

Ringgold Baptist Church

4620 Ringgold Church Road  
PO Box 100  
Ringgold, VA 24586  
Phone: (434) 822-5959  
E-mail: office@ringgoldbaptist.org

Return Service Requested



STAFF / SERVICE TIMES / MONTHLY SERVANTS

STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Duane Caldwell  
Administrative Secretary.....Cheryl Hogg  
Minister to Children.....Stephanie Barts  
Minister to Youth.....Brandon Barts  
Minister of Music.....Daniel Wolfe  
Organist.....Ginger Collie  
Pianist.....Leslie Blair  
Groundskeeper.....Doug Motley  
Maintenance.....Kevin Barker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:15 am  
Sunday Morning - 10:30 am  
Sunday Evening - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

Audio: Robby Parker / Larry Collie

Nursery Schedule

September 3—Bonnie McDarmont and Katie Williams  
September 10—Carl and Brooke Davis  
September 17—Ashley and Aidan Hudgins  
September 24—Sherry Shively and Frankie Gilbert

Ushers: Chris Bass, John Foster, Chester Sneed

Bereavement Team

September - Ray and Sara McDowell  
October - Sammy and Phyllis McCormick

THE RINGGOLD REFLECTOR

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DUANE

The parking lot filled rapidly on Sunday morning as members of the large church congregation filed into church. As usually happens in a church that size, each member had developed a certain comfort zone - a block of space within those four church walls that became theirs after the second or third sitting. It was as much a part of their church experience as the recliner was to the television at home. Some of the older members had been sitting in the same row on the same side for several decades. A team of oxen could not have moved them to the opposite side of the church.

One morning a stranger stood at the edge of the parking lot near a dumpster. As families parked cars and piled out, they noticed him rummaging through the trash.

"Oh no! I don't believe it," whispered a lady to her husband. "That's all we need - a bunch of homeless people milling around here."

One worried little girl tugged on her dad's sleeve. "But Daddy..." Daddy was busy sizing up the bearded stranger, whose baggy, outdated trousers, and faded flannel shirt had dusted too many park benches.

"Don't stare at him, honey," he whispered, and hurried her inside. Soft music filled the high-ceiling sanctuary as churchgoers settled into their usual spots. The choir sang an opening chorus, "In His presence there is comfort... in His presence there is peace..."

Sunlight suddenly flooded the center aisle. The double doors swung open and the homeless man, sloppy and stooped, headed toward the front. "Oh no, it's him!" somebody muttered.

"What does he think he's doing, anyway?" snapped an incredulous usher. The stranger set his bagful of dumpster treasures on the very first pew, which had been upholstered in an expensive soft teal fabric just three months ago.

The music stopped. And before anyone had a chance to react, he ambled up the stairs and stood behind the fine, handcrafted oak podium, where he faced a wide-eyed congregation.

The disheveled stranger spoke haltingly at first, in a low, clear voice. Unbuttoning and removing his top layer of clothing, he described Jesus, and the love He has for all people. "Jesus possesses a sensitivity and love that far surpasses what any of us deserves."

Stepping out of the baggy old trousers, the stranger went on to describe a forgiveness that is available to each and every one of us... without strings attached. "Unconditionally He loves us. Unconditionally He gave his very life for us. Unconditionally and forever, we can have the peace and assurance that no matter who we are, where we've come from, or how badly we may have mistreated others or ourselves, there is hope."

"In Jesus, there is always hope. You see, my friends, it is never too late to change," the man continued. "He is the Author of change, and the Provider of forgiveness. He came to bring new meaning to 'life'."

Men and women squirmed as reality hit them like an electrical current. The stranger tugged at his knotted gray beard and removed it. "I'm here to tell you that we are loved with a love far beyond human understanding, a love that enables us to accept and love others in return." Then tenderly he added, "Let's pray together."

That wise pastor - under the guise of a homeless "nobody" - did not preach a sermon that day, but every person left with plenty to think about.

Let us love others as Christ Himself loved us.

Pastor Duane

DEACON MOMENT

TREE DOG FOR CHRIST

R. Darryl Holland

From the publications “Coonhound Bloodlines”

Greetings, coon hunting friends, and welcome to *Tree Dog for Christ*! No dues to pay, or forms to fill out, or membership cards to expire, or deadlines to meet, just a gathering of those of us with two common interests: coonhounds, and the hereafter. As we get older, all of us need to be concerned about “the hereafter...”

