

December 2016

Continuing to be an Acts 1:8 Association

Inside this issue:

From Your Associational Missionary	1
Looking Ahead	1
Baptist Collegiate Ministries	2
News From Churches	2
December Meeting Schedule	2
From the WMU	3
December Calendar	4

Looking Ahead...

- **Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**—Dec. 4-11
- **CBA closed for the Christmas holidays**—Dec. 21-January 1
- **Minister/Mate After Christmas Fellowship**—January 17
- **Sanctity of Human Life Day and Baby Bottle Boomerang** begins—January 22

From Your Associational Missionary...

Dr. David Jerimiah in his book [The 12 Ways of Christmas](#), shares this story.

“Interestingly, convenience seems to play a significant part in holiday gift giving. More than \$29 billion of the 2007 shopping total was spent online, and \$35 billion was spent on gift cards. Just imagine how much easier it would have been for the Magi if they could have purchased their gold, frankincense, and myrrh over the Internet and had them delivered directly to Bethlehem. I would have saved them several months’ worth of saddle sores, not to mention a life-threatening encounter with a vindictive king named Herod. Or, if they weren’t sure that gold and precious spices were the right gifts for the newborn King, they could have just purchased gift cards and let Mary pick out something that Jesus needed.

That fanciful scenario suggests just how far we have come from the humble actions of several ancient “wise men” who established the pattern of gift giving at the first Christmas. They spared no expense in their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They gave their gifts humbly, personally, and thoughtfully—royal gifts

for the newborn King. The way the Magi gave their gifts should serve as a model for how we give. I don’t mean we have to give as expensively as they did or deliver all our gifts in person. And there’s certainly nothing wrong with shopping online or giving a gift card. If I had to choose a word to summarize Christian Christmas gift giving, I think I would choose appreciatively. If we give gifts to one another appreciatively, we’ll be saying, “I honor and appreciate you. I’ve selected this gift for you because I want you to know how much I value you and the role you play in my life. This gift isn’t a payment—it’s an expression of what I could never repay or replace your unique friendship.” Isn’t that what the very first Christmas gift represented to those who received it? No, I’m not talking about the Magi’s gifts to the baby Jesus. I’m talking about the gift of Jesus Himself to you and me. Jesus once referred to His coming into the world as “the gift of God” (Romans 6:23). And the apostle John talked about all who received the gift of God gaining the

“right to become children of God” (John 1:12). So Jesus’ entry into the world was indeed the first Christmas gift. God gave something of infinite value to say to us, “I love you more than you can imagine. I want you to know how valuable you are to Me.” Our gifts to one another at Christmas ought to be a reflection of God’s first gift to us. When we give to others, it ought to be an expression of gratitude for what God has given to us. The generosity and appreciation revealed through our gifts ought to say to the recipient. “Everything I know about giving I learned from God’s gift of Jesus Christ to me.” Is that too idealistic? Perhaps. But remember that maturity is our goal in all the Christian life (Matthew 5:45). We strive to do and be all that God wants us to be, knowing we’ll fall short—and that applies to our gift giving this year as well. But by striving to have our gifts reflect God’s gift to us—by keeping his gift in mind—we may be able to stay focused on giving instead of spending. Giving like God gives. It’s the way of Christmas.”
Dan



*Merry Christmas!
And Happy New Year!
From your Associational Staff*



Church News...

Baptist Collegiate Ministries

Merry Christmas to everyone! I hope you all have a blessed Christmas season! This is my favorite time of the year! Everything about the season brings back such wonderful memories! We want to thank everyone in our Churches that have helped out in any way with our BCM ministry. Without y'all our ministry would not exist! We want to sincerely say thank you! From our BCM family to yours, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Once again, have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Bill

2016-2017 CBA Gifts

Thank you to all the CBA churches who have supported our Association financially since September 1st (the beginning of our fiscal year).

Antioch, Bethesda, Beulah, Bowdon, Calvary, FBC Carrollton, First Central-hatchee, Concord, Consolation, Ephesus, Flat Rock, Fullerville, Glenloch, Harmony, Indian Creek, Kansas, Midway Macedonia, Midway West, Mount Pleasant, Oak Grove, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Ridge, Pleasant View, Rocky Mount, Roopville Road, Salem, Shady Grove, Tabernacle, Temple First, Trinity, Unity, and FBC, Villa Rica

Bowdon: will have their Christmas Music Program on Sunday night, Dec. 11th at 5:30 pm.

FBC, Carrollton: our deepest sympathy to Dr. Steve Davis and his family on the death of his wife, Sheri.

Glenloch: "One Night in Bethlehem" will be December 2nd-4th.

