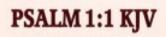
BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER TO IMPACT LOSTNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES & TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Church Awaken

Joel 2:12-14

# BLESSED IS THE MAN that walketh not in the counsel of the

that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.



Top-BibleVerses.com





#### **Transylvania Baptist Association**

675 Hendersonville Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
828-877-3203 - transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com - transylvaniaams@gmail.com - www.tbanc.org
Rev. Terry Stockman - Association Missions Strategist

James Felty - Moderator

Rev. Michael Childers - Vice Moderator

Angie McGee - Treasurer

Nancy Kilpatrick - Clerk

June 2024 Volume 34 Issue 6

#### TERRY'S THOUGHTS



Unity is on my mind and heart lately and I wanted to devote this article to that subject. The Bible has a lot to say concerning unity and one passage stands out to me, Colossians 3:12-17.

In this passage the Apostle Paul discusses what a Christian should look like who has experienced the life-giving salvation of our Lord. In fact, he gives us the recipe for that new life in Christ. After reminding us that we are chosen by Christ, holy in Christ, and loved by Christ, we should put on kindness, humility, gentleness, patience (difficult for many), forgiveness (just like He has forgiven us), and most of all put on love which will inevitably lead to UNITY.

Paul continues with a list of results that will occur when we are faithful to put these things on. The ultimate result should be that God's people, in Christ, are unified people to reach the world. When the truth of His word is lived out among believers within the church, we will then have the kind of impact on our world the Lord desires for us to have.

we are indeed much stronger together than we are apart

So, what does the above truth say about unity, and what does it mean for us? My personal opinion says that unity among the pastors of our churches and the church members breeds joy, evangelistic fervor, and missional intensity. Imagine what could happen to the nearly 73% of people, not involved in religious activities in our County, would only surrender to Him and share His gospel. The obvious result would be a unified association around the gospel. Additionally, unity here in our association would manifest itself in a greater sense of ownership in the associational ministries from our member churches, greater giving from our member churches, and growth beyond our widest dreams.

So, I am asking you to, if you aren't yet involved with our association, to consider joining us in our efforts to serve you as well as the Kingdom here in Transylvania County. Oh, by the way, this formula could work for your individual church as well.

Finally, never forget that member churches of our association have, at their fingertips, a world of resources that could help you achieve what you believe His will is for the church. Unity, with one another, is the secret sauce in God's recipe for His church. Let's also not forget what Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 tells us concerning unity, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? And if someone over powers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken." Meaning we are indeed much stronger together than we are apart.

Please consider joining the excitement of an association in UNITY with one another!

Terry

Please pray for our churches without pastors: Boylston & Rocky Hill Pastors Fellowship Luncheon Monday, July 15 - 10:00am

Special Guest Todd Unzicker, Director/Treasurer, Baptist State Convention of NC

Pastors please make your reservation by calling or emailing the Baptist Center by Monday, July 8, **Church groups are needed** to minister at Sapphire Ridge (formerly Accordius Health/The Brian Center) on the first and fourth Sunday afternoons.

For more information and to sign up for your group to serve, please contact Christine Pace at 828-556-2838 or 828-884-2031.

## NCBAM has provided smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors

for seniors *free of charge*. If your home needs one, or you have a friend in need of one, please contact the Baptist Center as soon as possible for free installation.

### Association Financial Summary April 2024

	Current	Year-to-Date
Biltmore Brevard	\$ 0	\$ 1,250.00
Blantyre	\$ 125.00	\$ 500.00
Blue Ridge	\$ 75.00	\$ 300.00
Boylston	\$ 408.39 \$ 917.88	\$ 1,840.53
Brevard First		\$ 5,328.72
Calvary	\$ 1,186.10	\$ 2,843.70
Carr's Hill	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00
Cathey's Creek	\$ 158.00	\$ 796.00
Cedar Mountain	\$ 366.00	\$ 1,098.00
Cherryfield	\$ 652.32	\$ 1,838.12
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	
Cove Church	\$ 0	\$ 0 \$ 0
Dunn's Rock	\$ 1,502.23	\$ 3,801.53
East Fork	\$ 0	\$ 600.00
Enon	\$ 0	
Faith Missionary	\$ 0	\$ 200.00 \$ 0
Grace	\$ 158.00 \$ 366.00 \$ 652.32 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 1,502.23 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 504.96	\$ 1,525.77
Hope Church Brevard (See Off)		\$ 0
Lake Toxaway	\$ 0	\$ 0 \$ 331.00
La Primera Mission	\$ 0	\$ 0
Little River	\$ 0	\$ 1,035.50
Middle Fork	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
Morningside	\$ 193.25	
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0
New Hope	\$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 200.00 \$ 193.25 \$ 0 \$ 100.00 \$ 300.00 \$ 400.00 \$ 131.25 \$ 200.00 \$ 0	\$ 861.22 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 450.00
North Toxaway	\$ 100.00	\$ 450.00
Oak Grove	\$ 300.00	\$ 700.00
Pisgah Forest	\$ 0	\$ 2,575.84
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 525.00
Turkey Creek	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
Zion	\$ 0	\$ 635.13
Checking Interest	\$ 2.19	\$ 10.02
Total Receipts	\$ 8,122.57	\$ 33,846.08
Total Expenses	\$ 14,736.65	\$ 48,402.97

