

The Informer

December 2011

Three Forks Baptist Association
www.3forksassoc.org

“And she shall
bring forth a son,
and thou shalt
call His Name
JESUS: for He
shall save His
people from their
sins”

Matthew 1:21



O come let us adore
Him, Christ, the Lord!

Important Bethlehem and Beyond Dates:

Nov. 28th – Dec. 8th: Nativity Collection (an owner's form is requested with information so we can contact you to arrange pick-up of your loaned Nativity set once the event is over).

Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th: 6PM-8PM Caroling in the Boone Mall and downtown Boone (contact Michelle Isaacs at 297-1895 to schedule group or individual times). Currently, the following slots are still available for choirs, quartets, trios, duos and solos: Dec. 2nd at 6:30PM; Dec. 9th at 6PM, 6:30PM, 7PM and 7:30PM; Dec. 16th at 6:30PM, 7PM and 7:30PM.

Dec. 10th, 12PM-4PM: Bethlehem Bonanza for ages K-6th grade at Greenway Baptist Church.

Dec. 15th & 16th, 6PM-8PM: Nativity Tours at the Associational Office

Dec. 17th, 10AM-4PM: Nativity Tours at the Associational Office

Dec. 18th, 2PM-4PM: Nativity Tours at the Associational Office

All of this requires your prayers, help and financial support.

Visit the new website at www.bethlehemandbeyond.com for more details and information or contact Donna Nealy at 828-264-4450.

2nd Annual Bethlehem & Beyond Launched

You can get involved by helping with one or more events in the column to the right. Encourage your choir to carol, your youth to help with live nativity and your church to pray for those we will come in contact with. Everyone of every age can help! All of this requires your prayers, help and financial support.

Visit the new website at

www.bethlehemandbeyond.com

for more details and information, contact Donna Nealy at 828-264-4450 or Anita at the Associational Office at 828-264-4482.

*“All things are possible
through Him...”*



Thank you for allowing me to serve our Lord Jesus on church staff here at Mount Vernon for the past nine years. Your encouragement on my family's spiritual journey has strengthened our passion for sharing Christ and serving people. We are confident that God will be faithful to complete the good work He has started in you to touch and change



The Midkiff family prays with both sets of grandparents, Bud & Betty Russell, and Allan & Pam Blume during the IMB Missionary Appointment Service in Hattiesburg, MS, on November 16, 2011.

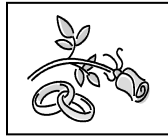
lives for eternity in our community, across our nation, and around the world. As our family moves forward by faith, we are so thankful for your continued prayers and partnership in the gospel. We know that we are not alone, but are truly being sent by you as our church family to answer God's call to serve with the International Mission Board in January 2012. You remain dear to our hearts, Kanöot & family –
Philippians 1:3-6

Calendar of Events for December

5th 6:30PM Pastor/Spouse Christmas Dinner @ Poplar Grove
11th – 14th Bethlehem & Beyond Decorating at TFBA
15th 6-8PM Nativity Tour at TFBA
16th 6-8PM Nativity Tour at TFBA
17th 10AM-4PM Nativity Tour at TFBA
18th 2PM-5PM Nativity Tour at TFBA
Dec 21st – January 2nd Associational Office Closed



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



2 nd	Janet Lawrence	Pastor's wife, Rutherwood
4 th	Rev. Toby & Hailey Oliver	Brushy Fork
11 th	David Retherford	Minister of Children's Husband, Mt. Vernon
14 th	Casey Gragg	Pastor's wife, Oak Grove
15 th	Dr. Gary & Janet Lawrence	Rutherwood
17 th	Betty Russell	Associate Pastor's wife, Mt. Vernon
20 th	Stephanie Martin	Pastor's wife, Bethel

Church Anniversaries:

Dr. Gary Lawrence, Rutherwood, 11 years

Church Milestones this Month:

(There are none celebrating in December)

Jail Ministry: Thursdays, 3:00PM

December 1 st	Rev. Vernon Eller, Union
December 8 th	Rev. George Wright, Mt. Calvary
December 15 th	Dr. Charlie Martin, Bethel

Church Bulletin Board

Bethel: December 16th at 7PM and December 18th at 11AM, Christmas musical "The Night Before Christmas"; December 18th, 5PM, Community Caroling and Hayride; December 24th, 6-7PM, Candlelight Service. Country Road Thrift Store at 3715 George's Gap Road, is now open on Mondays & Thursdays, 9AM-5:30PM, Fridays, Noon – 8:30PM and Saturdays, 9AM-5PM. Drop off times are Wednesdays, 2PM-6PM and Saturdays, 9AM-5PM. Contact Sharon Harbin at 297-5540 for more information.

