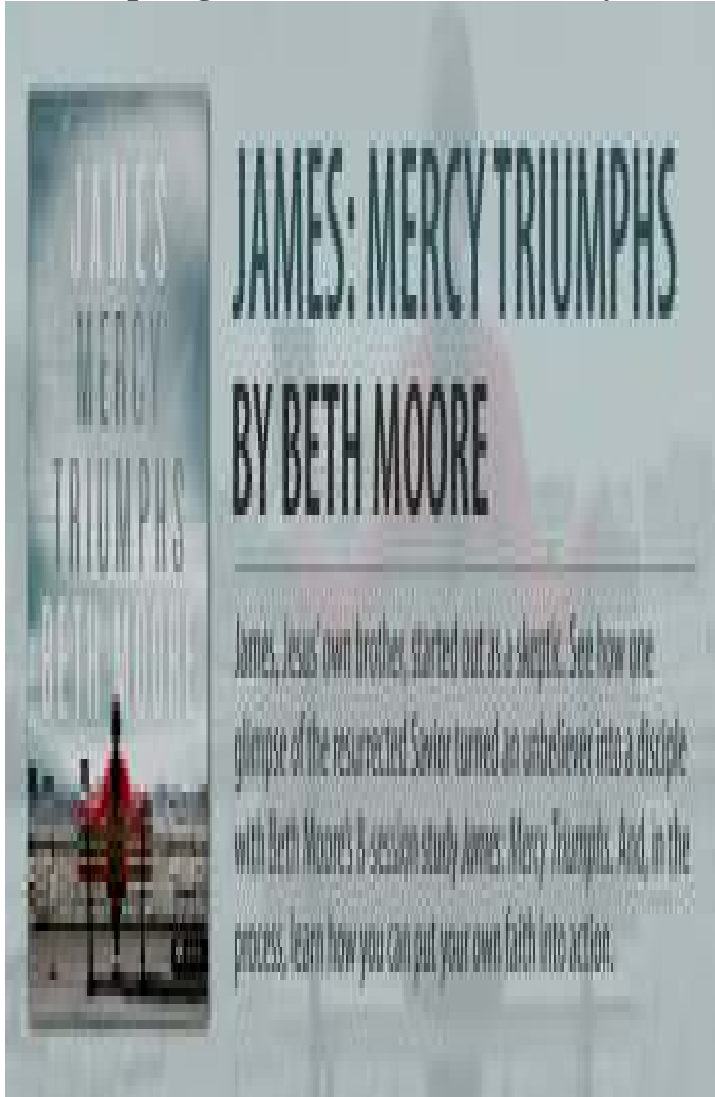


# The Informer

February 2012  
Three Forks Baptist Association  
[www.3forksassoc.org](http://www.3forksassoc.org)

**AND NOW  
ABIDETH FAITH,  
HOPE, LOVE,  
THESE THREE;  
BUT THE  
GREATEST OF  
THESE IS LOVE.**  
*1 Corinthians 13:13*

## Spring 2012 Ladies' Bible Study



Three Forks Association Building  
513 Jefferson Rd, Boone, NC  
(8 Sessions) Beginning Thursdays,  
March 15<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8pm  
(Skipping Maundy Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.)

Workbook: \$15 (Pay Three Forks Baptist Association,  
at the 1st session.)

**Register by March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Call Donna at 828-264-4450 or email  
[donnanealy@gmail.com](mailto:donnanealy@gmail.com)

**The 171<sup>st</sup> Semi-Annual Meeting** of the Three Forks Baptist Association will be held April 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 3:30PM and the session begins at 4PM. **The location of this meeting has been changed from Perkinsville Baptist Church to 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Blowing Rock.** Please make a note of the new location and make plans now to attend. Our afternoon speaker will be Rev. Allan Blume, Editor of the Biblical Recorder and our local evening message will be delivered by Rev. Charlie Martin of Bethel Baptist Church.

