

# THE SERVANT LINK

CHURCHES UNITED TO SERVE - COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE:  
ACCOMPLISHING TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

## James River Baptist Association

P. O. Box 1219, Dillwyn, VA 23936

Mrs. Marilyn Snoddy – Moderator

Phyllis R. Tyler - Secretary

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Hours: Monday & Wednesday

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Volume XXII

June 2023

Edition VI



<b>June 4 – 8 Antioch Union's VBS (at the Union Facility)</b>		<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
Ages Preschool through Elementary Theme: <i>Changemakers Lab</i> (Mennomedia Shine VBS 2023)		
<b>Mt. Zion's VBS</b>		<b>6:00 – 9:00 PM</b>
Kindergarten through 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner served each evening. Theme: <i>Keepers of the Kingdom</i>		
<b>June 11 – 15 Cedar's VBS</b>		<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
Ages 3 and up, including Adults		
<b>June 19 – 22</b>	<b>Chestnut Grove's VBS</b> Theme: <i>Big and Bold – Fun Fair</i> Commencement: Friday, June 23, at 6:00 PM There will be a cookout for everyone following the Commencement. All children need to register by calling Carolyn Morris at 434-574-6592.	<b>6:00 – 8:30 PM</b>
<b>June 24</b>	<b>Fitzgerald Memorial's One Day VBS</b> Lunch will be provided.	<b>9:00 AM – 2:00 PM</b>
<b>June 24 - 30</b>	<b>Children's VBS at First Baptist Dillwyn</b> For ages 3 – Grade 5 For more information, call Melissa Wood at 434-547-3593.	<b>6:00 – 8:30 PM</b>
<b>June 25 – 30</b>	<b>Jones Chapel's VBS</b> Theme: <i>Hero Hotline</i>	<b>6:00 – 8:30 PM</b>
	<b>Antioch (Scottsville) VBS</b> VBS Kickoff: Sunday, June 25 – 3:00 – 6:00 PM Theme: <i>Twists &amp; Turns</i> (Lifeway) Registration and meal at 6:00 PM nightly.	<b>M – F: 6:30 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>July 10 – 14</b>	<b>Tar Wallet's VBS</b> Theme: <i>Babylon – Daniel's Courage &amp; Captivity</i>	<b>6:00 – 8:30 PM</b>
<b>July 19 – 22</b>	<b>Mulberry Grove's VBS</b> Carnival Setting (Theme to be determined.)	<b>6:30 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>July 20 – 23</b>	<b>Enon's VBS</b> Sunday at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch. Theme: <i>Pets Unleashed: where Jesus Cares "Fur" You</i>	<b>Th – Sa 6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>July 22</b>	<b>Sharon's One Day VBS</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>July 23 – 27</b>	<b>Centenary's VBS</b> Theme: <i>Twists &amp; Turns</i> (Lifeway)	

## OTHER EVENT DETAILS

<b>June 3</b>	<b>Jones Chapel's Annual Fishing Tournament at George Dowdy's Pond</b> There will be prizes for several categories (largest, smallest, number caught, etc.) which will be awarded on June 11.	<b>8:00 AM – Noon</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Fellowship Meal at Centenary</b> Located at 12247 S Constitution Route, Scottsville, VA, Centenary Church is now a non-denominational church committed to their mission of "loving God and loving people". Sunday School is offered at 9:00 AM for all ages and Worship and the Word at 10:00 AM each Sunday. AWANA for all ages is held on Sunday at 5:30 PM (during the school year) and a Wednesday adult small group meets at 7:00 PM weekly. Their pastor is Steve Amburgey, who also serves as the Area Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes in South Central Virginia.	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>June 6 &amp; 20</b>	<b>All Blessings Flow at First Baptist Dillwyn (Parking Lot)</b> If you need any medical equipment or have some to donate, please call 434-422-8888.	<b>10:00 AM – Noon</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Tuesday Morning Bible Study at First Baptist Dillwyn</b> The group is currently studying the book of Luke. Everyone is invited.	<b>10:30 – 11:30 AM</b>
<b>June 7, 21 &amp; 28</b>	<b>Bible Study at Goshen</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Service at First Baptist Dillwyn (Every Wednesday)</b> Featuring a study of David Platt's book, <i>Counter Culture</i> , led by Brandon Shumaker. All are invited.	<b>6:30 PM</b>
	<b>Bible Study at Fitzgerald Memorial (Every Wednesday)</b>	<b>6:00 – 7:30 PM</b>
<b>June 9 &amp; 23</b>	<b>Blue Ridge Food Distribution at Crystal Cathedral, Dillwyn</b> Volunteers needed at 9:30 AM.	
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Pancake Supper &amp; Movie Night at Buckingham</b> Movie TBA.	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>June 11 – 14</b>	<b>Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans</b> Theme: Serving the Lord – Serving Others For more information, go to <a href="http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net">www.sbcannualmeeting.net</a>	
<b>June 14</b>	<b>WMU Meeting at Mt. Zion</b> The program will be a presentation by Gwynn Tyler with pictures from his Honduras mission trip and the JRBA Mission Trip to Bland. Come out and hear about this outreach. Everyone is invited to come!	<b>2:30 PM</b>
	<b>WMU &amp; Brotherhood at Goshen</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast at Antioch (Scottsville)</b>	<b>TBA</b>
	<b>Kids Outdoor Zone at Mt. Zion</b> KOZ is mainly for boys that don't have a male figure in their life. Men take them fishing, hunting, teach them how to change a tire, archery, gun and knife safety, etc. The Word of God is shared. The morning begins by cooking breakfast and ends with lunch.	<b>8:00 AM – Noon</b>
	<b>Dinner and Movie Night at Mt. Zion</b> Eat at 4:30 PM, Movie at 6:30 PM – Movie: <i>Show Me the Father</i>	<b>4:30 PM</b>

