

JAMES RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
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Accomplishing Together What We Cannot Do Alone

November 2024

Rise Against Hunger Event Oct. 13, 2024



We had a great time packing meals. We worked hard, and had to put in a little overtime, but we packed 31,536 meals with 102 volunteers. Thanks to everyone that registered online, that saved a lot of time. A big thank you to Maysville Baptist Church members for allowing us to use their facilities, Pastor Wes Yoder and all the good people there for setting up the tables and chairs and putting them away afterwards.

The children always are a big help, they are the runners. They stick to it to the end with smiles on their faces. This is probably our biggest event of the year. We couldn't have done it without the donations, \$13,039.67, and volunteers to make it happen. This will provide 126 students meals for the whole year.

God Bless the students that will receive these meals.
Marilyn Snoddy
Photos by Phyllis Tyler

Arvon, Buckingham, Chestnut Grove, First Baptist Dillwyn, Fitzgerald Memorial, Goshen, Mt. Zion, Mulberry Grove, Centenary Church, Maysville Baptist, and Farmville Baptist were all represented.

Sharon was happy to welcome our JRBA brothers and sisters for the annual Fall meeting! The Hope for Appalachia yielded 53 items (30 Coats, 12 hats, 5 pairs of gloves, 4 blankets, and 2 scarves) of warm outerwear for school children. Monetary gifts and fundraiser items were contributed to help a community member facing a lengthy recovery and medical expenses following an auto accident. A donation was made to the JRBA Blank mission group who helped with hurricane recover efforts. Rose of Sharon continues sharing meals, visits, calls, and notes of encouragement with those who need a little extra love and support. All are invited to Sharon's Thanksgiving Service (11:00 am) and covered dish meal (noon) on Sunday, November 24. A total of \$245 was also collected for the Alma Hunt Offering. Thank you to all that helped in these missions!

September 29 was a busy day at **Mulberry Grove**! The children, youth and several adults met and packed 60 Kindergarten bags for Hope for Appalachia. The youth of the church led the worship service. Vivian Jones played the Prelude. Jake Gibson led the Children's Message. Noah Jones gave the main message and many others participated by making announcements, leading prayer/praise time, announcing songs, taking the offering, sharing Scripture, and praying. They did a wonderful job! It is always good to see the next generation participating in the work and mission of the church.



Buckingham Baptist is excited to announce that their Alma Hunt Offering has risen to \$1300. In addition, 16 toiletry bags for the Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center were collected. A total of 40 association wide! What a perfect time to get these women know that they are loved not only by the church but by GOD. The Fall Festival was a huge success with a large crowd who enjoyed stew, chili, and hotdogs, while listening to good music. The Gideon's gave out 25 Bibles as well as all of their handouts. The bouncy houses were a big hit along with all the other games. The snow cones were enjoyed by the young and young at heart. All stew and chili donations were sent to the disaster relief fund along with a love offering that was collected on Sunday, October 13. The total being \$2802. Donated Appalachian winter clothing drive were 4 coats, 12 hats, and 12 pairs of gloves. During Pastor appreciation month, A gift was given to Robert Brown, the interim pastor and flowers were sent to his wife, in thanks for her support. Five women from the church will be attending the Women's Get Away on November 1st and 2nd.



Jones Chapel Baptist Church has had a full calendar for the month of October. The collection for Alms Hunt Offering has reached \$1095. The church participated in the Walk of Life in Farmville and made a donation of \$500 to the Pregnancy Support Center. Homecoming at **Jones Chapel** was a time of worship and fellowship. Approximately 120 people (members, former members, and visitors) were in attendance. We were blessed to have with us Rev. and Mrs. Jim Lamb (guest speaker) and Lauren Talley (special music). After the service, everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for lunch.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday was observed on October 13th. After showing a PowerPoint presentation of church events over the past year, Gene Bradbury presented Pastor Dane and Marilyn with a gift from the church members. On Saturday, Oct 19th, **Jones Chapel** had a beautiful day for the Fall Festival. A new addition this year was the mechanical bull, which was a big hit with young and slightly older. The Army National Guard provided a huge inflatable, and we had a smaller inflatable for the toddlers. Several hay rides were taken into the pumpkin patch where each child could pick his own pumpkin. Bingo was popular, as well as visiting the various vendors who were set up in the fellowship hall. Many hot dogs, chips, cookies, drinks and prizes were given away. Thanks to the JRBA for the use of two of the games they have on hand (Jenga and Connect 4). Pictured above are Hosten McCollom's tractors (decorated for picture taking). Cassie Tomlin is checking out the arrangement of mums, etc., while Lewis Brandt admires the tractor.

The **Mulberry Grove WMU** sponsored the Annual Seasoned Seniors Banquet on September 28. Approximately 40 seniors of the church and invited guests enjoyed a delicious grilled salmon or chicken cordon bleu dinner with sides, rolls, and desserts. Everyone enjoyed a looping slideshow of past and present church folks, events, and friends. After dinner, All Problems Solved played several

bluegrass selections as folks fellowshiped around the table. The WMU also fed the students at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Center at Longwood University on Thursday, October 3. Soup, chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, and desserts were provided by members. Thelma Llewellyn delivered, served, and joined the 10 students and BCM Director, Rev. Cadance Tyler, for the meal. The ladies of the WMU, along with other church members, collected \$350 to help a local family who lost everything in a recent fire. A Blessing Bag was provided to an area resident of Heritage Hall for her birthday. The ladies are also making scarves for Hope for Appalachia. And \$510 was collected for the Alma Hunt Missions Offering.