2024 Budget \$149,879.00 Needed Monthly to Meet Budget \$12,490.00

#### Red Box Prison Ministry for the NC Women's Prison Association Goal: 300 Pairs of Women's Winter Gloves

Collected gloves should be delivered to the Baptist Center by Wednesday, July 31.

A musical mission team from Pennsylvania will be visiting our area July 10-14. If your church would like them to assist with a music-oriented mission project, please contact the Baptist Center as soon as possible.

#### **Church News**

**Boylston** - will have **VBS** June 22-26, beginning with a registration picnic on June 22 at 4:30pm, then nightly 6-8pm.

Brevard First Baptist - is seeking a teacher and a couple of assistants for the 2024-25 school year. For more information, please contact Diane Brown at 828-882-9839 or firstbaptistweeschool@gmail.com.

Enon - is seeking a pianist/music leader fluent with all worship styles. For more information please contact the church at 828-877-4418 or praygoshare@gmail.com. Will have "Jungle Quest" VBS June 23-27 at 6pm each night.

Little River - is seeking a worship leader and a youth minister. For more info, please visit https://lrbchurch.org/employment, and send resumes to employment@lrbchurch.org. Will have "The Great Jungle Journey" VBS July 8-12, 5:30-8:30pm.

New Hope - will have "Christmas in July" VBS July 11 & 12, 6-8pm and July 13, 10am-2pm.

Pisgah Forest - is seeking a part-time music director/leader. For more information, please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142. Will have "The Great Jungle Journey" VBS June 17-19, 5:30-8pm.

Rocky Hill - is seeking a worship leader. For more information and to apply, please contact Clint Owings at 828-883-9707 or cbowings@me.com.

Turkey Creek - is seeking a center assistant for the preschool. For more info and to apply, please call or email the church office at 828-877-3355 or info@turkeyycreekbaptist.org. Will sponsor a Job Corps Rally on June 9 at 5pm - everyone is invited to join in prayer for these young people. Will have "Breaker Beach" VBS June 23-28, 6-8:30pm.

**Baptist Builders** will be involved in several projects this summer. We will need volunteers with a wide variety of skills. And while we would love to have people from the skilled trades, *a willingness to serve is all that is required*.

#### Crossroads Church in Whiteville:

We are framing interior walls, and this project will continue for several weeks. Accommodations for overnight stays can be arranged. Please contact Tom Poston at 910-322-2215 for details and availability.

#### Fair Bluff Summer Rebuild Blitz:

The Fair Bluff rebuild began on Memorial Day weekend and will continue through the summer, under the supervision of Sid and Linda Pittman. Overnight accommodations will be available. Contact Jay Baugham at the Lumberton Rebuild Site at 910-544-8331 or jbaugham@ncbaptist.org.

a willingness to serve is all that is required

#### Goldsboro:

A small church in Goldsboro needs to have the outside washed and painted. Contact Tom Poston at 910-322-2115.

#### Samaritan's Colony Women's Center in Rockingham:

This beautiful facility will help bring women who are overcoming addictions back to their waiting husbands, children, mothers, and fathers. For the next several months you have the opportunity to be a blessing to these recovering women and their families. Volunteer for one day, a week, or longer. Contact Dennis Holloway, Site Coordinator, at 910-995-1676 or Debbie Holloway at 910-995-1857 or dholloway4@carolina.rr.com

<u>Projects Inside the United States</u>: There are many needed construction projects inside the United States. These include rebuilding homes in North Carolina, building churches and working on camps and other facilities.

<u>Projects Outside of the United States:</u> There are many construction needs outside of the United States. Some of these projects include home construction, church construction, and school construction, construction of wells and of medical clinics.