### FATHER'S DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

The history of Father's Day goes back to 1908, when a church in West Virginia held a sermon to honor 362 men who had been killed the previous year in a coal mining explosion. The following year, however, a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd started her quest to establish Father's Day as a national holiday. It was finally declared a national holiday in 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed it into law. Father's Day is celebrated on different days in different countries. For example, in Europe, the United States and the majority of other countries, the holiday is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.



**Breakfast at Mt. Zion**

**8:30 AM**

**Father's Day Celebration at Enon**

**9:00 AM**

The celebration begins with a big breakfast, with worship following at 10:00 AM. There will be a special Gift for each father present in the service. Everyone is invited to attend. There will also be a special Speaker during the service.

**Father's Day Breakfast at Fitzgerald Memorial**

**9:00 AM**

The Women on Mission will do breakfast for the men and also do the worship service.

**Mulberry Grove Father's Day Worship at the James River State Park**

**11:00 AM**

The service will be followed by a potluck picnic lunch.

June 19 – 23      Antioch (Scottsville) Youth to CrossRoads Summer Camp

**Monday, June 19**

Information for the July edition of the JRBA calendar and newsletter are due today by 9:00 AM.  
Please include items for the July calendar and all outreach and celebrations from the month of June.

June 24      Loaves & Fish Ministry Meal at Antioch (Scottsville)      9:30 – 10:30 AM

Movie Night at Centenary      6:00 PM  
Movie: *Jesus Revolution*  
Everyone is invited.



**FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023**

**Deadline to remit funds for Rise Against Hunger**

*Please send in your contribution for Rise Against Hunger by this date so that the Missions Committee can determine if we can host a Meal-Packing event this year and make plans. We must have \$4,000 in hand to schedule the event with RAH.*

*We hope to host an event in the early fall so watch for details to come!*

**IF YOUR CHURCH IS COLLECTING CASH, BE SURE TO HAVE IT IN TO THE CHURCH TREASURER IN TIME FOR A CHECK TO BE SENT TO JRBA.**

**Checks should be payable to JRBA, with "Rise Against Hunger" on the memo line of the check.**

## LOOKING AHEAD>>>

July 1      Christmas in July Chicken BBQ at Fitzgerald Memorial      TBA  
Halves and Dinners available.

July 2      "Freedom Sunday" at Enon  
Cookout and Fireworks at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited to join the good folks at Enon.

July 10      JRBA Executive Board Meeting at MT. ZION      7:00 PM  
Pastors, JRBA Officers, Committee Chairs, and Church Representatives to the Executive Board: Please plan to attend.  
We hope to be ready to make plans for a Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event.

July 17 – 21      Missions Connection Celebration at Eagle Eyrie  
Theme: Signed, Sealed, Sent.  
This is a missions week for people of all ages, from preschoolers through senior adults.  
SPEAKER: Mike Bradley, Warrenton Baptist Church  
WORSHIP: Daily services for children, youth, and adults are highlighted by dynamic preaching, music, and missions.  
MISSIONS: Youth and adults minister in small groups through a variety of service projects in the Greater Lynchburg area ranging from VBS to construction to social ministries.  
DISCIPLESHIP: Age-appropriate learning opportunities are provided for preschoolers through senior adults.  
FELLOWSHIP: Participants come together for an opening night picnic, a closing night ice cream social, and packaging meals for the Source of Light orphanage in Haiti.  
FUN: There will be lots of pool time, plus a talent show, night hike, Capture the Flag, and even an optional trip to FunQuest in Lynchburg for skating and laser tag! For more details and to register, go to [www.eagleeyrie.org/MC2](http://www.eagleeyrie.org/MC2)

September 17 – 20      Arvon Church is planning Homecoming and Revival Services. Everyone is invited.