**Housing Availability:** A unique opportunity has been presented through the Association for missionaries on furlough or other “temporarily displaced” missionaries. A three bedroom, one bath house located in downtown Boone is available now through the end of May 2012. The house may also be used for visiting evangelists and revival pastors and their families. The house is completely furnished with two beds, linens, washer, dryer and all utilities already hooked up. The owner, Michael Curcio, may be reached at 406-2996 or by email at [curciom@appstate.edu](mailto:curciom@appstate.edu) for further questions or for bookings. Mr. Curcio is only looking to recoup utility expenses, but is willing to negotiate with any missionary or minister on pricing. The house has a large backyard that is also perfect for children. However, no pets or smoking is permitted in the home.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Three Forks Baptist Association Executive Committee (Pastor and two elected delegates) will meet on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. On the agenda is the Proposed Order of Business for the April Semi-Annual Meeting, preliminary nominating and committee on committees report, Director of Missions report and Associational Leaders reports (Evangelism, Youth, WMU/Women's Ministries, Christian Outreach Center, Jail Ministry, etc.)

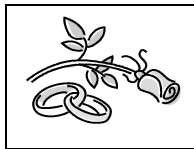
Please mark your calendars now to attend this important and informative event. If there is inclement weather, an announcement will be made on WATA 1450AM radio station.

## Calendar of Events for February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 3PM Jail Ministry (Rev. Mark Chaney, Howard's Creek)  
6<sup>th</sup> 4PM-7PM Christian Outreach Center food distribution  
at First Baptist Church, Boone  
9<sup>th</sup> 1PM Order of Business Committee at TFBA  
9<sup>th</sup> 3PM Jail Ministry (Dr. Barry Nealy, TFBA)  
9<sup>th</sup> 6PM Missions Development Council at TFBA  
13<sup>th</sup> 4PM-7PM Christian Outreach Center food distribution  
at First Baptist Church, Boone  
16<sup>th</sup> Noon Finance Committee Meeting at TFBA  
16<sup>th</sup> 3PM Jail Ministry (Dr. David Luster, Greenway)  
20<sup>th</sup> 4PM-7PM. Christian Outreach Center food distribution  
at First Baptist Church, Boone  
20<sup>th</sup> 7PM Executive Committee at TFBA  
23<sup>rd</sup> 3PM Jail Ministry (Rev. David Ricker, Three Forks)  
27<sup>th</sup> 4PM-7PM Christian Outreach Center food distribution  
at First Baptist Church, Boone



### February Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 5<sup>th</sup> Rev. Bud Russell, Associate Pastor, Mount Vernon  
24<sup>th</sup> Rev. Jim Potts, Middle Fork

### Church Anniversaries and Established Milestones

Dr. Barry Nealy, Director of Missions, 8 years  
Brushy Fork Baptist Church 154 years, South Fork 179 years,  
Willow Valley 77 years and Willowdale 101 years

### Focus For the Females:

- ❖ The ministries of WMU NC are made possible by your gifts to the Heck-Jones® Offering. *Set Free*, based on John 8:31b-32, is the theme of this year's offering. The Week of Prayer for WMU NC is February 12-19. The scripture says, "If you hold to my teaching, you really are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." This reminds us that we have been set free by the truth through Jesus Christ and we are called to bring that truth to others. We can do that by promoting missions through your gifts to the Heck-Jones® Offering.
- ❖ The Women's ministry groups are sponsoring a drive for hats, gloves and scarves to donate to the Hunger Coalition. Items DO NOT have to be new, but pre-laundering would be appreciated. Collect these items and deliver to the Association by February 15<sup>th</sup> or deliver directly to Hunger Coalition personally.
- ❖ The 2012 Missions Extravaganza will be April 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> at Ridgecrest Conference Center. This year's theme is "**Challenged ... Prepared... Equipped**" from Joshua 3:5. Bible Study/Theme Interpretation will be led by Phyllis Elvington with worship music led by Bud & Barbara Lee.
- ❖ Patti Huffman will host another pillowcase dress and doll sewing project at the Associational Office from 10AM-2PM, on Saturday, March 17th. She will be teaching how to make the dresses and dolls and the young girls will help decorate. Bring your portable sewing machine if possible and any supplies you may have on hand. Call Patti at 773-7386 for more info.
- ❖ WMU Scholarship applications are now being received. For an application and criteria, please call Anita at the office or go to the website at [www.3forksassoc.org](http://www.3forksassoc.org) to download the form. Deadline for submitting application is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ The WMU Annual Meeting is coming in May. The event will feature a meal, scholarship winner presentation, voting on leadership positions, guest speakers and ministry reports. Keep watching the Informer for details on date, time and location.

