

BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER CONTENT



Congratulations to **EMMITSBURG COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH** on their acquisition of a new shuttle bus for church outreach and youth ministry!! Their Wednesday night bible study has 17 in attendance now, with mostly YOUTH attending!!

Disaster Relief Training!!

Berkeley Baptist Church - 172 Winchester Grade Road, Berkeley Springs WV

July 12, 2025 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

This is a Blue Ridge Baptist Association Disaster Relief Training Event. Classes offered are:

- * Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (half-day morning),
- * Feeding unit training (full day),
- * Shower and Laundry unit training (half-day afternoon),

* Recovery unit training (half-day afternoon).

While this event is targeted to train folks in the **Western** and **Blue Ridge Associations**, any and all potential volunteers throughout the BCM/D and neighboring states are welcome to attend.



COST: \$30.00 for badge & hat for anyone taking the intro class. **For all BRBA churches – if you cannot afford the \$30. Fee, the association will be glad to pay your training fee if you contact DOM Bruce Conley at bruce@blueridgebaptist.org or call (301) 821-0370.**

Link for an upcoming DR Training in BRBA:

<https://bcm�.org/event/dr-training/>

SUMMIT TRACE CHURCH MOVES PASTOR ROB DOWNS TO FULL TIME!



For years, Pastor Rob Downs has faithfully served SUMMIT TRACE CHURCH in a part-time capacity. After much prayer and conversations with the elders and trustees, Rob made a heartfelt proposal last Sunday: to step into the role of full-time pastor at Summit Trace.

The response was an overwhelming, unanimous “yes” from the church family!

Rob gave this testimony of God’s guidance in his life. Early in his career, he believed his dream job was working for NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the U.S. Government. But nearly two decades ago, he felt the Lord ask him a life-altering question: “Is that really your dream job? And is that what you should aspire to? If you’re my servant, what should you aspire to? To be the head of NOAA?”

That quiet conviction stirred something deeper—Rob realized that his true aspiration should be full-time ministry. And while God’s timing didn’t bring that change immediately, it remained a persistent calling in his heart.

Over the last several months, with ongoing federal workforce cutbacks, that long-held conviction began to become a reality. Rob listened to God’s “still small voice,” and in obedience, stepped into his calling—right where he had been serving all along - at Summit Trace Church.

We are beyond grateful for Rob’s obedience and courage in following God’s lead. His full-time leadership is a new chapter in the life of the church—and we are all eager to see how God will work through him as the church family continues to serve the Lord with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

BRBA celebrates Rob's story of faith, obedience, and God's perfect timing. We pray for him and the church as they embark on this new trajectory for Kingdom work!



...from your Director of Missions

I almost can't believe how often my former training in law enforcement is used in helping churches and problems in my ministry with the Blue Ridge Baptist Association! Nevertheless, I feel that God has called me for "such a time as this", and I use every ounce of skill, training, and talent available to me to address dark things when they happen in and around our churches.

CASE #1 – In January 2023 it was revealed that a former church treasurer at Third Day Community Church had embezzled tens of thousands of dollars from church accounts. The DOM was called in to become church "overseer" and investigate the matter. Our treasurer, Darlene Ely helped to do a forensic examination of all church finances for a 3 year period - so that a thorough accounting of church finances could be reported to law enforcement. With the help of the State's Attorney's office and the Frederick County Sheriff's Department, I am happy to report that the criminal case has now been settled effective May 15th, 2025, and that the church has received \$35,000. in restitution from the person responsible.

CASE #2 - In November 2024, a church treasurer at Fellowship Baptist Church in Boonsboro (with an Eagle eye) noticed a discrepancy in our annual financial report at the annual meeting from October 2024. The actual amount of mission support given to BRBA was more than our financial report stated that the church had given. The DOM began an investigation which revealed that some unknown culprit was intercepting checks from the BRBA mailbox on National Pike, and depositing the checks to a falsified account not affiliated with our association.

