

THE SERVANT LINK

CHURCHES UNITED TO SERVE -
COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

James River Baptist Association

P. O. Box 1219, Dillwyn, VA 23936

Marilyn Snoddy – Moderator

Phyllis R. Tyler - Secretary

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Tel: 434-983-7385

Email: jrba@embarqmail.com

Hours: Monday & Wednesday

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Volume XX

January 2021

Edition I



January 1, 2021 NEW YEAR'S DAY

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

The JRBA Office remains **CLOSED** to the public.
JRBA folks should call before arriving if you need to come by.
434-983-7385
MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

JANUARY EVENTS & DETAILS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| January 4 | ATTENTION JRBA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS | |
| | Reports for the January 11 Quarterly Executive Board Meeting are due TODAY by 9:00 AM.
Email Phyllis at jrba@embarqmail.com . | |
| January 8 & 22 | Blue Ridge Food Distribution at Crystal Cathedral (Drive-Thru) | |
| | Volunteers needed at 9:30 AM. | |
| January 11 | JRBA Quarterly Executive Board Meeting at First Baptist Dillwyn | 7:00 PM |
| | Pastors and Church Representatives please attend. Committees for 2021 will be approved as well as additional business conducted. | |
| January 17 | Fellowship Chili Lunch at Fitzgerald Memorial | Noon |
| January 18 | ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS | 9:00 AM |
| | TODAY is the due date for the <u>Annual Church Profile</u> for churches operating on a January – December calendar or if you have not yet submitted the 2020 ACP: Antioch (Scottsville), Buckingham, First Baptist Dillwyn, Enon, Fitzgerald Memorial, Mt. Tabor, and Tar Wallet. Call Phyllis if you have questions. | |
| January 20 | JRBA Pastors' Huddle at First Baptist Dillwyn | Noon |
| | Pastors, plan to join your fellow ministers for a time of rejuvenation and fellowship. | |
| January 23 | 5 Loaves, 2 Fish Ministry Meal at Antioch (Scottsville) | 9:30 – 10:30 AM |
| | Drive-Thru Food Distribution observing social distancing. Due to COVID-19, hot meals will not be prepared or given out with the food boxes. | |

January 25
Information for the February edition of the JRBA calendar and newsletter are due TODAY by 9:00 AM. (By mail or email only)
Be sure to include your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Total.

January 28

Virtual Pastors' School 2021

10:00 AM

Sponsored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia

Theme: Recalibrating Faith & Culture in a Post-Pandemic World

Guest Speaker: Dr. Anna Robbins, President and Dean of Theology at Acadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada

Additional Speakers: Dr. Millard R. Cherry, Professor of Theology, Ethics and Culture; and Director of Andrew D. MacRae Center for Christian Faith and Culture

PASTORS: For more info: Call 804-213-0412.

January 31

Deadline for Scholarship Applications to Virginia Baptist Foundation

For more information and to apply, go to www.vbfinc.org/scholarship.

Deadline to apply for the "Bless Your Pastor" FREE Amazon Gift Card.

Churches that have not yet participated: See the December newsletter, page 10, for instructions on how to Bless Your Pastor and show your appreciation in this way.



THE "GATHERING" CHURCH

Options for worship and gathering continue to change.

Updates below as provided.

Buckingham has no changes to their gathering rules – they are still socially distancing 6 feet apart and wearing masks.

Cedar began having Sunday Worship Services inside the church sanctuary on December 20, at 10:00 AM. Anyone attending will be asked to comply with the safety ordinances. This service will also be available at the same time (10 AM) over the radio (87.9) for anyone preferring to remain in their vehicle in the church parking lot. They will not be having any Sunday School classes at this time.

First Baptist Dillwyn continues to have the following in-house activities:

- A combined Adult Sunday School Class continues to study Acts in the fellowship hall at 10 AM each Sunday with about 20 in attendance. Kristye Moxley's Zoom class also meets each Sunday.
- Worship Services are held each Sunday at 11 AM. The services are in-house and on the radio and Internet.
- The Tuesday morning prayer and Bible study group meets each week and has been enjoying Max Lucado videos on special people and events of Christmas.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting is held weekly at 6:30 PM, with choir practice at 7:30 PM.
- The Youth Group meets most Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM.

Fitzgerald Memorial began a new Wednesday Night Bible Study on December 1. It continues each Wednesday at 7 PM.

