



How do your gifts make a difference?

Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are used to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel. New churches are being planted around the world, hurts are being healed and lives are being transformed by the gospel because you give.

100%

of all gifts go to the mission field

Find out more

Visit lottimoon.com



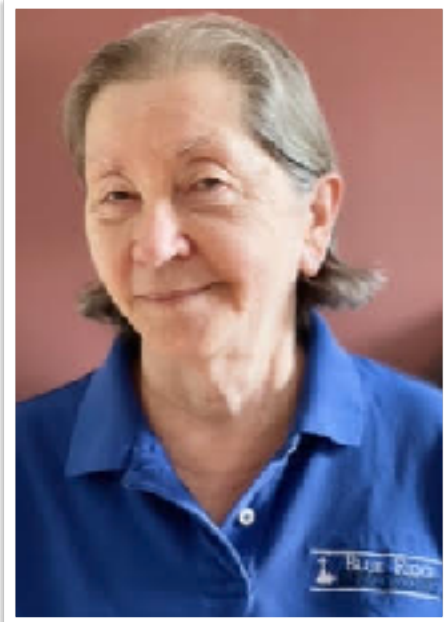
What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries.

This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.





Welcome Back Mae Argilan

BRBA would like to welcome back Mae Argilan as a contractor to help with various administrative duties in the Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

Mae was our Administrative Assistant for 15 years - serving with Dave Burt and Bruce Conley but she retired 7 years ago.

When Mae considered coming back to help the local association, she said: "They say if you want to make God laugh just tell him your plans, and see what happens."

Mae is happy to be back in a part-time capacity to serve the churches and pastors of this area. She and her husband Fred are members at Smithsburg Valley Baptist Church.

Mae can be contacted by email at: mae@blueridgebaptist.org

BRBA Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast

Now hosted on Saturdays

For years the Pastors of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association have met on Wednesdays for fellowship, food, prayer, and an exchange of ideas. This did not work well however for many bi-vocational pastors and church leaders who work secular jobs during the week.

On Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 that plan changed. Our pastors met at Hagerstown Church on High Street for our first ever Saturday church leader breakfast. About 23 men gathered together - making the response larger than anyone could remember in recent years.

We will be taking a break for the holidays, but plan to announce dates for 2024 in the beginning of the new year. Please keep your eyes out for an email and on our Facebook page..

We hope to see you at the next gathering. As always, Deacons and Elders are also always welcome.



The Heart of Personal Evangelism:

Reaching One Soul at a Time

By Rev. Phil Graves - Pastor of First Baptist Church of Brunswick

In our journey as followers of Christ, personal evangelism holds a special place, one that resonates deeply with my convictions as a pastor. This one-on-one sharing of the Gospel is more than just a duty; it's an expression of our love for God and for those He brings into our lives. Personal evangelism isn't about statistics or numbers; it's about individual souls, each with their unique stories, struggles, and needs. By engaging in personal evangelism, we emulate Jesus' own approach, reaching out to people where they are, just as He did. It's about creating genuine connections, showing God's love in a tangible way, and guiding others to find hope and salvation in Christ.

What makes personal evangelism so powerful is its relational aspect. Unlike mass evangelism, it allows for a deeper, more personal connection, enabling us to address specific questions and concerns. In my own ministry, I've seen how a simple, heartfelt conversation can open doors that sermons or books cannot. When we share our faith on a personal level, we're not just imparting knowledge; we're offering a piece of our hearts. We become vessels through which God's love and grace flow into the lives of others. This relational approach aligns perfectly with the teachings of Jesus, who often sought out individuals for personal, transformative encounters.

Moreover, personal evangelism plays a crucial role in the growth and health of the church. Each believer, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is called to be a light in their own sphere of influence, be it at work, in the community, or within their own families. By sharing our faith one-on-one, we contribute to the building of a vibrant, growing community of believers. It's through these personal connections that the church grows organically, strengthened by diverse experiences and testimonies. In essence, personal evangelism is at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Christ – reaching out in love, one person at a time, and making disciples as we were commissioned to do.



Dave's Corner

Aka Free Stuff to help Churches!

We are entering into winter and still have much to share! Contact me at dave@blueridgebaptist.org and I'll be happy to make arrangements to meet you at our storage facility in Hagerstown so you can take a peek at what we have.

