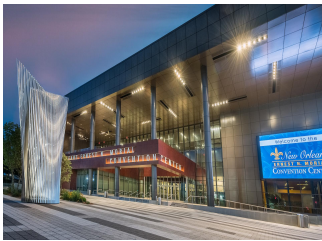




June/July 2023

Get Ready for the SBC Annual Meeting of 2023

June 11-14 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Memorial Convention Center



The SBC Annual Meeting consists of representatives, or “messengers,” as they are called, from cooperating churches, who gather to confer and determine the programs, policies, and budget of the Convention. Each church may be represented up to a maximum of 12 messengers based on the conditions outlined in Article III of the SBC Constitution. Members interested in becoming messengers should contact their pastors for information on the appropriate process of approval applicable in their church.

Highlights for the Annual Meeting

This year it is expected that there will be discussion on implementing reforms and methodology for dis-fellowshipping churches that don't support recommended measures to track and prevent sexual abuse in the local church, which was a heavy discussion and focus of last years meeting.

The SBC Executive Committee previously took action to oust six churches, including the SBC's second largest, Saddleback Church. Five of the six were removed from the rolls because they had appointed women as pastors, again, including that of Saddleback Church. One church was removed for inadequate response to a claim of sexual abuse, a charge the congregation later denied.

Rick Warren is expected to be present again this year to appeal the ousting of Saddleback Church and messengers will vote on whether to sustain the action of the Executive Committee.

Messengers should also hear of an audit report this year that will explain why an estimated \$6 million dollars of the EC's \$12.2 million in assets had been spent in the preceding year. The 50% loss may have been directly connected to the sexual abuse investigation.

No report is expected this year regarding former BCM/D Exec. Director Will McRaney's federal lawsuit against Kevin Ezell and NAMB, as that case is still being processed through the Federal District Courts in Mississippi. A jury trial is expected on September 18th, 2023.

Check your emails for the BRBA Newsletter!



Effective June 2023, BRBA will only mail out printed copies of our newsletter IF individuals or churches request them to be mailed. We're doing our best to be good stewards of the resources that God has provided to our local missions organization and it is simply not wise or cost effective to print and mail out hard copies of **THE PULSE** to the many churches and Pastors that we serve.

Sarah has a master email list to many who want the newsletter emailed to them every 60 days as we go to press. You can request to be added to that list at any time. In addition, **THE PULSE** is posted on the BRBA website www.blueridgebaptist.org, and on our Facebook page. If you prefer a printed copy to be mailed through the US Post Office though, we will certainly make provisions for you or your church member to receive that as well.

Let your preference be known by contacting Sarah Halloran, our newsletter guru at sarah@blueridgebaptist.org

Changes to our Pastor Fellowship Breakfast

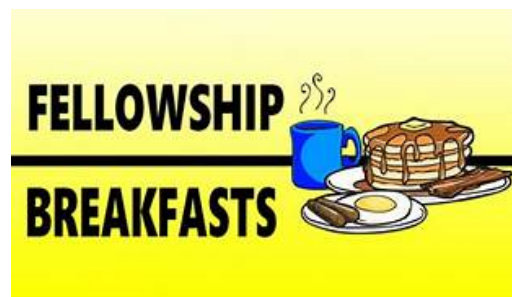
For 15 years BRBA has sponsored pastors fellowship breakfasts on the first Wednesday of each month. Starting in the Fall of 2023, that will change. We realize that in planning those fellowship opportunities on a weekday morning, we are excluding so many of our bi-vocational pastors and church leaders. **Beginning in September, BRBA will now hold pastor's fellowship meals on Saturday mornings instead of Wednesdays.**

We're asking our churches to open their doors (fellowship halls) to sponsor one of these breakfasts once every couple of years. BRBA will help pay for any expenses if your volunteers will cook for these wonderful men of God.

The plan is to meet at 8 AM, and keep you no longer than 2 hours (*we know your Saturday time is extremely valuable!*) We will have a keynote speaker that will offer a 10 - 15 minute devotional, and it will give all of our church leaders a chance to get to know each other better.