Jones Chapel collected 50 sets of hats and gloves and 72 blankets for Hope for Appalachia.

Cedar Baptist are currently seeking families that may need some assistance for their Thanksgiving Food Drive and Angel Tree. If you have someone in mind, please reach out to Pat Allen at taptowerhill@gmail.com. A \$500 donation was made to the Southside Pregnancy Center "Walk for Life" in September.

Mulberry Grove held a Pastor Appreciation Sunday for Rev. Austin Williams on October 13. During the worship service, Jay Jones, Deacon Chair, expressed the church's appreciation for all that Pastor Austin does and presented him with a monetary gift. Thelma Llewellyn, WMU Director, thanked Austin's wife, Kristie, for her support of him and for all she does in the church. She was also presented with a gift. Rev. Willard Spurlock gave the message, based on 1 Timothy 4:12 - 16, to encourage Austin. He also challenged the church members with 1 Timothy 5:17 and reminded everyone of the honor due the pastor. He reiterated several ways to show support for Austin and the ministry of the church. After the service, everyone enjoyed a fellowship meal together.

Girls in Action of **Mt Zion Baptist Church**

The GAs participated in the Craft Stick Houseboat Project from the National WMU and GAs. Churches from all over the country are participating as we are "Working Together" to build a houseboat and show the children how the Cooperative Program works. The national goal is 47,000 craft stick units and our GAs contributed 103 units that were sent to WMU in Birmingham AL where they will be assembling the boat in November.

The GAs helped pack 14 hygiene kits for the Fluvanna Women's Prison for Christmas and collected a car load worth of supplies to send to NC to help the people affected by Hurricane Helene.

Also, in October, Pastor Roger Woody and his wife, Darlene, were our special guests as they presented about the Christian Motorcycle Association and their chapter, Iron Witness. They shared how they minister to others who ride motorcycles. Each girl received a Bible that is given out on the motorcycle rides and they also were given a ride around the parking lot! Our WMU ladies were also in attendance and enjoyed a ride along with providing everyone with a delicious meal.

First Baptist of Dillwyn invites ALL to:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 11:00AM for a study on Matthew.

Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:30 PM featuring "The Forgotten God". Which teaches Us the nature and work of the "Holy Spirit".

First Baptist of Dillwyn invites all veterans, widow/widowers of a veteran, and their guest to a Veteran's Day meal on November 11th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (or as we like to say 1100hrs to 1300hrs). Please come and share in food and prizes.

Thanksgiving meals will be prepared and delivered on Sunday, November 24th by First Baptist of Dillwyn. Thank you for this mission of love.

From October 6 - 27, **Mulberry Grove** is collecting a Love Offering for the Medford Basketball Team, BCHS, to sponsor this group of Special Needs youngsters.

Buckingham High School participated in See You at the Pole. The Global Day of Student prayer, began in 1990 as a grass roots movement with ten students praying at their school. Decades later, millions pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September. See You at the Pole™ is simply a prayer rally where students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. See You at the Pole™ is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event. This year BCHS had two high school students, two teachers, two primary school students, and three members of **Cedar Baptist**. Lillie Palmore, a junior, led the time with scripture and prayer. The them was, "First, pray." The scripture was I Timothy 2:1.

A special thank you to **First Baptist of Dillwyn** for hosting the JRBA Quarterly Executive Board Meeting. Another thank you to **Sharon Baptist Church** for hosting the JRBA 190th Annual Fall Meeting on October 17th. What a wonderful day of business, fellowship, and praise! Please see attached minutes of both events that will be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

In Loving Memory

Cedar Baptist extends sympathy to the family of Lindbergh Hardiman who passed away on September 30th. Mr. Hardiman was the oldest member at Cedar at the time of his passing at the age of 97. He and his lovely wife Evelyn celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary in August. He will be greatly missed as he has been a big part of Cedar Baptist for many, many years.

<https://www.dunkumfuneralhome.com/obituary/Lindbergh-Hardiman>

Celebrations

Cedar Baptist is happy to welcome into their family recently: Rowen Midkiff, daughter of Thomas and Karly Midkiff, through a profession of faith with Baptist to follow soon. Also, Whitney Bailey Davis through a letter of transfer and Eric Sprague through a profession of faith with baptism to follow soon.

Staff Changes

Chestnut Grove is happy to welcome a new preacher, effective November 3, 2024. Rev. Daniel Packard will become the full time bi-vocational pastor. We welcome Daniel, his wife Candance and their daughter Oakley! Please pray for all in this new endeavor.

Buckingham Baptist will be ordaining Ed Mallory as a deacon on November 17th.

