

THE SERVANT LINK

CHURCHES UNITED TO SERVE - COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
ACCOMPLISHING TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

James River Baptist Association

P. O. Box 1219, Dillwyn, VA 23936

Mrs. Marilyn Snoddy – Moderator

Phyllis R. Tyler - Secretary

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Hours: Monday & Wednesday

Email: jamesriverbaptistassociation@gmail.com

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Volume XXIII

January 2024

Edition I



*May God bless you in 2024 and may you know
Him in a deeper way!*

Event Details

Buckingham will be hosting a movie night in January – date/time TBA.

As 2024 comes in, the folks at Gladstone Memorial are praying and preparing for what the Lord has in store!

January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY The JRBA Office will be CLOSED.	
January 2	Women's Prayer Group at Mulberry Grove (Every Tuesday)	9:00 AM
	All Blessings Flow at First Baptist Dillwyn (Every Tuesday) Refurbished medical equipment is distributed in the parking lot. Call 434-422-8888 for information.	10:00 AM – Noon
	Tuesday Morning Bible Study at First Baptist Dillwyn (Every Tuesday) All are welcome!	10:00 – 11:30 AM
	Youth Group Meeting at Cedar (Every Tuesday)	7:00 PM
January 3	Bible Study at First Baptist Dillwyn (Every Wednesday)	6:30 PM
Jan. 3, 17, 24 & 31	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting at Goshen	7:00 PM



Winter Camp at Camp CrossRoads January 5 – 7, 2024

Are you looking for a winter retreat for your youth group? Winter Camp at CrossRoads is returning for its second year January 5-7, 2024, and registration is open now! Winter Camp is an opportunity for youth 6th to 12th grade to build community and nurture their faith in a fun and safe environment. Throughout the weekend participants will participate in worship, small group reflection, and have several choices of activities. Options will include climbing wall, bazooka ball, art, crafting, hiking (weather permitting), movie night, games, and more! Learn more, register, or reach out to us with questions at crossroadscamp.com/wintercamp

Pray for the Mulberry Grove group attending this conference.

Monday, January 8, 2024

JRBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING First Baptist Dillwyn, 7:00 PM

Pastors, JRBA Officers & Committee Chairs, and Church Representative to the Executive Board are encouraged to attend as we look ahead for opportunities to serve and conduct the business of the Association.

January 10 Senior Citizens' Fellowship at Mulberry Grove 11:00 AM
Bluegrass/Gospel Music with Covered Dish Lunch

WMU & Brotherhood at Goshen 7:00 PM

January 12 & 26 Blue Ridge Food Distribution at Crystal Cathedral, Dillwyn
Volunteers needed at 9:30 AM.

Monday, January 22, 2024
Information for the February edition of the JRBA Calendar and Newsletter are due TODAY by 9:00 AM.
Include January outreach and your final Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Total.

January 27 Loaves & Fish Ministry Meal at Antioch (Scottsville) 9:30 – 10:30 AM

LOOKING AHEAD>>>

**ENDURE PREACH 2024
March 10 – 12, 2024**

Eagle Eyrie Conference Center

Sponsored by Baptist General Association of Virginia

A conference designed to help PASTORS sharpen their skills in a peer-learning environment, experience a time of renewal through four worship services, and gain valuable insights and knowledge from breakouts on a variety of topics.

Theme: *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.* Isaiah 40:8

Speakers and Breakout Sessions

Conference with Meals & Lodging \$225 – Early Bird \$185 through January 15.

Conference with Meals Only \$95

Starts at 3:00 PM on Sunday and ends on Tuesday at 1:00 PM.

JRBA REACHES OUT>>>

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

CHURCH	Updated 2023 Totals
Buckingham	\$1,120.00
Cedar	\$ 645.00
Chestnut Grove	\$ 600.00
Enon	\$ 1,034.00
First Baptist Dillwyn	\$ 686.00
Fitzgerald Memorial	\$ 565.00
Goshen	\$ 955.00
Jones Chapel	\$ 1,150.00
Mt. Tabor	\$ 141.00
Mt. Zion	\$ 1,226.00
Mulberry Grove	\$ 100.00
Sharon	\$ 250.00
Tar Wallet	\$ 245.00



CHURCH	Total-to-Date
Buckingham	\$1,250.00
First Baptist Dillwyn	\$ 445.00
Goshen	\$ 450.00
Jones Chapel	\$1,570.00
Mulberry Grove	\$ 500.00
Sharon	\$ 235.00

TREASURERS: PLEASE SEND YOUR CHURCH'S TOTAL FOR THE
LOTTIE MOON 2023 CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

CHURCH OUTREACH



BUCKINGHAM: Ten fruit baskets were prepared and delivered. Meals were prepared and delivered to a bed-ridden church member.

