

RRVBA/BSM Donations Nov17- Dec 15	Year to Date
ATLAS	0 600.00
BAGWELL	50.00 600.00
BETHEL	93.72 1,450.92
BOUNDS	185.32 2,866.55
BROOKSTON	0 0
CHICOTA	255.72 1,751.28
CHISUM TRAIL	100.00 1,200.00
COLLEGE AVE.	0 0
CUNNINGHAM	360.00 1,620.00
DIRECT	266.22 3,085.66
DOUBLE R	0 1871.00
EAST DELTA	480.09 5,692.72
EAST PARIS	541.67 6,500.04
EMBERSON	80.00 960.00
FAITH	0 1,721.73
FBC ANNONA	81.15 960.71
FBC BLOSSOM	150.00 1,650.00
FBC BOGATA	1,320.48 14,339.97
FBC CLARKSVILLE	100.00 1,200.00
FBC COOPER	160.00 3,248.58
FBC DEPORT	0 0
FBC DETROIT	31.66 380.75
FBC PARIS	1,254.60 13,588.44
FBC ROXTON	0 1,260.00
FRIENDSHIP	0 0
FULBRIGHT	0 739.48
GLORY	281.74 2,504.96
GRAHAM ST.	0 0
HOWLAND	98.25 990.61
IMMANUEL/WMU	567.31 9,581.97
LAKEWAY	0 0
LAMAR POINT	0 622.17
LANE'S CHAPEL	0 0
LEESVILLE	1,293.00 17,425.00
MAXEY	150.00 1,800.00
MT. OLIVE	448.00 2,746.00
NOVICE	742.45 6,159.05
PACIO	167.94 1,898.53
PATTONVILLE	0 0
PETTY	281.42 1,611.68
POWDERLY	0 3,600.00
PROVIDENCE	228.82 2,134.36
SALEM	300.00 2,100.00
SOUTHSIDE	716.86 8,289.41
SPRINGLAKE	400.64 4,268.67
TRINITY	0 0
YOUNG'S CHAPEL	0 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,037.06 133,056.24</b>

**RISE & BUILD FUND:  
\$89,182.66**

Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve "Deny Self: You cannot follow Jesus if you have not first taken up your cross and given up your right to your life. You will never be able to take up your cross if you remain self-centered rather than God-centered." (Note from Henry Blackaby's study Bible)

I am looking forward to the many opportunities God will give us in the year to serve Him. Of course there is always something going on around us to let Christ shine and others to see Him in us. The first planned activity for Association WMU is the Children's Missions Day on March 5, 2016. CIA Day will be at Southside Baptist Church in Paris. Children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade will have a wonderful learning opportunity. Watch the *Voice of the Valley* for more details.

In November 3,401 boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child at the Bogata Relay Center.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



**JOY ON THE JOURNEY WITH "SEASONED" SAINTS**  
by Gloria Parker

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016! The Christian life in general, certainly applying to prayer, has been described: It's really not about me; it's about God. Years ago a former New York Yankee second baseman, Bobby Richardson, was asked to pray at a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He prayed: "Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen." May this be our life-focus this year, too - we need it!

What a Blessed Christmas Season we've experienced. We were excited to discover a group of Messianic Jews meeting here the past 15 years; that night discussing some "Secrets of the Menorah" and beginning of Hanukkah.

On Dec. 15 our RRV Old Fashioned Hymn Singers warmed up by getting to know each other better sampling yummy homemade cookies, hot chocolate and hot spiced apple cider. Then we went to sing real CHRISTmas Carols on the Downtown Paris Square at 4:00 pm. (A "Carol-Singing-thru-Town-Hayride" was suggested by one of our younger Singers, but SHUCKS, we had to leave that for the Youth! Brought back some Precious Memories, tho' - HA!) If you listen to BBN Radio 91.3 FM, you've been blessed to hear ALL Christian Christmas Music during December. Then again during Easter month, it will be ALL Christian Easter Music - BOTH are the most beautiful music ever written! New members are welcome to join us the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am at Springlake BC - always room for more singers!