Would your church consider sponsoring a breakfast this Fall? Contact DOM Bruce Conley and let us know ASAP! bruce@blueridgebaptist.org

***Note: Our pastor's breakfasts have always included lay pastors, elders and deacons too! Bring your leaders with you so we can spread the blessings!*

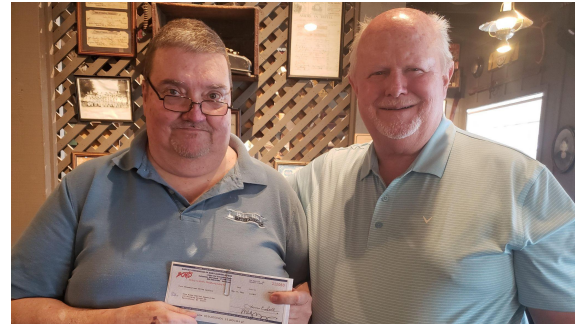


BCM/D Honors BRBA with a \$4,000 GRANT!

Words cannot express how much we are honored to partner with the Baptist Convention of MD/DE in the work that both organizations do to help and support local churches. This partnership helps us all to be able to do the work of the gospel in our neighborhoods better!

In May 2023, BCM/D approved a grant request from the Blue Ridge Baptist Association to help us purchase a portable digital sign that can be set up in any location, and advertise church outreach events such as:

- * concerts
- * VBS
- * family fun nights
- * movie night on the lawn



(picture is a sample only)

We realize that even if your church does have a sign, it's anchored to the front lawn of your church. With this valuable tool, you can tell the community about your upcoming event out on the main roadway, or at the corner gas station (with permission, of course).

Pastor Mike Trammel, BCM/D Church Relations Specialist with BCM/D for our region, recently presented the grant check to our DOM, Bruce Conley, and they talked about how this equipment might be used to assist all 37 BRBA churches.

BRBA expects that this resource will be available for our churches to use by September 2023! **Contact Pastor Dave Hays to reserve its use at dave@blueridgebaptist.org to reserve the use of this and other BRBA resources and equipment!**



aka Free Stuff to help Churches!



Welcome back to Dave's Corner! We have a LOT of items that have been donated to help our churches in storage, and by way of this article, every 60 days we plan on drawing your attention to some of the things that we have that are FREE for your church to use, or in some cases call your own at NO COST to you!

Bible studies, sound equipment, books, coffee machines, and so very much more. If your interest is peaked and you would like to look around our room to see what your church might be about to use please let me know. **You can get in touch with me at dave@blueridgebaptist.org and I'll be happy to make arrangements for you to come to our storage facility in Hagerstown and take a peek at what we have.**

You can also **reserve on the BRBA website**. If you are searching for something specific, use the drop down menu to find Equipment Reservations and hit "other item". Let me know what you are in need of and I will let you know if we have it!

SUMMER MISSIONARIES AVAILABLE !!

In our partnership with SKYCROFT we have been told that they will have 4-6 missionaries potentially available this summer to help BRBA churches with various summer projects. Some missionary teams may also be available to come to your church and do various projects!

Emily Reedy, manager of Skycroft, reports that they will have the potential to send out small teams of missionaries from June 19 to July 7 but in the evenings only. Beginning the week of July 10 through August 10, they will then have the availability to send out missionaries to assist with daytime events or needs.



2 former BRBA summer missionaries
Ella Silvera & Sam Downs

If your church needs help with any project this summer, contact Emily Reedy at ereedy@skycroft.org to see if she can work you into this busy summer schedule! (First come, first served.)



MISSION NEEDS:

CARE-NET PREGNANCY CENTER in Frederick, MD has an immediate need for the following items:

- Summer Toddler Clothes 3T, 4T, & 5T
- Girls Short Sleeve Onesies in 6-9m, 12m, and 18m ONLY
- Baby Bathtubs
- Wipes
- Diapers size 5 & 6
- New Bottles
- Baby wash/shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Nursing pads
- Sanitary pads
- Baby washcloths
- Single baby strollers (not umbrella style)



Can your church help? Bring the items to their office as soon as possible! They are located at 707 North Market Street, Frederick, MD.