CEDAR: The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering collection will continue in January. The Women on Mission's Angel Tree had a record number of "Angels" on it this year, but thankfully, the church family quickly removed them all and got busy shopping. Praise God for such a generous church family that supports all church mission projects.

CHESTNUT GROVE: Christmas Caroling was planned for December 17, but was cancelled due to rain. Fruit baskets were still delivered to those to whom caroling was planned. The church also helped pay an electric bill for a local family in need. Money was collected to buy clothes, shoes, coats, toys, canned goods, and requested household items for a single mother with two young girls and two senior ladies. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will continue in January.

FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN: The youth sang Christmas carols for the residents of Heritage Hall on December 13. Helping Hands purchased and delivered throw blankets for the residents there as well. Some FBC members visited a member and some friends at Hickory Hill Home on December 18. FBC hosted the Red Cross Blood Mobile on December 13 – there were 16 blood donations. FBC continues to host All Blessings Flow on each Tuesday in the parking lot to give and receive medical equipment. Helping Hands continues its ministry of blessing lives through visits, gift cards, cards of encouragement, and in other ways. \$50 was donated to BGAV Disaster Response efforts.

FORK OF WILLIS: The church family continues to collect for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

JONES CHAPEL: During the Ladies CHRISTmas Celebration, the group signed cards for each of the residents in Aable Rest Home in Cumberland, and after packing a gift for each one, they were delivered the following week. There are plans to provide other needed items for the residents in the weeks ahead. The Youth Group decorated for "Lights on the Lake" at Bear Creek Lake State Park and won third place for their decorations. Many toys and donations were given for the Cumberland Christmas Mother Program at the event. Jones Chapel has collected money and gift cards for their adopted Christmas family (father, teen girl, and teen boy). The youth raffled a Christmas Tote bag to help raise money for the adopted Christmas family. With the money raised, gifts for Christmas and other items for the household were purchased.

SHARON: The congregation collected gift items for residents of Heritage Hall, and made monetary contributions to Christ in Christmas, Grace Inside and Lottie Moon. Rose of Sharon provided a generous box of non-perishable food to a family dealing with multiple health concerns, made a monetary gift to another family to help with travel for hospital and rehab appointments, and continued with cards, calls, food, and visits to the homebound.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

BUCKINGHAM: A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held at 6 PM, with refreshments following the service.

CEDAR: Everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas program on Sunday, December 17. Rachel Allen directed the youth in sharing the story of Jesus' birth.

FIRST BAPTIST DILLWYN: FBC thanks their many friends who joined them for the Live Nativity portrayed by the Youth, featuring live animals, drama, scripture, and carols on December 3, the Adult Choir's cantata, *Mary, Did You Know?*, on December 6, and the Children's play, *An Out of the Box Christmas*, on December 10.

FORK OF WILLIS: The church family gathered at their regular service time for a Christmas Eve Service.

GLADSTONE MEMORIAL: The church family enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Program.

JONES CHAPEL: The Ladies CHRISTmas Celebration was well attended, and after a potluck meal of many tasty dishes, Marilyn Gressett led the group in devotions. Ladies were divided into four groups and each group was tasked with the job of "wrapping" one lady to see how creative each group could be. Below is the result of the "gift wrapping" efforts! The Women's Ministry is strong at Jones Chapel as the ladies continue to grow stronger in their faith: completing Bible studies together, reaching out to others in the community (inviting them to join the group), or by serving and ministering to shut-ins or the sick. A candlelight service was held on December 24. A time of Testimony, Thanksgiving and Communion was held during the worship service on December 31.

