

JAMES RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
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Accomplishing Together What We Cannot Do Alone

October 2024

From Your Moderator

This will be my last comment as JRBA Moderator, because on October 13, 2024, Gwynn Tyler will be moderator. In looking back, my first time holding this position was 2004-2007. As many of you know, I have held the position of moderator and vice-moderator many times over the last 20 years. I want to thank you for your help and support, I couldn't have done it without you.

As you know the Rise Against Hunger packing event is October 13th. Please register online for this event to avoid the long line that day. You will not receive but 4 emails, one confirmation and 3 reminders. If you choose not to register you will have to fill out a waiver the day of the event, so get there early, 2:30pm, so we can get started on time. Last year we had a long line, but if you register you will be able to go to a table and get started.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Snoddy, Moderator

JRBA Celebrates

Chestnut Grove Baptist celebrates with Interim Pastor, Rev. Daniel Packard, and his families in moving to their new home. The church celebrated by having a pounding. What is a pounding, you ask? Pounding is a Christian tradition where a minister is given gifts by members of the congregation of that church. The practice can be traced back to the 19th century, when members of a church visited the parsonage and dropped off a pound of an item of food, such as coffee, sugar, flour, or honey. The practice of pounding takes place across the Christian community in the countries of African as well as those of North America. We pray that Rev. Packard and his family find their new home to be a peaceful place to come home to.

First Baptist Church of Dillwyn is pleased to report that their 2024 revival was a great success. Derek Keiser led each night with challenging messages. Several people dedicated, while others rededicated, their lives to Christ.

Life was celebrated on September 15th at the Central Virginia Christian School. Participates include **Mulberry Grove Baptist** and over \$1000 was raised for the Southside Pregnancy Center.



Sharon Baptist contributed \$550 to Walk for Life, with members Marie Fraticelli, Genie Bradshaw, Mike Farris, and Audrey Ragland participating.



WMUV 150th Anniversary Celebration

Happy 150th birthday to the WMUV! James River Baptist Association was represented nicely at the Roots & Wings: the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia! They had a beautiful day of worship, inspiration, special guests, and history at CrossRoads. Executive Director Sandy Gibson-Martin of the National WMU was the keynote speaker. The highlight of the day was the "Walk Through History Fashion Show" that was narrated by Claudia Hatfield. For the missional women who shaped them and the pioneering women to come, we give thanks.



Left to Right. Betty Toney (**Buckingham**), Thelma Llewellyn (**Mulberry Grove**), Nan Morris (**Chestnut Grove**), Audrey Ragland (**Sharon**) and Marilyn Snoddy (**Mt. Zion**)

James River Baptist Association welcomes **Cedar Baptist Church's** newest church family member, Curtis Lee Davis, Sr! On Sunday, September 8th, **Cedar Baptist Church** celebrated Grandparents Day. All grandparents in the church were recognized and presented with a gift by the youth.

JRBA Reaches Out

On October 3rd, **Mulberry Grove** will be providing supper to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry students. The Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Longwood & Hampden-Sydney is a movement of young adults that seeks to create disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional Christian community. Thank you, **Mulberry Grove**, for making them feel loved.

For this school year, **Chestnut Grove** collected school supplies for the Buckingham County Schools. The National Retail Federation estimates families will spend as much as \$890 on school supplies this year; this is an increase of more than \$25 from last year's figure. Many families have to choose between school supplies and food, electricity, or other monthly bills. Children have to be equipped with what they need in order to have a better learning experience. The stress of feeling left out can lead to a lack of focus. Thus, a lower performance in class. Thank you, **Chestnut Grove**, for letting the students and their parents know someone cares about them.

Mulberry Grove Baptist will be collecting for the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions. As many of you know, Alma Hunt was a native Virginian who was known worldwide for her mission service and her unswerving dedication to the cause of Christ. The donations provide funding for all Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving. Interested in giving? Please send checks, with Alma Hunt in memo, to Mulberry Grove Baptist Church, Attn. Kathy Williams, 1924 Howardsville Road, Buckingham, Virginia 23921.

