



For your information

April/ May

*Churches Growing Together*



**Tele Conferenced -Council Meeting**  
**April 14, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
Please note time change

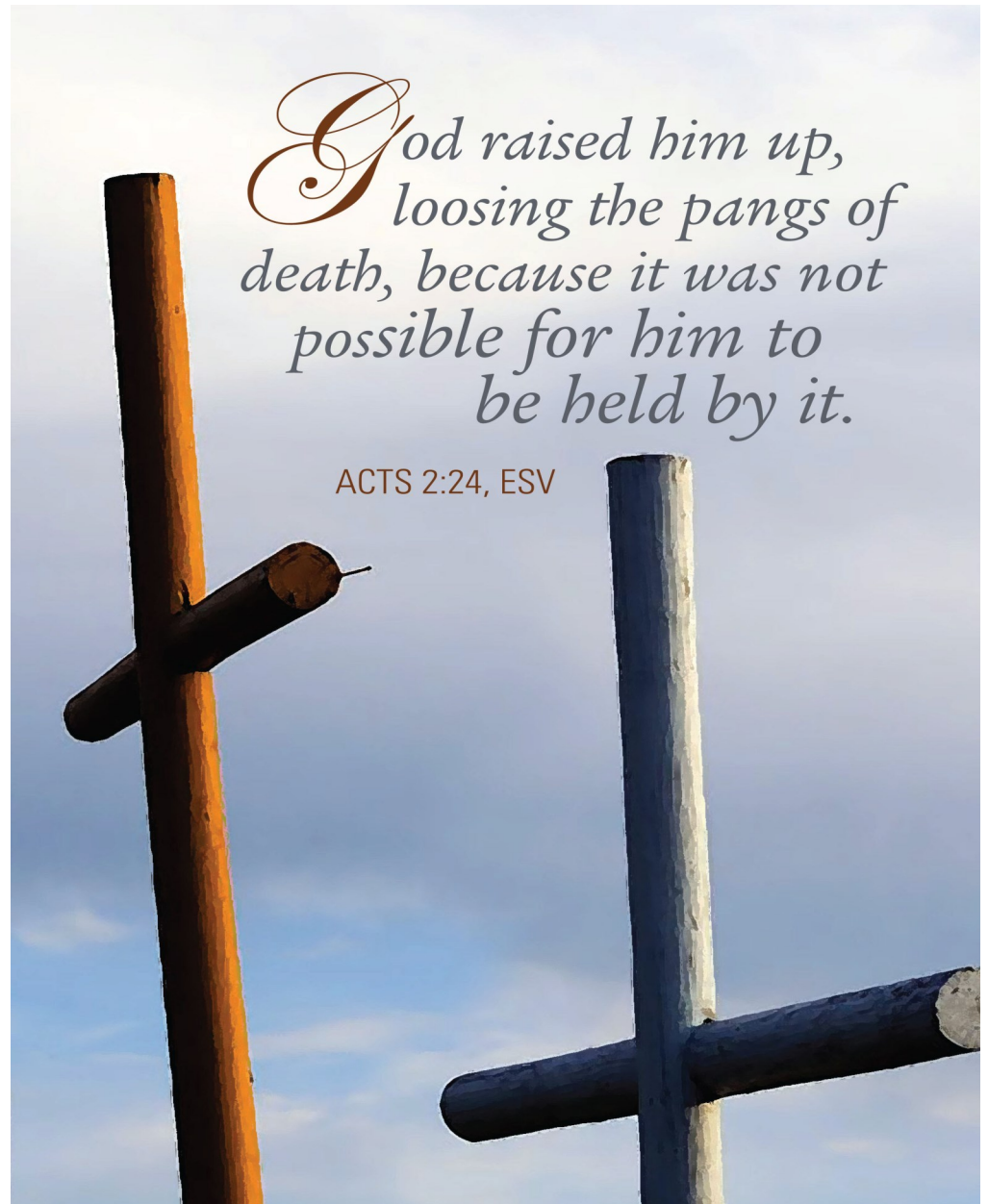


### **Mission Statement**

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.



