

The Informer

January 2012
Three Forks Baptist Association
www.3forksassoc.org

**YOU MAKE
KNOWN TO
ME THE
PATH OF
LIFE.**
Psalm 16:11

[Pastors' Conference Jan 9th, 10AM](#)
at the Association Office.

Focus: Mission Outreach Partnership
ideas and simultaneous revivals
September, 2012

BETHLEHEM & BEYOND 2011

Bethlehem and Beyond grew this Christmas in our focus to put Christ as Number One in Christmas celebrations. The web site will tell the story with photos and commentary at www.bethlehemandbeyond.com

The Nativity Tour hosted over 175 people. Carollers sang three December Friday evenings at the Boone Mall in 12 groups. The Art Contest was small, but we promise to expand it and other children's activities next Christmas. We welcome suggestions for improvement and expansion.

Thanks go to Donna Nealy, Nancy and Jim Walker and Danny and Beverly Watts for their leadership skills and substantial work. We also want to express gratitude to Samaritan's Purse for printing our guides and decoration of the tree at the Nativity Tour.



Ladies Spring Bible Study

Attention all ladies of all denominations! This year's spring 2012 Bible Study has been chosen and we are ready to begin taking names of those who would like to attend. This year the study will be on James by Beth Moore. Contact Donna Nealy at 828-264-4450 for cost, length of the study or to register to attend.

Art Contest Winners

Our Bethlehem and Beyond Campaign held its first art contest this year with Kyle Keeter of Boone First Baptist leading a panel of three judges. Photos were displayed at the Boone Mall in December. We are proud to announce our winners!



Pictured left to right:
Kyle Keeter, Head Judge, Bailey Cook, Rebecca Knight and Brandon Mast, judge. (Unavailable for photo, Andy Wilson, judge.)

Adult Category: Rebecca Knight, Mount Vernon Baptist Church
Children's Category: Bailey Cook, Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Business Nativity Display Winners

Congratulations go to:

1st Place: Audiovision on Highway 105 Extension

2nd Place: Wendy's, corner of Highway 321 and Highway 105

3rd Place: Chick-Fil-A on Highway 321/Blowing Rock Road

The 171st Semi-annual Meeting of the Three Forks Baptist Association will be held April 17th. Registration begins at 3:30PM and the session begins at 4PM.

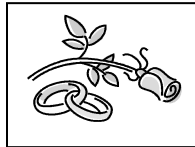
Housing Availability: A unique opportunity has been presented through the Association for missionaries on furlough or other "temporarily displaced" missionaries. A three bedroom, one bath house located in downtown Boone is available now through the end of May 2012. The house may also be used for visiting 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 curiom@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.

Calendar of Events for January

- 5th 3:00 p.m. Jail Ministry
9th 10:00 a.m. Pastors' Conference at 3 Forks Office
4-7 p.m. Christian Outreach Center food distribution
at First Baptist Church, Boone
12th 3:00 p.m. Jail Ministry
16th 4-7 p.m. Christian Outreach Center food distribution
at First Baptist Church, Boone
19th 3:00 p.m. Jail Ministry
23rd 4-7 p.m. Christian Outreach Center food distribution
at First Baptist Church, Boone
26th 3:00 p.m. Jail Ministry



January Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 14th Rev. Rusty & Kim Guenther, 1st Baptist Blowing Rock
21st Sharon Eller, Pastor's wife, Union
(No churches celebrating establishment anniversaries in the
month of January.)

Jail Ministry: Thursdays, 3:00PM

- January 5 George Wright, Mount Calvary Baptist Church
January 12 Billy Norris, Stony Fork Baptist Church
January 19 Brent Bolick, Laurel Springs Baptist Church
January 26 Gary Lawrence, Rutherford Baptist Church

February 2 Mark Chaney, Howard's Creek Baptist Church
February 9 Barry Nealy, Three Forks Association
February 16 David Luster, Greenway Baptist Church
February 23 David Ricker, Three Forks Baptist Church

New (and Old) Need To Knows:

It shouldn't surprise me when I come across a member in one of our churches or a Pastor that doesn't realize what all the Association can assist them with. Dr. Nealy doesn't just fill-in in the pulpit of a Pastor that is sick or on vacation, and I can assure you that I have more than the one priority of answering the phone when it rings. This is said in jest, but I do want to list a few things that you may or may not be aware of. If you already know them, then they are "old" to you, but if you find yourself thinking "wow, they do that?" then it's "new" to you. Happy New Year and let us know how we can serve you in 2012! Did you know?