This started a 5 month long investigation by the DOM which revealed that a total of six checks sent to BRBA for missions support had been stolen and fraudulently deposited remotely to an on line banking institution. The total loss of mission funds in 2024 was \$4,144.11. BRBA took immediate steps to install a locking mailbox at our National Pike location, and we now check that box more frequently. Thankfully, FDIC rules mandate that each bank affected by the fraud can reimburse each church for the lost monies, and the churches can then reimburse the association, after affidavits are processed. Please pray for investigators with the Maryland State Police and the U.S. Postal Inspectors who are still working to find the culprit who committed these thefts.

NEW PASTORS

Congratulations to **Pastor Erroll Thompson** – the new Pastor at **Pinesburg Baptist Church**. His wife's name is Felicia!



Congratulations to **Pastor Don Moenich** - the new pastor of **First Baptist Church of Frederick, MD**. His wife's name is Liz!



Congratulations to **Rev. Duane Musgrove** on being called to serve as Pastor of **Bethel Church of Stumptown, VA**. Dwayne and Jan started their ministry on March 31st, 2025. Bethel Church is a new addition to the Blue Ridge Baptist Association under watch-care / sponsored by The Crossings Church in Brunswick. Duane formerly served as associate pastor at Faith Baptist Church of Knoxville for many years. It's great to have him back!

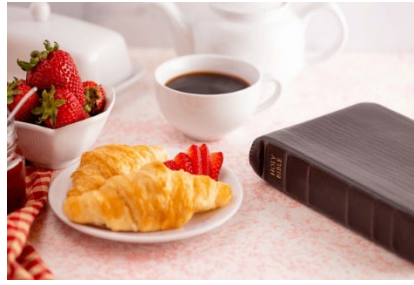


SAYING FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND OF BRBA

Unfortunately our Association will be losing a mainstay in ministry. **Pastor Phil Graves** and his wife Kristie have been called to serve at Lake Lynn Baptist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His last Sunday at THE CROSSINGS CHURCH (formerly First Baptist of Brunswick) will be on June 29th, and he hopes to move his family to NC by August to start his new ministry. **Pastor Justin Wyckoff** and his wife Maggie will continue to serve and lead at the church in Brunswick, MD.



PASTORS & CHURCH LEADERS FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST !!!!



*Come and meet our new pastors and send off Pastor Phil Graves as we gather for our church leader fellowship breakfast on Saturday morning, **June 28th** at **8:30 AM** at **HUB CITY DINER** - 190 Railway Avenue, Hagerstown, MD.*

BRBA VOLUNTEERS MINISTER IN FLOOD TORN WESTERN MARYLAND

Our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Incident Management Team is on the ground in Westernport Maryland. Hundreds of homes have been affected by the floods that ravaged the area a few weeks ago. BRBA DR leader Al Caho is *incident commander* and has set up a command post for assessment and deployment of volunteers from all across our state convention. **Help is on the way!** NOTE: We expect this to be a multi-state response that will last multiple months. Areas affected by the floods stretch from Lonoconing MD to Keyser WV.

Pray for safety as many volunteers do some dangerous work in Disaster Recovery efforts. Pray that there will be *many opportunities* to share the gospel with those folks who are devastated by the flood damage. Volunteers will be handing out free bibles (provided by BRBA) to anyone wanting one, and Chaplains will also serve the area's population.

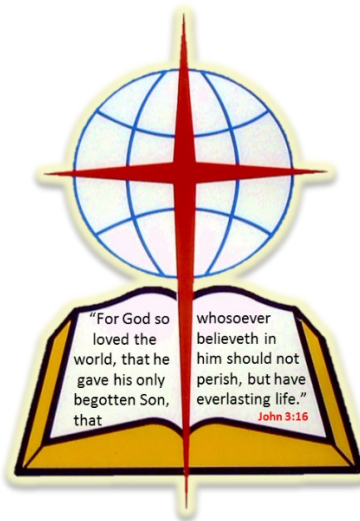






Please pray for the thousands of pastors and messengers who will be attending the annual meeting (and ancillary meetings) of the **Southern Baptist Convention** (SBC) in Dallas, Texas from June 8th to June 11th 2025.