Also on BBN Radio 91.3 FM Joni Eareckson Tada and hubby Ken ([www.joniandfriends.org/radio/5-minute/through-bible-ken/](http://www.joniandfriends.org/radio/5-minute/through-bible-ken/)) are offering anyone wanting to read thru the Bible together in 2016, a printed Chronological schedule. Join with some of us reading thru the Bible chronologically this year. It will be a little different, and very rewarding. Hey, check out BBNBI - the FREE Bible Institute course of study used by thousands of people studying Bible subjects, everything you can imagine by many great authors you'll recognize - and it's ALL FREE - to be done at your own pace - nobody rushes you! Sound good? It's TRUE and hundreds of people all around the world have been saved using BBNBI.

Remember: Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem everyday! KEEP LOOKING UP "SEASONED" SAINTS, JESUS, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, IS COMING BACK SOON!

Secretaries and Support Staff from Emberson, FBC Bogata, Mt. Olive, Pacio, Springlake, and the RRVBA office enjoyed a festive Christmas Party on December 3.



ALL Secretaries and Support Staff are invited to attend lunch beginning in February. Lunches are held the first Thursday of each month from 11:30 am—1:00 pm. Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship!

**Just a reminder . . .**

Donations received by RRVBA and postmarked **December 31 or BEFORE** will be applied to 2015.

Those postmarked **AFTER** December 31, 2015, will be credited to 2016.

Thank you RRVBA churches for your support!

**TAX SEMINAR**

A tax seminar for Pastors, Treasurers and Financial Administrators has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 18 at Springlake Baptist Church with Daniel Whitehurst presenting.

**We need at least 25 participants to hold this event!** Call Nancy at the RRVBA to reserve your spot today!

**NEWS FROM THE BSM . . .**

Dear Family,

Just finishing Thanksgiving and coming upon Christmas my family and I have so much to be thankful for. We are truly blessed and overwhelmingly grateful for what God has done for us and in our lives! I pray this Christmas season we all stop to remember what God has done for us through his son Jesus Christ and the grace that we get to live our lives with. There is no greater gift to be given than the gift of salvation. So this year, as you are giving gifts, please be intentional about giving the gift of salvation to someone else. It cost's you nothing but it is everything to the person who needs it!

My family and I want to thank you for your love, prayers and support! So many of you have been intentional to check up on my wife and children and their health and how we are doing. Words cannot express the gratefulness that is in our hearts for the graciousness of all those around us. It is our prayer that we are here to serve you guys and the community for many years to come. "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:10-13 ESV

God has been good to allow us to see 4 people come to know Christ this semester at the BSM. Lots of new faces have been involved this year. We've been averaging around 15 at Bible Study, about 50 at our downtown game nights, and we have served over 160 different students lunch this semester. New relationships and friendships have been made and we are looking forward to the crew that God is going to put together for Beach Reach!

Please pray for the BSM as God lays on your heart that He would bless us indeed, that He would expand our boundaries, that His hand may be on us and that He would help us avoid evil that it might not cause pain! I pray the same prayer over our association and your ministries. God bless you all!

Living God, Loving Life

Scott Powell, BSM Director, 903-246-1364 (cell)



## Red River Valley Baptist Association

**Regular Office Hours:**  
 Monday—Thursday, 8 am to 2 pm  
**E-Mail Address:**  
 redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com  
**Web Address:**  
 www.redriverbaptist.com

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

#### January Birthdays

8th	Jenene Cannon, spouse	FBC Paris
8th	Jan Holmes, spouse	FBC Roxton
14th	Deann Reger, spouse	Mt. Olive
14th	Mike Jones, pastor	Powderly
19th	Deborah Kennemer, secretary	East Delta
21st	Jeff Landers, spouse	FBC Cooper
23rd	Linda White, spouse	Mt. Olive
25th	Sharon Lynch, spouse	FBC Clarksville
31st	Jerry Hindman, spouse	FBC Roxton
31st	John Mcfadden, media	East Paris