Mulberry Grove WMU hosted a wonderful time of fellowship, crocheting scarves for the Hope for Appalachia. Sarah Allen was kind enough to teach the ladies how to crochet. The group is grateful for her and her amazing talents. A baby quilt that will be given to Autumn Saunders' newborn, Adalyn Mae, was prayed over by the women. Thank you, ladies, for your love that will warm the community.



All Blessings Flow is in the parking of **First Baptist Church of Dillwyn** every Tuesday (10:00 AM to noon). This mission helps to provide costly medical equipment and supplies to families in the area. You can check out an item and return it when it is no longer needed. Have a pair of clutches you no longer need or medical supplies left over from an injury, drop it by and received a tax receipt. This is a great way to maximize use of unused equipment in our closet and help each other out. Interested in more information? Allblessingsflow.org or call 434-422-8888.

The winter months will be warm, thanks to the *Rose of Sharon (WMU)*. A favorite ministry, *Soup Making for the Soul*, met last month a cooked 56 quarts of delicious chicken noodle soup, that has now been frozen and is ready to share throughout the winter months. *Rose of Sharon* continues to visit, deliver meals, send cards, and call those who may need a little extra cheer. Their current efforts include “Hope for Appalachia” coat collection and Alma Hunt offering. Thank you to the members of **Sharon Baptist** for sharing God’s love through their actions.

Cedar Baptist Church has been busy this last month with supplying five families with clothing and school supplies. Thank you to the **Cedar Church** family for their generosity with this “Back to School Project”. **Cedar Baptist** has also been collecting for Alma Hunt and “Hope for Appalachia” winter clothing project.

First Baptist of Dillwyn would like to invite everyone to the following:

1. Tuesday Morning Bible Study each Tuesday at 9:00 AM. The Book of Matthew is presently being studied.
2. Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:00 PM. Presently, they are studying the “The Holy Spirit” based on the book, “The Forgotten God.”

Mulberry Grove Baptist would like to invite everyone to the following:

1. Youth Bible Study every Tuesday at 7 PM
2. Women’s Prayer Group every Wednesday at 9 AM

Jones Chapel Baptist would like to invite everyone to the following:

1. Women’s Bible study on every Wednesday night at 6:15 PM. Marilyn Gressett will be leading the study of the book, “Jesus in Me” by Anne Graham Lotz. Come and learn to experience the Holy Spirit as a constant companion. The men will be meeting at the same time for fellowship.
2. New young adult Sunday class, each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. This class will be led by Pastor Dane and Marilyn Gressett.

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month?

Since 1992, October has been observed as Clergy Appreciation Month in the United States. Our church pastors call to honor goes back to the time of Apostle Paul. 1 Timothy 5:17 states, “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honors, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” He believed that holding these spiritual leaders “in the highest regard in love because of their work” is crucial to Christian beliefs.

The second Sunday of the month of October, October 13th on this year, is set aside to recognized the contributions, seen and unseen, of our pastors. How can we say thank you to our pastors? Give your pastor a “thank you” basket with their favorite brand of coffee, snacks and fruit. Write a card telling them that you see their hard work and you appreciate it. Lend a hand by volunteering to visit the nursing home or members that may need to feel remembered. See where their household budget may be short. I still remember the set of tires left on the back porch when Dad pastored three churches. Even as a small child, I could feel the relief that the thoughtful gift gave my parents. -Jennifer

Important Dates

October 2	Due date for Officer and Committee Chair Reports for the 2023-2024 Book of Reports	JRBA Office
October 2	Due date for Hygiene Kits for the Fluvanna Prison	JRBA Office
October 3	Helping Hands-All are invited to come and help our neighbors 7:00 PM	First Baptist of Dillwyn