**Please Note the following changes due to the pandemic.**

Ministry Teams for April 14th have been canceled.  
Council will hold a teleconference call at 7:00 p.m.

WMU Spring Tea planned for April 26 is post-poned until further notice.





## Moderator's Musing's

Dear SBA friends,

Apparently, I was skipping school the day in Seminary when they talked about guiding your church and association through a global pandemic. Like you I have more questions than answers, and I am confident that we are all doing all we can for our congregations in these troubling times. My prayer is that you are all staying healthy and wise, and that you and your congregations are finding innovative ways to be church, rather than just being people that go to church.

We certainly have a challenge, and with every challenge comes great opportunity. Now is a tremendous time for us to break some outdated molds that have trapped us into routine and worn out patterns. Now is a perfect chance for us to find new avenues of ministry for our communities. And if you have not started using some sort of technology in your church to communicate, there is no better time to learn. What an opportunity we have.

As you know, the governors of both Virginia and West Virginia issued Executive Orders to "Stay at Home," to limit non-essential travel, and gatherings are limited to less than ten people. In light of these limitations, we are going to suspend all of our regular and planned meetings for some time. This has already impacted our next Council and Ministry Teams meeting, and our WMU Annual Meeting. We may or may not be able to have our Annual Springfest Picnic, and that will be decided at the appropriate time. We will reschedule as appropriate when this health emergency is resolved.

In lieu of our Council and Ministry Teams meeting, I have scheduled a telephonic conference call of our Council for April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. Michele will have the call-in details, and we will send out an email to those who need to participate. We have a number of items to discuss related to how our association is going to navigate all of this.

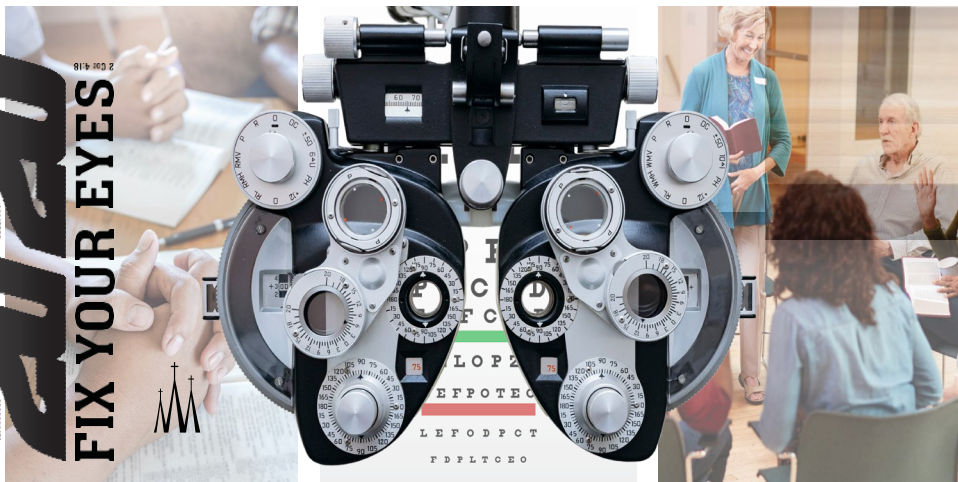
As we have mentioned before, our Association is a bit stressed financially. With our current conditions, and the financial pressure being applied to the churches, I fear that circumstances may become worse, rather than better. I encourage you to continue to support the work of your association by continuing to give as you are able. Your gifts are our only source of financial resources, and we rely solely on the contributions from the churches. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

The Bible tells us clearly that we can live without fear, especially in troubled times. Promise after promise of Scripture tells us that God is with us, that He will never abandon us, and that we do not have to be afraid. In this time of crisis, I pray that our churches and our members would live by these words, would trust in His promises all the more, would not let fear take hold, but that we would live by faith in a mighty God.

May He keep you and your family safe, and may He bless us all.

