

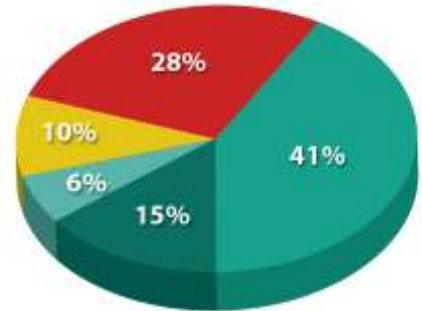
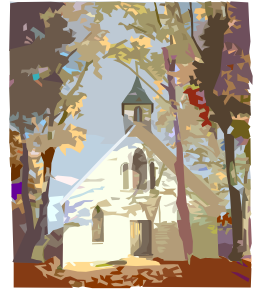
# The Informer

September 2011  
Three Forks Baptist Association  
[www.3forksassoc.org](http://www.3forksassoc.org)

I was glad when  
they said unto me,

Let us go into the  
house of the Lord.

*Psalm 122:1*



41%	NC Baptist Men	\$ 856,720
15%	Mission Camps	\$ 313,080
6%	Mobilization Ministry Projects	\$ 124,200
28%	Church Planting	\$ 596,000
10%	Associational Projects	\$ 210,000

September 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Missions Offering Focus Week

Did you know that 10% of what is given by our churches comes back to the Association for projects? Last year, we received over \$4,000.00 from this offering! Pray for God to lead you as you plan to give.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...** Beth Moore DVD Study  
"HERE and NOW...THERE and THEN" lecture on the Book of Revelation

**Facilitator:** Donna Nealy (light assignments involved)

**When?** Tuesdays, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> - Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8PM

**Where?** Associational Office, 513 Jefferson Rd, Boone, NC

**Cost?** Study Book is \$10 (includes tax & shipping)

**Register?** Call Anita at 828-264-4482

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bethlehem & Beyond Launched

This year Bethlehem & Beyond is growing and there are plenty of areas of service for everyone of every age! We are adding a *Bethlehem Bonanza* kid's event for ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grade on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, from 12-4PM, at Greenway Baptist Church; caroling downtown and in the Boone Mall; live nativity characters will be at the Associational Office during the Nativity Tours that have been set for December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 6PM-8PM, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10AM-4PM and December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2PM-5PM; a petting zoo for sheep, calves and donkeys and so much more. But all of this requires your prayers, help and support. This is not a budgeted event, but it is a God Glorifying event and we believe that "*all things are possible through Him...*" For more information, contact Donna Nealy at 828-264-4450 or Anita at the office.

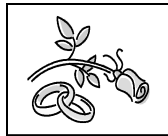


## Calendar of Events for September

- 5<sup>th</sup> Associational Office Closed for Labor Day  
 6<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM Ladies Bible Study  
 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM International Student Ministry Dinner  
 at Perkinsville Baptist Church  
 11<sup>th</sup> Gardner-Webb Ministerial Day in Churches  
 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM Ladies Bible Study  
 20<sup>th</sup> Noon Finance Committee Meeting  
 20<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM Ladies Bible Study  
 27<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM Ladies Bible Study



## September Birthdays and Anniversaries



1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Charlie Martin	Bethel
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brenda Luster	Pastor's wife, Greenway
5 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Homer Murdock	South Fork
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cindy Retherford	Minister of Children, Mt. Vernon
7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Vernon Eller	Union
10 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. David & Linda Ricker	Three Forks
10 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Featherstone	Pastor's wife, Laurel Fork
17 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. David Luster	Greenway
26 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Wright	Pastor's wife, Mt. Calvary
28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Brent & Tracey Bolick	Laurel Springs
28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Joe & Mitzi London	Assoc. Pastor, Howard's Creek
28 <sup>th</sup>	Kimberly Guenther	Pastor's wife, 1 <sup>st</sup> Blowing Rock

### Church Anniversaries:

Cindy Retherford, Minister of Children, Mt. Vernon, 9 years  
 Rev. Kanoot Midkiff, Minister of Missions & Senior Adults  
 Mt. Vernon, 9 years  
 Rev. Joe London, Associate Pastor, Howard's Creek, 20 years

### Church Milestones this Month:

1<sup>st</sup> Baptist, Boone 140 years; Cove Creek 212 years; Zion Hill 125 years

### Jail Ministry: Thursdays, 3:00PM

September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Barry Nealy, Director of Missions
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Mark Chaney, Howard's Creek
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. David Ricker, Three Forks
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Charlie Martin, Bethel
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. George Wright, Mt Calvary

### Ongoing Opportunities, Ministries & Requests

**Green Street Catering** serves dinner at Alliance Bible Fellowship Thursday's from 5PM-6PM. Take-out meals are available from 3:30PM-5PM. Call Chastity Lesene at 278-2050 to place your order for dining in or taking out large quantities to deliver a meal to someone that is home-bound, struggling financially, has an illness, or could just use a blessing. The dinner is free and has been used as "date night" to couples who can't afford to go out and as a family outing.