There are 47,000 cooperating churches with about 13 million members in the SBC. As one of the largest evangelical denominations in America, the SBC is known for its commitment to missions and evangelism with a strong emphasis on local church autonomy.



Pray for God's direction and wisdom for greater financial transparency within the North American Mission Board. Pray also that efforts to address sexual abuse within our churches will safeguard all who attend our local congregations and serve in the local church.

DAVE'S CORNER

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED!!

Many blessings from Pastor Dave - your fleet and equipment manager for BRBA. This time around I am asking for your help. We have a wonderful new (to us) shuttle bus that seats 17 total people and is equipped with a wheel chair lift. Anyone who drives this bus must however possess a CDL license with a passenger endorsement.

We would like to put together a list of drivers who meet those requirements and would be willing to drive the bus from time to time for church events and mission trips. Are you a CDL driver? Is there someone in your church who might be willing to help other churches who need a driver? If you can help, please contact me at (301) 991-2084 or by email to dave@blueridgebaptist.org. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help and serve our churches in this way.



If your church currently does or wants to start doing a FOOD MINISTRY to the community, please contact the BRBA office at (240) 818-8760 and let Mae know so we can add you to a list and possibly get you some help with food items for the needy. BCM/D is starting a COMPASSION ministry fund to assist churches with active FOOD PANTRY ministries. So far we have the following churches on our list that do regular food give-aways in their regions:



Faith, Knoxville
South End Baptist
Pleasant Valley
Covenant
West End Chapel

BCM/D EVENTS:

- *(please put in chronological order)*
 - August 7-8 - Church Leaders Conference
 - * August 14 – Evangelism Encouragement Lunch
 - * July 18 - July 20 **Everyone Belongs Camp 2025** - Skycroft
 - * July 10 - July 13 **Camp Wo Me To: Girls Camp**
 - * August 7 @ 8:00 am - August 8 @ 8:00 pm **Church Leaders Conference** – (Davidsonville)
-



BCM/D

EVANGELISM ENCOURAGEMENT LUNCH

With Mark Dooley

When: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

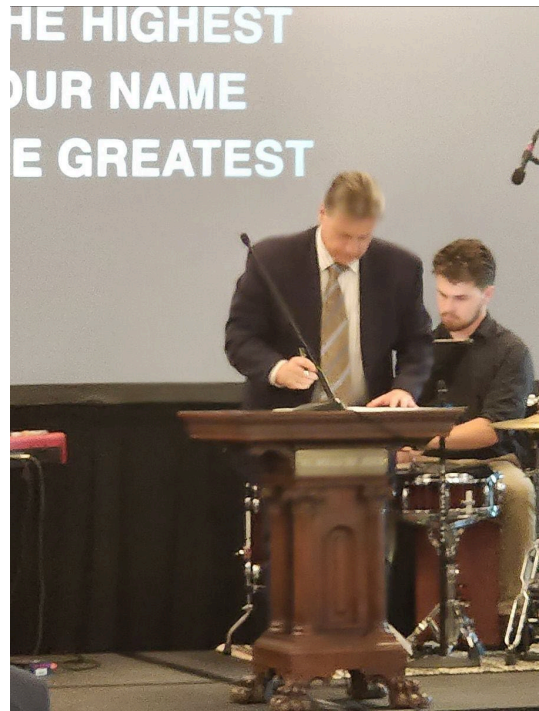
Dates & Locations:

- **6/5/25 – Western Association** – The Casselman Inn (*113 Main Street, Grantsville, MD*)
- **7/17/25 – Mid-Maryland Association** – Chili's Grill and Bar (*1312 Londontown Blvd, Eldersburg, MD*)
- **8/14/25 – Blue Ridge Association** – Cracker Barrel (*18214 Col. HK Douglas Dr., Hagerstown*)

Pastor & Church Leaders... we want to connect with you and talk about evangelism. Mark Dooley, BCM/D Associate Executive Director and State Director of Evangelism would love to treat our local pastors to lunch. We will talk about evangelism efforts taking place in our churches and seek to, as the Scripture says, "encourage one another."