## JRBA REACHES OUT>>>

**Annie Armstrong**  
**Easter Offering®**  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

CHURCH	TOTAL-TO-DATE
Buckingham	\$1,120.00
Cedar	\$ 645.00
Chestnut Grove	\$ 600.00
Enon	\$ 1,034.00
First Baptist Dillwyn	\$ 586.00
Fitzgerald Memorial	\$ 565.00
Goshen	\$ 955.00
Jones Chapel	\$ 1,150.00
Mt. Tabor	\$ 141.00
Mt. Zion	\$ 1,226.00
Mulberry Grove	\$ 100.00
Sharon	\$ 250.00
Tar Wallet	\$ 245.00



### **DONATIONS FOR BLAND MISSION TRIP**

CHURCH	PEANUT BUTTER*	GALLON ZIP LOC BAGS	MONETARY DONATION
Antioch Union	95	30 boxes	
Buckingham	30	19 Boxes	
Chestnut Grove	4	3 Boxes	
First Baptist Dillwyn	28	19 Boxes	
Goshen	20	2 Boxes	
Jones Chapel	105	7 Boxes	\$ 505.00
Mt. Zion WMU			\$ 500.00
Mulberry Grove	31	14 Boxes	\$ 500.00(BMC)
Sharon	23	13 Boxes	\$ 230.00
Tar Wallet	44	10 Boxes	\$ 45.00
Individuals	4*	2 Boxes*	\$ 190.00
Spring Offering			\$ 283.00
JRBA (Budgeted)			\$ 500.00 (BMC)
Team Member Donations			\$ 270.00
JRBA Donation to Team (Mission Team Line Item)			\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>\$ 3,123.00</b>

**A TOTAL NUMBER OF 380 JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND 4,735 BAGS WERE COLLECTED FOR THE BLAND MINISTRY CENTER!**

**TOTAL TEAM EXPENSES: \$ 768.32**

**TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN TO BLAND MINISTRY CENTER: \$ 2,354.68**

### **JRBA-SPONSORED BACCALAUREATES**

#### **Buckingham County High School**

The BCHS Baccalaureate service was held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 4 PM in the gym. Twenty-nine members of the class of 2023 were in attendance, along with 122 family, friends, and staff members. Valedictorian Chance Woodson gave the invocation. Mr. Brian Caldwell spoke words of inspiration. He was followed by Mrs. Kim Page reading a poem to the students. Pastor and teacher, Mrs. Faith Jones, brought the main message of encouragement in word and song with a focus on a relationship with God. The senior class officers (Mikalsh Thompson, president; Haley Short, vice-president; Kyra Johnson, secretary; and Courtney Agee, spirit coordinator) shared a class prophecy; Treasurer Justice Steger helped write the prophecy, but was unable to attend. Rev. Austin Williams gave the Benediction. The Gideons were present to give out Bibles to the seniors. Mrs. Dale Wright and Mrs. Nancy Eagle prepared and served a lovely and simple reception.\* Students also received gift bags containing the cards of encouragement from some JRBA churches.

#### **Cumberland High School**

A Baccalaureate Service for the Cumberland High School Seniors was hosted by Tar Wallet Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. It was the first one held since 2019. There were 7 seniors in attendance and approximately 45 other guests. The theme verse for the Baccalaureate was Jeremiah 29:11: *"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."* A welcome was given by Lena Chapman, followed by an opening prayer by Ken Davis. Dr. Sheri Almond led a Robing Ceremony for the seniors in attendance. Special music was provided by Shiloh New Covenant Church. Mark Tuttle and Rev. Irma Watson read scripture. Chip Jones spoke on *Where We Have Been*. A poem was read by Celeste Mitchell and Eureka Tyree gave the message. Eugene Williams gave the closing prayer. The service was followed by refreshments provided by Tar Wallet and JRBA.\* Gift bags were available for the graduating seniors.

#### **Fluvanna High School**

The graduation service for the Fluvanna High School seniors was held on May 26, 2023. Antioch Baptist Church prepared and distributed gift bags to the students. The bags included a mug, other items, and a religious tract. \*

**\*JRBA provided \$200 per school (budgeted) to help with refreshments or gifts for the seniors. Special THANKS to Michelle Wright (Buckingham), Kathy Weaver (Cumberland), and Gloria Newton (Fluvanna) for coordinating this outreach to the 2023 Graduates!**





## CHURCH OUTREACH>>>

BUCKINGHAM: Members collected items for the Bland Ministry Center.