Opportunities to Serve



Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drop Off
Bethlehem Baptist Church-3808 Troublesome Creek Road, Dillwyn, VA 23936

Mon, Nov 18: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Tue, Nov 19: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Wed, Nov 20: 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

Thu, Nov 21: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Fri, Nov 22: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Sat, Nov 23: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Sun, Nov 24: 12:30 PM-2:30 PM

Mon, Nov 25: 9:00 AM-11:00AM

Questions? Please contact Linda Elder at Lindagrayelder@gmail.com

There is still time to help. You can pack a box or you can donate towards the mission at [Operation Christmas Child | Shoebox Outreach of Samaritan's Purse](#)

Hurricane Helene



Chucky Llewellyn, of **Mulberry Grove** took a load of firewood to Spruce Pine, NC. Alex Llewellyn made a trip to Vass, NC, to deliver goods and supplies for those devastated by the hurricane and flooding. She also joined the team from CVCS in delivering 4 trailers of goods, including bottled water, cleaning supplies, diapers, and baby formula. The second team went to a staging area in

North Carolina. They assisted with moving and sorting items coming in a steady stream so that it could be organized for delivery. Several church members met at CVCS to help load the trucks prior to departure. Additionally church members donated items needed. The church has sent \$1000 to BGAV Disaster Response and \$500 to the Bland Ministry Center to help those devastated by Hurricane Helene.

Fitzgerald Memorial Baptist Church and Community Team Steps Forward

Rev. Steve Emory

We arrived on Monday, Sept. 30, to the site set up at Abingdon FB, we helped the Disaster Relief leaders set the working site and met other personnel. We became familiar with our duties and then met at the place we bivouacked, Highlands Community Church, around 4pm and got settled for the night.

Tuesday morning, we were up at 5am, dressed, and we're on the site around 5:45...eating a quick breakfast, and getting instructions for the day. Our entire team we preparing food for the Red Cross to deliver to the Washington County, Va site (Damascus, Va) for lunch and for Supper. We were to prepare 1,500 meals per. (3,000 meals per day).

Our work site had people from all over Virginia, my team from Cumberland consisted of 4 members (from our church), and 2 (two) from our sister churches in the JRBA. Most of our team stayed all week, a few left early to return home for work. No one is expected to stay all week. Workers come and go as they need.

Our team of 12 received our training from the VA Relief Disaster personnel (May 12, 2024) and were finally able to actually (physically) work on a site. Two of our team were yet to be certified, but that credential is accessible online. We encourage every member of the JRBA to become certified and experienced - ready for a call out.

Bland Disaster Ministry Team

October 1 – 4, 2024



A small team went to assist at the Bland Ministry Center following the devastation from Hurricane Helene. Gwynn Tyler, Phyllis Tyler, and Wayne Gough, (**Mulberry Grove**), along with Joe Weaver (**Tar Wallet**), quickly responded to a request from Dee Dee Housier, Director of BMC. They arrived on Tuesday afternoon, worked Wednesday, Thursday, and until noon on Friday.

Wayne's daughter collected bottled water and toilet paper for the group to take to the center for distribution. Wayne and Joe carried chainsaws. Wayne also carried gas and generators for use as needed. Everyone pitched in with food items for the week as they were unsure of exactly what the conditions would be at Bland. The center and volunteer house did have electricity, though many of the staff and thousands in the area were still without power.

Gwynn, Wayne, and Joe worked throughout the area, doing chainsaw work and clearing brush in the wake of the hurricane on several properties. They were able to clear a tree from the roof of one house as well. They also assisted with transporting food/goods to one of the local shelters. Phyllis kept the volunteer house open for clients and staff members to come for showers and to do laundry. She also cooked hot meals for the team and some of the BMC staff. The group also provided encouragement to the staff and regular volunteers who were working diligently to help those in the area who came for assistance. The BMC staff and local volunteers continued the regular food and clothing distributions for the week. The group appreciated the prayers and monetary support from JRBA.



Looking for ways to help those affected by Hurricane Helene?

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32

1. Bring any of the below items to the JRBA office Monday (9-5) or Wednesday (9-5) and we will get them to those in need.

Folding Tables, brooms, mops, generators, dish soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, Shaving cream, cots, cleaning supplies, shovels, shampoo and conditioner, camp stoves, charcoal grills, charcoal, tents, cables, locks.

2. Donate a flood bucket with the BGAV by packing you own or donating through the below link or address below.

Essential Components:

- 5-gallon bucket – 1
- 5-gallon bucket lid – 1
- All-purpose sponges – 3
- Heavy Duty Kitchen gloves – 1 pair
- Leather Palm Gloves – 2 pairs
- Handle Scrub Brush – 1
- Retractable utility knife – 1
- All Purpose wide mouth spray bottle – 1
- Liquid Dish detergent (21-25 oz) – 1
- All Purpose Liquid Cleaner (40 oz) – 1
- Bleach (32 oz) – 1
- 33-gal drawstring trash bag – 50 bags
- N95 valved respirator – 3 masks
- Reuseable Cotton Towels (Terry Towels) – 4
- Eye protection (glasses or goggles) – 1 pair

Additional Items to Consider:

- Mold control spray (32 oz) – 1
- Sharpie Permanent marker – (black – 2 pk)

Drop off for buckets: Fitzgerald Baptist Church. Contact person Robbie Spiers 804-577-3505

