

Henry County Baptist Association

MARCH/APRIL 2021

THE CALLER

Sharon Smith, Office Administrator Phone: 276-638-2951 Email: hcbaptists@gmail.com Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Closed Monday and Friday

Our Association is a fellowship of 29 self-governing churches who voluntarily cooperate together to reach people for Christ through missions and ministries and to strengthen ourselves according to Biblical principles.



And



- **GOOD NEWS JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY:** Extending a HUGE WELCOME to Chaplain Joe Collins and his volunteers to share our building space with them. Chaplain Joe moved in February 3rd, and has been busy setting up his office. We feel this is such an appropriate ministry to share our building with. Feel free to stop by anytime to welcome Chaplain Joe and volunteers to their new “home”. Also, Chaplain Joe thanks you all who took part at Christmas by writing cards, donating, and assembling gift bags with soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, socks, and candy to nearly 300 inmates and 115 staff. To follow are 3 “thank you” messages from inmates:
 1. Thank you for providing some relief in this time of doubt and despair. It really is a blessing to know there is actually people out there who care enough about prisoners to provide their time and effort to put together a little Christmas cheer for us. Truly a miracle of Jesus himself and shows even in the darkest times.
 2. This has been a hard year. I haven't seen by family in over nine months. Here lately, I had nearly lost all hope and had been ready to give up. Your kind words nearly brought tears to my eyes. With everything going on it is very easy to feel alone, forgotten, and like nobody cares. Your small gift changed that today.
 3. You are a true blessing. We would like to thank each of you churches and individuals that made this gift possible. It came at a time that it was needed, not only for the items in the bag but knowing that someone on the outside is thinking of us. When our family and friends have turned their backs on us, it is comforting to know that we were not forgotten.
- **RACEWAY MINISTRIES:** April 8-10 will be our first weekend of night racing at Martinsville Speedway. This triple header will be something new for all of us. Our Team is ready to assist in whatever ways may be needed. With three nights of serving, it is important we have enough volunteers to cover our responsibilities. You are invited to join us. If interested, call Tim Byrd at 276-252-5052 and share with him how much and when you will be able to serve. Our ministry has been blessed for almost 30 years to able to serve and minister at Martinsville Speedway, and we are still being faithful, obedient, and ready!

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES CONTINUED.....

- **WMUV:** The mission trip to Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota has been changed to March. The exact dates have not yet been determined. Construction work volunteers are needed, so if you are interested, please contact Cathy Banton at cbanton@wmuv.org soon to find out the trip dates and details.
- **FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:** Thank you for your support. Through your generosity coaches and athletes are being transformed by Jesus Christ around the world.
- **MISSION OPPORTUNITY:** This mission is perfect for your Youth group, your WMU, or your church as a whole. The Food Pantry, which the Association supports, is located on the property of One Accord Baptist Church on Kings Mountain Road, and needs new leadership. The food is supplied by and delivered to the site by USDA, and is only open twice a month on Saturdays. Please pray about this opportunity, and then call Chris Knight, Chairman of Deacons at One Accord, at 276-224-9382 for more information. We do not want this valuable ministry to the community to come to an end.

COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS, CELEBRATIONS

PASTOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- March 3- Jared Austin, Greenwood, 2019
- April 3- Joe Wooldridge, New Vision, 2016
- April 7- Dion Noel, Shiloh Missionary, 2019
- April 25- Ashley Harrington, Starling Avenue, 2016
- April 25- Brian Harrington, Starling Avenue, 2016



PASTOR BIRTHDAYS:

- March 5- Clyde Murray, Jr, Associate Pastor/Minister of Music, Hillcrest
- March 9- Ashley Harrington, Starling Avenue
- March 11- Keith Spangenberg, Retired
- March 13- Roy Ford, Jr., Retired
- March 13- John Fulcher, Retired
- March 14- Francis Martin, Retired
- March 16- Dennis Knight, Retired
- March 21- Richard Harrison, Retired
- March 29- Doug Ramsey, Interim
- April 17- Harold Draper, Retired
- April 25- Mike Hatfield, Chatham Heights



PASTOR RETIREMENT:

Rev. Dr. Joey McNeill, pastor of Fort Trial Baptist Church since 1998, has announced his retirement as of April 30, 2021. He and Darlene will take some time to visit family and travel but plan to remain in the community. Pastor Joey will eventually do some supply preaching and interim ministry. He has held many, many positions in the Association over the years. We greatly appreciate his faithfulness, support, steadfastness, and leadership as Pastor Joey will be sorely missed. We pray for a retirement time of good health, peace of heart, and happy travels!



CHURCH HEALTH

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Plans are tentatively being made for a VBS clinic in late April. Details will be sent to each church when plans are finalized.





Income/Expenses for January:

Income.....\$3775.17
Expenses.....\$3849.29
Net Income.....\$ -74.12

Trustees:

Donna Winebarger, appointed 2021
J.E. Pigg, appointed 1986
Paul Jones, appointed 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

THE NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 15th AT 7:00 PM. LOCATION YET TO BE DETERMINED.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Will begin working in March to fill the positions of Officers, Group Facilitators, Team Leaders, and committee Chairpersons. These positions are renewed or filled each year, and begin in October. Nominees will be presented for vote at April Executive Meeting.

5-YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE:

1. Discussed in December whether or not to sell the Association office building. The idea was presented to the Executive Committee, and it was voted to keep the building and to find a ministry to move in and share the space to better utilize the building. The end result is that Chaplain Joe Collins of the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry moved in the space in February.
2. Also discussed in December meeting was the possibility of transferring ownership of The Horne Home to HopeTree Family Services. As of this printing, the matter is still in progress.

Isaiah 40:10....

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand. CSB



The Director of the Food Pantry, Ralph Taylor, passed away in January. The pantry is located on the property of One Accord Baptist Church on Kings Mountain Road. The Association has financially assisted the pantry for many years. Ralph was a member and deacon at One Accord. His great smile and friendly personality was infectious, and will be greatly missed. Please pray for the peace that passes all understanding for his family and his church family.

We mourn the passing of one of the Association's pastors, Rev. Lew Bennett of First Baptist Church in Bassett in February. He had been pastor there for over 25 years. Pastor Lew also had pastored and been a part of planting mission churches for decades. Please pray for his broken and heavyhearted family and church family for peace and comfort.



David Doss, former Association Trustee and member of First Baptist Church in Martinsville, who passed away in September. Below is a note from his family:

“Thank you so much for your gift in my father’s memory to God’s Pit Crew. Missions about helping others and sharing with others God’s love had always been important to dad. He loved to meet new people and swap stories with them. May 2021 bring each of you good health and cheer.”

God Bless,
Karen, Jay, and Jon Doss