CHESTNUT GROVE: The WMU contributed \$35 to the Ruth School. Contributions to Rise Against Hunger now total \$405.

FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN: FBC members gave many baby diapers to the Pregnancy Crisis Center at Ellis Acres. Rise Against Hunger gifts are being collected each Sunday through June – they report a current total of \$1,000. Helping Hands continues to bless many lives through cards, calls, visits, and financial help. Members donated items for the Bland Ministry Center.

GOSHEN: Church members cleaned the road in each direction from the church on May 20. Peanut butter and bags were donated for the Bland Ministry Center.

JONES CHAPEL: The boys and girls are competing to see which group can raise the most money for Rise Against Hunger. After two Sundays, they were running neck-in-neck! Michelle Tuttle has promised a fun event after the competition ends (involving water balloons)! Members donated \$505 to Bland as well as peanut butter, Zip Loc bags, and support for Cassie Tomlin, member, who served on the team. A team of youth and adults will be participating in the MC2: Missions Connection Camp at Eagle Eyrie in July.

MT. ZION: The WMU donated \$500 to the Bland effort. They also provided several items for the CrossRoads Summer Camps: basketball, football, Ace bandages, flameless candle lights, 300 Glo-sticks, and a multi-purpose tarp.

MULBERRY GROVE: 150 teacher appreciation gifts were made to share with teachers in the congregation and teachers at Buckingham County High School and Buckingham County Middle School. Mulberry Grove members donated items for the Bland effort and the church made a monetary donation to the Bland Ministry Center. Gwynn and Phyllis Tyler and Wayne and Linda Gough served on the Bland Mission Team.

SHARON: The congregation contributed freezer bags, peanut butter, and monetary support for the Bland Mission initiative. Audrey Ragland served as a member of the Bland Mission Team. Rose of Sharon WMU continues its meal ministry, visits, cards, and phone calls to those who are in need of a little extra love and care.

TAR WALLET: Church members donated many items and a monetary gift to the Bland effort. Joe Weaver served on the Bland Mission Team.

## BLAND MISSION TRIP

May 21 – 26, 2023



**Team Members: Phyllis Tyler, Wayne Gough, Gloria Newton, Joe Weaver, Cassie Tomlin, Audrey Ragland, Linda Gough, and Gwynn Tyler**

Team members met at First Baptist Dillwyn on Sunday, May 21, to head out for the Bland Ministry Center. Rev. Jimmy Dunn, and Jane, came to see them off and Jimmy prayed for the team, their safety, the work they would do, and for the mission of the Bland Ministry Center. After a bit of a late start, due to a flat tire on Wayne's trailer, the group had an uneventful and safe journey in the beautiful sunshine. They stopped in Wytheville for supper at Cracker Barrel where they enjoyed the beginning of a great week of fellowship!

Although the team had plenty of aches and pains throughout the week, much was accomplished and relationships were built, both amongst the team members and with the staff, volunteers, and clients of the center. The team worked alongside the regular volunteers, women from a halfway house, and individuals completing community service obligations. Friendships were forged and blessings flowed for all concerned. The group was able to assist with various tasks around the center and in the community.

A large degree of energy was expended in the Food Warehouse where team members unloaded trucks, packaged food, and packed food boxes for the clients. They assisted with food distribution on Tuesday and Thursday when 200+ families received food, fresh produce, and other grocery items.



Some of the women also helped in the Clothing Closet sorting, hanging, and re-bagging clothes for distribution and shipment to other facilities. Team members also were blessed to assist a gentleman in the area who was suffering from cancer and who had lost his wife. The team bleached and power-washed his porch, siding, and shutters. Some repairs were made and the porch was painted. They also planted flowers in his planters to help remind him of his wife and to provide encouragement to him. Additionally, the men organized the tools and other accessories at BMC and some yardwork was completed. Two large picnic tables were scraped and painted as well. A couple of repairs were also made in the volunteer house: the dishwasher filter was cleaned and a ceiling was repaired. All in all, a lot of physical work was completed, but more importantly, folks were able to show the love of Jesus in their treatment of those with whom they worked and served. Words of encouragement as well as the Gospel was shared in word and deed as the occasion arose. At the end of the week, the women from the halfway house expressed their gratitude for the loving way they were treated and shared a presentation of the Armor of God with team members.

One of the long-time volunteers with whom our teams have connected over the years was awaiting both bladder and heart surgery – team members were able to encourage her and a monetary gift was given to help her out with expenses. She was very touched. The team was also able to visit the Kissito Nursing Home where Wayne and Linda Gough sang and team members visited and encouraged the residents as they worshiped together through music. Many smiles, singing, and clapping of hands showed the obvious enjoyment of the time together. What a blessing to be able to give them a spot of cheer and share God's love!