## Church Bulletin Board

**Gap Creek:** Rev. Rick Critcher is helping with the Happy Trails Cowboy Church in Ashe County, where your cowboy or cowgirl boots, jeans and even your horse are always welcome! This casual way of worship with still a spirit-filled atmosphere is meeting every Monday evening at 6:30PM and every Tuesday evening for Bible study at 7PM at the Blue Ridge Dinner Theater on Highway 16 in Glendale Springs. For more information call 336-977-2293 or 336-977-6367. Keep reading the Informer for an upcoming article featuring not only this innovative way to worship, but an interview with Pastor Rick and his calling to reach people in the community.

**Howard's Creek:** will hold a Ladies Bible Study from 6PM-8PM on the following Mondays: February 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Mount Vernon:** requests save the dates for their Portrait of Love Easter Drama to be held March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Poplar Grove:** youth will be hosting a chicken fundraiser dinner on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5PM. The dinner is by donation only and all proceeds are for an upcoming mission trip. Take-outs will be also be available.

### Churches Searching for Pastors

Clark's Creek (Rev. Daniel Trantham, Interim),  
Cove Creek (Rev. Shelby Stephens, Interim),  
Mount Vernon (Dr. Jim Henry, Interim),  
Perkinsville (Dr. Jim Wayne, Interim), Poplar Grove

### Other Announcements & Events

**Refuge Baptist Church** located on Highway 321 in Blowing Rock across from the furniture showcase cabin, will be hosting The Dollar Brothers in concert on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6PM; Concert begins at 7PM. The concert is FREE, however donations will be accepted with all proceeds going to a recipient in need of a kidney transplant. For more information or directions, please contact Don White at 828 406-3591.

**Missions Rally for Region 7:** (Men, Women & Youth) will be held on Monday, February 13th, at West Yadkin Baptist Church in Hamptonville, NC. Meal begins at 6PM; Program at 7PM. **Registration for FREE meal deadline is February 8th; deadline for just attending the rally is Monday, February 6th** Call Kecia Morgan at 1-800-395-5102 ext 5613 or email

[kmorgan@ncbaptist.org](mailto:kmorgan@ncbaptist.org) for registration or further info

**PLAN to VAN:** Pastors and others interested can vanpool to the State Evangelism Conference on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The Conference is held at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem from 9:30AM to 9:00PM. The van will leave from Mount Vernon Baptist Church and likely return by supper time. **Call the Associational Office to register** for this transportation and fellowship opportunity at 828-264-4482.

**Three Forks Baptist Association** will be sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2:30PM at the Boone Mall. **Our goal is to DOUBLE our goal set of 25 pints, meaning we want to see 50 donors.** Since this is the Saturday prior to Mother's Day Sunday, why not do this in honor or in memory of your mother? Appointments are be taken by Nancy Haas at 828-264-2884. Call today to pick a time that can save a life!

## CHALLENGES By: Dr. Barry Nealy

All of us face our share of challenges. Every week families share some severe challenges with me at our Christian Outreach Center. We talk about how to handle these situations, we pray together. Often, someone tells me weeks later how the challenge was met. They are always grateful to share their success with someone who shared the stress. The Lord has provided a machine for one man with sleep apnea that saved his life. One lady with a risky pregnancy has given birth to a healthy baby. Several people without jobs have found employment. A child in prison was released and is back with his family learning to live a godly life one day at a time. All these are challenges our human resources could not meet, but God did. I am thankful to have a small part in God's working in our community. The greatest sign of God's Kingdom is a transformed life. Meeting challenges is a way the Lord has of showing people the door to His Kingdom.

Not all challenges require miracles. Have you ever seen a tree break concrete with its growing roots? Growth also meets challenges. I praise the Lord that several churches in our Association have added to buildings and paid off debt as they grow and aid people. Rutherford, Laurel Springs, Howard's Creek and Mount Vernon have done this and now Boone First Baptist is tackling some challenges with their property. Our Association has also handled part of our building challenge this past year by roofing and painting. My challenge to you and our churches this year is that we raise \$15,000 to replace carpet and complete the renovation of our building. Our building just passed its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary so we need to put it in order. We use it extensively like we did for our Bethlehem and Beyond Nativity Tour and for our Executive Board February 20<sup>th</sup>. We house mission teams in our building while they serve in our area. Please pray and contribute to this "mission house." Like our individual church buildings, it serves well in the Kingdom and it is something we can continue to use and take pride in for years to come. Let's meet this challenge together as we keep helping people around us in Christ's name. You can contribute by simply sending us a check marked "3F building."