Jones Chapel had a video presentation each Sunday during December of the work being done by missionaries supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Rev. Lewis Brandt was the guest speaker on December 27.

CHURCHES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Buckingham learned about Christmas in several ways this year:

- They displayed Chrismons on the tree and shared the meaning of the ornaments that were made by former WMU members who have gone to be with the Lord.
- Advent Wreath: The children helped with the reading and lighting of the candles each Sunday.
- The story of Jesus' birth was told by the children and the manger scene. They put the pieces up each Sunday and told that part of the story.
- Buckingham held a candlelight service on Christmas Eve.



Jones Chapel's Youth Group had a "present swap" at their weekly gathering on December 20. On that Sunday, the Pastor and his family were given Christmas gifts by members of the congregation. Gene Bradbury, Deacon Chair, made some remarks thanking the pastor for his leadership and presented the gifts. The children led the congregation in Christmas caroling during worship since they were unable to go caroling door-to-door as in past years.



Mt. Zion held their annual Christmas at the Chapel Live Nativity and Candlelight service on December 20. The nativity was played out by participants as the story of Jesus' birth was read by Pastor Woody Moore and Christmas hymns were sung. Following this was a candlelight service with reminders to share Christ's light to this dark world. Songs were sung by Pastor Woody Moore, Rev. Roger Woody, and Wayne Gough.

Pictured: David Clark, Blake Parrish, Khloe Snoddy, Kaylee Snoddy, Trent Snoddy, Stephen Parrish, Dustin Parrish, and Caleb Mangialetti.

Mulberry Grove did a month-long devotional reading for Advent. Each family had a book, *O Come Let Us Adore Him*, and was encouraged to read and discuss it with family members each day. They were also encouraged to share their thoughts on the church website. A weekly video was also available. This was a wonderful way to enjoy the Christmas season and worship together.

JRBA REACHES OUT>>>



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

GOAL: \$175 Million

100% of this offering provides for missionaries all over the world!

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

Church	Total-to-Date
Buckingham	\$ 957.64
Jones Chapel	\$ 2,330.00
Mt. Zion	\$ 858.00
Mulberry Grove	\$ 185.00
Sharon	\$ 280.00

HOPE FOR APPALACHIA SPRING 2021 HOPE BOXES

Church	Boxes-to-Date
Enon	13
Glade Hill Baptist (Franklin County)	10



MISSIONS COMMITTEE



As we concluded the 2020 calendar year, I sincerely thank each of our churches and individuals of our churches for being on mission in so many ways during a very difficult year of the COVID virus and other difficulties. Some of the mission projects include:

A. HOPE MINISTRY

1. Hundreds of Hope Boxes were given by members of our JRBA churches and delivered to Appalachia by our volunteers Easter week.
2. Over 1,000 warm clothing items were given by our churches for Appalachia and delivered to needy people of Appalachia November 4 – 7, 2020.

Sincere thanks to all who gave to our Appalachia projects and to those who packaged and delivered the gifts.

- B. The BLUE RIDGE FOOD DISTRIBUTION took place at Crystal Cathedral on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. The ministry distributed food to over 300 persons on each occasion. We sincerely thank the volunteers from our JRBA churches who regularly assisted in this wonderful ministry.
- C. LOCAL FOOD MINISTRY: Some of our JRBA churches carried out very helpful food ministries either on their own or in conjunction with our schools or other groups.
- D. FINANCIAL GIFTS were given by our Association and by our member churches to many ministry groups, including:
 1. Bland Ministry Center
 2. BCM Longwood and Hampden-Sydney
 3. Quite a few other mission entities.
- E. Our Association and churches thereof worked with our county schools through:
 1. Providing funds for special needs
 2. Providing a meeting place for virtual learning
 3. Additional Aid

As we move into a new calendar year, we look forward to an end to the COVID-19 virus and carrying on additional missions, including:

- A. A very big Rise Against Hunger packaging project
- B. Many mission trips by our churches and members

Jimmy Dunn, Chair

CHURCH OUTREACH

Buckingham prepared 15 food boxes for families in the area. The boxes included a turkey or turkey breast and ingredients for a meal. An offering was also taken for three families needing help with electric or fuel bills. A member provided "Pocket Prayers for Teachers" for the Buckingham Vocational School teachers.