The team had the pleasure of delivering 380 jars of peanut butter and 117 boxes of Zip Loc bags for use in the ministry center due to the generosity of all of you in our churches. Your monetary donations enabled us to also present the BMC with \$2,354.68 to help with their ministries.

It was a wonderful week of service and a great time of fellowship. To God Be the Glory!



**Gwynn presents Dee Dee Hoosier with the monetary donation.**



**Cassie Tomlin paints a picnic table.**



**Team members work in the food warehouse alongside other volunteers.**



**Food Distribution Day**





**Linda Gough & Audrey Ragland work with produce.**



**Gloria Newton with Crystal, warehouse manager.**



**Joe Weaver and Wayne Gough working on the porch of a client.**



**Left: Linda with the planted flowers at the client's house.**



**Right: Wayne and Linda singing at the Kissito Nursing Home.**

## OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE>>>

### Longwood Baptist Collegiate Ministry

The BCM, located at 303 Griffin Blvd, in Farmville, Virginia, will be hosting two open house opportunities in August! All association members are invited to visit the BCM building on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM, or on Friday, August 11, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This will be an opportunity to meet the new minister, learn about ways to support the BCM, and pray for the students who will be arriving in Farmville for the fall semester. Light refreshments will be served during both open houses. I hope that you will come to celebrate the BCM ministry and pray for incoming students! For more information, contact Rev. Cadance Tyler at [cadance.tyler@bgav.org](mailto:cadance.tyler@bgav.org).

## JRBA LEARNS & GROWS>>>

CHESTNUT GROVE: A Ladies Bible Study began on Thursday, May 25.

## JRBA CELEBRATES>>



### Mother's Day Celebrations

BUCKINGHAM: Mothers were recognized with a small gift on Mother's Day.

CEDAR: All mothers in attendance on Mother's Day were recognized with a gift. Special recognition was given to the youngest mother, Cierra Ownby Warner, and the oldest mother, Evelyn Hardiman. The mother with the most children present ended in a tie with both Nancy Davis and Holly Brooks having 3 children present.

FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN: On Mother's Day, the deacons prepared and served a delicious breakfast to honor all the ladies. Mothers were also honored during the worship service.

GOSHEN: Mothers were presented with flowers on Mother's Day. Gifts were given to the oldest mother, the mother with the most children and grandchildren, and the youngest mother.

JONES CHAPEL: On Mother's Day, Pastor Dane recognized all the ladies of the church and they were presented with a small potted flower. The oldest mother, Gail Brandt, and the youngest mother, Holly Pleasants, were given a hanging basket.



MT. ZION: The church hosted a Mother's Day Breakfast.

MULBERRY GROVE: The men of the church hosted a Mother's Day Breakfast. It was a great time of fellowship to celebrate. Mothers were also recognized in the worship service.



### 2023 Graduates

#### ANTIOCH (SCOTTSVILLE):

Madison Aldridge – Fluvanna County High School  
Luke Abbott – Fluvanna County High School  
Danielle Bryant – Piedmont VA Community College  
Clayton Cannady – Fluvanna County High School  
Zach Kidd – Fluvanna County High School  
Harley Kirby – Monticello High School

#### CEDAR:

Camden Allen\* – Buckingham County High School  
Griffin Haines\* – Buckingham County High School  
Austin Wickizer – Buckingham County High School  
Jackson Powers – Buckingham County High School

\*Camden Allen and Griffin Haines also graduated May 13<sup>th</sup>, from Southside Virginia Community College with Career Studies Certificates in Industrial Electricity Technology and HVAC Level 1.



**CHESTNUT GROVE:**

Bayla Harris – Buckingham County High School, with plans to attend Piedmont Virginia Community College. She is the daughter of Aaron and Trish Harris and granddaughter of Rita Harris.

**ENON:**

Marissa Wilson – Buckingham County High School  
Emma Staton – Buckingham County High School

**FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN:**

Madison Pribble – Longwood University, B.S. in Nursing

**JONES CHAPEL:**

Pictured below (with Youth Director, Angel Chambliss):

Jake Price – Cumberland High School  
Kristen College – Cumberland High School  
Kayla College – Prince Edward High School  
Gloria Tuttle – Emory & Henry College

Not pictured:

Robert Atwater – Cumberland High School  
Kyle Atwater – Cumberland High School  
Dakota Hopper – Cumberland High School  
Mark Tuttle – Cumberland High School  
Sarah Gressett – William Monroe High School



**MULBERRY GROVE:**

Jacob Palmore – Buckingham County High School  
Ryan Snoddy – Old Dominion University  
Trey Williams – Rockingham County Fire Academy

**SHARON:**

Daniel Farrish – Buckingham County High School  
Justice Steger – Buckingham County High School

**TAR WALLET:**

Amber Bruce – Longwood University, Political Science, with plans to further her education to attain a law degree.