Deborah Henshaw, Nita Williams, Chelsea Fulcher, and Jennifer Cox: All Wrapped Up for Christmas



SHARON: The Community Children's Choir (ages 4 – 14) did an excellent presentation of *The Christmas Story* on December 3. The program was well attended and such a blessing – a time of genuine fellowship with old friends and new. The church family is grateful to the children for their dedication, for the support of each family represented, and for all who worked behind the scenes to make this a success. Perhaps this will become an annual event!

JRBA LEARNS AND GROWS>>>

CEDAR: A new Youth Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday nights for ages 13 and older with leader, Kim Page. Anyone in that age group is welcome to come join this group and be a part of the fun and fellowship.

JONES CHAPEL: During each Sunday in December, Jones Chapel included "Lighting of the Advent Candles" during the worship service.



Jack Parker read scripture and Anna Parker lit the candle.



Hannah Lenz read scripture and Camden Wood lit the candles.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE>>>

BLAND MINISTRY CENTER

The Bland Ministry Center continues to reach out to the folks in Southwest Virginia who are struggling and in need. Below is a list of requested items that they continuously need at the ministry center, both in its operation and in its distribution of goods weekly, prior to school opening, and at Christmas time.. It is a "Suggested List" of items that can be collected each month for this cause.

JANUARY: Quart and gallon Ziplock storage bags, Kleenex, Clorox Wipes

FEBRUARY: Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss (Be sure to check for the ADA seal.)

MARCH: Individually-packaged microwavable and on-the-go snacks (Ex: mac & cheese cups, breakfast bars, etc.)

APRIL: Shoes (NEW - all sizes), Diapers and wipes

MAY: New, packaged socks and underwear

JUNE: Backpacks and school supplies

JULY: Canned goods, Peanut butter, Jelly

AUGUST: Hygiene items: feminine products, shampoo, soap, etc.

SEPTEMBER: Stocking stuffers, toys (Ex: Legos, dolls, games, craft or science kits, fishing gear, hair accessories, etc.)

OCTOBER: Christmas box items (call to pick a specific item: 276-688-4701)

NOVEMBER: Toilet paper, Paper Towels, Laundry detergent, cleaning supplies

DECEMBER: Dry goods: cereal, pasta, mac & cheese, etc.

If your church or mission group collects and delivers any of these items to Bland Ministry Center, be sure to send in the info for the newsletter. As we get closer to the 2024 Bland Ministry Mission Trip, we will let you know which items are being collected for the team to transport.

WMUV MISSION PROJECT

A WMUV Medical Missions Team will leave March 1, 2024, to serve at Mully Children’s Family Center in Kenya. Under the leadership of Dr. Lynne Stockman, former WMUV President, 25 medical specialists and other personnel will provide direct medical care to many people. Lynne has requested inexpensive **drugstore readers and sunglasses as well as individually wrapped toothbrushes**. NO TOOTHPASTE, PLEASE. Please send or deliver your items to WMUV, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico, VA 23298, on or before **Monday, February 19, 2024**. For questions or concerns, please email Valerie Carter Smith at vcarter@wmuv.org or call at 804-928-2920.

WMUV Mission Trip to Peru

You’re invited to serve with WMUV alongside Villa Milagro in Cajamarca, Peru, June 22 – 28, 2024, to encourage and support their on-going ministry as they serve the most marginalized in their communities. The team will work with needs identified by Villa Milagro and could include food distribution, water filter distribution, crafts and games with children in several remote schools and an orphanage, crafts and visitation with women, and teaching basic first aid. The ability to speak Spanish is beneficial, but not required. All volunteers need to be collaborative and flexible. Accommodations are essential and rooms will be shared. The location will be at a high altitude and may require a lot of walking in challenging conditions. 15 – 20 adult volunteers are needed.

Approximate Cost: \$50 – WMUV Registration Fee, \$1,000 - \$1,500 Airfare/Transportation U. S. to Lima, Peru, \$150 - \$200 – In-Country Airfare to Cajamarca, \$1,000 – In Country Expenses (Room, Board, Daily Transportation, additional expenses), \$40 – Missionary Travel Insurance
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST: \$2,240 - \$2,790

Additional cost will include passport, required inoculations as per your medical professional, additional monies are needed for souvenir shopping, eating out in transit and other miscellaneous expenses.