<https://impactmissionsmovement.org/flood-bucket-information/>

Impact Missions, 2828 Emerywood Pkwy, Henrico, VA 23294

3. Donate to Savage Freedom Operations. This group, out of Swannanoa, North Carolina, of on the ground operation has been varied by several local sources first hand. They have a running list at <https://www.thingstogetme.com/1275372a92b90> . The list includes equipment from chainsaw bar oil to round bale hays. You can also follow their mission at <https://www.facebook.com/savagefreedomops/>
4. Volunteer or give at Samaritans Purse. They are looking for volunteers in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana. We all know the good that this organization is doing in the world. Donations can be mailed to P.O. 3000, Boone, NC. 28607. <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/disaster/hurricane-helene>
5. Bland Ministry Center-There is no doubt the hard work that this ministry is doing. Please consider donating online or mailing a check to P.O. Box 211, Bland, Virginia 24315 <https://www.blandministrycenter.org/donate>
6. Donated to the James River Baptist Association Missions Fund. \$50 scholarships are available for any JRBA individual that goes on a group or individual mission outside of Virginia. Any mission teams serving in Virginia are eligible for \$100 per team. To receive support, a list of names and addresses of all members need to be sent to the JRBA office at 434-983-7385 or jamesriverbaptistassociation@gmail.com BEFORE your trip. No funds will be disbursed after a trip. Any donated monies not spent on missions at year's end will be used for the BGAV Flood Bucket Mission. For questions, contact the treasurer, Austin Williams at austin@mulberrygrovebaptistchurch.com

Out of the Darkness Walk

Jones Chapel has a team participating in the Out of the Darkness Walk in Farmville on November 9th. This walk helps with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Suicide has been an issue for many years. In Matthews it is written that Judas took his own life after betraying Jesus. When someone finds themselves in a horrible place, their minds may go to death. The book of Genesis tells us that "for in the image of God has God made man." He does not want us to eliminate the gift he has given us nor does he want us to suffer so greatly that we feel suicide is the only answer. Factors, such as anxiety, social isolation, fears, economic stress, and disruption in routines can potentially impact our mental health, and be a contributing factor for suicide risk. Suicide is complex and driven by multiple risk factors- it is not a singular driven event.

How can we reduce this? Check on each other. Call or text each other, letting them know you care and that God loves them. Considering supporting the Out of the Darkness Walk by walking or donating to the cause by contacting Angel at 434-414-4753 or online at <https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=10025>

Officer Positions Openings

The James River Baptist Association is blessed to have many that have served as officers over the years. The association is actively searching for those who may want to serve as the Baptist Men's Director or the Vacation Bible School Director. Please pray about this and see if this is where God wants you to serve. If interested, please contact Mr. Gwynn Tyler, Moderator, at 434-315-4443.

Office Front Window Decorator Needed

I had no idea the amount of people that walk by the JRBA office in Dillwyn! The office (me) is looking for someone that may want to decorate the office window front for Christmas. It would be a great way to showcase the real meaning of Christmas! Let me know if you are interested by November 13th at jamesriverbaptistassociation@gmail.com or 434-983-7385. Thanks, Jennifer

Catch Someone Doing Something Good!

Do you have information that you would like to see in the newsletter? We are always looking for stories of God's work being done in our community. Now of any areas of need? Let us know about it. We will ask our collective body of the association help. Please send information to jamesriverbaptistassociation@gmail.com or call 434-983-7385.

Important Dates

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 5	Election Day-Pray and Vote!	
November 7	Helping Hands 7 PM	First Baptist of Dillwyn
November 8	Blue Ridge Food Distribution Volunteers 9 AM	Crystal Cathedral
November 11	Veterans Day Meal 11:00AM until 1:00 PM Military veteran and one guest are invited. Veteran widows/widowers welcomed. Food and Prizes	First Baptist of Dillwyn
November 13	Senior Fellowship Meal and Music 11:00AM	Mulberry Grove
November 9	Out of the Darkness Walk Event will be in Farmville next to Walker's Diner For more information, go to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)	Jones Chapel Baptist
November 10	Fall Festival Following the service	Cedar Baptist
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/ Please be in prayer.	1st Baptist Church of Alexandria 2932 King Street, Alexandria
November 22	Blue Ridge Food Distribution Volunteers 9:00 AM	Crystal Cathedral
November 24	Thanksgiving Covered Dish Supper Music by Lynn Cooper. All are invited. 5:30 PM	Chestnut Grove Baptist
November 24	Thanksgiving Service and Meal Service at 11:00 and meal at noon All are welcomed.	Sharon Baptist
November 24	Thanksgiving Lunch after worship service Hosted by the youth.	Jones Chapel Baptist
November 27	"Lights at the Lake" Youth Decorating Bear Creek State Park. Event is scheduled for Dec 6-8 & 13-15. For more information: https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/event?id=2024-10-08-12-07-06-064570-1jc	Jones Chapel Baptist
December 4-7	JRBA Hope for Appalachia Fall Mission Trip to Kentucky	



JRBA Quarterly Executive Board Meeting

October 14, 2024

Marilyn Snoddy, Moderator, opened the JRBA Quarterly Executive Board Meeting with devotional thoughts on John 11 entitled, "Do You Believe This?" After Lazarus died and was in the tomb four days, Jesus arrived on the scene. Martha went out to meet him and told him, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ...Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." This and many other things that happened in the Bible seem unbelievable...think about the creation

of the world in six days, Noah building the ark and taking his family and the animals inside, Daniel in the lions' den, Jonah in the belly of the whale, the parting of the Red Sea and the Israelites crossing on dry ground, Jesus died, was buried, and rose again...ONLY by FAITH can we believe. Faith is what assures us of God's providence and power! Marilyn led us in singing I Know Whom I Have Believed and then in a prayer asking for the Lord's leading by the Holy spirit in all we do.

