



# The Duck River Current

News from  
the Duck River  
Baptist Association

December 2023  
Volume LXV, Issue 12

Churches serving Christ together in Coffee, Franklin, & Grundy Counties...and to the uttermost parts of the earth.



The DRBA office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 25th through January 1st and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd.



Lana and I had an awesome time at our first Tennessee Baptist Mission Board annual meeting (Summit) in Chattanooga. 28 people from our association attended, representing 12 churches and Iglesia Gracia. We enjoyed spending time with them, worshipping with them, sharing meals with them, and altogether just growing in our friendship with one another. The pastor's conference featured timely messages on the stresses of pastoral ministry and the need for concentration on mental health for pastors. The information and reports from the TBMB were informational and in many cases inspiring. We were also able to attend a couple of additional meetings. First, we attended the All Nations luncheon with Genaro Orellana and was able to see first hand what is happening with ethnic and language churches throughout the state. We also attended the Director Of Missions annual gathering and met many new friends who serve in associational capacities. Matt Ledbetter—DRBA DOM



### Pastors & Wives Christmas Banquet

Monday, December 11th at 6 PM.

Come enjoy a delicious, catered holiday meal while you fellowship with other ministry couples.

All this takes place at the DRBA office.

Please RSVP by noon on Friday, December 1st at 455-5072 or [drbamissions@gmail.com](mailto:drbamissions@gmail.com)

Duck River Baptist Association presents:

# Men's night of worship

@ RUTLEDGE FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH  
January 20, 2024 | Dinner at 5pm | Worship 6pm-8pm

## IN HIM

you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.

Ephesians 1:13

RSVP @ [drbamissions@gmail.com](mailto:drbamissions@gmail.com)



**Boynton Valley Baptist Church** — Christmas Youth Program and Angel Tree Gifts followed by holiday combo meal on December 17th

**Center Grove Baptist Church** — Christmas Musical, December 17th @10:45AM  
Christmas Service, December 24th @10:45AM

**College Street Baptist Church** — Christmas Service, December 20th @6PM

**Cowan First Baptist Church** — Christmas Cantata, December 17th @ 6PM

**Decherd First Baptist Church**— Christmas Service, December 17th @ 11AM

**Estill Springs Baptist Church** — Christmas Cantata, December 17th @ 10:15AM

**Grace Baptist Church** — Kids Choir Christmas Musical. Wednesday, December 6th @6PM  
Adult Worship Choir Musical December 16-17th @6PM

**Keith Springs Baptist Church** — Christmas Service, December 24th @10AM


**Manchester First Baptist Church** — Christmas Worship Concert, Saturday, December 2 & Sunday, December 3 — 6PM Worship Center

**Maxwell Baptist Church** — Christmas Concert, Saturday December 1 @ 7PM

**Trinity Baptist Church** — Adult Christmas Worship Night — December 10 @ 6PM  
Children's Christmas Program — December 17 @ 5:30PM  
Christmas Eve Silent Lord's Supper — December 24 @ 5PM

**Winchester First Baptist** — Candlelight Service w/ Lord's Supper—December 17@ 7PM  
Worship Service only—December 24th





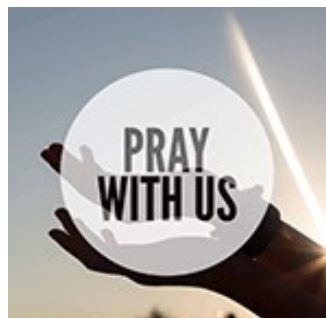
**Tennessee WMU has asked our association to "adopt" a MK (missionary kid) whose parents are serving with the IMB. The purpose is for the association to encourage these students while they are living in the US for the first time and are far from their family.**

**The student assigned to us is Andrew Rainey who is a Sophomore at Union University. His mailing address is: Union University 644, 1050 Union Univ Dr. Jackson, TN 38305. We hope our churches will encourage this young man throughout the school year with notes, cards, gift cards and goodie packages.**

Ladies Prayer Time at  
DRBA Offices

7:30 AM

First Friday of Every Month  
(Philippians 4:6-7)



Men's Prayer Time at  
DRBA Offices

8AM

Every Tuesday Morning  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



Highland Baptist Church ordained Stephen "Paco" Prince into the Deacon ministry on Sunday, November 5th.

Paco and his wife, Leah, have four children: Kylie, Abbie, Maggie, and Trey. The whole family is involved in the AWANA program at Highland, as well as other ministries.



Winchester First Baptist youth at "Hearts on Fire 2023" which is aimed at sharing the Gospel with middle school, high school, and college-age youth, challenging them to embark on a dynamic walk and unwavering commitment in Christ.



Aaron Tiner, Minister to Students at Winchester First Baptist Church leading Fellowship of Christian Athletes Meeting at North Middle School.

**Don't throw your old literature away!**

**Send it to the mission field.**

**December 12-15, the DRBA will host a Literature Drive.**

**Please bring any gently used and unused Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and other Bible study materials to the Association Office.**

Your literature is very valuable to the mission field, please do not throw it away.



Mark Puckett, retired DOM for DRBA, recognized at The Summit Meeting in Chattanooga. Shown with Matt Ledbetter, current DOM for DRBA.





Some of the Duck River Pastor's Wives came together for a time of fun, food and fellowship on November 4th. As we serve in the role of helping our husbands minister in God's Kingdom we also need to encourage each other. We are so appreciative of those that came and look forward to the next opportunity to get together. As a band of sisters we come together to enjoy fellowship and share with each other and also pray for each other and hold each other up in the difficult times.

# Peace on earth

## Counselor's Corner

In holiday seasons, memories seem more vivid, emotions more powerful, and regrets and losses felt more keenly. In the season of "togetherness and joy," I have noticed that many (maybe most) struggle with at least some feelings of emptiness, sadness, and longing. For some, childhood holiday memories were not positive.

Others feel especially alone during this time of social gatherings. For many, there is heaviness due to the loss of loved ones. Struggles with difficult relationships and with real or perceived personal failings contrast sharply with the "expected joyfulness" of the season.

Only each person knows their struggle, but scripture indicates we get to choose the things on which our mind focuses. Our mind is sometimes like a balky horse that wants to wander, but we must reign it in (II Corinthians 10:5) and force it to focus on Godly perspectives.

Paul wrote (Philippians 4:8), **"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true...noble...just...pure...lovely...are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."** This verse is written on a dry erase board in my office. I often must redirect my mind away from hurts, regrets and failures... and focus on things for which I'm grateful...a baby in the manger...shepherds being surprised...angels praising God for His goodwill toward us...children in Christmas plays...pecan pie!

I focus on heavenly reunions...on God's amazing grace toward me...and the reality that this life is only the "dressing room for all eternity!" I'm especially grateful that the one who came to us at Bethlehem will return to this chaotic world and set things right! Dr. Jon Garrison Psy.D.

**How may we serve your church?**

**We're here to help.**

**The Duck River Baptist Association**

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LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®

December 3-11th is the  
Week of Prayer for  
International Missions  
Board  
Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering



EXPERIENCING  
**GOD**

SOME STUDIES HELP YOU KNOW THE BIBLE.  
THIS ONE HELPS YOU KNOW THE AUTHOR.

**12 week study begins Thursday, January 11,  
6:30 PM @ the DRBA**

Facilitated by Mark Puckett / Cost: \$22 for book & videos  
To enroll, email: [duckriverbaptists@gmail.com](mailto:duckriverbaptists@gmail.com)