Purpose of Construction Ministry: To mobilize volunteers to use their skills, talents, and time in response to disaster and construction projects that will further God's kingdom in North Carolina, across the United States and around the world.

For more information, please contact Paul Langston at 919-459-5611 or visit https://baptistsonmission.org/Mission-Projects/By-Mission-Type/Construction

#### Three Tips for Approaching Evangelism with Confidence

Our assignment is clear. We must engage in gospel conversations so that others can encounter Jesus and have the opportunity to call Him Lord. Moreover, research shows that a majority of Americans are open to having spiritual conversations with family or friends. God wants to use you to spread the gospel! But how can we approach these conversations with confidence?

- **Pray for Opportunities:** Through prayer, He will remind you of Scriptures to articulate the gospel and calm your fears. He knows sharing this life-changing truth can be intimidating, and He also calls us to cast all our cares onto Him (1 Peter 5:7).
- **Remember to Listen:** We can get so focused on the presentation of the gospel making sure we mention all of the Scriptures in the Romans Road or that they know our testimony in less than three minutes that we forget to pay attention to the person receiving the message.
- Let the Holy Spirit Work: take the pressure off of yourself and rest in confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit will equip you for this call.

Prayer Points for our Pennsylvania Northern Tier Churches:

Summer is coming and these church planting couples are going to be busy. For the next few months, they will be evangelizing their community, building relationships, and growing their new church while everyone is outside enjoying the summer.

Wilson & Flor - Allentown, PA / Brad & Jill - Edinboro, PA / Brad & Angela - Harrisburg, PA Samuel & Sharlot - Pittsburgh, PA / Cam & Kara - Corry, PA / Chapin & Mandy - Selinsgrove, PA Josias & Luzia - Bethlehem, PA / Salvador & Juana - Allentown, PA / Mason & Bonnie - Erie, PA Silvio & Cecilla - Allentown, PA / Pablo & Lauren - Scranton, PA / Christian & Ximena, Hershey, PA

**ServeNC** signs are available now at the Baptist Center. Pastors, stop by to get yours today and show your community that you care. There are also other free resources to promote ServeNC at servenc.com.



Every church.
Every community.
August 3-10, 2024
Register your church today at
ServeNC.com

ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name through service projects.

If your church didn't exist, would your community notice? Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard, or serving meals to those in need, your church knows your community's specific needs and can choose the best project to make a difference through ServeNC.

Commit your church to being on mission together and display the gospel during the week of Aug. 3-10, 2024.

INTERNATIONAL

#### What Happens When You Partner with IMB Teams?



One thing's for sure, you won't be a tourist! You will serve alongside IMB missionaries and be a vital part of the missionary task. Your time might look something like this:

**Healthy Church Formation** - In just a week Melvin Le's team helped start a church. His team partnered with a local Thai pastor who was already evangelizing in his community and discipling a small group. The team helped the local believers understand and adopt the biblical characteristics of a church. Melvin couldn't stop smiling as he worshipped at their first church service.

Serve alongside one of our IMB teams working among unreached peoples and be an active part of the missionary task. Start your missionary journey today at https://www.imb.org/2024/01/22/partnering-with-imb-teams/



## June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Chappell Anniversary (Middle Fork)
2 Disaster Relief Sunday	3	4 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	5	6 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	7	8 Anna Sitton Birthday (Lake Toxaway)
9 Job Corps Rally Turkey Creek 5pm	10	11 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	12 Lucy Nelson Birthday (Blantyre)	13 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	14 Flag Day	15 Martin Anniversary (Blue Ridge)
SBC /	Annual Meeting -	ndianapolis - Jun	e 9-12			
16 Fathers Day	17 Stockman Anniversary (TBA) McKinney Anniversary (Morningside)	18 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am Turner Anniversary (Oak Grove)	19 Nelson Anniversary (Blantyre)	20 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	21	22
23 Mission Dignity Sunday	24	25 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	26 Chester Chappell Birthday (Middle Fork)	27 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	28 Diann Dodson Birthday (Carson's Creek)	29 Michael Childers Birthday (Grace)
30  Reynolds  Anniversary (Little River)  B. Snipes  Anniversary (Cove Church)						



Many thanks to Brevard First, Cedar Mountain, Cherryfield, Rocky Hill, and Zion for donations to the 2024 BCH Food Roundup.