Marilyn called the meeting to order and Gwynn Tyler had the roll call of churches. There were 17 in attendance, representing 9 churches. The new Office Manager, Jennifer Hellerstedt, was also in attendance. The minutes of the July 8, 2024 Executive Board Meeting were presented and approved.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Rev. Austin Williams, Treasurer, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. The checkbook balance as of September 30, 2024 was \$29,159.76. This total included the Additional Missions Fund (\$100), Mission Trips (\$650), Mission Blitz (\$648.52), Bland Ministries (\$100), Christian Education/Training/Evangelism (\$35.00) and Baccalaureates (\$150.00). Total Receipts for the quarter were \$8,910.39 which included Church Contributions (\$4,069.58), Individual Contribution (\$100), Interest (\$5.19), Rise Against Hunger (\$4,635.62), and Bland Ministry Center (\$100). Total Disbursements were \$19,515.29 which included Mission Trip (Bland Disaster Response - \$100), and Rise Against Hunger (\$13,039.67). The Checking Account Balance was \$43,361.76 with Outstanding Checks totaling \$14,202.00. The CD Balance as of June 30, 2024 was \$10,601.14. The report was approved. Austin also noted that an additional \$500 came in for Rise Against Hunger and will be carried over for next year's event.

BUDGET:

OVERALL PROPOSED BUDGET: \$28,541.00, representing an increase in the actual budget of \$571.00 Changes included:

MISSIONS: Additional Missions was raised from \$500 to \$800 to reinstate a yearly donation of \$100 each to Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, Gideons International, and BGAV Disaster Response. Rise Against Hunger was also reinstated in the budget (\$500). These changes totaled an overall increase of \$800.

OFFICE EXPENSES: Building Insurance was raised from \$435 to \$436; Technology was raised from \$750 to \$1,000; Utilities (water, Britespeed, Gas) was decreased from \$4,500 to \$3,700, as the landlord is paying the gas bill. These changes resulted in an overall decrease of \$549.

PAYROLL EXPENSES: Payroll was raised from \$12,500 to \$12,800; Custodial was raised from \$300 to \$320. Changes resulted in an overall increase of \$320.

The proposed budget was approved. (Some errors in the report have been corrected above and will be voted on at the next Executive Board Meeting. .

The total budget is the same amount as approved.)

KNIGHTS' PANTRY: There have been no changes in the account since the July meeting. There have been no additional contributions. The carryover amount is \$2,265.33.

Mrs. Betty Toney, Benevolence Chair, presented the quarterly Benevolence Report. From July 1, - September 30, 2024, no contributions were made to the fund. Disbursements of \$520.85 included \$200 on an overdue electric bill, and \$320.85 contributed to individuals who lost their belongings in a house fire. Available funds stand at \$5,862.68.

Marilyn Snoddy then gave the Moderator's Report. She mentioned what a busy year it was for JRBA. She noted her ending her service as Moderator and how much she had enjoyed working with friends through the years in serving the Lord and building the

Kingdom. She noted the packing of 25,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger in 2023 and the huge turnout of volunteers at that event! Even though this year's event drew only 102 volunteers, everyone worked hard and completed the task of packing 31,156 meals. She noted how hard the children worked and the enthusiasm they showed.

Marilyn noted some other ministries of JRBA during the 2023-2024 year and thanked everyone for their participation.:

- Hope for Appalachia Winter Wear Campaign and Mission Trip, including Kindergarten and Pre-K bags, cookies for the teachers, and the spring boxes for the students; Mission Team led by Rev. Woody Moore
- Bland Mission Team led by Gwynn and Phyllis Tyler in the spring
- Supporting other participants in various mission trips
- First Annual Youth Explosion reaching out to area youth with the Gospel

Marilyn thanked Mulberry Grove for hosting the 189th Annual Fall Meeting and Tar Wallet for hosting the 190th Semi-Annual Spring Meeting. She noted the retirement of Secretary Phyllis Tyler on June 15, who was honored at the spring meeting.

Marilyn also noted the formation of a Personnel Committee with Gwynn Tyler serving as Chairman. The committee was tasked with finding a JRBA Office Manager. Jennifer Hellerstedt was hired and began work on September 4, 2024.

She prays that 2024-2025 will give us continuing opportunities to accomplish much for the Kingdom, with the Lord's help, for without Him, we could do nothing.

WMU Quarterly Report: Mrs. Betty Toney noted that members of the Leadership Team attended WMUV's 150th Anniversary at CrossRoads for a wonderful day of worship, inspiration, special guests, and history. They especially enjoyed the "Walk Through History Fashion Hour" that was narrated by Claudia Hatfield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee: In the absence of Rita Harris, the moderator presented the updated Slate of Officers.

Rev. Robert Silby has accepted the roll of Vice Moderator and Robert Spiers has agreed to be the Disaster Response Coordinator. The added officers were approved.