**Other Celebrations**

**CENTENARY CHURCH:** A Memorial Day Remembrance Service was held on May 28, at 10 AM.

**FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN:** A baby shower was held at FBC on Sunday, May 7, for Ashley and Cody Moss in anticipation of the arrival of their baby girl, Debra Elizabeth. Many members of the church, as well as relatives and other friends, shared in this joyful event.





## 189<sup>th</sup> JRBA Semi-Annual Spring Meeting May 11, 2023

The 189<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Spring Meeting of the James River Baptist Association met at Jones Chapel Baptist Church on Thursday, May 11,

2023. Forty-one messengers and one visitor were in attendance. Seven of the messengers were JRBA Pastors/Interims. There were an additional seven folks from Jones Chapel to help out with the meal and other jobs.

Registration began at 5:45 PM – during registration attendees looked over the program and informational packet and/or watched a slide presentation from the Bland 2022 Mission Trip and the Hope for Appalachia 2023 Spring Trip. These mission efforts were outlined in the day's packet, along with information on our Rise Against Hunger efforts. The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by Rev. Dane Gressett, Pastor, Jones Chapel, with a welcome and theme interpretation. The theme for our meeting was II Corinthians 8:11: *Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.* Rev. Gressett noted that both Chapters 8 & 9 of Corinthians were devoted to a multi-church project of receiving benevolence offerings for the people in Judea suffering during a famine. Paul was thrilled that the Christians wanted to help those in need. They were doing so in the image of Jesus – exhibiting grace to people in need! They had received His grace and were extending grace to others. We also need to focus on the grace we have received and exhibit it naturally and with compassion to those around us who are in need. We need to overflow with God's grace and seek to reach others with it. His grace comes through salvation and stays with us. Jesus's grace needs to flow in and through us. We can't just begin well - we need to finish well. God wants us to end with greater grace than we started with. In Philippians 1:6, Paul says, *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* The growth of the church shows how we are growing God's grace. Throughout our spiritual journey, we need to continue to worship and bless others. In the Old Testament, Jacob blessed both of Joseph's sons and worshiped, leaning on his staff. He was nearing the end of his journey, but he continued to bless and worship! Rev. Gressett encouraged us to depend on the grace of God, to continue to ask for more grace, and to keep a tender heart...to end well! He then gave directions for the fellowship dinner and gave the blessing for the food.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and good fellowship around the table. Jones Chapel served up delicious BBQ (prepared by Pastor Dane) and fried chicken. The good cooks from Jones Chapel and across the Association served up yummy sides and desserts, too. No one should have gone away hungry. After the meal, folks reconvened in the sanctuary for a brief business session and worship.

Carol Ownby played a prelude, after which Mrs. Marilyn Snoddy, Moderator, called the meeting to order and made several comments. She noted that Rev. Jimmy Dunn could not be in attendance and sent his regards as well as encouragement for everyone to give generously to our Rise Against Hunger efforts. Donations need to be in by June 30 in order to schedule a meal-packing event later in the fall. She asked everyone to be sure to pray for the Bland Mission Team and the work of the Bland Ministry Center and she expressed our thanks for the generous donations of peanut butter and Zip Loc bags. She noted the great turnout for the recent Youth Awakening held by Antioch, Scottsville. She expressed gratitude for those who helped with organizing and hosting the Baccalaureate Services in Buckingham and Cumberland. She also noted the important work of the Southside Pregnancy Center and the support from JRBA churches for that effort. They exceeded their recent fundraising goal and collected almost \$83,000.

Gwynn Tyler, in the absence of Frank Breault, Clerk, took the roll call of churches. There were 41 messengers representing 9 churches. Marilyn then presented the Nominating Committee's Report and the Slate of Officers for 2023 – 2024 for approval. The Slate of Officers was approved as presented, with several positions vacant at this time.

The Bland Mission Team members were then called to the front and Rev. Tommy Armstrong, Cedar, led a Commissioning Service for them. He noted that a commissioning service is for both the team and the folks in the churches who are doing the sending. He noted the question Paul raised to the Christians in Rome, *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"* (Romans 10:14-15) The team was thanked for their willingness to go and serve and encouraged to not only work to bless others, but to also be ready to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Others in attendance were challenged to pray for the team and the work they will do as well as for the opportunities they will encounter to bless others and share the Gospel. Rev. Armstrong then anointed each team member with oil in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It was a touching and memorable ceremony. He then prayed for the team.



