

For your information

December/ January

Churches Growing Together

Executive Board Meeting

December 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist, Front Royal

Council & Ministry Team Mtg

January 8, 2019
Council Meeting—5:30 pm
Ministry Team—6:30 pm



If you would like to show the Mully Movie at your church. Contact the associational office to borrow the movie.



Mission Statement

The Shenandoah Baptist Association is a fellowship of autonomous Baptist Churches dedicated to mutual support, equipping of churches, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission by combining resources to engage in missions.

Vision Statement

To have a strong, viable, well-supported missions/ministry presence in every community in the Shenandoah Valley.

Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto him
with psalms.

For the Lord is a
great God
and a great King
above all gods.

Psalm 95:2-3

**I HEARD THE BELLS ON
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**THEIR OLD, FAMILIAR
CAROLS PLAY**

**AND WILD AND SWEET,
THE WORDS REPEAT**

**OF PEACE ON EARTH,
GOODWILL TO MEN!**



Moderator's Musing's

As you read this, Christmas is approaching like a speeding train heading unhesitatingly toward the station as you race to arrive there in time to get a ticket and get on, while doing innumerable tasks and errands that seem important but often don't appear to add any appreciable results. We are often so busy with the stuff of Christmas, that we don't enjoy the preparation and are then too tired and frazzled to appreciate the Holiday when it actually comes. We seem to be much more like Martha than Mary, more likely to race around focused on doing more and more, instead of realizing that our vision is on the stuff and not on the Son. In Luke 10, when Jesus visited Mary and Martha, Martha was so concerned about doing all the stuff (see the approaching train comments) that she got mad at Mary and was laser focused on the wrong things. Jesus was a special, although familiar, guest who was now famous, or at least now a local celebrity. Martha was concerned with making sure all the expectations, external and internal, were met, and Jesus had to remind her that the most important part of this visit was spending time with Him and learning at His feet. Mary understood this. Far too often we are more like Martha than Mary during this Advent Season as we (deep breath) buy presents, wrap presents order on-line, write Christmas cards, buy stamps, mail Christmas cards, prepare Christmas packages, send Christmas packages, check last year's Christmas lights, buy new lights as necessary, decorate the house, find a tree or get last year's out, decorate the tree (you have to do the light thing again here unless you have a pre-lighted tree), get out your Christmas ties, or Christmas sweaters, or Christmas shoes, or ugly Christmas sweaters (not entirely sure I understand the logic here), buy baking supplies, bake Christmas cookies, make sure you have gifts for teachers, mail carriers, family, relatives, friends, pastor, and any other special people you want to recognize, and then, maybe you can relax. But it's already Christmas Eve, and we need to find a gift for Aunt Guinevere, quickly, as she just arrived unexpectedly.

Now I'm not saying we should not do any of these things (except maybe the ugly sweater thing), but we would be happier if we employed the principles Jesus taught Martha. To paraphrase, "the stuff ain't important, but Christ is." The pace of life moves fast, but if we lose our focus, we become like a picture that is not clear, You have an idea what it is, but there are items you can't recognize or make out. We are supposed to reflect Christ's love to those around us, but if we have lost our focus, we aren't recognizable as Christians either, and are poor examples of the Christ like mirrors we are intended to be.

Now I hear all the comments about how life and church and work and kids and parents won't let us, you, me, slow down, and that is right, but only to a point. We, each of us, can make some choices, and one choice is to set aside some time for family/individual worship each day during this Advent season. Read Luke 2 with your children each day. If you do it a verse at a time, that will take you up to December 22nd, but any sequence or timing that works for you will do. Give each other little gifts like offering to do something for the other person, age appropriate. Doing someone else's family job, like taking out the trash or doing the dishes, or picking up the toys for a brother or sister, will help everyone appreciate the giving of gifts, and also how to graciously receive them, something we are far too often not so good at. Prayerfully read the stories in Luke 1 about Elizabeth and Zacharias, and Mary and Joseph, and put yourself in their shoes. Read the stories of Simeon and Anna and wonder at their joy even in their old age. Read the story of the wise men in Matthew 2, who came to worship the true King. If you are brave enough, read the Matthew 1 genealogy of Jesus and marvel at the different, and diverse, people who are in the list. Pray that we too will value that kind of diversity! Rejoice in the season. Sing a Christmas carol with your family each day before dinner this usually works best at home, but feel free to try it at a restaurant – and let me know how it goes). Pick a night and drive around each week, on that night, to see Christmas lights and decorations in your community. Do something nice for your neighbors, the pastor, church leaders and those you don't know. Visit someone in the hospital, or a rehabilitation center. Use your imagination and develop a new family Christmas tradition!



Christmas is a time of joy, peace, wonder and grace. We need to live like we believe it. Let us all, every church, every family, every individual show the world our Savior through our deeds and actions, as well as by our words. I pray that each of you will be richly blessed this Christmas, and I humbly thank you for the honor of serving as your moderator. Michele and I both wish you a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In His Grace,



Christmas Around the Association

Berryville—Deacon's sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov, 18th, turkey and ham provided. Baptist Rascals will preform Dec. 8th for families of Wounded Warriors. The shelter program will be on Dec. 7.

Browntown— will hold their Christmas Dinner/ program on Dec. 15 at 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service Dec. 24.