Cedar is currently collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering through the month of December. The Women on Mission had an "Angel Tree" containing 77 angel tags. With the help of the church family, they blessed many children for Christmas. Praise God again for a loving and generous church family that helps make projects like this possible!

Twelve from **Chestnut Grove** went Christmas caroling on Sunday night, December 20. They visited about 10 homes, staying outside singing. Fruit baskets were given to each household. Chestnut Grove gave two needy families clothes, toys, and canned food. A senior citizen was also blessed with a Food Lion gift card and canned goods from their food pantry.

Helping Hands of **First Baptist Dillwyn** gave a financial gift to the Central Virginia Christian School to help with the expenses of their Living Nativity presentation. A financial gift was provided for Buckingham County High School to help students with special needs. They gave financial help to a number of families who experienced special needs. They sent over 50 Christmas cards to church members and friends who are experiencing sickness, bereavement, or other needs. Goodie Baskets were given to some families. Christmas bags, filled with snack foods, stocking caps, gloves, etc., were prepared and delivered to the boys and counselors of the Dakota Tribe of the Discovery School. First Baptist members also sent out hundreds of cards to persons experiencing special needs, gave money to help several families with financial needs, and made some visits to members who are bearing extremely heavy burdens.

Fitzgerald Memorial held a Thanksgiving lunch on November 15, with 23 in attendance. They also had a Thanksgiving service on November 24, with 31 in attendance. A check was presented to Cumberland Fire & Rescue as part of their local missions. The WOM made 200 gift bags and distributed them to seniors in the community, in partnership with the Cumberland Christmas Mother program.

Jones Chapel members provided gifts and cash donations to the family they helped for Christmas. The Youth Group also assisted in shopping for the children. The Youth Group decorated for "lights on the Lake" at Bear Creek Lake and was awarded an Honorable Mention for their display.

Mt. Zion's WMU gave \$100 to Standing Rock and \$500 to the Salvation Army of Charlottesville. The church donated \$500 to the Buckingham Christmas Chain which gives food, takes people to the doctor, etc. and delivered 7 food boxes to needy families in the area.

Mulberry Grove had two areas of special emphasis in December – the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and collecting underwear, warm clothes, and toiletries for the long-term veterans at the Veteran's Hospital in Richmond. These veterans have no families and a limited income. Poinsettias were delivered to the homebound in the community. The outreach ministry continues with cards, calls, food, and the delivery of church literature. Several individuals continue to volunteer at the bi-monthly food distribution at the Crystal Cathedral. Church members received notifications that their Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes had been delivered to Ecuador, a "hard-to-reach" area, Uganda, Ukraine, Peru, Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, and Columbia. Several individuals contributed items for the residents at Heritage Hall. The church assisted a local family in great need with financial assistance on their car payments. One family assisted them with money for gas to go to doctors' appointments.

Sharon collected for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They contributed \$117.50 to Christ in Christmas and \$89.50 to Graceland Prison Ministry. The congregation also provided two large boxes of toiletry items for stocking stuffers at Heritage Hall Nursing Home. Rose of Sharon WMU made 41 quarts of chicken noodle soup, frozen for distribution as needed; gave "Pocket Prayers for Teachers" to the teachers of Buckingham County Preschool, made a monetary contribution to a family in need, prepared and delivered a Thanksgiving meal to a family of four, and continues visiting with and delivering meals to those who are sick or homebound.

JRBA LEARNS AND GROWS>>>

Mt. Zion's Girls in Action learned about Lottie Moon and the Christmas Offering named for her during December. They learned about the story of Elizabeth and Mary, the "prequel" to the story of Jesus' birth. They made handprint wreaths to remind them of how many people are reached through our giving to the Lottie Moon offering and supporting our missionaries. The girls ran the Lottie Moon Post Office again this year which collects "postage" for Christmas cards which are then delivered to the church members and the "postage" is given to the Lottie Moon Offering. This year the girls made cinnamon ornaments as a token of appreciation to anyone who gave to the Lottie Moon Offering. They also had a Lottie Moon Christmas Tea Party scheduled before Christmas to celebrate and fellowship together.



Pictures at left: Kaylee Snoddy, Lowyn Davidson and Khloe Snoddy



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE>>>

Dear JRBA,

I hope this finds you well 😊!