Roopville Road: will have their Christmas Musical on December 10th & 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Shady Grove: would like to invite you to their Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 11th at 6pm. They will also have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service December 24th at 6pm.

Tabernacle: Congratulations to Rev. Stephen Allen and his wife Leeann, on the birth of their son, Stephen Vernon Allen, Jr.

December Meeting Schedule:

- 12/01 **Community Ministries Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
- 12/05 **Mission Development Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
- 12/08 **Leadership Development Team Meeting**—Noon at the CBA. Bring your own lunch.
- 12/14 **Administrative Team Meeting**—at American Pie Pizzeria following the Ministers' Luncheon

Note to Pastors:

We will meet for our weekly Ministers' Luncheons December 7th & 14th at American Pie Pizzeria. **We will NOT meet on the 21st or 28th due to the holidays.**

NOTE: Please have all announcements for the January Newsletter into the CBA office by **December 9th.** (Note early date due to holidays.)

Be much in prayer for the following churches as they go on mission trips in December...

Association: December 2-3; Rogersville, TN

Mt. Pleasant: December; Copperhill, TN

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebbox Update



Many, many thanks to all who packed a shoebox, to those who brought them to the CBA, and especially to all the volunteers who worked relentlessly all week to make this year's Shoebox Collection week a great success!!!

As of 11/14/16 (our first official day of collecting), the total was: 1185.

Looking Ahead...

Come Join The Fun!!

Children's Missions Extravaganza

Roopville Road Baptist Church
February 25, 2017



Find registration information at
<http://gabaptist.org/extra/>.



Minister/Mate After Christmas Fellowship

*January 17th at 7:00 p.m.
FBC, Carrollton*

For all Ministers in your church.



Week of Pray for International Missions and The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 5th—11th

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 22, 2017



And Baby Bottle Boomerang Begins

Fill Baby Bottles with change, (or bills) for the Pregnancy Resource Center. A great Mission Project for your Missions' groups, Sunday School Classes, or your entire church.

From the WMU

As we approach the Christmas season a lot of our thoughts and attention tend to be towards buying Christmas gifts. I may have shared before about a friend, who after talking with her husband, decided to give money to a worthy cause instead of buying gifts for each other. I've heard several others including families talk about how they can help others during this time of year instead of getting more things themselves. You can probably think of needs in our community you can help and donate to. There are opportunities through national WMU you could support also. Some of those include Pure Water, Pure Love, WorldCrafts, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Global Hunger or the WMU Foundation. You could give a gift to one of these worthy causes in honor or memory of someone.

National WMU in Birmingham is having an Observance of the Week of Prayer for International Missions on Thursday, December 8 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Building tours begin at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time). You will also have a chance to meet Sandy Wisdom-Martin, the new executive director/treasurer of national WMU. You can also enjoy shopping in the WMU gift shop, interactive displays, and refreshments. You will need to RSVP by Tuesday, December 6, by calling 205-991-8100 or online. (I will put a link on our local WMU website.)

Make Plans Now

We hope you will mark your calendars for February 25 and plan to bring a group of children from your church to the Children's Missions Extravaganza at Roopville Road Baptist. This is a state

sponsored event that Dan and the CBA are assisting with. Please find registration information at <http://gabaptist.org/extra/>. I'll share some more information in the January newsletter and online.

The Georgia Baptist Women's Event will be at Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort in Stone Mountain April 28-29. You can find more information at <http://gabaptistwomen.springevent.com>; You may want to go ahead and place your reservation.

Thanks for all you do.

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December



- 28-Dec. 4 **Pray for Consolation, Mike Powers, Pastor**
1 **Community Ministries Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
2-3 **Associational Mission Trip to Rogersville, TN**
4-11 **Week of Pray for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**
Pray for Discovery, Alan Trippe, Pastor
5 **Mission Development Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
7 **Ministers' Luncheon**—11:30 a.m. at American Pie Pizzeria
8 **Leadership Development Team Meeting**—Noon at the CBA. Bring your own lunch.
12-18 **Pray for Ephesus, Tony Morris, Pastor**
- 14 **Ministers' Luncheon**—11:30 a.m. at American Pie Pizzeria
Administrative Team Meeting—At American Pie Pizzeria following the Ministers' Luncheon
19-25 **Pray for Eureka, Russell Shadrix, Pastor**
21 **Associational Office will close at Noon**
22-Jan. 1 **Associational Office closed for the Holidays**
24 **Christmas Eve**
25 **Merry Christmas!**
26-Jan. 1 **Pray for Fellowship, David Ayers, Pastor**
- Looking Ahead...
2/25 **Children's Missions' Extravaganza**—Roopville Road Baptist Church