- we can make banners? black & white, color and even double sided? size is 1ft x 4 ft and does not have grommets
- we have lodging? we can house 16 in beds, more on the floor, cots and air mattresses; complete kitchen too!
- we keep church historical records on file? want to know your membership or baptism average over the last five to ten years, we can provide you with a printed report that keeps you from having to dig through years of history (PROVIDED you've been doing your church profile reports, that is!)
- that Associational churches have used the facilities for bake sales, yard sales, car washes? The location, parking and kitchen makes this ideal for youth fundraising events!

Church Bulletin Board

Brushy Fork: has held two fundraisers since our last Informer: a benefit spaghetti supper to help the Townsend family with extensive medical bills raised over \$2500 and the Lottie Moon Pancake Breakfast held in December was a great success as well with the final figures still being counted. Congratulations on reaching out to your community and your world to make a difference in the Name of Christ!
Cove Creek: has called Rev. Shelby Stephens as Interim Pastor. Rev. Shelby and wife, Mary began serving January 1st.
Mount Vernon: requests save the dates for their Portrait of Love Easter Drama to be held March 30th, 31st and April 1st.
Perkinsville: has called Dr. Jim Wayne as Interim Pastor. Pastor Jim and wife, Linda began serving January 1st.

Churches Searching for Pastors

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

Other Announcements & Events

North American Mission Board announces a 'Call to Prayer' during the month of January. There is a website with video and PowerPoint slide shows to use during services to guide the church in praying for spiritual awakening in several major focus areas. Visit www.namb.net/sbccalltoprayer for the resources mentioned above.

Refuge Baptist Church, a new church plant in our area, has found a building in which to have worship services in Blowing Rock and Rev. Don White is currently serving as Pastor.

Our North Carolina Baptist Men shared a report on disaster relief that you may want to hear:

2011 was a very busy year for disaster relief efforts. As NC Baptists, by God's grace, we were able to respond to 19 different disasters this past year. The two biggest disasters that we responded to in 2011 were the April 16 Tornadoes and Hurricane Irene. Over 294,000 meals were provided in 2011. Over 31,000 disaster relief volunteer days were provided. These volunteers completed over 3,400 disaster recovery jobs (this represents 6-8 million dollars of services given freely in Jesus' name!). There were also thousands of showers, laundry loads, chaplain contacts and over 1,100 professions of faith. To God be the Glory! Thank you for praying, giving and going!....Gaylon Moss

PLAN to VAN Pastors and others interested can vanpool to the State Evangelism Conference on Monday, February 27th. 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.

What Will Happen this Year? By: Dr. Barry Nealy

The Mayan Calendar claims the world will end in 2012! Of course, the Mayans ended long ago. I don't know what their calendar is worth these days unless you happen to be making a movie about the end of the world. If an entire civilization can be wrong about the events of the future, what are your chances or mine of predicting them? The good news is that we don't have to have a crystal ball. The Lord has prepared His people for His future! One of two things will happen this year. Either the Lord will return and take us all to Glory or the Lord will provide for us in all circumstances. Those are God's promises about our future as His own children. "Fear not little flock. It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32

Today I talked to a young pastor terminated from the church he served in another state because of the sins of others who wanted to remain nameless. I visited with an older pastor who moved into his first day of early retirement because of his exposure to Agent Orange as a soldier in Vietnam. They face their future unafraid because they know the promises of God to them and to all His people. Praise God, we are in this thing together. They were encouraged by our few words mostly because they know we spoke the truth to each other. Amen?

In light of God's person and promises, my New Year's Resolution is to face the future without the fear that wants to control me. You and I both know that is the life of faith our Father calls us to live (I Tim 1:7). I resolve to keep giving, sharing the good news with all who will listen and encouraging the saints. So what will happen this year is for my part (and yours, I believe) the Lord will be honored and His Kingdom built despite the best efforts of the Destroyer. This year heaven and earth may pass away, but what glory will remain for the Lord Jesus and all who trust Him!

How Did *Bethlehem and Beyond* Go? by Donna Nealy

We appreciate all who supported Bethlehem and Beyond through gifts of time, energy, money, and prayers! Last year, much effort was spent in educating volunteers and the community about the purpose of B&B as we gathered support for the project. It was a great start. This year was even better, thanks to God's blessing and the many wonderful volunteers involved! **Thank you pastors and churches for your involvement and support.**

Some highlights:

- New website, www.bethlehemandbeyond.com (Please check it out!)
- Nativity Tours at the Associational Building (175+ visitors and lots of volunteers involved in the decorating, live music, and live nativities.) Live nativities and live music were both new additions.
- 43 businesses participated by displaying nativities; Several contributed monetary support, as well.
- First children's event, **Bethlehem Bonanza** was hosted at Greenway Baptist Church.
- First Art Contest about Christ's birth was sponsored by Cheap Joe's Art Stuff and art displayed at the mall.
- Caroling Nights at the Mall continued to be strongly supported by choirs and group musicians.