1st Baptist Boone: Chancel Choir will present "An Appalachian Nativity" Cantata at 11AM, Sunday, December 11th; Chancel Bells will perform at 11AM, Sunday, December 18th and Adopt-A-Family Ministry, Carols and Candlelight Service at 6PM; Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion begins at 6PM and Christmas Day Worship will be held at 11AM, followed by a Community Luncheon from 12PM-2PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. **1st Baptist Boone** is seeking an Associate Pastor of Education, Children and Youth. This person will lead, develop, promote and grow ministries in Churchwide Christian Education and children and youth ministries. The position shall work closely with the Senior Pastor in planning with the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God. Resumes need to be sent to First Baptist Church Personnel Committee, 375 West King Street, Boone, NC, 28607 by the deadline of November 30, 2011.

Church Bulletin Board (continued)

Clark's Creek: has called Rev. Daniel Trantham as Interim. Pastor Daniel & wife, Lanna began serving in November 2011.

Greenway: December 4th, 6PM, Children's Christmas Play; December 18th, 10:45AM, Christmas Cantata "The Majesty of Heaven" with covered dish lunch to follow; December 21st, 7PM, Daycare Christmas Program. **The Filling Station,** Greenway's food pantry, needs donations of non-perishable goods. The food pantry hours are Tuesdays, Noon -3PM and Thursdays, 3PM-6PM. Call Ron Chadwell at 964-7040 for more information regarding this church operated ministry.

Mabel: December 18th, 6PM, Christmas Play with Adults and Children, "Mr. Wilson Finds Christmas"; December 25th, 10AM Candlelight Service followed by 11AM Worship Service.

Mount Calvary: December 14th, 6PM Live Nativity; 7PM Community Candlelight Service.

Oak Grove: December 3rd, Nativity Float in the Boone Parade; Sunday, December 11th, 6PM, Christmas singing followed by refreshments; December 18th, 11AM, Christmas Cantata "God Coming Down"; December 18th, 6PM, Candlelight Service.

Poplar Grove: is in need of a pianist. If interested, please call Will Townsend at 828-963-4523.

November 25th & 26th, from 6PM-8PM, Poplar Grove will have a live, drive-thru nativity. Free cider & cookies and a CD or cassette to listen to as you view each live drama scene from the warmth of your vehicle will be provided.

Rutherwood: will hold their children's Christmas play on Sunday, December 18th, at 6PM. On Sunday, December 25th; Sunday School will begin at 9AM, followed by morning worship at 10AM.

Churches Searching for Pastors

Cove Creek, Mount Vernon
Perkinsville (Rev. Harold Bennett, Interim through December 31, 2011), Poplar Grove

Want A Ministry Project You Can Do During the Winter Months?

At the Associational Office we have several projects that are need of adoption and they are INDOORS! A female cancer patient is in need of regular housecleaning while undergoing chemo therapy treatments; our upstairs accommodations could use some repairs and TLC; the Annual Book of Reports is almost ready to go to print, so copying, collating and binding could use extra pairs of hands; and our end of year procedures could use assistance with mail-outs for contributions. If you can assist in any of these capacities, please contact Anita at the Associational Office at 828-264-4482 or email her at threeforks@bellsouth.net

Women's Ministry News

6:30PM, Mon, December 5th, Pastor and Spouse Christmas Dinner will be held at Poplar Grove Baptist Church. Women's Ministry Groups from our Association provide an evening of appreciation for their Pastor and his wife by sponsoring a catered dinner in a Christmas decorated atmosphere. Everyone gets to fellowship and wish each other a seaSON-filled CHRISTmas and a God-Blessed New Year!

Ladies Bible Study Coming Spring 2012: The Spring Study will be a Beth Moore study on James. Keep watching the Informer for start date, time and cost. Facilitator will be Donna Nealy and the study will be held at the Associational Office.

Christian Outreach Center

The COC is in desperate need of food items for the weekend feeding program! Children on the free lunch program have very little to eat over the weekend. This program helps fill the need of over 385 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 macaroni & 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 to pick ONE item and collect 400 of that item. Every bag must be identical in order to be distributed. Organize a food drive in your church or Sunday School Class. Monetary donations may be mailed to the Associational Office at 513 Jefferson Road, Boone, NC, 28607. Visit their new website www.christianoutreachcenterboonenc.org

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

On Eagles Wings Ministries Update

Shared Hope International, a leader in the anti-trafficking movement, believes in the work being done at Hope House in Asheville.