### Church Bulletin Board

**Brushy Fork:** has called Rev. Toby Oliver as Pastor. Pastor Toby had been serving as Interim before being voted in on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Church Bulletin Board

**Greenway:** will host a High Country Gospel Jubilee at 6PM, on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Groups include New Jerusalem Bound, Cops for Christ, Chosen and the Homegoing Choir. Everyone is welcome!

**Howard's Creek:** *Kitchen in a Box* for tornado victims, an ongoing project for Howard's Creek, but items will be accepted at our office through the end of September. See our website or call Anita for a list of items to include.

**Mount Vernon:** ordained Jason Powers on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Jason began serving as Minister of Youth in June.

TRUTH Project Leader Training will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30AM-Noon in the Meadowview Room. The cost is \$99 per person or couple. To register visit [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org)

"Excel Still More" will be held October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Esther Burroughs. Cost is \$45 per person, or \$35 per person if you register with a group of 10 or more. Contact Pam Blume at 26-1924 by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Oak Grove:** has called Rev. Michael Gragg as Pastor. Rev. Gragg began serving September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Stony Fork:** invites you to a week of Thanksgiving, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30PM. Sunday night's guest speaker is Rev. Roy Smith and Rev. Chuck Call will be the guest speaker Monday – Friday. Special singing each night and everyone is invited to attend.

**Zion Hill:** will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Homecoming on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Service begins at 10AM, followed by lunch and special singing begins at 1:15 PM and 3PM. Everyone is invited to celebrate this milestone!

### Churches Searching for Pastors

Cove Creek, Mount Vernon  
 Perkinsville (Rev. Harold Bennett, Interim), Poplar Grove

**Pastors' Conference 10AM, October 3rd** will feature guest speaker Rev. Johnny Ross of GuideStone Financial Services. Rev. Ross will also make himself available for private financial planning sessions for any Pastor/Spouse or church staff interested in learning more about the many benefits, annuities, insurances and programs that GuideStone has to offer. To schedule a private appointment, please contact Anita at the Office.

### Christian Outreach Center

The COC is in desperate need of food items for the school backpack food program! Children on the free lunch program have very little to eat when school is not in session and over the weekend. These backpacks help fill the need of over 350 hungry children in our schools throughout Watauga County. Items needed are:

**Multi-packs:** juice boxes, granola or cereal bars, instant oatmeal, 1.5oz boxes raisins, fruit roll-ups, 4oz applesauce or fruit cups, snack crackers (nabs), snack cookies, beef jerky/slim jims and microwave popcorn.

**Single-serving sizes:** 7oz beanie weenie, 7oz mac & cheese, 3.3oz tuna, 7oz ravioli, 7oz spaghetti or spaghettios, 10oz. soup, 5 oz Vienna sausages, 7 oz. beefaroni, multi-packs of ramen noodles.

It is suggested that churches pick ONE item and try to collect 400 of that ONE item. Every backpack must contain the same 7-8 items in order to be distributed each week. Will you organize a food drive in your church or

## **BAPTIST HISTORY** Dr. Barry Nealy

There are many Baptists that grow up with traditions we name Baptist, but do not know the history from which we come. I believe it is important for us to have a firm understanding of the New Testament church and the present church where we serve the Lord. In this note I want to assemble a few facts, while letting you know that our web site contains details about Baptist history. You can look for these notes from the Director.

There are *four distinct beliefs* we will note which set Baptists apart from other church groups: 1) Salvation by faith alone, 2) Baptism's meaning and mode, 3) The Bible as sole authority in matters of faith and practice, and 4) Religious liberty. We can trace the history of Christ's churches in order to examine trends, corruption, key leaders and development of what we now call "denominations."

In 325 AD Emperor Constantine changed the face of church history when he declared Christianity to be the state religion of the Roman Empire. The churches became corrupted by the political influences of Rome so that what was convenient was proclaimed as what was true. One corruption was the idea that being a church member saved a person or brought him under the protection of God. The earlier in life this happened, the better, so churches began baptizing infants to protect them from evil by making them part of the church. Most churches throughout Europe baptized infants and those that did not were persecuted and killed as infidels.