I have been approached about a few "building projects" in our community and was wondering if there was any interest in our JRBA churches for local missions projects. I recognize that this is a time where most of you are already stretched thin, but thought this might be an opportunity for your church to tackle a project together.

We already have funds that have been gathered from the association for building projects. What I am looking for is a small group that can either take on a project solo or a few willing helpers to join with another church on a project.

I have a few to choose from: ramp repair, floors sinking in (x2), busted windows, and a roof leak.

If you are interested, please let me know and I can share more details with you. Otherwise I might be contacting you. 😊

As always, I am proud of what we can accomplish as an association.

Love in JC.
Michael Khol
(434)808-2383



IN LOVING MEMORY

Cedar extends sympathy to the family of Kimberly Wiseman Thompson who passed away on November 30, 2020, and also to the family of Bobbie Jean Waycaster who passed away on December 17, 2020.

JRBA CELEBRATES>>>

Cedar had a special Baby Dedication on December 20, for Charlie Justice Allen, daughter of Preston Allen and Kiana Allen. On that same day, Harmony Taylor, daughter of Stephen and Chasity Taylor, made a profession of faith, to be followed by baptism (in the near future). Praise God for these little ones!

Sharon hosted a "Christmas on the Lawn" program on December 13. The weather was perfect, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces (behind the masks)! The occasion was also a celebration of the burning of the small note for the Fellowship Hall – a tremendous blessing in light of this challenging year. The larger note still exists, and fundraising activities will resume as soon as current health concerns are alleviated. The continued support from community members, local churches, and businesses is sincerely appreciated. Thank you to all those in attendance for this time of celebration!



FOR YOUR INFORMATION>>>

- ❖ Recently received in the JRBA Office was a letter from Edwin Ray Frazier, 4202 Appleton Way, Wilmington, NC 28412, offering two booklets:
 1. *Devotions for Caregivers* (Info & preview of book at www.rayfrazier.com/Caregiver.html)
This is a book for those who struggle financially and emotionally to care for a terminally ill spouse or other loved one. It might be a good outreach tool.
 2. *Robert's Basics for Baptists* (Info & preview of book at www.rayfrazier.com/Robert.html)
This is a book with a brief explanation of the aims and rules of Robert's Rules of Order applied especially to Baptist Churches.



FROM YOUR MODERATOR>>>

The mission of our association and churches continues to be to serve the Lord. A big shout out to the people who went and to those who gave to our Fall Winterwear Collection for Hope for Appalachia! The response was fantastic: hats, coats, and gloves, as well as cooking meals, making cookies and providing Christmas gifts for children (that wouldn't have anything) and for teachers, as well as monetary gifts to the HFA effort. The trip was earlier than usual which was good since schools closed in Kentucky because of the pandemic. Thanks go out to Michael Khol and all who worked on handicapped ramps and other home repairs in 2020. Teachers and staff in Buckingham were given snacks, gifts, and hand sanitizer to help encourage them through this difficult time of virtual teaching. May God bless the pastors and churches that participated. Thanksgiving celebrations were different this year, but we still had so much to be thankful for! Christmas was different, too, but we still found ways to celebrate our Savior's birth. Truly, the birth of Christ was not fit for a King, but we are so thankful that God send His Son!

Marilyn Snoddy

KEEP IN PRAYER>>>

- ❖ Those who are lost and need to know the Savior
- ❖ All those affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic
- ❖ Peace of mind during this uncertain time
- ❖ COVID-19 Research (Medicine & Vaccine)
- ❖ All workers on the "front line"
- ❖ Teachers, staff, and school administrators & students
- ❖ Preparation of Hope boxes for spring delivery
- ❖ Tar Waret as they search for a new pastor
- ❖ JRBA Churches & Pastors
- ❖ Government Leaders (County, State, & National)
- ❖ All those affected by violence in our country
- ❖ Victoria Gina Vassile, JRBA WMU Project Ruth Adoptee
- ❖ Jimmy & Suzanne (Bryan) Brock – Church planters in Virginia Beach
- ❖ All those in our congregations who are ill or who have lost loved ones.



There's Trouble All Around

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There's trouble all around; it's hard for us to bear!
O God of love, there's so much sadness everywhere.
We hear the daily toll of people who have died;
we see what comes when hate and fear are amplified.

We thank you, God, for faith that says that it's o.k.
to cry out as the Psalmist cried out, when we pray.
We thank you that in times when everything goes wrong,
we're once again reminded that your love is strong.