#### 2023 Annual Church Profile Results

Baptisms, worship service attendance, and small group participation all grew in 2023 among congregations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, while the recent decline in total membership among congregations slowed.

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) compiled by Lifeway Christian Resources in cooperation with Baptist state conventions details the annual numerical changes for the Southern Baptist Convention. Membership declined for the 17th straight year, dropping below 13 million for the first time since the mid-1970s. However, the less than 2 percent decline was the smallest in recent years.

Additionally, Southern Baptist-affiliated congregations experienced increases in baptisms, average weekly worship attendance, and average small group attendance. Total baptisms climbed to nearly 227,000. In-person weekly worship service average attendance topped 4 million for the first time in three years, while in-person small group average attendance reached nearly 2.5 million. Average online worship service participation also increased.

"Southern Baptists are a force for good. We are sharing the Gospel with more people, gathering for worship and Bible study in increasing numbers, giving billions to support churches serving communities across our country and sending millions to support mission enterprises around the world," said Jeff Iorg, president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee. "While we often address our shortcomings, it's also good to pause and celebrate the global good Southern Baptists are accomplishing."

For more information, view the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention statistical summary, the 2023 state convention statistics report, the 2023 sexual abuse prevention statistics report and visit LifewayResearch.com.



Courtesy Biblical Recorder May 7, 2024 www.brnow.org

North Carolina ranked fourth in average worship attendance (333,572), fifth in average small group attendance (176,099) and fifth in total baptisms (15,088). North Carolina also had the third-highest SBC membership among all state conventions with 989,872.

Moreover, North Carolina saw some of the highest numerical increases from 2022 to 2023 across the SBC in both average in-person worship attendance and total baptisms. North Carolina saw a year-over -year increase of 22,850 in worship attendance, which was the third-highest increase among all state conventions. Total baptisms were up by 3,763 in the state, which reflected the fourth-highest year-over -year increase among state conventions.





### Truett Conference Center & Camp

177 Truett Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904 https://truettcamp.org/ upcoming-events/

Please check Truett's website https://truettcamp.org/summer-camps/ or contact them for more information at info@truettcamp.org or 828-389-8828

Truett is also a great place for teens and young adults to work for the summer. You can find out more information here: https://truettcamp.org/summer-campcounselor/









\$350

6 SOLD OUT 28 6/30-7/5 7 SOLD OUT 26

AGES 12-17





#### **Current Ministry Openings**

**Brevard First Baptist** is seeking a teacher and a couple of assistants for the 2024–25 school year. For more information, please contact Diane Brown at 828–882–9839 or firstbaptistweeschool@gmail.com.

**Enon** is seeking a pianist/music leader fluent with all worship styles. For more information, please contact the church at 828-877-4418 or praygoshare@gmail.com.

**Little River** is seeking a music minister and a youth minister. Please send resumes to employment@lrbchurch.org.

**Pisgah Forest** is seeking a part-time music director/leader. For more information, please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142.

**Rocky Hill** is seeking a worship leader. For more information, please contact Clint Owings at 828-883-9707 or cbowings@me.com.

**Turkey Creek** is seeking a center assistant for the preschool for the 2024-25 school year. For more information and to apply, please visit the church office, call 828-877-3355, or email info@turkeycreekbaptist.org.



#### Displaced Missionaries Have No Plans to Stop Ministries to Ukrainian Refugees

Tensions escalated. With an imminent invasion on the horizon, the evacuation of IMB missionaries in Ukraine became imperative. They left behind their ministries, friends that had become like family, pets, and even most of their possessions. Long-term missionary presence in a country now riddled with machine-gun fire wasn't possible even though the work was far from done.

So, what does gospel access in a country entrenched in a conflict with Russia look like?

For IMB missionaries who formerly served in Ukraine, maintaining their witness means continuing their ministry to Ukrainians in what they call "the beyond" — the countries surrounding the war-torn nation. Linda Gray served in Kharkiv before evacuating in the days leading to the war. Leaving her friends and Ukraine — where your financial gifts allowed her to invest more than 20 years of her life and ministry — was difficult. But, as we've seen throughout Scripture and history, the Lord provides ways to serve in times of exodus and exile.

Gray discovered gospel access knows no geographic or social boundaries. She's now sharing the good news of Jesus with Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, Romania. Gray and other Christians have access to share the gospel at a local Romanian school now home to roughly 125 Ukrainian refugees. In addition to IMB missionaries like Gray, Southern Baptist volunteers have invested time here to show Christ's love.