Donations Needed!

Want to help the mission trip to Togo, Africa? You don't need a passport or a plane ticket to do so! *Northstar Community Church* is sending some members to help an orphanage there! The goal is to fill a shipping container full of supplies and ship it over there so they are prepared when they arrive.

See below for items you can donate by June 6th!

Contact Lisa at lisa@northstar.org for more information!

School Supplies	Medical Supplies	New/Gently Worn Clothes
Lunch Bags/Boxes	Glucometers	Teenaged boy shorts/long pants
Backpacks	Bandages	Teenaged boy Cotton Dress Shirts
Notebooks	Wound Care Kits	Teenaged girl blouses
Colored Pencils/Markers	Blood Pressure cuffs	Teenaged girl skirts/skorts/Jumpers
Pens/Pencils	Needles/Syringes	Gym Shorts and T-Shirts
Crayons	Medical Equipment	Sweatshirts/Fleeces/Coats & Raincoats
Filler/Plain Paper	Urinary Catheters	
Graph Paper	Respiratory Supplies	

Your Prayers Are Needed

Please pray for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans LA June 11-14, 2023

Please continue to pray for DOM Bruce Conley as he is still having problems with his heart being in Atrial Fibrillation. After 2 cardio versions and a cardiac ablation, he still is having difficulties. Pray that added oral medications might help to get his heart back into sinus rhythm and help it to stay there.

Pray for the following churches in our area currently without staff pastors:

- * First Baptist Church of Frederick, MD
- * Third Day Community Church of Jefferson, MD
- * Valley Baptist Church of Jefferson, MD
- * Whips Cove Church of Warfordsburg, PA *(not a BRBA member church)*

Pray for Pastor Justin Wyckoff of FBC Brunswick, MD who is having pain and paralysis possibly due to bell's palsy. Pray the doctors will properly diagnose his condition and be able to treat and decrease the symptoms.

Please continue to pray for Marisol and Reagan Lindstrom as they continue to grieve and adjust to life without their husband/father, Pastor Joe Lindstrom. *(Third Day Church)*

Pray for all of our graduates from High Schools and Colleges. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in their lives as they embark on new journeys.

What's Happening with our Member Churches??



Expansion!

Buck Valley Christian Church in Warfordsburg, PA recently completed expansion of their sanctuary so they could accommodate more worshippers! We rejoice with our brothers and sisters at Buck Valley with the growth they have been experiencing! GOD IS GOOD!

BAPTISMS!

Warmer weather brings more outdoor baptisms in BRBA!

First Baptist Church of Brunswick did 2 river baptisms in the last month. Buck Valley uses a swim spa at a church member's home. Whatever the water source, we celebrate with our churches as many souls go through the waters of baptism!



Romans 6:4:
We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.



ADAMSTOWN CHURCH CALLS NEW PASTORS

Adamstown Community Church has called 2 new pastors to share leading the church.

Rev. Bob Enright will preach on the 1st and 2nd Sundays each month, and Rev. Jerry Gavin will preach the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays.

Rev. Jerry Gavin has been licensed to preach from Prince of Peace Baptist Church in Fallston, MD and has served as a Shock Trauma coordinator in the statewide EMS system. He is also pursuing a Master's degree in biblical theology with the Trinity Theological Seminary in Evansville, Indiana.



(Bob Enright)

Rev. Bob Enright serves as a Chaplain for the Loudoun County VA Combined Fire and Rescue System. He provides support for first responder fire and rescue crews responding to emergency incidents and helps families during a crisis. He works a full-time secular job during the week, and is currently studying for his Master of Divinity degree.

DOM Preaching Schedule:

June 4:	RIVERBEND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
June 11:	BERKELEY BAPTIST CHURCH
June 18:	BUCK VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
June 25:	OPEN
July 2:	RIVERBEND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
July 9:	OPEN
July 16:	OPEN
July 23:	OPEN
July 30:	OPEN

Reach out to Bruce Conley for a visit to preach at your church!