Charles Town—The church held a Thanksgiving Day service at 9:00 am on Thanksgiving. 6th Dimension Hand Bell Choir Concert on Sunday, 12/9 at 3:00 pm. Christmas Cantata and Hand Bell Performance on Sat. Dec 15 & Sunday Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm for families Candlelight Communion Service at 9:00 pm

First, Front Royal— Dec. 2— First Advent at 11:00 Worship followed by Covered dish luncheon and Hanging of the Green. Dec9 Second Advent— 11:00 worship 4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service in the prlor for those grieving. Dec. 16— Third Advent worship at 11:00 Christmas Cantata— The Heart of Christmas by Pepper Choplin. 2:00— 4:00 Christmas party at the McMillin-Goodwin Home. Dec. 23 Forth Advent worship at 11 Dec. 24— Communion and Candles service at 7:00 pm will collect a special offering that will go to help those who were affected by hurricanes this fall. The church will be purchasing new Hymnals their current hymnal is over 40 years old. On Wednesday nights the church will be gathering with the Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Episcopalians for 3 events, with dinner at 6:00 p.m and activi-ty at 6:30 pm. Activities— making banners to hang in community and churches, collect gifts for children in Child Pro- tective Services and daycare that don't have Christmas with out these, learn a little about the Christmas carols and trav- el to Lynn Care to sing to the residents.

First, Martinsburg—Mt Zion Worship on Dec. 8th at 6:30 pm Cantata on Friday Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. and Dec. 16th at morning worship. Children's Pancakes & Pajamas at 10:00 am on Dec. 15th. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm.

First, Winchester— Dec. 2— Hanging of the Greens service at 11:00 worship, after worship at 12:15 the children will have a dress rehearsal for their pageant on Dec.5 at 6:00 p.m. with the Annual Christmas Dinner at 6:30 p.m. White Christmas service Dec. 9 at 6:00 p.m. Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 and 11:00 pm. Dec. 30 Kids Worship at 4:00 pm.

Main Street— Deacons voted and renamed their White Christmas the Roby Janney Memorial White Christmas, honoring a church member Mr. Janney's mission to provide food for the needy families in the community. They would like to complete 20 boxes this year. The food boxes will be given out on Dec. 23.

Summit Point— Dec. 9th Men's and Ladies Christmas Party, Dec. 16 Christmas Musical Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm

Prayer Needed

Please keep these folks in your prayers.

Rev. Mike Normoyle, Pas- tor of Browntown Baptist

Church. They have taken him to INOVA Fair- fax. He has an infection in his knee and pneu- monia. Please keep him and his wife and the church in your prayers.

Rev. Jason Powell, Pastor of Stanley Baptist Church. He is scheduled for cervical spinal surgery in January and will have a rough road ahead of recovery. Please keep him and the family in your prayers as well as the church.

Church Contributions

Jan 1 - Nov 28, 18

501 Bentonville	100.00
502 Berryville	1,300.00
505 Calvary	660.72
506 Charles Town	7,160.40
507 First Front Royal	375.00
508 First, Martinsburg	700.00
509 First, Winchester	15,974.66
510 First, Woodstock	6,970.32
515 Leetown	1,345.00
516 Main Street Luray	4,130.70
517 Marlow Heights	279.30
518 Mountain	613.00
521 Shenandoah Farms	2,155.66
522 Stanley	847.01
523 Summit Point	3,060.15
526 Primera Iglesia Bautista Peniel	94.07
TOTAL	45,765.99



Mission Opportunity

Marlow Heights is organizing a trip to NC to participate in the rebuilding of homes damaged by Hurricane Florence. We are looking to go for a week in January (I do not have a specific date at this time). More will be know later as we hear from the Disaster Relief folks.

In addition, they are collecting money for flood buckets and will become a collection site for flood buckets. My understanding is that by collecting money and then shopping we may able to receive a bulk purchase discount. Deadline for receiving money is Dec 31. Checks can be made out to the Association or Marlow Heights. For more information contact the associational office.

Mission Trip



INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY

REFUGEES

WMU – Between the Lines

December 8, 2018–10:00 a.m.

First Baptist, Martinsburg

Sponsored by the SBA WMU



December



January
2019



Calendar of Events

November

2-4 ~
5 ~
12 ~
12-14 ~

20 ~ 12 pm
22 ~

Women's Weekender at Eagle Eyrie
Women's World Day of Prayer
Veterans Day Observed /Office Closed
BGAV Annual Meeting/ Mount Vernon Baptist Church
Glen Allen, VA
Leadership Conference/ Perkins Restaurant Winchester
Thanksgiving Day / Office Closed

December

2-9
8 ~ 10:00 am
4 - 7:00 p.m.
18 - 12:00 pm
24 -
25 -
31 -

Week of Prayer for International Missions
International Mission Study/ First, Martinsburg
Executive Board at First, Front Royal
Leadership Conference/ Perkins Restaurant Winchester
Christmas Eve/ Office Closed
Christmas Day / Office Closed
New Years Eve

January

1
8 - 5:30 pm
9 - 6:30 pm
15 - 12:00 pm
21 -

New Years Day
Council Meeting / First, Front Royal
Ministry Team Meetings/ First, Front Royal
Leadership Conference/ Perkins Restaurant Winchester
Martin Luther King Day/ Office Closed



Inclement Weather Policy: When schools are closed or dismissed early for bad weather then the association meetings will be rescheduled for the following Tuesday.



Churches Growing Together

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VICE MODERATOR –Jim Holt

TREASURER— Mike Normoyle

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