Complete the form below if you plan to attend!

[Evangelism Encouragement Lunches with Mark | Baptist Convention of Maryland & Delaware](#)



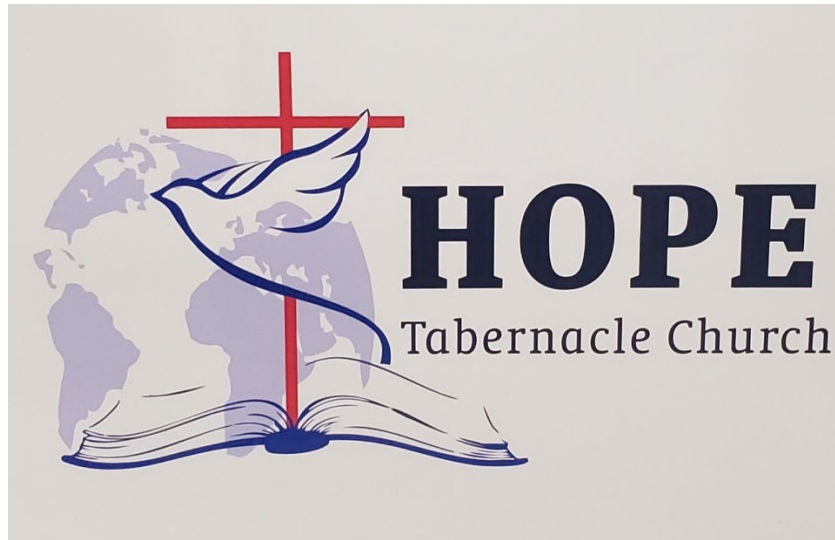
100th Anniversary of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program

On May 13, 2025, our Southern Baptist Cooperative Program celebrated its 100th Anniversary in Memphis, Tennessee. The celebration was held within 400 yards of the original spot where the Program began in 1925.

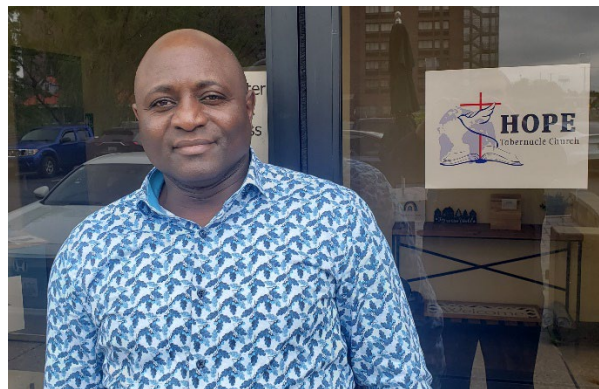
Over one hundred guests attended the event filled with worship, prayer, and signing of the Resolution. The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware was represented by Exec. Director Tom Stolle, and Assoc. Exec. Director, Mark Dooley. Director of Missional Impact; and BCM/D President Fred Caudle also attended the event.

Without the church's commitment and sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program, our impact in the mission field, church planting and strengthening, disaster relief and send relief, seminaries, and a host of other ministry and missional strengths would not be possible. We are grateful for EVERY church in our region that makes missional giving to the Cooperative Program possible!

BRBA WELCOMES HOPE TABERNACLE CHURCH AS A NEW MISSION CHURCH PLANT!



The Blue Ridge Baptist Association is proud to welcome a new mission church in the Frederick area called HOPE TABERNACLE CHURCH. Led by Pastor Daniel Warui whose country of origin is Africa, this new work is already meeting in commercial space formerly occupied by Ballenger Creek Baptist Church before that church closed their doors.



Pastor Daniel is a NAMB approved and certified church planter, and BRBA will be partnering with him for much success as he reaches out to the Frederick area for Christ. The church meets weekly in the Long & Foster building at 5301 Buckeystown Pike, Suite #106 at 10 AM. They are looking for another entity to share their space with to keep expenses down. If you know of a faith based organization, church, or commercial business that could use space in that area, please contact DOM Bruce Conley at (301) 821-0370.