We thank you, God, for hope that daily sees us through –
and for the gift of Jesus Christ who makes us new.
We thank you, too, for hope that truth and science bring.
The time will come when, once again, we'll laugh and sing.

We thank you, God, for love, for kindness and for smiles,
for friends and loved ones reaching out across the miles,
and for your Spirit's gifts that help us through these days.
God, may we know these blessings and give thanks and praise.

ASSOCIATION FINANCES

2020 – 2021

REGULAR BUDGET RECEIPTS

Church	December	Year-to-Date
Antioch (SV)		\$ 250.00
Antioch Union		
Arvon		
Buckingham		\$ 375.00
Cedar	\$2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Chestnut Grove		
Enon		
FBC Dillwyn		
Fitzgerald		\$ 100.00
Fork of Willis		\$ 396.00
Gladstone		
Goshen		
Jones Chapel	\$ 171.00	\$ 462.00*
Mt. Tabor		
Mt. Zion		
Mulberry Grove		
Sharon		\$ 291.25
Tar Wallet		
Individuals		
VBMB-Alma Hunt		
Amazon Smile		\$ 7.25
TOTAL	\$2,671.00	\$4,381.50

Approved Budget for 2020-2021: \$33,233.00

Total includes \$7,082.00 carryover funds.

NO INCREASE TO BUDGETED AMOUNTS.

***The total for Jones Chapel for November was incorrect in the December issue. It should have been \$291.00.**

Monthly totals were correct.

TREASURERS: Please note that unless a specific ministry or project is designated on the memo line of the check or in an accompanying note, the contribution will appear in the regular budget receipts.

ALSO NOTE: Funds received are reflective of the Associational Year (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021), NOT the calendar year.

OTHER BUDGETED LINE ITEMS:

MISSIONS BLITZ

Carryover from 2019-2020	\$ 975.00*
Budget (2020-2021)	\$ 250.00
TOTAL	\$1,225.00

***Carryover was rounded to even dollars.**

November Expenditure: Home Repair - \$48.79

No contributions or expenditures in December.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$1,176.21

ADDITIONAL MISSIONS:

ALL monies expended for Additional Missions are listed each month.

	November	Year-to-Date
JRBA Budget		\$1,600.00
TOTAL		\$1,600.00

Expenditures

Pregnancy Support Center (Farmville), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, GraceInside, Gideons International, Longwood/Hampden Sydney BCM, BGAV Disaster Response, and Piedmont Habitat for Humanity - \$100.00 Each = \$700.00 (Budgeted)

BALANCE IN ADDITIONAL MISSIONS: \$ 900.00



RECEIPTS FOR 2021 RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Church	December	Total-to-Date
JRBA Budget (2019-2020)		\$ 500.00
Cedar		\$ 220.00
Enon		\$ 400.00
FBC Dillwyn		\$ 1,043.60
Gladstone		\$ 688.00
Goshen		\$ 500.00
Jones Chapel		\$ 835.79
Mt. Zion (WMU)		\$ 500.00*
(Church)		\$ 400.00
Tar Wallet		\$ 20.00
BGAV		\$1,000.00
CARRYOVER TOTAL		\$6,107.00**
JRBA Budget (2020-2021)		\$ 500.00
TOTAL-TO-DATE		\$6,607.00

***Mt. Zion WMU - \$500 in honor of Rev. Jimmy Dunn**

****Carryover was rounded to even dollars.**

BLAND MINISTRY CENTER

	November	Year-to-Date
JRBA Budget		\$ 500.00
TOTAL		\$ 500.00

MISSION TRIPS

Budgeted: \$2,500.00

Expenditures

Hope for Appalachia Team – Rev. Woody Moore, Rev. Roger

Woody and Wayne Gough (\$50 each) = \$150.00

BALANCE = \$2,350.00

NON-BUDGETED MINISTRY:

(ALL monies by donation.)

JOHN E. MANN, SR. BENEVOLENCE FUND

DONATIONS	December	Year-to-Date
Carryover from 2019-2020		\$6,292.28
Buckingham	\$ 200.00	\$ 370.00
Cedar	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
First Baptist Dillwyn	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sharon		\$ 200.00
TOTAL NEW DONATIONS	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,370.00

Expenditures in December

\$ 255.00

BALANCE: \$7,052.28

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)