Program Committee: The Program draft was presented for the Annual Fall Meeting to be held on October 17, 2024, at Sharon Baptist Church. Rev.

Dane Gressett will bring the message and the Sharon Baptist Choir and Jennifer Farrish will present Special Music. Gloria Newton will talk about the Youth Explosion. The committee recommended that the offering be taken for the Bland Ministry Center. All recommendations of the Program Committee were approved.

Missions Committee:

Rev. Jimmy Dunn thanked everyone who participated in the Rise Against Hunger Meal packing on October 13, and thanked Maysville Baptist for their participation and providing the facility for the event. He noted that the 31,156 meals will go to the Philippines to provide school lunches to approximately 140 students for a year. Rev. Dunn noted that just as we work together to feed hungry children, we should work together, regardless of our differences, for the Glory of God. Rev. Steve Emery told about the September 30 Disaster Response Team that went to Abington, VA, to help the BGAV Disaster Response Feeding Team provide meals to victims of Hurricane Helene in Damascus, VA. They provided about 500 meals per day which were delivered by the Red Cross. Steve also noted that BGAV is collecting Flood Buckets for victims of the storm. Go to www.bgav.org to see information on how to provide a filled flood bucket or on how to donate \$75 to pay for one. If you choose to make your own, they are being collected at Heritage Baptist

(Farmville) or Fork Union Baptist (Fork Union). Rev. Jimmy Dunn also talked about a group from FBC going to Damascus with SBCV Disaster

Response. Another group is going later as well and carry supplies. Gwynn Tyler told about the team that went to Bland Ministry Center Oct. 1- 4, to help at the center and in the surrounding area where a great deal of wind damage occurred and loss of power was widespread for a lengthy period following the hurricane. The men did chainsaw work and cleared debris while the volunteer house remained open for those needing showers or laundry facilities. From Mulberry Grove, Chuck Llewellyn took a load of firewood to NC, and Alex Llewellyn made two trips to NC carrying supplies, the second trip with the CVCS group that took 4 trailers of items to assist victims. Additionally, the Mt. Zion GA's went shopping for items to send to victims with the Cartersville Baptist group. Clarence Gormus noted that Randy Waycaster (Cedar) took a trailer load of supplies, including hay for cattle, to NC. Our people continue to respond to the needs of others in generosity with God's love! Austin noted that if you are going on a Disaster Relief trip, be sure to send in your name and address ahead of the trip for financial assistance from JRBA. The dates for the Hope for Appalachia Fall Trip are Dec. 4 – 7, 2024. Items being collected: Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Individual Blankets, Kindergarten and Pre-K Bags, and cookies for the teachers/staff. The items need to be delivered to the Mt. Zion Mission

House by October 30. If you need to set up a time to deliver items, text Marilyn at 434-808-9235, or call her at 434-581-3957. If you are ordering items from Amazon, you can have them shipped to her.

Personnel Committee: Gwynn Tyler noted the committee’s work over the summer and the hiring of Jennifer Hellerstedt as Office Manager. He noted that the office is open on Monday and Wednesday, from 9 AM – 5PM, except on holidays. He thanked the members of the committee for their time and input. He then presented the new Office Policy Manual, developed by the committee, with guidelines for the management of the office and hiring of employees. The Policy Manual was approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Introduction of Office Manager: Marilyn Snoddy introduced Jennifer and asked her to share a bit with the board members. Jennifer told us about growing up in Buckingham, the daughter of Rev. Otis and Nyoka Whorley. She noted that she had been retired from Law Enforcement work for 5 years and cared for her parents until their passing. She lost them and her mother-in-law during the last year. Grieving their loss, she felt it was time to pursue some kind of work. Thelma Childress told her about the JRBA position and encouraged her to apply. She interviewed and was hired. She asked for everyone’s patience and prayers. Marilyn encouraged everyone to go by the office and get to know Jennifer.

New Business:

Marilyn presented a letter from Tar Wallet Baptist Church notifying JRBA of their withdrawal from JRBA. Rev. Jimmy Dunn asked that a letter of regretful acceptance be sent to Tar Wallet, acknowledging their faithful participation through the years in mission work.

Rev. Austin Williams presented a Financial Request for permission to obtain Debit Cards (through PEX Cards) to provide limited funds for those who need to purchase items for specific JRBA events or for Jennifer to utilize for JRBA office supplies/postage/etc. The service is free for up to 5 debit cards. A motion was made, seconded and approved for Austin to obtain the cards.

Announcements:

November 11 – 13: BGAV Annual Meeting to be held in Alexandria, Va. Messengers should register by Nov. 5.

