



2021 BRBA Annual Meeting

On Monday, October 11, 2021, the Blue Ridge Baptist Association will hold its Annual Meeting.

The meeting will be held at West End Baptist Church in Hagerstown. The doors will open at 6:30 PM and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

This will be an in person meeting with an option to participate online. The link to watch online is bit.ly/3B2PxKr.

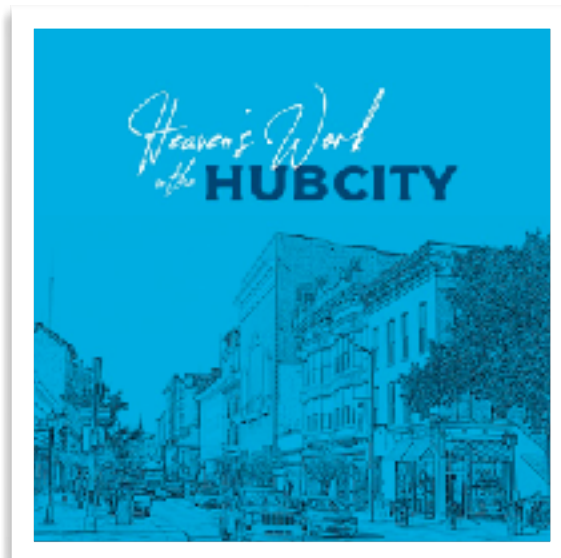
Come and hear about how God is moving in our churches! We have seen some amazing things happening in this past year. Even though we've been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, God is still working.

We will hear reports from all our committees and also get a State of the Association address from our Director of Missions, Rev. Bruce Conley.

This is always a blessed time and an amazing opportunity to connect with others who are serving and worshipping in our area. Please consider attending.

For those who are present, there will be lots of free stuff, door prizes, and a food fellowship afterwards.

Be sure to mark your calendars for October 11, at 6:30 PM.



When Two Become One...

For the past few months, God has been working in two congregations, Hagerstown Church and First Baptist Church of Hagerstown. Earlier this year, Hagerstown Church was approached with the possibility of merging with the First Baptist Church Hagerstown. During this time of considering what God might have in store, the two congregations worked together to put on a Vacation Bible School at First Baptist. Almost 50 kids attended during a week that saw the kids learn about the amazing treasure of God's grace. It was a great time for both congregations to come together, working together to point children to Jesus.

Finally, after months of meetings, it was clear

that God intended for the merge to go forward. After a series of votes, both congregations officially voted to merge and become the new Hagerstown Church. On September 26, they held our first merged service as a single body. This was a blessed time as voices were lifted up to the Lord, and the Word was opened and preached. They saw their very first baptism as a new church, baptizing the youngest son of Pastor Josh.

As you can imagine, there will be growing pains as two different congregations come together as one, but they have already seen so much of God's directing and sustaining hand during this process. Please be in continued prayer in the upcoming months as Hagerstown Church pushes forward for the good of our city and the glory of our God.



Loss and Healing

From Bruce Conley

Your Director of Missions

For the last several years (probably more than I care to admit) I have suffered from much personal loss, and very scary moments that literally tested my faith in almighty God Who I started building as a teen. Part of being in a world of "sin" means having a life filled with illness, death, ungodly motives, bitterness, gossip, and the list goes on. All of these things affect us physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. I'm happy to report that - with the Lord's help, I have weathered each and every storm fairly well. That doesn't mean that I don't feel battered at times.

I've come to realize that once I get through each and every storm, no matter how difficult the storm of life was - our God always makes good on his promise to take care of us. Even though our lives may be filled with all manner of trials and burdens, we know that 'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy DOES come in the morning.' (Psalm 30:5)

It's so easy for us Christians to become so immersed in life circumstances and the everyday occurrences of life, that we lose connection and confidence in God's presence in our lives. How many times do the sufferings and trials of our lives seem to completely overwhelm us such that we fail to immediately turn to Christ for help?

