



For your information

July

Churches Growing Together



Council & Ministry Team Meeting
July 7, 2020 ~
5:30 p.m.—Council Meeting
6:30 pm—Ministry Team Meeting



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.



Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

Packets of materials will be provided for each church to use and promote the work of the association. We are asking that each church choose a week that works for them to focus on the association. If you would like to have someone speak about the work of the association please contact Michele at the associational office. Please be sure to specify that you want a speaker for the Week of Prayer Associational Missions.



Moderator's Musing's

Dear SBA friends,

As we seem to be coming to the far side of the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray that you and your church are enduring, and that the members of your community of faith are healthy and well. Certainly, this has been a most interesting and unusual time for all of us, yet we are confident that God is present with us all, and that His glory is being revealed in these strange days.

There are a variety of important issues facing the churches and our association these days, and I want to use this brief article to inform and encourage you. I suspect that most of our churches have either resumed having worship services, or are making plans to do so. Each community is unique, and we respect that the churches of our association will make their own decisions about timing, what steps to take to ensure the safety of their congregations, and how to continue to minister effectively. Our BGAV partners and our local field strategist have many resources available to help us think through our plans and move forward with wisdom. And we encourage you to ensure that you are in compliance with the guidance from state and local health officials.

On April 21st, we called a special business meeting of our Executive Board to discuss and gain the association's approval to seek a forgivable small business loan through the provisions of the Federal CARES Act. We have applied for that loan through our local bank, and to date we have not received any funding. And because of limited access to the bank, it has been exceptionally difficult to gather any information regarding the loan. While we have not been directly informed of any decision regarding that loan, at this point we suspect that we will not be receiving any funding through that source.

Our difficult financial status has led us to the decision of reducing our staff, as a cost saving measure. At the regularly scheduled Executive Board Meeting of June 2nd, we agreed that in the best interest of the association, our Administrator, Michele Heath, would be placed at a part-time status. Her schedule will now consist of 24 hours per week at the same hourly compensation. We will continue this schedule until such time as we can either return her to full time, or it becomes apparent that we need to make this a permanent change.

We will leave it up to Michele to determine how to arrange her new schedule, and what days of the week will be most productive for her. At the time of this publication that is still being sorted. When her new schedule becomes solidified, I ask that you respect her time and be aware that she will simply not be as available as in times past.

If the CARES Act loan does come to pass, and we receive additional funding from that, this will require us to reverse our staffing decision. The provisions of the loan are specifically written to restore and maintain staffing at the levels prior to the Coronavirus pandemic. In order for the loan to be forgiven, it must be used for pre-pandemic payroll expenses (among other specific things). If we receive the loan and continue Michele at part-time, we will be required to pay it back. In short, there are elements of this that are still up in the air, and we will respond as our circumstances develop.

Finally, in light of the current nationwide conversations about race, discrimination, and prejudice, I encourage you to be open and aware of the impact of those important matters in your community. As believers, reconciliation is a central theme, and we recognize that God has created all of us as One. Personally, I do not want to become an activist for race relations, politics, the environment, or any of the other causes that could be brought up. I only want to be an activist for the cause of Christ and the Gospel of Jesus. But that gospel should impact all of our thoughts, attitudes, and actions for everything else. We, of all people, should be the voice of peace and restoration for our communities, and the practice of justice and equality for all of God's people should permeate all of our ministries.

These are unusual times, indeed. As our churches are reopening, as we are sorting out the issues and problems that we face, and as we make the right decisions at the right time for the future of our association, we are confident that God is with us, that He is guiding us, and that His kingdom will continue and be multiplied. And we pray His blessings on you and your churches and communities.

In Christ,

Brian Hotaling, Moderator.





Invite From Baptist Rascals

The Berryville Baptist Rascals puppet group is in their 30th 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.

We would like to open the program up to other churches in the Association, to see if we have any young people 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)



— The SBA does have the site license for the movie *Overcomer*. This movie comes from the creators of *Warroom*, *Courageous*, *Fireproof*. Our license will allow our churches to show the movie during this year. We were granted an extension of our license till May of next year. Therefore, our churches are able to show this movie through May of 2021.

Contact Michele at the associational office to plan your event of the showing of this movie .



Associational **PICNIC**

August 29, 2020 ~ 4-6:00 p.m.
Clearbrook Park ~ Rubbermaid Shelter

*Save
the NEW
Date*

. We hope that you will save our new date of August 29th for the Springfest. We remain flexible that we can still have our Springfest. Please plan to join us as make adjustments to our normal time of fellowship. We will be Social distancing, and following the guidelines to keep us all safe and healthy. We have the shelter all day so if you want you can come and take advantage of the park plan to come early or stay late if you wish. **Watch for more details as we get closer and know how to plan.**



Churches Growing Together

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MODERATOR— Brian Hotaling

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TREASURER— Mike Normoyle

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To be added to our mailing list please send your name, address & email address to us at:

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



SBA Calendar

July

3 ~	Independence Day—Holiday Observed
4 ~	Independence Day
7 ~ 5:30 p.m.	Council Meeting
7 ~ 6:30 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting
21 ~ 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Luncheon/

August

18 ~ 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Luncheon/
29 ~ 10:00 a.m.	Between the Lines/ First, Martinsburg
29 ~ 3:00p.m.	Spring Fest / Clearbrook Park Rubbermaid Shelter (rescheduled from June)

September

1 ~ 7:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting
7 ~	Labor Day / Holiday
13-20 ~	Alma Hunt Mission Week of Prayer State Missions
15 ~ 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Luncheon