Application/Registration Fee Due: January 12, 2024
Notification of Acceptance: January 19, 2024
1/3 of Payment: February 16, 2024
1/3 of Payment: March 15, 2024
1/3 of Payment: April 19, 2024

Preparation Requirements:

- A commitment to prayer and preparation
- A commitment to attend Initial Orientation online, **Saturday, January 27, 2024**, AND the in-Person Orientation, **Saturday, February 10, 2024**, and subsequent online planning meetings.

QUESTIONS: CONTACT VALERIE CARTER SMITH AT vcarter@wmuv.org OR BY PHONE AT 804-928-2920.



JRBA CELEBRATES>>>

JONES CHAPEL: After the worship service on December 17, Gene Bradbury presented Pastor Dane and Marilyn with a Christmas Gift from the church.

FROM YOUR MODERATOR>>>

May each of you have a Happy and “Blessed” New Year. Blessed means made holy – consecrated. Holy means dedicated or consecrated to God. In God’s Word we find:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, For the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, For they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, For they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, For they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they will be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, For the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Matthew 5:3-10

God Bless,
Marilyn Snoddy
Moderator



REGULAR BUDGET RECEIPTS
2023 - 2024

Church	December	Year-to-Date
Antioch (SV)	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Antioch Union		
Arvon		
Buckingham		\$ 750.00
Cedar		\$ 3,000.00
Chestnut Grove		
Enon		
FBC Dillwyn		
Fitzgerald		
Fork of Willis		\$ 438.00
Gladstone Memorial		
Goshen		
Jones Chapel	\$ 164.00	\$ 571.00
Mt. Tabor		
Mt. Zion		
Mulberry Grove		
Sharon		\$ 274.25
Tar Wallet		
Individuals	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00
Offering – Fall Meeting		\$ 540.00
TOTAL	\$ 864.00	\$ 7,173.25

Approved Budget for 2023 – 2024: \$28,618.52

Actual Budget \$27,970.00 + \$648.52 Carryover Missions Blitz

TREASURERS: Please note that unless a specific ministry or project is designated on the memo line of the check or in an accompanying note, the contribution will appear in the regular budget receipts.

ALSO NOTE: Funds received are reflective of the Associational Year (**Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2024**), NOT the calendar year.

OTHER BUDGETED LINE ITEMS

Additional Missions

Budgeted: \$500.00

Expended in November: \$100 to each Southside Pregnancy Center, Grace Inside Prison Ministry, BCM Longwood, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

No Expenditures in December.

Balance: \$100.00

Missions Blitz

Carryover: \$648.52

No Expenditures in December.

Youth Revival

Budgeted: \$500.00

No Receipts or Expenditures in December.

Mission Trips

Budgeted: \$2,000.00

Expended in November: \$50 each Hope for Appalachia Trip: Rev. Woody Moore, Wayne Gough, Linda Gough
No Expenditures in December.

Balance: \$1,850.00

Bland Ministries

Budgeted: \$500.00

No Receipts or Expenditures in December.

NON-BUDGETED MINISTRIES

(ALL monies by donation)

John E. Mann, Sr. Benevolence Fund

Donations	December	Year-to-Date
Carryover from 2022 – 2023		\$ 6,578.48
Buckingham		\$ 200.00
Cedar		\$ 300.00
First Baptist Dillwyn	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sharon		\$ 200.00
TOTAL		\$ 7,778.48

No Expenditures in December.

Total Expenditures 2023-2024: \$ 200.00

BALANCE: \$7,578.48

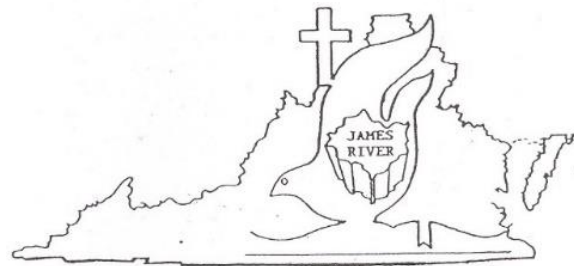
Rise Against Hunger

Church	December	Year-to-Dae
Gladstone Memorial		\$ 225.00
TOTAL		\$ 225.00

Knights Pantry

Church	December	Year-to-Date
Carryover from 2022 - 2023		\$ 2,231.92
Sharon		\$ 124.00
Individuals		\$ 185.00
TOTAL		\$ 2,540.92

No Receipts or Expenditures in December.



People Committed To Making A Difference