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### I Also Have A Dream By: Anita Bradley

I know that the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday has passed, but listening to various parts of his "I Have A Dream Speech" on the news and radio, prompted me to use an excerpt from it for this month's column. The quote reads: ***"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."***

Hearing this, I began to ponder how judgmental we as followers of Christ can be. We see homeless who appear to be healthy and wonder why they don't have a job. We feed the hungry through our Christian Outreach Center and even do some deliveries to their residences only to question do they really need the food or are they receiving it because we offer it free. We sit in the pews of our churches and we will take note of who is wearing what and how many times we have already seen that outfit. We find it difficult to get along with each other inside the church walls and the community around us knows the gossip, quarrels and rumors, so they chose not to attend.

We focus on the style of music, the way the message is delivered and the length of it, the color of the carpet, the light bulbs out in the chandeliers and any other trivial matter that will keep us distracted from worship and the hearing the Word. We spend hours in committee and business meetings and yet we rarely find time to visit the lost, unchurched, shut-in and sick.

I guess what I am getting at is that I too have a dream. My dream is that we are no longer known by the church we attend, or the committee we serve on, or the positions we hold, but by the Jesus-like character we exemplify in the community we live in and the places we travel. I have a dream that I am more than a member at Cove Creek Church or an employee of the Three Forks Baptist Association, but a follower of Christ who's reputation and character mirrors as much as possible that of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech ended with the song lyrics from "My Country 'Tis of Thee" where he truly dreamed that one day freedom to ring for all. I will end my dream with lyrics from a group named Casting Crowns.

***It's crowded in worship today, As she slips in trying to fade into the faces, The girl's teasing laughter is carrying farther than they know, Farther than they know.***

***Chorus: But if we are the body, Why aren't His arms reaching? Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching? And if we are the body, Why aren't His feet going? Why is His love not showing them there is a way? There is a way. A traveler is far away from home, He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back row, The weight of their judgmental glances, Tells him that his chances are better out on the road. Jesus paid much too high a price. For us to pick and choose who should come, And we are the body of Christ. Jesus is the way.***

Three Forks Baptist Association  
513 Jefferson Road  
Boone, NC 28607

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The High Country Youth Basketball League is in full swing with over 20 teams competing for the title of #1 in Sr. High Boys (grades 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>), Jr. High Boys (grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>) and Girls (grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) divisions. Games are played every hour on Saturday at Mount Vernon gym beginning at 8:30AM until 7:30PM; every Monday at Greenway gym beginning at 5:30PM until 9:30PM; and every Thursday at Boone United Methodist gym beginning at 5:30PM until 9:30PM. Every game has devotion and prayer time as players learn God's word, truth, promises and protection. Teams, players, families, fans and churches can find the full schedule by visiting the website created at [www.yourec.com](http://www.yourec.com) or contact League Director, Burl Greene at 773-1451 for details.

#### **Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina**

is conducting their 2012 Food Round-Up Drive the entire month of April. The Associational Office has agreed to be the collection point for food received.

A list of needed items was mailed to every Associational Church Women's Ministry Director and a bulletin-sized insert has been posted on the website for churches to download and copy. The deadline to have delivered to the Associational Office is Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, by Noon.

### **God's Valentine Gift**

*By Joanna Fuchs*

God's Valentine gift of love to us  
Was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book  
To while away the hours.  
His gift was to become a man,  
So He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us,  
So you and I could live.  
He gave us sweet salvation, and  
Instruction, good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies  
And love our Savior, too.  
So as we give our Valentines,  
Let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give  
Is that He gave everything.

#### **December 2011 Financial Summary**

<b>Budget Needs:</b>	<b>\$ 15,200.93</b>
<b>Recd in Dec:</b>	<b>18,915.19</b>
<b>Over for Month:</b>	<b>3,714.26</b>
<b>Under Y T D:</b>	<b>2,732.35</b>
<b>Beg. Bal 12/1/11:</b>	<b>5,443.47</b>
<b>Church Receipts:</b>	<b>18,915.19</b>
<b>Deposits Credits:</b>	<b>535.00</b>
<b>Deposits Misc:</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Exp for Month:</b>	<b>21,387.82</b>
<b>End Bal 12/31/11:</b>	<b>3,505.84</b>