Volunteers from Indiana teamed up with Ukrainian youth at the school to play a soccer match. Other volunteers tossed frisbees. The volunteer team also distributed jump ropes, building blocks, and therapeutic toys. The goal was to just do some normal life activities and release some energy. Adults mingled along the sidelines watching and talking. Feeling "back to normal" is a lot harder for them but talking helps.

Sitting on a park bench on the school compound, Gray listened to the harrowing escape story of Ludmila, a Christian from Kyiv. Her stories corroborate news reports, others are new information for the missionary. Gray walked the playground, stopping to talk with Veronika about Bible stories she'd read in a children's Bible story book. The Ukrainian woman asked Gray to pray she would quit smoking. She prayed to the virgin Mary, but it hasn't helped, yet. Gray easily slid into a gospel conversation with the young woman.

The veteran missionary knows the places and challenges Ludmila and Veronika speak of well and shares the Ukrainians' heavy hearts. This is the steadfast presence and investment in peoples and places that IMB prioritizes. It's the foundation that allows Gray to share so openly.

The visit by Gray, Romanian Baptists, and the volunteers from Indiana was well-received by the administrators of the school and refugee center. Administrators extended the invitation to visit weekly. They were also interested in a camp for the children. The weekly visits and camp will grant the refugees access to the gospel and the opportunity to hear that there is hope on the horizon and safety in the Holy Spirit.

Although Gray isn't physically in Ukraine, she is still steadfastly present among the people she was commissioned to serve. For now, gospel access looks like sitting on park benches and praying for women like Veronika and Ludmila.

Exile doesn't halt missionary presence. It may shift the location, but not the message or mission. Together, we seek to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel as they are dispersed and displaced around the world. Together, we strive for gospel access that knows no geographic or social boundary.

## 2024 Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC Baptists on Mission, seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs at Christmastime. We are calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through Appalachian Christmas Outreach in 2024.









#### **GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:**

The statewide goal is to collect 22,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December of 2024. The state-wide collection day for 2024 is Saturday, November 2 from 9am to noon. Thirty plus collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks to. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website in September. We encourage churches to begin collecting and filling the packs early – and throughout the year.

#### AGE GROUPING and LABELING.

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age groupings are 4-7, 8-10; 11-14; and 15-17 <u>Due to labels falling off in previous years, we use a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks.</u> A **royal blue** (or similar) ribbon will indicate a **boy's backpack**. A **pink** ribbon will indicate a **girl's backpack**. In addition, a **yellow** ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for **ages 4-7**, a **green** ribbon for ages **8-10**, a **red** ribbon for ages **11-14**; and a white ribbon for ages **15-17**.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used. Please include items from each category listed to the right. Please do not neglect to put in a Bible! This may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

#### **ITEMS TO COLLECT**

Each zippered backpack should include:

- 1) ITEMS OF NEW WARM CLOTHING including a winter cap, gloves, 2-3 socks, and scarf
- 2) METAL POP-TOP CANS OF FOOD (3-4 cans) such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit
- 3) At least one or two NEW, AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, puzzles, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (no toy weapons, please!) For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. No pocketknives! (See website for suggestions).
- 4) **HYGIENE ITEMS** including toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush /comb, **full-sized** shampoo toothpaste, deodorant (please fit these items into a one-gallon Ziploc bag so they will not leak).
- 5) FRESH, WRAPPED CANDY (no chocolate please, as it may melt and no peanut products please due to allergies)
- 6) A CHILDREN'S or YOUTH BIBLE (no particular version is required) This is the most important thing that goes into the pack! Please include!
- 7) A COPY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY (downloadable and printable pdf found on website)

For more information contact



Mark Abernathy
mabernathy@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5607

More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:

www.baptistsonmission.org/aco

"Your participation will mean so much and may make an eternal difference in a child's life!"

## **SEMINARY STUDIES** WORKSHOP





Three days of teaching Three experienced professors Six relevant topics



**Tate Cockrell** Professor of Counseling



Professor of Theology & Patristic Studies



Sr. Professor of New Testament & Greek



Date: Tuesday-Thursday 17-19 September 2024



(V) 10:00am - 2:00pm, daily lunch included

The Region 9 Associations, in partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, are pleased to bring three days of solid Biblical teaching for pastors and lay leaders in our area. Topics will vary each day and will address everything from Theology to avoiding burnout.

Registration will open July 1. Email info@buncombebaptist.org to be added to the pre-registration list. Daily lunch provided.

A one-time/optional \$10 donation will be received on site.





