is a God-size story with God's fingerprints clearly all over it. I am blessed that God saw fit to give me a small role in that big plan. As I work through this season with NVC, I wonder how many other churches might be ready to benefit from a replant or revitalization work. My prayer for the BRBA and BCMD is that more churches and pastors have the courage to prayerfully ask God what the best next step is. God may have a big plan that you cannot see from where you are. Our only option is to seek God and obediently do our part. He puts the pieces together for His bigger picture.

**Dan Housam**  
**Lead Pastor**  
**North Valley Church**





## CUMBERLAND VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH CLOSES ITS DOORS

Cumberland Valley Baptist Church in Hagerstown, MD has disbanded, and their building is being sold to another church in the region.



Begun as **REAL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH** by Pastor / planter Jim Chevalier in the late 1990's - the church had once reached a weekly attendance of 80+ people weekly. The future seemed bright. Chevalier left the work to start Friendship Baptist Church in Newark, DE creating a vacancy in leadership. That void was filled by Rev. Tim Girdler who was at the time a fresh seminary graduate from Southern Seminary, and a native of Maryland.

Girdler led the church out of rental space and into purchasing the old **Hagerstown Church of God** on Corbett Street when that church had fallen on hard times. Hopes were high, but in the 10 years that Girdler served, the church diminished to about 26 members. Girdler left the church to take a teaching position in Florida at a Christian school.

With the heavy burden of now having a mortgage, and even more people leaving the church, they resorted to calling a volunteer bi-vocational pastor to lead the church. Ron Kline came and served for several years, but his ministry was halted in February 2019, leaving the church without a leader. The Blue Ridge Baptist Association arranged for volunteer pastors and speakers to fill the pulpit while working with the remaining church members and only elder left standing to find solutions. In the end - there were only 6 church members left, all over 70 years old. One younger man led worship when he could to help the church.

The church finally decided that they would dissolve and shut their doors at the end of 2019. The final service was on December 29th, with Elder Joe Graybill bringing the final message. There were about 30 people in attendance.

While it is VERY sad to report that one of our own churches has closed - we do not count it as a failure. The church did baptize people during its tenure, and had an impact on the Hagerstown community.

The church building is being purchased by **Grace Reformed Fellowship**, a church in the PCA (Presbyterian Church of America) denomination that was started as a mission in 1992 and currently has about 50 members. Garry Knaebel is pastor. Up until now they have been meeting at Heritage Academy in Hagerstown. The folks at Cumberland Valley were excited that another evangelical church would be using the property to God's glory.



## Hope Community Church

January 12, 2020 marked the first official service of our new **Sri Lanken mission church plant** - Hope Community Church! Pastor Dilantha did a wonderful job on their inaugural Sunday. Special thanks to South End Baptist Church for welcoming this new church plant into their fellowship hall on Sundays, while their church worships in the sanctuary. This is the beginning of another great language church partnership in the Blue Ridge Baptist Association! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



## FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH of Middletown

For 3 ½ years, the people of FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH have been praying for God to provide a new place for them to meet and hold worship services. The old house on the edge of Middletown met a need when the church was a new mission church plant, but it became hard to convince the community that an actual church was housed in the partially commercial zoned property. The church prayed diligently and in faith that God might have something new for them to take the church to the next level.

Right after Christmas, God seemed to answer their prayers! The old Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church building became available, and the leaders at Fellowship Baptist began to explore the possibilities. The church is at 5753 Mount Carmel Church Road, about 20 miles away from the church's current location on the other side of South Mountain.

Plans are underway for the church to pack and move in February, and have some worship services in the new building in March. Some renovations are underway to make the building more handicapped accessible and friendly. Pastor Steve Rose said "This was definitely a GOD THING! We give all the praise and glory to Him." Please pray for the church as they anticipate and prepare for this transition. Pray that God will use this small church in a mighty way in their new location!!

**From this.....**



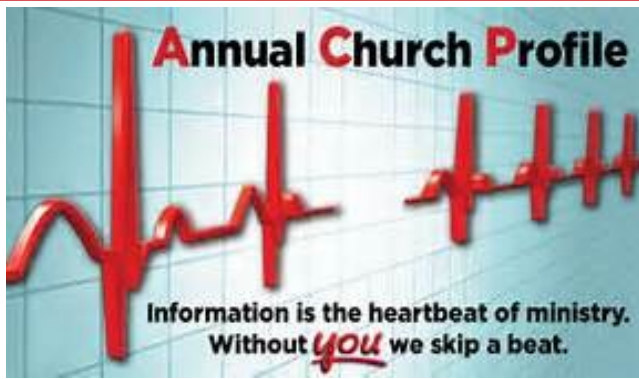
**to this!!**



*Blue Ridge Baptist Association  
20810A National Pike  
Boonsboro, MD 21713*







The ACP is people. It is people who have followed their Lord in baptism. It is people who are studying His Word, singing His praises, working in missions, and growing as His disciples. It is people who are serving Him.

The ACP can be used by everyone involved in the process as a guide to doing what God is leading them to do. This is a vital tool in helping your church, BRBA and SBC see where you have grown over the previous year.

The ACP shows what God has done and identifies areas that can be built upon as well as areas that need to be built

up. The goal of the ACP is to accurately describe the relationships and changes in relationships across the SBC. Your church ACP is **due to BRBA by February 7th**.

Your prayers and gifts to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** provide support for thousands of missionaries. These men and women are planting new churches in unreached communities and meeting needs through compassion ministries, who share the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ across the United States, Canada and their territories. Every day, lives are being impacted and transformed. Today, more than \$1 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals. The needs are great, but the living hope of Christ is greater.



The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is officially the first Sunday in March through the second Sunday. Your church may choose to observe the Week of Prayer during that time or at a date that is best for your congregation.

The **2020 theme** is **"It's All About the Gospel"**. The scripture verse is "For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 CSB). **The national goal is \$70 million.**



BRBA is providing a **FREE Church Security Conference** for all association members on **February 22 from 9-11:30a** at **Faith Baptist Church** 7378 E Furnace Branch Road **Glen Bernie, MD**.

The featured presenter is Bruce Conley, BRBA Director of Missions, law enforcement and corporate security. Other presenters are Charles Arnold, EMT and pastor; Dan Wilson, President IT Shore.

For those not able to attend, **LIVE STREAM** will be made available for the Main Session and (1) of the breakout sessions. The Main Session topic is Active

Shooter and the breakout session topics include: Church Security Teams, Church Medical Emergencies and Church Internet Security. Below is the website for the Live Stream:

**<http://www.youtube.com/FAITHGlenBernie/live>**.

If interested in attending, please email how many plan to attend to Karen with BRBA at [karen@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:karen@blueridgebaptist.org)