Over the years, I have received many letters from inmates who read this magazine, and one who was released came up to me at a hunt once and thanked me for writing to him while he was in prison.

My present distraction, dear readers, is two very good friends of mine are in this category today, paying for some very bad decision they made in the not-so-distant past, though one is to be released in the near future. Looking back over some of my collection of correspondences, I see return addresses from federal prisons and correctional institutions in West Virginia, South Carolina, and from two different individuals incarcerated at Big Stone Gap, in Virginia, though there are many others I recall. But as I was cleaning out my email box of the account I had to close due to retirement, I ran across a letter from the mother of one of these inmates that I wish to share, as it really touched my heart. And it goes like this:

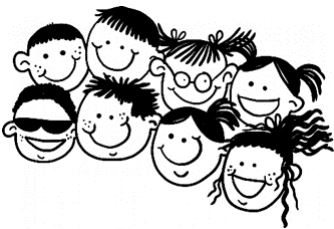
*Dear Mr. Holland: this is my letter to you. Written as the Mom of one of the “convicts” who wrote to you. It still breaks my heart to think of my son, my oldest son, and the apple of his daddy’s eye, as a convict, but that is what he is. My most fervent prayer to God is that he never forgets the fact that he is a convicted felon, and that he put himself there. Only by remembering those things, and just what prison is, will he (and any others in the same situation) choose the right road, the road less traveled. The Christ-like life that I know he was raised to understand – and, although not one of us humans can lead a perfect life, even in Christ, my number one prayer is that he will never forget where he has been, and how he got there, along with what he will need to do to never travel the particular road again.*

*Each and every one of us has experiences that we are not proud of, but God will work through those very same experiences to make us more Christ-like. I like to think that Jesus was the very first person to see beyond color (or to be color-blind), race religion, and even sin, and he even sought out those who weren’t “perfect” to show us how we should live our lives. No, I am not saying that we can ‘save’ people, that is for Christ to do, and he made that possible by dying on a rough wooden cross, in a way so painful that we will (hopefully) never forget.*

*In closing, I want to thank you, once again, for writing your column, and for being open enough to print the letters of ‘convicts’ who seem to be on the right track. You have a ministry with your column that reaches people that may very well be unreachable otherwise.*

Submitted by Lawrence Gilbert

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER



In August, the children were able to go play mini golf at Tiny Town and get some ice cream. This was a wonderful time where we had fellowship with each other and their families were able to attend as well! I look forward to planning more activities for the children to participate in.

As we continue through the beginning of the school year, we pray for all of the children and their families.

We have been having a wonderful time on Sunday mornings learning more about the Bible and the people/events within it. We have also been meeting on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00. This has been a wonderful time of learning and fellowship with the children. We would love to see you attend with us on Sunday and Wednesday Evenings!

If you need to reach out to me, please feel free to call or text me at 434-709-4709 with any questions you may have.

~Stephanie Barts

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- September 2
- Carowinds Trip for Children (Need Adult) and Youth. Meet at the church at 7am
- October 14
- Fall Festival from 5-7.
- Hot Dog Meal will be provided. Youth will be able to volunteer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTER



Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. 17 The point is, before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

Youth had an amazing Youth Summer Camp where seven went down and asked Christ in their Hearts and two rededicated their lives. After returning we had eight come down to be baptized. This shows that young people are searching for the answers - we just have to present the message of Christ to them.

~Brandon Barts





**Fall Festival**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**  
**5:00—7:00 PM**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CHURCH STEW—NOVEMBER 4**



Ringgold Baptist Church,  
Doyle and I thank you for your thoughtfulness  
and caring. The many prayers, cards, and deli-  
cious food were very much appreciated during the  
illness & death of my sister, Barbara, and other  
difficult times.

Please continue to pray for us.  
Love, Novalene Eanes

Ringgold Baptist Church VBS,  
Thanks to all of the VBS supporters, especially Brandon  
and Stephanie Barts, for remembering and caring about  
our late daughter, Stephanie Neal, who loved VBS. Giving  
the offering that week to our fire department in her  
memory was unreal.

Love, Mike and Debra Neal

Thank you so much for your gift as well as honoring me  
during Graduation Sunday. I will be attending Glen-  
ville State University this fall majoring in secondary  
history education. I want to thank you for all of the  
prayers and support Ringgold has given me and will  
continue to give me as I continue my academic career!