God has blessed us with families, and often the dearest of friends who do what they can to help in crisis, but realistically - they cannot do what our heavenly father was meant to do in our heartache! That is where David found himself again and again until he remembered the Lord was right there - with him in his time of trouble. When he turned his face to God it was only then that he could say: "I will praise and honor you, Oh God, for you lift me up! (Psalm 30:1) Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties for believers today is that we have lost the realization that true joy is found in Christ alone. All of the pleasure we achieve in this world will pass away. Sure - they can give us momentary pleasure (and that's a good thing, because God gave those things to us for that purpose), but for the follower of Jesus Christ - they will never give us lasting joy.

Brothers and sisters - may we (like the Psalmist) look to Jesus in good times or bad, for in Him alone is found joy, peace, and everlasting love. Only in Christ will we have joy both in this life and in the life to come!

**Lord my God,
I called to you for help,
and you healed me.**

Psalm 30:2





Coming Events

October 1 - October 31

Cooperative Program Month



Find out more about Cooperative Program at bcmd.org/cp.



October 6 @ 9:00 am

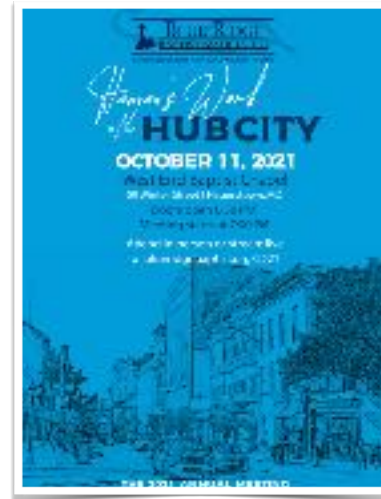
Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Hagerstown with Dr. Jamie Work of the International Mission Board

See blueridgebaptist.org/calender for more info.

October 11 @ 6:30 pm

BRBA Annual Meeting at West End Baptist Chapel

See blueridgebaptist.org/am-2021 for more info.



October 18 - 24

Week of Prayer for Association Missions

A bulletin insert will be available at the BRBA annual meeting and online at blueridgebaptist.org/downloads



October 25 @ 2:00 pm - October 26 @ 2:00 pm

AWAKEN Cohort 2021-2022

at Skycroft in Middletown, MD. Learn more at bcmd.org/event/awaken-cohort-2021-2022/

October 26 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Youth Summit

*South Columbia Baptist Church 8814 Guilford Road,
Columbia. Learn more at bcmd.org/event/youth-summit*



November 3 @ 8:00 am

Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast at Bob Evans in Frederick
with Mark Dooley Interim Executive Director for BCM/D

See blueridgebaptist.org/calender for more info.

November 6 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Disaster Relief Training – November 6, 2021

Hughesville Baptist Church

8505 Old Leonardtown Road, Hughesville

Learn more at bcmd.org/event/disaster-relief-training-november-6-2021/



November 15

Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church Laurel 15000 First Baptist Lane, Laurel

More info at <https://bcmd.org/event/annual-meeting-2/>

Prayer Requests:

Pray for Dr. Kevin Smith who has left his position as Exec. Director of the Baptist Convention of MD/DE to return to the pastorate in Florida.

Please pray for our SBC leaders who appear to be embroiled in turmoil these days. Pray that the attack from evil forces will subside, and that the truth will prevail as everyone involved does their best to serve and honor God.

We thank God for the many children that were reached in BRBA churches this summer through local Vacation Bible Schools. Our churches are reporting baptisms and great success!!

Pray for Pastor Phil Graves and his family from First Baptist Church of Brunswick as they continue the process to adopt a young girl from Ukraine.

Pray for First Baptist Church of Thurmont as they begin building project to add space to their church facility.



20810A National Pike
Boonsboro, MD 21713

You can subscribe to the online version of at blueridgebaptist.org