Worship continued with the singing of the hymn, *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*. Rev. Steve Emery, Fitzgerald, led in the Pastoral Prayer and the congregation joined him in the Lord's Prayer. Rev. Dane Gressett gave the Offertory Prayer and the offering was received. A total of \$283 was given for the Bland Mission efforts. Jones Chapel then presented a program of Special Music. Graham Donahue played the guitar and sang a song he had written, *I've Got A Better Life in Mind* and played a beautiful arrangement of *He Leadeth Me* - what a blessing to see and hear this young man using his talents for the Lord! Then Rev. Gressett, Carol Ownby, and Judy Ownby sang the following selections, accompanied by Rev. Gressett on the guitar: *The Uncloudy Day*, *Little Is Much When God Is In It*, *Just Over In the Glory Land*, and *There's Power in The Blood*.

Marilyn thanked Jones Chapel for graciously hosting our meeting, the Social Committee for serving the meal, and Rev. Gressett and the singers for a meaningful time of worshipful music. She then led the singing of the commitment hymn, *Take My Life, and Let It Be*. She closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Tyler  
Secretary



Marilyn Snoddy, Moderator





Carol Ownby, Judy Ownby, and Pastor Dane Gressett



Graham Donahue

#### ATTENDEES

ANTIOCH (SCOTTSVILLE): Gloria Newton  
 CEDAR: Richard & Barbara Carner, Jackie Davenport, Clarence Gormus, Rev. Tommy and Margaret Armstrong  
 CHESTNUT GROVE: Rev. Ken Cook, Gloria Morris, Nancy Morris, Rita Harris, and Pam Waycaster  
 FITZGERALD MEMORIAL: Rev. Steve and Kenita Emery, Geraldine Whaley, Joan Ownby, Vicki Norman, and Jack and Betty Newman  
 JONES CHAPEL: Rev. Dane and Marilyn Gressett, Judy Ownby, Carol Ownby, and Ryan Whaley  
 MT. ZION: Rev. Woody Moore, Marilyn Snoddy, John and Brenda McAllister  
 MULBERRY GROVE: Rev. Austin Williams, Gwynn and Phyllis Tyler, Wayne and Linda Gough  
 SHARON: Rev. Perry Clore, Tommy and Genie Bradshaw, and Audrey Ragland  
 TAR WALLET: Victoria McHenry, Andrew McHenry, Joe and Kathy Weaver  
 VISITOR: Graham Donahue  
 Others from Jones Chapel who helped in the kitchen and/or attended worship: Cassie Tomlin, Angie Dunfee, Helen Bryan, Gene Bradbury, Dennis Parker, April Whaley and Deborah Henshaw.

#### FROM YOUR MODERATOR>>>

Praise God for our JRBA spring meeting at Jones Chapel on May 11. It was a blessed time together! THANK YOU to all the Jones Chapel members who participated in one way or another. We had good music by Graham Donahue who filled in for his granddad, Rev. Lewis Brandt, who was in the hospital. Pastor Dane Gressett, Judy Ownby and Carol Ownby also blessed us with their singing and playing. The food provided by Jones Chapel and all of you was delicious, enjoyed, and appreciated. Thank you to Rev. Tommy Armstrong for the Commissioning of our Bland Mission Team. And, thank you to all others that worked behind the scenes to make our meeting happen.



THANK YOU for all your efforts to make the graduates feel special on this "once-in-a-lifetime" event – graduation from high school and Baccalaureate Services. Remember Jesus left the 99 to seek the one. We can't always look at numbers, but rather know that the blessing of one or a few can be significant to the Kingdom!

May you and your family have a blessed summer.

In Christ's Love,  
 Marilyn Snoddy  
 Moderator

#### KEEP IN PRAYER>>>

- Those who are lost and need to know the Savior
- JRBA Churches without a Pastor: Buckingham, Chestnut Grove, and Goshen
- JRBA Churches, Pastors, and Leadership
- Vacation Bible Schools
- May 19 – 23: Antioch (Scottsville) Youth to CrossRoads Summer Camp
- Victims of gun violence throughout our country
- Leaders (Local, State, Nation, and World)
- Victoria Nina Vassle, 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



*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,  
 by prayer and petition,  
 with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
 And the peace of God,  
 which transcends all understanding, will guard  
 your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
 Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

#### LOST & FOUND

*A ladies' gray sweater was left at Jones Chapel after the JRBA Spring Meeting. It was a size 1X. If it belongs to you, please let Phyllis know so that you can retrieve it. Call 434-983-7385.*