Love, Ashley Johnson



## J.O.Y. Club News

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
**AT NOON**

### BAKED POTATO & SALAD BAR

Bring your favorite Salad and Dessert  
to share!

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Nonna**  
**Bikers Against Trafficking**

Don't forget to bring canned food items



Our *Friend to Remember* for  
September is

*Ellen DeMott*  
4269 Ringgold Church Rd.  
Ringgold VA 24586

You may leave cards for Ellen  
in the mailbox through  
September 30th.

## FALL REVIVAL

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10:30 AM REV. JOHN CLINE  
HEADMASTER, WESTOVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
5:00 PM REV. JONATHAN HILLIARD  
MOFFETT MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 PM REV. TIM LEE  
KENTUCK BAPTIST CHURCH

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

7:00 PM REV. DAVID TURBYFILL  
SCHOOLFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27


7:00 PM REV. JOEL FLETCHER  
RIVERMONT BAPTIST CHURCH  
& DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS, PBA

**SPECIAL MUSIC EACH NIGHT FROM VARIOUS CHURCHES**



ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, REMINDERS


SAVE THE DATE



Blessing  
Our  
Neighbors

OCTOBER 21

WE WILL  
CELEBRATE  
OCTOBER 8



October is Pastor  
Appreciation Month



WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
DINNER  
& DEVOTIONS

SEPTEMBER 13  
6:30 PM  
HOSTS:  
YOUTH



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2024 COMMITTEE BUDGET  
REQUESTS

All **committee chairpersons** need to prepare  
a budget request worksheet for the  
2024 Budget.

Packets will be available in the church office  
on Sunday, September 3

Completed forms should be returned to the  
church office by **Sunday, September 24.**




EVANGELISM  
THE SHARING OF GOOD NEWS

EVANGELISM  
WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 9  
9:00 AM—NOON  
(Continental Breakfast at 8:30)  
STONE CREEK CHURCH—DANVILLE

TO REGISTER  
CALL PBA OFFICE  
434-792-7678



Welcome  
New Members!

Trinity Brummett  
Tristan Brummett  
Aidan Hudgins  
Keegan Hudson  
Brooke Lewis  
Shane Lewis  
Bennett McDarmont  
Lizzie McDarmont  
Brendan Marshall  
Laura Marshall

WMU HIGHLIGHTS

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated **school supplies** for Kentuck Elementary School, Dan River Middle School and Dan River High School. These items were delivered to the schools the first week of August. Each school was very appreciative.

**THANK YOU** for your support of the **Christmas-in-August mission project** for the North American Missionaries – Faith Garland (Boston, Mass.), Matt Hadden (Porcupine, South Dakota), Steve Looker (Zanesville, Ohio) and Leo Robinson (Flint, Michigan). A report will follow in the October newsletter.

**SIT Program (Students in Transition):**

- ◆ **Ongoing** program as school nurses notify the church when there is a need.
- ◆ Items are to be put in the white laundry baskets in the FLC hallway:
  1. Travel size deodorant (Secret)
  2. Travel size shampoo
  3. Travel size toothpaste
  4. Toothbrushes
  5. Combs
  6. Tampons
  7. Underwear and socks for boys & girls from PK-Grade 12
  8. New or clean tee shirts that are used and in good condition in sizes from PK-Grade 12 in solid colors with NO writing or pictures on them.
  9. Sweatpants from PK up to size 14 in elementary school.

**BACKPACK MINISTRY:**

- Begins **mid-September**
- **Volunteers** who want to pack this school year should notify Suzanne Emerson.


**Alma Hunt State Mission offering** will be collected during the month of **September**. The goal at RBC is **\$2,000**.

**Mission Group Opportunities at RBC:**

First Tuesday at 7:00 PM at RBC  
Second Tuesday at 10:00 AM at RBC

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** for the continuous support of mission projects and mission offerings at RBC.

*Suzanne Emerson*  
**WMU Director**



With heartfelt sympathy

Our deepest Christian sympathy to

The family and friends of Thomas Dix in his passing.  
The family and friends of Bobby Shelton in his passing.  
The family and friends of Jackie Soyars in her passing.  
The family and friends of Kenzie Merricks in her passing.  
The family and friends of Noah Laddie Sims in his passing.  
The family and friends of Lonnie Jordan in his passing.  
The family and friends of Doug Dix in his passing.