In Christ,

Brian Hotaling, Moderator.



### Week of Prayer for Associational Mission

The association is asking the churches to select a week in May or June or whatever time works best for your church.

**Watch for your packet of materials!**





## Invite From Baptist Rascals

The Berryville Baptist Rascals puppet group is in their 30<sup>th</sup> year of outreach ministry. Over the years, we have traveled during the summer to areas as diverse as South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Montana, D.C., Virginia, New England, Tennessee, and Kentucky to name but a few. During these Mission Trips, the puppets presented programs for children and adults alike. We shared programs in Men's and Woman's Shelters, children's hospitals, V.A. Hospitals, the local and state county fairs, and nursing homes. The Baptist Rascals were always available for local churches during the year.

Our programs are upbeat Christian songs and recently black light work for many songs. We are pleased to share Patriotic programs at Veterans locations. There are always Christian messages and thoughts shared during the programs by the young people. No one has to come out in front of the curtain if they are uncomfortable.

During the years our numbers have slowly declined from about 26 youth to 9 committed members that we have now. I am very grateful for this dedicated group of adults who help make things happen and are a fine example to our youth. The Berryville Baptist Rascals have always opened their membership to other churches in the area (not always Baptist) and accepted anyone interested in grades 6-12. It requires strength in packing and unpacking to set-up and general fortitude to keep the hours we require. However, we now have a couple members in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Since we have members traveling from Winchester, practice is two meetings a month.....the first and last Sunday of the month from 3-5 PM at Berryville Baptist Church. I see us as a Christian youth group under the umbrella of the Berryville Baptist Church.

I'm turning to the Association, to see if we have others in our churches that might like to be a part of this ministry. This ministry is unique and ministers to both children and adults in a non-traditional way, and reaches people who may never hear the Gospel otherwise. Even though we may not always see immediate differences in those we meet, but it is my hope that we plant a seed in many. In addition, this ministry provides a way for children, youth, and even adults to join together in multigenerational ministry in ways that range from out in front to behind the curtain. This also teaches youth and children the basic principles of Christian ministry and sharing their faith. I can say with a certainty that it makes a difference to the young people in the group. I will always know that it builds on their Christian faith but also makes them more aware and considerate of the trials of others.

If you have an interest in becoming a member of The Berryville Baptist Rascals or need further information, please contact me at:

Joan Houck  
540-664-6950  
540-955-1423 (church office)





**Reminder**— The SBA does have the site license for this movie. The license will allow our churches to show the movie during this year. I realize the difficulty these days of planning, but keep this in mind as we seek to be the

HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*

## SBA Newsletter

**AVAILABLE  
ONLINE**

Due to the restrictions we are all encountering because of COVID-19 the email is available by email or a copy is on our webpage. If you were picking your copy up at church and would like a copy emailed please email me at [sba@sbaonline.org](mailto:sba@sbaonline.org) so that I might add your email address to my list.



*Churches Growing Together*

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**TREASURER**— Mike Normoyle

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Michele Heath

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To be removed from our mailing list please contact us by email or at the address above.

APRIL



## SBA Calendar

### April

5 ~	Palm Sunday
12 ~	Easter
14 ~ 7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting/ Teleconference
14 ~ 6:30 p.m.	Ministry Team Meetings/ First, Front Royal
21 ~ 12:00 pm	Leadership Luncheon/ Perkins— Winchester
26 ~ 3:00 p.m.	Spring Tea ~ Summit Point Baptist Church
	120th WMU Annual Meeting— Postponed

### May

10 ~	Mother's Day
19 ~ 12:00 pm	Leadership Luncheon/ Perkins— Winchester
30 ~ 10:00 pm	Between the Lines/ First Baptist, Martinsburg

### June

2 ~ 7:00 pm	Executive Board— teleconference watch for information
7 ~ 3:00 pm	Spring Fest / Clearbrook Park
16 ~ 12:00 pm	Leadership Luncheon/ Perkins— Winchester
21 ~	Father's Day

*Coming  
this  
Spring*