**FINANCIAL PAGE**  
**REGULAR BUDGET RECEIPTS**  
**2022 - 2023**

Church	May	Year-to-Date
Antioch (SV)		\$1,000.00
Antioch Union		\$ 500.00
Arvon		
Buckingham	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00
Cedar		\$ 3,000.00
Chestnut Grove		
Enon	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
FBC Dillwyn		\$ 1,000.00
Fitzgerald		
Fork of Willis		\$ 420.00
Gladstone Memorial		
Goshen		
Jones Chapel	\$ 234.00	\$ 1,427.00
Mt. Tabor		
Mt. Zion		\$ 1,800.00
Mulberry Grove		\$3,993.00
Sharon		\$ 906.00
Tar Wallet		\$ 1,000.00
Alma Hunt		
Individuals		
Amazon Smile		\$ 27.62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 884.00</b>	<b>\$16,223.62</b>

**Approved Budget for 2022 – 2023: \$30,342.52**

Actual Budget \$29,694.00 + \$648.52 Carryover Missions Blitz  
**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, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023), NOT the calendar year.

**OTHER BUDGETED LINE ITEMS:**



**RAH Beginning 8/01/22**

Church	May	Year-to-Date
JRBA Budget 2022-2023		\$ 500.00
Antioch (Scottsville)		
Antioch Union		\$ 500.00
Arvon		
Buckingham		
Cedar		
Chestnut Grove		
Enon	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
First Baptist Dillwyn		
Fitzgerald Memorial		
Fork of Willis		
Gladstone Memorial		\$ 721.99
Goshen	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Jones Chapel		\$ 100.00
Mt. Tabor		
Mt. Zion		\$ 400.00
WMU	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Mulberry Grove		
Sharon		
Tar Wallet		
Individual Gifts		\$ 150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,471.99</b>

**ADDITIONAL MISSIONS:**

ALL monies expended are listed each month.

**Budgeted**

\$1,600.00

Fall Meeting Offering: \$656.00

**Expended in October: \$100 Each:**

Southside VA Pregnancy Center, Grace Inside Prison Ministry, Gideons, BCM (Longwood/Hampden Sydney), Southside Fellowship of Christian Athletes, BGAV Disaster Response, Piedmont Habitat for Humanity

**Designated Offering for Disaster Relief: \$656.00**

**NO EXPENDITURES IN MAY - BALANCE: \$900.00**

**MISSIONS BLITZ**

Contributor	May	Year End
Designated Carryover from 2021 – 2022		\$ 648.52
JRBA Budget 2022 – 2023		\$ 250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 898.52</b>

**NO EXPENDITURES IN MAY.**

**BLAND MINISTRY CENTER**

Church	May	Year -to-Date
JRBA Budget-Bland Ministry Center		\$ 500.00
Jones Chapel	\$ 305.00	\$ 505.00
Mt. Zion WMU		\$ 500.00
Mulberry Grove-Bland Ministry Ctr.	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sharon		\$ 230.00
Tar Wallet	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00
Individuals	\$ 140.00	\$ 190.00
JRBA budgeted to Mission Team	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
JRBA Spring Meeting Offering	\$ 283.00	\$ 283.00
Team Member Contributions	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,643.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,123.00</b>

**ALL FUNDS EXPENDED – SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS.**

**MISSION TRIPS**

**Budgeted for 2022 – 2023: \$ 2,500**

NOV.: Hope for Appalachia (Kentucky) - \$50 each (3 volunteers) = \$150.00

Gwynn Tyler – Honduras - \$100.00

FEB.: Hope for Appalachia - \$50 each (12 volunteers) = \$600.00

**MAY: JRBA Bland Mission Team - \$100.00**

**BALANCE: \$1,550.00**

**NON-BUDGETED MINISTRY:**

(ALL monies by donation.)

**JOHN E. MANN, SR. BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Donations	May	Year-to-Date
Carryover from 2021 – 2022		\$ 11,753.38
Buckingham		\$ 300.00
Enon	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
First Baptist Dillwyn		\$ 500.00
Mulberry Grove		\$ 300.00
Mt. Zion		\$ 100.00
Sharon		\$ 200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,450.00</b>

**Expenditures in May: \$ 115.00**

**AVAILABLE DESIGNATED FUNDS: \$6,612.38**

**COPIER FUND**

Estimated cost for new copier & maintenance contract: \$5,000.00\*

Church/Donor	May	Total-to-Date
Sharon		\$ 264.00
Individual		\$ 500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 764.00</b>

\*The Executive Board has approved this expenditure when needed. If you or your church would like to make a donation to offset the cost to JRBA, please send a check payable to JRBA, P. O. Box 1219, Dillwyn, VA 23936. Please write "Copier Fund" on the memo line of the check.



