

Henry County Baptist Association

MAY/JUNE 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:** Thank you for your continued prayers and support for ministry to inmates and staff in jails in Henry County and Martinsville. God continues to answer prayers as He blesses the work of Good News. Though no volunteers have yet been allowed in the jails, I was allowed to resume ministry in the Henry County jail. During the week prior to Easter, inmates requested and were given 75 bibles. I was able to hold bible study in each of the male pods resulting in several decisions for Christ. Please continue to pray for the Martinsville City jail to allow my return to ministry there. We have a strategic ministry plan for the new Henry County jail set to open in early 2022. Volunteer training was completed in April, as this new facility will accommodate expanded ministry opportunities. Therefore, we will need additional volunteers. Please pray for God to begin to stir the hearts of Kingdom minded people to join our ministry team. For more information, please email or call.

Chaplain Joe Collins

joe.collins@goodnewsjail.org

(804)896-0359

- **RACEWAY MINISTRIES:** I want to say how much we appreciate all the work by our Raceway Ministries Team to make the April race weekend at the Martinsville Speedway such a success. On top of all the COVID protocols, we also had to deal with some very difficult weather issues. But as you always do, we rose to the challenge and provided outstanding service to the fans and provided the track with the needed cleaning protocols in the stands. Jesus gave us the example in His ministry...by meeting people's needs, showing care and compassion, feeding and clothing them, and being a friend to them. We met the needs of the fans that needed special assistance....representing the One who we serve who calls us to put others first, as His hands and feet. I am proud and blessed to be a part of this team. We hope when racing resumes in the Fall that things will be much closer to "normal" so we will be able to open our ministry tents to welcome fans with refreshments and to host worship services. Take care, and pray about joining our ministry as we continue to seek ways to serve the Savior.

Co-Team Leader Tim Byrd

byrd85@comcast.net

(276)252-5052

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES CONTINUED.....

- **HORNE HOME:** The process of transferring the deed of the Horne Home to HopeTree Family services is still in the legal waiting process. After that is completed, we will no longer have the "Walk-A-Thon" but will designate one day in the Fall to be "Horne Home Sunday" to ask the churches to collect for a love offering for the residents to have funds to participate in recreational activities and cover travel costs.
- **HOPETREE FAMILY SERVICES:** "Who is HopeTree?" some of you may ask. Formerly known as The Virginia Baptist Children's Home, founded in 1890, it is Virginia's oldest continuous provider of children's services and providers of foster care. They are continually seeking families who would open their hearts and home to a child or young person in need. If you have questions about foster care, Jason Masching can be reached by email at JasonM@HopeTreeFS.org or by phone at 540-444-0566. HopeTree also provides a state-wide network of services for adults with intellectual disabilities. Hence, The Horne Home in Martinsville.
- **FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:** While 2020 was a year of postponements and cancellations, 2021 is looking up and the games have begun! Basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball games are being played at Patrick Henry Community College, and everyone is feeling so very blessed to be a part of the new season. PHCC has allowed me to be on campus and speak to coaches and student athletes. Though last year was challenging, FCA Southside has remained strong and continued to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our coaches and athletes.
In June we will be hosting a 3-day camp from 28th-30th at Smith River Complex. We will be using a curriculum of doing sports God's way. For more information, contact:

Robert Hicks, Area Director

southsidevafca.org

(434)770-7180

- **OPERATION INASMUCH:** We very recently asked our churches to share with us if they think we should plan for an OIAM missions day this year. Each church will be informed once a decision has been made.

COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS, CELEBRATIONS

PASTOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- June 27- Daniel Reed, Assoc Pastor/Children & Youth Fort Trial, 2010



PASTOR BIRTHDAYS:

- May 17- Tony Lundy, Pastor, Axton
- May 19- Joe Wooldridge, Pastor, New Vision



ANNUAL MEETING: Mark your calendars now to attend our Annual Meeting on October 12th at First Baptist Church, Ridgeway.

CHURCH HEALTH

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** A planning meeting was held on May 3rd. To follow are some ideas from the meeting on how to conduct VBS this year due to the virus:
 - set up registration outside (weather permitting) and strongly encouraging online pre-registration
 - have a car rider line and use walkie talkies to dismiss children so parents do not have to come inside
 - not have outside recreational activities
 - have individual containers for each child containing their craft supplies, book, pencils, etc.
 - students to stay in one room and the teachers will rotate
 - if having a worship rally, not to have anyone hold flags

If you have further questions or need more information about VBS, please contact our VBS Team Leader Rebecca Vernon at rebeccavernon@yahoo.com or call 276-340-8243.

Known VBS scheduled dates:
- Fort Trial: July 11-16
- FBC, Collinsville: July 18-22
- Chatham Heights: July 25-29



- **NEW PASTORS and INTERIM:**
 - One Accord Baptist Church- Pastor David King
 - Mayo Baptist Church- Rev. Todd Barnes
 - FBC, Bassett- Rev. Doug Ramsey, Interim





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Income/Expenses for March:

Income.....\$5136.68
Expenses.....\$4932.02
Net Income..... \$204.66

Officers:

Moderator: Merle Prince, Starling Avenue
Vice-Moderator: Rev. Lewis Harris, FBC Ridgeway
Clerk: Donna Winebarger, Oak Level
Treasurer: Jeanie Mann, Hillcrest
Facilitator: Rev. Libby Grammer, FBC Martinsville
Facilitator: Rev. David Cameron, Chatham Heights

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Meeting was held April 15th, with a quorum. Voted on: minutes of January meeting, Treasurer's report, Nominating Committee report, financial approval for a church secretaries luncheon, and building upgrades turned over to Property Committee. Discussion included two new pastors, an Interim pastor, upcoming Annual Meeting plans, and VBS.
- **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** May 20th will be my 8 year anniversary with the Association. I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL that I work with on a regular basis! You all are volunteers that are the glue that holds this ministry together. Thank you for allowing me to ensure the glue gets to the right place at the right time!



MESSAGE FROM REV. MIKE HATFIELD

Pastor of Chatham Heights Baptist Church
(taken from the church April 30, 2021 newsletter)

“TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME”



Nothing should go back to normal. Normal wasn't working. If we go back to the way things were, we will have lost the lesson. May we rise up and do better.

We are heading into a summer of re-set for our church. But we aren't alone. Every church is facing the same transition whether they wish to acknowledge it or not. What will we do with the time we were given during the COVID pandemic? I've counseled with more than a few couples in my ministry. One of the greatest refrains from many is "I just want it back the way it was." But I must remind them, sometimes sternly, "to reset things back to 'the way they were' will only lead you back to here, where you are. The 'way things were' is the reason you are at this point in the first place. You have to want more and better than the 'way things were'.

This is just as true for the church. All our programs, habits, schedules, and traditions have served a great purpose, but they are not eternal nor are they all working, before 2020 or after it. We are going on a **RESHAPE** journey beginning this Summer and into the Fall. But before we do, the best thing is to pray and examine our lives, our church, and our mission/ministry in Jesus' name. If we take advantage of this upheaval, God can do some tremendous things out of this time. God wants us to not squander time, especially when it comes to the Kingdom.

Make this a personal journey about your own Christian faith. What's more, re-asses what all this time has taught you about the important things. Family has not been immune from this pandemic. Hopefully, it has helped us not take those we love in our family and friendships for granted. Let us pledge to pray together that God will lead us to **"Take Advantage of the Time"** He has gifted us this year.



PRACTICE THE PAUSE

When in **doubt**, pause
When **angry**, pause.
When **tired**, pause.
When **stressed**, pause.

And when you pause,
Pray.
-Toby Mac