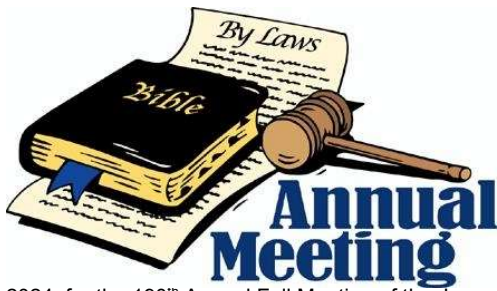
Rev. Austin Williams made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and Rev. Jimmy Dunn closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis R. Tyler, Clerk

**JRBA Slate of Officers
2024 – 2025**

- Moderator Mr. Gwynn Tyler
- Vice-Moderator Rev. Robert Silby
- Clerk Mrs. Phyllis Tyler
- Treasurer Rev. Austin Williams
- Reporter/Historian Mr. Terry Towler
- Sunday School Director Rev. Jimmy Dunn
- Discipleship Director Rev. Steve Emery
- Baptist Men’s Director VACANT
- VBS Leader VACANT
- Music Director Mrs. Marilyn Snoddy
- Disaster Relief Coordinator Mr. Robert Spiers
- VA Baptist Historical Soc. Rep. Mr. Terry Towler
- Parliamentarian VACANT
- WMU Director Mrs. Betty Toney

Serving from JRBA on the BGAV Mission Council: Rev. Dave Vogt and Rev. Austin Williams
Contact for Baptist Collegiate Ministries (Longwood University): Rev. Candance Tyler



**James River Baptist Association
190th Annual Fall Meeting
October 17, 2024
Sharon Baptist Church**

Forty-five messengers, pastors, visitors and kitchen helpers were at Sharon Baptist on October 17, 2024, for the 190th Annual Fall Meeting of the James River Baptist Association. Terry Ludovissy, Sharon's pianist, opened the service with a beautiful Prelude, after which Marilyn Snoddy, Moderator and Music Director, led the singing of *How Great Thou Art*. Robert Noble gave the Welcome and read the theme verse, II Chronicles 7:14: *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land*. Robert noted how appropriate the verse is during this time in our country. Marilyn Snoddy called the meeting to order and Gwynn Tyler had the Roll Call of Churches. (The meeting started off with light attendance due to an accident on Route 20 that held up several folks, but folks continued to arrive until the fellowship dinner, prior to the Worship Service.)

Marilyn presented the Program and it was approved. Rev. Skip Wallace brought greetings from BGAV. He expressed his excitement in being able to share. He told the story of the man at the sheepgate in Jerusalem and how Jesus healed him on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were upset with him, but Jesus did what needed to be done, even on the Sabbath! He used this as an example of how God is always at work. The Son does what the father does! He noted that JRBA has lots of ministries. He said to keep doing things that are still needed, but not to do things just because we have in the past. We need to see where God is at work and join him. He noted that BGAV pamphlets were available if needed. He mentioned that BGAV Disaster Response teams are busy doing Feeding and Mud Out in Damascus, VA. DR will be involved in the Rebuild assistance there for a long time. It is a tremendous time to be involved with helping those affected by Hurricane Helene.

Audrey Ragland led the Memorial Service for the 26 members who went to be with the Lord from October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. She reminded us to always remember God's unconditional love and His sovereignty. He is in control and is always with us to comfort us. She read the names of those we lost, had a Moment of Silence in their remembrance, and prayed, thanking God for their faithfulness.

REPORTS:

TIME/PLACE/PREACHER REPORT: The 190th Semi-Annual Spring Meeting will be held on May 8, 2025, at Antioch (Scottsville) Baptist Church. The 191st Annual Fall Meeting will be held on October 16, 2025, at Antioch Union Baptist Church. Details will be provided at a later date.

MODERATOR'S REPORT:

(See the Moderator's Report in the preceding Executive Board Minutes and the Book of Reports.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE/TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET: Rev. Austin Williams, Treasurer, presented the End of Year Treasurer's Report and the Budget for 2024 – 2025. He noted the changes to the budget. *(See the changes as listed in the preceding Executive Board Minutes and the Book of Reports.)* The budget was adopted as presented.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The updated Slate of Officers was adopted as presented and approved. *(The entire Slate of Officers is listed at the end of the Executive Board minutes.)*

MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

Rev. Jimmy Dunn spoke about the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event held on October 17, noting that it was a great start to a year of serving others and working together. He asked that everyone pray that as an Association we can always continue to reach out and help those in need. He acknowledged that our churches are helping with Disaster Response and will continue to do so. We continue to reach out to those in need in Kentucky through Hope for Appalachia. He reminded everyone to be thankful for opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name. He noted that Bland Ministry Center is another opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus and encouraged everyone to give generously to this ministry.

Gwynn Tyler briefly told about the recent mission trip to the Bland Mission Center in response to devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. Not only were team members able to help people needing assistance, but they were able to encourage the regular volunteers and the center's staff.

THE 2023 – 2024 BOOK OF REPORTS WAS PRESENTED AND APPROVED.

As in-coming Moderator for 2024 – 2025, Gwynn Tyler was privileged to recognize Marilyn Snoddy for her 20 years of faithful service to JRBA, alternating between Moderator and Vice Moderator. Always hard-working and enthusiastic in the work of the Association, Marilyn is appreciated and valued for her dedication and willingness to serve JRBA and her Lord Jesus Christ. Marilyn was presented with a floral arrangement, a card of thanks, and a gift card to one of her favorite restaurants, Chik-Fil-A. Although she will not be an officer, we look forward to continuing to work with her in our continuing ministry.

