



BRBA Annual Meeting

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association, a testament to God's unwavering faithfulness to His people throughout seven decades. As we reflect on this significant milestone, we are reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1-12, "A Time for Everything." This passage beautifully illustrates the seasons of life, each ordained by God, who has made everything beautiful in its time. With hearts full of gratitude, we invite you to join us in celebrating this remarkable journey.



THE BRBA ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 14 @ SKYCROFT

The celebration will take place on **October 14th** (Columbus Day) at the Skycroft

Conference Center in Middletown, MD. Registration begins at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:00 PM and the meeting starting at 7 PM. Our guest speaker for the evening is **Rev. David Burt**, former Director of Missions for the Blue Ridge Baptist Association. In addition to the inspiring message, there will be ministry resource tables, door prizes, and a showcase of the new BRBA handicapped accessible shuttle van and portable message sign. Come, be a part of this special occasion as we celebrate the past and look forward to the future, confident in the Lord's continued faithfulness.





Annual Meeting Looks Different This Year!

We are thrilled to invite you to The Gathering, our annual family meeting for pastors, church leaders, and attendees of the BCM/D. This year's event is a must-attend for every church in the BCM/D! We know that's a bold statement, but we've reimagined our time together with you and your churches in mind. Our goal is to care for you as you hopefully recharge, give you valuable resources and information, and encourage you to keep loving and serving your church family and communities.

What can you expect this year? Here are just a few highlights:

- **A Prime Location:** We'll be at the newly remodeled Ashore Resort and Beach Club in Ocean City, MD.
- **A Fresh Schedule:** The agenda has a new look and feel to enhance your experience.
- **We're Celebrating You:** You, our churches, are the focus of our two days together!
- **Inspiring Stories:** Hear about God's miraculous movement across Maryland and Delaware.
- **We've Added Breakouts:** Every breakout session is designed with you—our pastors, leaders, and church teams—in mind.
- **A VERY Exciting Announcement:** We have a game-changing announcement regarding how BCM/D will be able to come alongside you to support you in training and developing the leaders and volunteers in your church in 2025. It's huge!
- **We Will Have Church:** While we will accomplish important business, the heart of our time together will be inviting the Spirit to move as we pray earnestly for our churches and communities and worship our God together with our whole hearts.

Event Details:

This year's Annual Meeting, now reimagined as *The Gathering*, promises an exciting, refreshing experience for pastors, church leaders, and attendees of the BCM/D. Taking place at the newly remodeled Ashore Resort and Beach Club in Ocean City, MD, the event offers fresh programming designed to inspire, recharge, and celebrate the church community. Highlights include breakout sessions, stories of God's movement, and an exciting announcement about upcoming training opportunities in 2025. Join us November 10-11 for a time of worship, prayer, and community. Registration is free but limited, so act quickly!

To register, visit <https://bcm.d.org/event/thegathering/>

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Since 1993, **Operation Christmas Child**, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has delivered more than 209 million shoebox gifts to children in over 170 countries. Each shoebox is filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, all thoughtfully selected to bring joy and hope to children in need. But these boxes are more than just gifts—they are a tangible expression of God's love. Along with each shoebox, children receive an invitation to learn more about Jesus through a 12-lesson discipleship program called *The Greatest Journey*.

For many children, these shoeboxes represent more than gifts—they symbolize hope in desperate times. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is rooted in bringing not only material goods but also the good news of the Gospel to children who may have never heard of Jesus. Volunteers from all over the world participate, contributing both time and resources to make these boxes special. As the shoeboxes reach the hands of children in orphanages, hospitals, and remote villages, they often become the highlight of a child's year, showing them they are loved and not forgotten.

National Collection Week is quickly approaching, taking place from **November 11-18**. This is your chance to pack and deliver a shoebox gift to a local drop-off center. Whether you fill your box with small toys, school supplies, or hygiene products, your simple act of kindness will leave an everlasting impact. Let's come together and make this year's collection the most impactful yet!

Find your local drop-off location at <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/>



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month), a time set aside to honor and thank pastors for their service. Established in 1992 by the spiritual care organization Focus on the Family, PAMP began as a way to recognize the unique challenges pastors face. Your pastor is likely carrying more than you realize—whether it's leading, counseling, or praying for the church. Here are 10 ways to show your appreciation:

1. **Pray for Them:** One of the most powerful ways to uplift your pastor is through consistent prayer. Let them know you're interceding on their behalf for wisdom, strength, and guidance.
2. **Write a Personal Note:** A handwritten note expressing specific ways they've impacted your life or faith can go a long way. Pastors cherish heartfelt, sincere words of appreciation.
3. **Organize a Thank-You Event:** Coordinate with your church to host a Pastor Appreciation service or event. Invite members to share stories of how the pastor has made a difference, followed by a fellowship meal or reception.
4. **Give a Gift Card:** Something as simple as a gift card to their favorite restaurant, bookstore, or coffee shop is both thoughtful and practical, giving them a chance to unwind or enjoy a personal treat.
5. **Volunteer to Help:** Take the load off their shoulders by offering to assist with church projects, whether it's setting up for events, cleaning, or offering administrative help. Freeing up their time can allow them to focus on what matters most.
6. **Give Them Time Off:** Pastors work tirelessly, often behind the scenes. Arrange for your pastor to take a day or even a week off. Cover services and responsibilities so they can fully recharge.
7. **Support Their Family:** Ministry often involves sacrifices made by the pastor's family. Find ways to show appreciation to their spouse and children, acknowledging the vital role they play in supporting their loved one.
8. **Publicly Affirm Them:** Use social media, newsletters, or even a Sunday service to publicly recognize and celebrate your pastor's contributions. Acknowledging their efforts publicly can be a huge encouragement.
9. **Donate to a Cause:** Consider donating to a mission or cause your pastor is passionate about. Whether it's a local charity, global mission, or church project, this shows that you are invested in what matters to them.
10. **Make Appreciation an Ongoing Habit:** While October is dedicated to Pastor Appreciation, don't let it stop there. Make it a year-round effort by consistently checking in, offering help, and showing gratitude.

By taking the time to appreciate your pastor, you contribute to their personal and spiritual well-being, strengthening the entire church community in the process.

Faith Baptist to Dedicate Family Life

Faith Baptist Church cordially invites you to join us for a special occasion dedicated to celebrating the memory and enduring legacy of our beloved former pastor, Edward A. Jordan.

We are delighted to announce the dedication of the Family Life Center, a testament to Pastor Ed's unwavering faith, tireless service, and profound impact on our community. This building stands as a tribute to the values and vision that he imparted to us and we are excited to commemorate this milestone in his honor.



Your presence will add to the joy and significance of this event, as we gather to remember and celebrate the life and contributions of Pastor Ed. We hope you can join us in honoring his legacy and in dedicating this Please RSVP by Friday, October 11th to the church office at 301-834-7755.

Faith Baptist Church Family Life Center Dedication

To honor the memory and legacy of Edward A. Jordan

Saturday, October 19th, 2024 at 2:00 pm.

2212 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD 21758



LOCATION

**South Shore Church, 725
Herald Harbor Rd,
Crownsville, MD 21032**

OCTOBER 26, 9AM - 1PM

ANNUAL YOUTH LEADER TRAINING:

**Equipping Youth Ministry Leaders
and Their Teams To Love and Lead
The Next Generation**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 10/23
*LIMITED SPACE**

Bring your whole team for a day of training, networking, food, and fun! Six training sessions include Effective Up-Close Discipleship, Navigating Youth Group Drama, Faith Formation in the iPhone Generation, The Power of Asking Questions, When Interruptions Become Ministry Opportunities, and The Anxious Teen: Ministry That Builds Resilience and Connection to God. Volunteers will learn from industry leaders such as Sean McDowell, Kristen Lascola, and Zach Luben

Register at <https://bcmd.org/event/youth-summit/>

Calendar of Events



- October 6th - Cooperative Program Sunday
- October 20th - Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- October 27 - Student Baptism Sunday
- November 3 - Day of prayer for the persecuted church
- November 10th - Orphans & Widows Sunday

October 3rd - HEALTHIER PASTORS / HEALTHIER CHURCHES luncheon @ Covenant Baptist Church - Shepherdstown, WV - 11 AM - 1 PM



October 24th - EVANGELISM ENCOURAGEMENT LUNCH with Mark Dooley @ Chili's Grill and Bar (1312 Londontown Blvd, Eldersburg, MD) 11:30 AM - 1 PM

October 30th - YOUTH & KIDS MINISTRY LEADERS CONNECT LUNCH @ Applebee's 12201 Winchester Road SW, LaVale, MD 21502 12-2 PM

November 10-11 THE GATHERING (BCM/D Annual Meeting in Ocean City @ Ashore Resort & Beach Club Hotel - 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
(Note: The Senior Pastor's Conference will follow on November 11-12)

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - November 28



Prayer Requests

Praying for one another within our association is like sharing a family meal. It brings us closer and strengthens our bonds. It's a beautiful way to show love and support, reminding us that, though our churches may vary in size or style, we're all part of the same spiritual family. This practice of lifting each other up in prayer not only nurtures our faith but also reinforces the unity and shared purpose that define us.



Let's embrace this gift of prayer, celebrate our connections, and grow stronger together in faith and fellowship. Please pray for the following churches:

Smithsburg Valley Baptist Church

Third Day Community Church

Valley Baptist Church

Paramount Baptist Church (*seeking a Minister of Worship & Music*)

Bethel Church of Stumptown, VA (between Point of Rocks and Leesburg)

Rejoice always,
Pray without ceasing,
In everything *Give Thanks*;
For this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18