Baptists formed churches in England and began teaching that baptism was for believers only. They were driven out of the country and most fled to the colonies where they began to flourish. Baptists championed religious liberty and developed numbers of followers by preaching the gospel along the frontier, accepting the uneducated as members. As long as they saw evidence of a changed, Christ-like life, they baptized new believers into church membership. America became the haven of free religion and the Bible the standard of truth, used for swearing in officials and in court to seal a witness's testimony.

### **Other Announcements & Events**

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the General Assembly will vote on a bill that will allow the citizens of North Carolina to vote on the Marriage Amendment: "*Marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State*". Legislators must pass legislation to put the Marriage Amendment on the ballot. We need both the NC House and Senate to vote to put the Amendment on the ballot in 2012! Begin making contact with our lawmakers in both the NC House and Senate asking them to vote for the Defense of Marriage Act. It is through personal contact that lawmakers are most persuaded. It has been shown that an email is somewhat effective, a personal call to their home or place of business is very effective, but a post card or letter is the most effective way to let our lawmakers know how we feel and where we stand on this issue. Churches are encouraged to have a letter writing party or start a phone tree on several evenings to help defend the sanctity of marriage here in North Carolina.

Visit [www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us) to discover which lawmaker represents our district and then get the information out to church members, family and friends to write or call them!

Three Forks Baptist Association  
 (Mon – Thurs; 8:30AM-2PM)  
 513 Jefferson Road  
 Boone, NC 28607

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Bulk Permit # 24  
 Boone, NC 28607

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Community Opportunity

**Basic English Language Skills:** Will you help identify people in your church or community who want to improve their ability to read and write? Many are stifled in job and income because they do not function well with this simple skill of literacy. If you will identify people who trust you about this matter, the Lord may use you to change their lives. They can have a free tutor to assist them on their own schedule. Simply have them contact Mrs. Beth Mueller by calling 265-2963. Mrs. Mueller leads our Watauga Literacy Council. If you have questions, you can e-mail her at [bethmueller@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethmueller@bellsouth.net)

### June 2011 Financial Summary

<b>Budget Needs:</b>	<b>\$ 17,608.18</b>
<b>Recd in June:</b>	<b>13,448.58</b>
<b>Under for Month:</b>	<b>(4,159.58)</b>
<b>Under Y T D:</b>	<b>(22,411.94)</b>
<b>Beg. Bal 6/1/11:</b>	<b>2,745.36</b>
<b>Church Receipts:</b>	<b>13,448.58</b>
<b>Deposits Credits:</b>	<b>565.00</b>
<b>Deposits Misc:</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Exp for Month:</b>	<b>15,435.69</b>
<b>End Bal 6/30/11:</b>	<b>\$ 2,323.25</b>



**VBS Reports Received:**  
 Bethel, Cove Creek, Laurel Springs,  
 Mabel, Mt. Vernon, Poplar Grove,  
 Rutherwood, Tabernacle, Union and  
 Zion Hill. It's not too late to send your  
 report in if you haven't done so!

### A Look Ahead at Ministry Events & Information

**High Country Praise Festival**, an annual event for Youth & College to share the Love of God through music and speakers, will be held Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30PM-8PM at the Holmes Convocation Center of Appalachian State University. Music guests include: Seventh Day Slumber, Jonny Diaz, Josh Wilson with Neal Hatfield and Roman Gabriel scheduled as this year's speakers. For more info, contact David or Dawn Ward of The Son's Light Ministries at 828-264-2007.

**NC Baptist Men** have added 3 videos of the disaster relief efforts following 9-11. Video 1: response at Pentagon serving 60,000 meals; Video 2: months at ground zero in New York; Video 3: the presentation of the Pentagon Cross to North Carolina Baptist Men at the Pentagon. Visit [www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=2423](http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=2423) to download any or all of these videos as we remember 9-11.

**Gardner-Webb Ministerial Education Day** for our Association is Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to request a student speaker for your church, contact Teresa Davis at 704-406-4277 or email her at [tdavis@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:tdavis@gardner-webb.edu)

**New Ministers' Wives Retreat** will be held at Camp Mundo Vista in Asheboro, October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$30 and you must register by September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**All About Women Expo** will be held Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM-5PM, at the Holmes Convocation Center on ASU Campus. Sponsored by Appalachian Regional Healthcare, this expo is designed to inspire, create and transform women's lives to want to "live" better. For more info or to volunteer to help at the Expo, contact Candy Jones at 828-268-8960.

**New Minister Orientation** will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are a new minister (within the last two years) in our Association and would like to attend or have more information sent to you, contact Anita at the office 264-4482 or Ashley Ferguson of the Baptist State Convention of NC at 1-800-395-5102 ext. 5657