How encouraging to hear folks talk about B&B this year...to hear them say they want to be involved next year. The exposure through TV, radio stations, online calendars, and in the local papers (even a full page article on the Watauga Democrat Faith page)helped us lift high the Name of Jesus during the season.....making Him more visible to those who yet do not know Him.

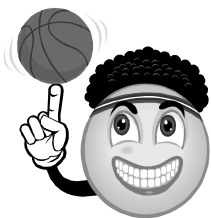
It was heartwarming to hear that one little boy chose to attend the children's event rather than have a birthday party. (He was baptized the next day!) An unchurched mom who brought her son to the event showed up in church at Greenway the next morning. Also, one of our local Christian doctors thanked us for inviting him to participate. In his office, he displayed a nativity along with gospel tracts which were picked up by many of his patients. He said Bethlehem and Beyond was instrumental in his realization this was a great time to share his faith in Christ!

May we be like the shepherds, spreading the good news of His birth, to all who hear about our own experiences with Christ. Dear brothers and sisters, let us continue to raise high the banner about His First Coming until the day we raise our eyes to see His Second Coming in the Eastern sky!

Three Forks Baptist Association
513 Jefferson Road
Boone, NC 28607

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



You don't have to wait for "March Madness" to enjoy great basketball games! The High Country Youth Basketball League ready to begin and this year there are over 20 teams competing for the title of #1. The divisions are Sr. High Boys (grades 10th- 12th), Jr. High Boys (grades 7th - 9th) and Girls (grades 7th -12th). Games are played every Saturday beginning January 7th, at Mount Vernon gym beginning at 8:30AM and run every hour 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. Teams, players, families, fans and churches can find the full schedule by visiting the website created at www.yourec.com or contact League Director, Burl Greene at 773-1451 for details.

December 2011 Financial Summary

Budget Needs:	\$ 13,479.00
Recd in Dec:	18,915.19
Over for Month:	3,714.26
Under Y T D:	2,732.35
Beg. Bal 12/1/11:	5,443.47
Church Receipts:	18,915.19
Deposits Credits:	535.00
Deposits Misc:	-0-
Exp for Month:	21,387.82
End Bal 12/31/11:	3,505.84

From Singing Cowboy to Singing Saint

From 1931 to 1952 there was a popular radio program on the west coast hosted by Stuart Carl "Russ" Hamblen. Referred to as one of the first singing cowboys, Hamblen had a great following of fans of his program. However, this new found fame and recognition, along with his association with some of Hollywood's bigger names like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers made it difficult for Hamblen to cope with his high profile career so he turned to alcohol. Many times his drinking landed him in jail for fighting and disruptive behavior. Hamblen himself once called himself the "original juvenile delinquent" as found in the Texas State Historical Association and he's known for writing lyrics to that read "I won't go hunting with you, Jake, But I'll go chasing women". A radio host, a songwriter, an actor and a composer, and yet it didn't seem to be enough to make Stuart feel complete.

In 1949, Hamblen invited a visiting evangelist to come on his show and promote his Los Angeles revival. The evangelist accepted and during the conversation the evangelist, in return, invited Hamblen to attend a service. Hamblen accepted.

During the service, the preacher was said to proclaim, 'there is someone in this audience that is a fake'. Many in the crowd might have thought of themselves, but Hamblen was convinced (we might say convicted) that the preacher was talking directly to him. He visited the preacher at his hotel at 2AM and the two talked until 5AM when Hamblen surrendered his life to Christ. He stopped drinking, fighting and destructive behavior. He was even fired from the radio company when he took a stand not to accept a beer company as a sponsor. He was struggling, but he was free and forgiven. He lost favor with the Hollywood crowd, but had found favor and peace with God.

A long time friend took Hamblen aside and simply said 'all your troubles started when you *got religion*. Was it worth it all? You liked your booze so much. Don't you ever miss it?' Stuart Hamblen simply answered, 'yes it was worth it and no, I don't miss it.' His buddy studied him intently for a few minutes and then just said, 'I don't understand how you could give it up so easily', and Stuart's response was, "It's no big secret. All things are possible with God". His long time friend, who was John Wayne by the way, said, 'That's a catchy phrase. You should write a song about it'. Hamblen did just that and the song was so popular that it was recorded by Pat Boone, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley.

Even though Hamblen was first known as a singing cowboy, he was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1994, but wasn't a member of the Western Music Hall of Fame until 1999.

And, just in case you are wondering who that traveling evangelist was that was holding a tent revival in Los Angeles, the one who took the time in the middle of the night in his hotel room to talk to Stuart..... it was no other than Rev. Billy Graham.