We want to remind you too that the Association web site [.blueridgebaptist.org](http://blueridgebaptist.org) also has a reservation option for you to request use of the Block Party Trailers, shuttle vans, or equipment. To search for something specific - use the drop down menu to find the equipment that you need. Let me know what you are in need of and I will let you know if we have it!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS BRUCE CONLEY AND HIS NEW BRIDE, MARY!



Our Director of Missions, Bruce Conley married Mary Heaney at Greenbrier Baptist Church on November 4th, 2023 in a small ceremony with family and some close friends. Mary has been a faithful member of Fellowship Baptist Church for over 20 years, and was a resident of Brunswick, MD.

We want to wish the happy couple many years of loving each other and serving the Lord together.



FBC Brunswick Starts Capital Campaign

Saving an iconic part of the Brunswick Skyline

The iconic bell tower of the First Baptist Church in Brunswick, a prominent feature of the town's skyline for 114 years, has been compromised by extensive damage due to exposure to the elements, particularly rain and water. This has raised structural concerns, prompting the church's congregation to initiate a fundraising campaign, "Capture the Vision", with the goal of restoring the bell tower. The first phase of the campaign aims to raise \$250,000 in three years to preserve the bell tower, followed by a second phase targeting an additional \$250,000 for further restoration of the church. As of now, pledges exceeding \$40,000 have been made, with about \$7,000 already received. The church is also exploring grant opportunities to support this project. The deterioration of the bell tower, including water damage to its mortar, flooring, and the ceiling and walls of the room below, necessitates urgent restoration.

The First Baptist Church holds a significant historical and emotional place in the Brunswick community. Many residents have personal connections to the church, with stories of family members who grew up, got married, or even helped build it. JoEllen Fisher, a member for over 60 years, whose great-grandparents were among the church's founding members, exemplifies this deep connection. The church is not just a building for her and many others; it is a symbol of home and family history. Despite considering the option of constructing a new building, the congregation decided to preserve the existing structure due to its historical importance. Optimism surrounds the fundraising effort, with growing congregation numbers, especially among the youth, and plans for expanded ministry space, indicating a hopeful future for the church.



If you or your church would like to help, you can visit savethebelltower.org for more information or to donate.

Night to Shine Frederick & Washington Counties

BCM/D, Skycroft, BRBA, North Valley, FBC Brunswick partner together

Night to Shine is an extraordinary, annual event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, designed to celebrate people with special needs, aged 14 and older, through a memorable prom night experience. Centered on God's love, this unforgettable evening involves a red carpet entrance, limousine rides, hair and makeup stations, and, of course, a dance floor. Every guest is crowned as a prom king or queen, symbolizing their inherent value and worth. This event, hosted by thousands of churches around the globe on the same night, not only brings joy to its participants but also fosters a sense of community, acceptance, and unconditional love. Night to Shine is more than just a celebration; it's a movement that champions the message that everyone should have the opportunity to experience life's milestones with joy and pride.

This coming year, in 2024, a Night to Shine will be held at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, Maryland, on Friday February 9th, 2024 from 6pm-9pm. For More information, to volunteer or register, visit nighttoshinefrederick.com.



Evangelism Training Event



**MISSION WHERE WE'RE AT:
THE POWER OF INTENTIONAL
PRESENCE**

FEATURE SPEAKER: DAN HYUN

Register at blueridgebaptist.org or email:
mae@blueridgebaptist.org

join us for a series of...
**PERSONAL EVANGELISM
TRAININGS**

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
3346 GAPLAND RD
ROHRERSVILLE, MD 21779
JANUARY 27, 2024
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Prayer Requests

Pastor Bruce Conley fell on his honeymoon and injured his leg pretty bad. The resulting infection caused him to be helicoptered to INOVA Hospital in the middle of the night on November 10th. After a full week's stay at the hospital and 2 surgeries, he is now home recovering, but he will probably need multiple skin grafts in the next several months. Please pray for his recovery and that he will be back out and about very soon.

Please pray for the following churches:

- THIRD DAY COMMUNITY CHURCH -- without a pastor + looking for new worship space
- VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH -- without a pastor
- WHIPS COVE CHURCH -- without a pastor



Please be in prayer for the Marsico family as Pastor Kevin Marsico (Northstar) just lost his mother to her heavenly home.

We received word that pastor Joseph Craig of Berkeley County WV has gone home to be with the Lord after a long illness. Please pray for the Craig family. Joseph was a dear man of God with a wonderful Irish accent who could keep a congregation fixed on his teaching of the scriptures. His son helped to start Summit Trace Church many years ago.