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS: YOUTH EXPLOSION 2024

Due to technical difficulties, no pictures were shown from the 2024 Youth Explosion, but Gloria Newton shared a bit about the event. She recognized all individuals who served on the Youth Explosion committee who planned the event and worked hard to see that it went well. She also recognized all the churches that were involved with the event. She thanked Marilyn for her persistence and help in making preparations. She noted some things that can be done to improve the event next year. She said, "If we do what the Lord says, the event will be successful." Next year's event will be May 30 – 31, so start talking to young people now. Call JRBA if you want to serve on the committee and be involved in planning this outreach to the youth of our area.

Robert Noble closed out the business session with Romans 15:13: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*. He then led us in the Benediction and Blessing for the meal.

Those in attendance adjourned to the fellowship hall for a delicious meal and good fellowship around the table.

The evening Worship Service began with a Prelude, followed by the Invocation by Rev. Steve Emery. Everyone joined in singing, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*. Then Rev. Jimmy Dunn installed the 2024 - 2025 Officers in attendance. He encouraged the officers to do their very best and to work for the Lord. He prayed for the Officers and the work of the Association. He also called up Rev. Woody Moore, Team Leader, and others involved in the Hope for Appalachia work. Woody said that he is the only one going on the Fall Trip from JRBA, but he is appreciative of all those who work here to make what he does possible and for providing what is needed in this outreach ministry. Rev. Dunn encouraged the group with Scripture and the reminder to serve others in Jesus' love and Spirit. He then prayed for the group.

The offertory hymn, *Grace That Is Greater Than Our Sin*, was led by Marilyn Snoddy. Doug Tapscott told about his own special connection with the Bland Ministry Center through the years and gave the Offertory Prayer. An offering of \$693.00 was collected for the Bland Ministry Center.

Special Music was then provided by the Sharon Baptist Choir. They beautifully shared *Jesus Christ, My Living Hope* and *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*. Jennifer Farrish also sang, *I Believe*. All of the music was soothing and inspirational, touching our hearts.

Rev. Dane Gressett, Pastor, Jones Chapel, commented on the choir's beautiful voices and on the special beauty of such an old church that has served God in this community for so many years. What a privilege to worship within its walls. Dane shared II Chronicles 7:11 – 14 and noted that this passage is so appropriate for this time of year when revivals and elections ("deciding" times) are taking place. The passage is taking place after the dedication of the temple built by Solomon. Fire fell on the people – the Glory of God! God spoke to Solomon about the backsliding of Israel that is to come. Israel has had repeated times of doubt and backsliding throughout its history. Moses himself didn't get in to the Promised Land. Solomon built the temple, but didn't finish well – he had many wives and built temples to other gods! So here we are, some of us in the later stages of life and we NEED to finish well. Many Bible stories and parables of Jesus are about folks finishing well. The book of Hebrews if about persevering, enduring, finishing well. So just what does it mean to finish with fullness – finish well? Does it just mean to end up in heaven? Heaven IS a glorious promise, but Paul isn't just talking about going to heaven, but rather to look like Jesus when we get there! We should be allowing Jesus to transform us now. We don't want to finish with resentment, anger, bitterness, etc. We want to get there looking like our Lord. Philippians 1:6 says, *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ*.

Jesus died for us so he could live IN and THROUGH us. We need to learn to live in the spirit of God. We don't make promises to God – He makes promises to us. Where we will fail, Jesus will succeed. Once we have accepted Jesus, the game is changed. Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. Don't live "for" Jesus, rather, allow him to live in us and be willing to humble yourself and accept His spirit. So...

- ❖ We need to operate with God in us, partnering now with the grace of the Gospel. We are saved one by one, individually coming to faith and knowing that God never leaves us. We are planted in the house of the Lord and can flourish in the grace of Christ. (Eph.4:14 – 16) We are connected to the body of Christ and need a vital relationship with other Christians. Each of the parts of the body is needed and must do its job for the body to be effective. We need to have unity and purpose in magnifying God. If we are not connected, we miss out on the fellowship of the body. We cannot finish with fullness without the grace of Christ.
- ❖ We need to flow in His love. Philippians 1:9 -10, *And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ*. Paul wanted the Philippians to continually grow in love so that they could live as blameless as possible until they met Jesus. We know from I Corinthians 13, that everything is nothing without love. We need to love one another more and more just as Christ loved us. Without love, we cannot grow in knowledge and discernment. Without love, we grieve the spirit. Each of us is only responsible for what we do and what we think. We need to ask God to remove any bitterness – he wants to change ME – not me change others or the church. Our goal should be to become more like Jesus every day! God is more concerned with who we are becoming than in what we are doing.

Dane then shared how his father, a strong Christian throughout his life, had a brain hemorrhage that left him with some disabilities, one being the inability to read as he had before. He didn't understand why it happened and was mad at God. He learned to do things new ways, including listening to the Bible and other books and he "came back", believing that his most fruitful days were yet to come. But he passed away – why? God wanted to get to more things in His heart! When he faced Jesus, there was not controversy – he finished with fullness. Each of us needs to lean into Jesus – with Jesus dwelling in your soul, experiencing and sharing His grace, and caring for one another. We need one another and must operate in love! Dane closed with a prayer of blessing of peace, love and grace on each of our lives. To God be the Glory!

Marilyn led us in the closing hymn, *Take Time To Be Holy*, and Gwynn Tyler closed the service with prayer. What a wonderful time of inspiration and fellowship in the house of the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis R. Tyler, Clerk