October 6 Homecoming Jones Chapel Baptist
 10:00 Worship Service-Rev. Jim Lamb, former pastor and guest speaker
 11:00 Lauren Talley, special music
 1200 Luncheon



October 6 Fall Festival-Food, Fun, and Fellowship First Baptist of Dillwyn
 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

October 9 Seniors Fellowship-Bluegrass Gospel music and covered dish lunch Mulberry Grove Baptist
 11:00 AM

October 11 Blue Ridge Food Distribution Crystal Cathedral Ministry
 Volunteers should be there at 9 AM

October 11-13 "Time to Thrive" Youth Retreat Eagle Eyrie Conference Center
 Pray for our Middle and High Schools Students



October 12 Fall Festival Buckingham Baptist
 Bounce houses, stew and chili for donation, hotdogs, cornhole and more. Please come and join the fun! Tracts. Bibles, and other handouts will be available.
 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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| October 12 | <p>Fall Festival
 Games, food, fellowship, and entertainment by Chris Ellis, a local singer and recording artist, performs gospel favorites and Elvis's classics. All are invited!
 Noon-Until</p> | Goshen Baptist |
| October 13 | <p>Rise Against Hunger Packing Events
 1:30 PM Unload Truck
 3:00 PM Packing of the meals
 Come out and help pack meals for the hungry.
 Donations Total: \$13,039.67 Great Job Everyone!
 Skip the check-in process and receive updates by registering
 http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/jamesriverassn2024</p> | Maysville Baptist Multi-Purpose |
| October 13 | Pastor Appreciation Lunch | Mulberry Grove Baptist |
| October 13 | <p>Worship with Willow Branch
 Willow Branch Bluegrass Band will lead the worship service, sharing the gospel message through high-spirited music. Plan now to bring family and friends to this exciting music service.
 11:00 AM to noon</p> | Sharon Baptist |



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| October 14 | <p>JRBA Quarterly Executive Board Meeting
 All Pastors and Executive Board Representatives will be present. The Fall Meeting Program and 2024-2025 Proposed Budget will be discussed.
 7:00 PM</p> | First Baptist of Dillwyn |
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October 17	190 th JRBA Annual Fall Meeting 4:45 PM followed by Fellowship Supper 6:45 Worship Service	Sharon Baptist Church
October 19	Family Fun Festival Games, inflatables, mechanical bull, prizes, bingo, food, and more! 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Jones Chapel Baptist
October 19	Annual Harvest Festival Brunswick Stew, Games, Music by Smokey Wilson 2PM to 4 PM 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Mulberry Grove Baptist
October 21	Due Date for JRBA newsletter articles and events	JRBA Office
October 25	Trunk or Treat Several “trunks” filled with candy and prizes, held at Cumberland Community Center. 6:00PM -8:00PM	Jones Chapel Baptist
October 25	Blue Ridge Food Distribution Volunteers should be there at 9 AM	Crystal Cathedral Ministry
October 26	Loaves and Fish 9:30AM	Antioch Baptist (Scottsville)
October 30	Due Date for Hope for Appalachia Winter Wear Items Coats, Hats, Gloves, Cookies for Teachers, Kindergarten Bags To schedule a delivery, please contact Rev. Woody Moore 804-382-7954	Mt. Zion Mission House
November 1-2 and/or 2-3	WMUV Women’s Getaway Pray that our women will come back full of excitement for the Lord and it will spread throughout the state.	Eagle Eyrie Conference Center
November 11-13	BGAV Annual Meeting Theme: John 8:36 Dr. Wayne Faison, BGAV Executive Director, Hopes for this to be the most diverse and the most technological meeting ever! NEW THIS YEAR: There will be a Tail Gate and a Town Meeting. For more information, go to https://meeting.bgav.org/	1st Baptist Church of Alexandria 2932 King Street, Alexandria
December 4–7	JRBA Hope for Appalachia Fall Mission Trip to Kentucky	