They believe in it so much that they have provided a matching grant to further our programs in 2012 and are challenging YOU as individuals and as churches to match that amount to demonstrate that the community cares deeply about the victims rescued from sex trafficking. **They will match every dollar raised up to \$45,000.** We have until midnight on November 30th, 2011! You can donate online at www.oewm.net or by mail at the address below. Thank you in advance for helping us to reach this goal! This will do so much for the girls we serve. Emily Fitchpatrick, OEW, P.O. Box 9737, Asheville, NC 28815

Volunteer Training for On Eagles Wings will be held on Saturday, December 3rd, from 10:30AM-4PM, at Howard's Creek Baptist Church. Bring your own lunch or a few dollars to chip-in for pizza along with \$10.00 to cover the expense of a background check. Applications are available at the Associational office or online at www.oewm.net. Volunteers help women with life skills (sewing, cooking, financial stewardship, crafts), transportation, office assistance or train to become an ambassador for speaking on the anti-sex trafficking movement and volunteer recruitment.

Refuge Baptist Church is a new church in Boone that is currently meeting at the LaQuinta Inn on Highway 105 Extension. Rev. Ron & Carrie White are excited about this new ministry, but are looking for a permanent location and need your help. With twenty core members, and the potential for growth, the need for a place to have regular services and not have to set-up and take-down every Sunday would be of great benefit. If anyone knows of a building for rent that could be used Sunday mornings and Sunday nights for church services, please contact Carrie White at carrie.white78@gmail.com or call Anita at the Associational Office.

2012 Events and Reminders

Empowered: A 2012 NC Pastor/Staff Prayer Retreat at Ridgecrest Conference Center, January 10th – 11th, 2012. Speakers include Richard Roberts, John Franklin, James Walker and Chris Schofield. The cost is \$99 and includes two meals, accommodations, resources and registration fees. Deadline for registration is December 1st by calling Ridgecrest at 1-800-588-7222.

The **Executive Committee** of the Three Forks Baptist Association will meet at 7PM, Monday, February 20, 2012, at the Associational Office. Each Pastor and two elected delegates are encouraged to attend.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GOD'S SERVANT AMONG THE NATIONS By: Dr. Barry Nealy

Christmas reminds us that God makes and keeps His promises to the world He made. The Prophet Isaiah claims some of the great promises of God to His world. Christ fulfills these promises of good news to the nations. We can see for ourselves how the Lord has changed the world as the good news of His coming is proclaimed. Isaiah 42:1-6 portrays the gentle way Christ Jesus brings justice, security and light to the nations. Jesus brings JUSTICE to the nations [verse 1] Justice comes from judgment by a judge who is empowered and impartial. This was commanded in the Law of Moses. Our US Supreme Court judges have the title of "justice." Many human laws do not produce justice. We proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. We follow Matthew 6:33 by giving up our rights to share blessings with others. We will not bring democracy to the world by war, but we will bring peace to the world by preaching Christ. While our government banished native Americans to isolated lands, Christian missionaries lived among them, taught them and advocated for their rights.

Jesus brings SECURITY to the nations [verses 3-4] The Lord delights in the protection of the widow and orphan. The film "The End of the Spear" details how the Auca Indians came to Christ and quit killing each other when the gospel of peace entered their land by the sacrifice of Christian lives. One testimony shared by an Auca about the change is how their goal was reached and "Now there are many grandfathers." A bruised reed or dimly burning wick represent the weak among the nations. Some think they need no hand-holding, but what if you were walking a narrow bridge over a canyon? Life can become uncertain, but the Lord cares for His own. We can assist in that care by visiting the sick, helping the weak and guiding the young. These are ministries the church has followed for centuries. People know who they can trust because they see Jesus' followers sharing food and care constantly.

Jesus brings LIGHT to the nations [verse 6]. A total eclipse of the sun a few years back in Africa amazed people. A medical doctor in Ghana said that it showed him that God is a meticulous engineer, whatever scientists may say. Crowds cheered as they watched the moon darken the sun for three minutes. God appoints Christ as a "covenant to the people." We are in His place to bring light to a dark world. "Stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage." Many in America are prisoners of drugs or alcohol. God's people have founded clinics, hospitals and half-way houses to rescue prisoners. The Western world is different than Asia because Christ has set so many free from their prisons.

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