#### January Wedding Anniversaries

1st	Michael & Carol King, 34 yrs	Providence
2nd	Martin & Debbie Davis, 17 yrs	Mt. Olive
3rd	Mark & Lynda Gossett, 35 yrs	FBC Clarksville
17th	James & Cindy McLeod, 35 yrs	Chisum Trails
24th	Mike & Mary Jones, 47 yrs	Powderly
24th	Eddy & Donna Kropp, 46 yrs	Emberson
25th	Dodge & Megan Surine, 2 yrs	Leesville

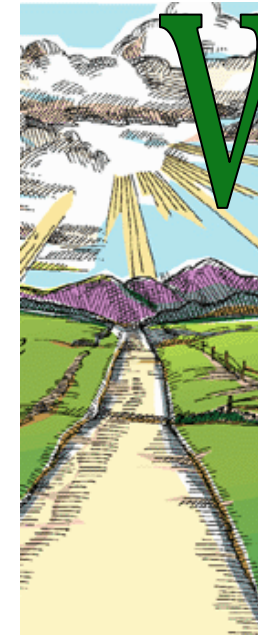
#### January Church Anniversaries

1st	Jimmie Woodard, pastor, 6 yr	FBC Annona
1st	Herb Bullock, pastor, 3 yrs	Springlake
2nd	Jocquetta Weems, secretary, 8 yrs	FBC Blossom
6th	Mike Shupp, pastor, 8 yrs	FBC Blossom
6th	Jimmy Ellis, pastor, 25 yrs	Leesville
20th	Mike Fortenberry, DOM, 1 yr	RRVBA
23rd	Tommy Turner, pastor, 5 yrs	FBC Paris
29th	Lisa Hughes, minister's asst, 2 yrs	East Paris

The RRVBA office will be CLOSED on  
 Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin  
 Luther King Day.

*Mt. Olive Baptist Church* is looking for a Youth  
 Director. Resumes may be e-mailed to  
 brenda@mobcparis.com. Call the church at  
 903-785-7953 for more information.

*FBC Clarksville* needs a full or part-time Youth  
 Minister. E-mail resumes to dawn@simivida.com or  
 mail to Attn: Dawn Snell, PO Box 401, Clarksville  
 75426. For more information call Dawn Snell at  
 817-944-8600 or Sammy Beene at 713-898-0462.



# Voice of the Valley

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association

Volume 12, Issue 1

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gency and I want to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, your church family and staff. Who we are and what we do as Christians, churches, and as an association must be based on this doctrine of truth "the Word became Flesh!" God so loved the world that He gave us the greatest Christmas gift of all time...His Son. I have holiday traditions, my family has holiday traditions, and so does yours, but I hope and pray our Christmas traditions and celebrations always keep Jesus Christ, the real Reason for the Season, as our main focus!

A special word of thanks to Nancy Redus, Alice Ann White and all others who decorated the association office and hosted our annual Red River Valley Baptist Association Christmas Open House. I also want to thank the association for the Christmas gift given to me and the association staff!

As we look back over 2015 our memories are bittersweet. We begin by looking at many great spiritual and associational victories: CIA Day, Day Camp, the teacher's training, the Senior Adult Vacation Bible School, the youth "Share Now" soul-winning training, the Annual Meeting, and much more! These put a smile upon our face and a spirit of thankfulness in our heart, and to God be all the glory! At the same time we look at ministry attempts that failed, opportunities that were missed, people that we lost in death, vision that was wasted, and missions and ministry that went unfunded. As we look forward to 2016 and the beginning of a New Year may we heed the words of Paul in Philippians 3:13-14—"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!"

As we come to the end of 2015 I want to share one final word of encouragement with our pastors and churches. The SBC has recently reduced our total mission staff members due to a lack of income. Please challenge yourselves and your churches to maximize this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts!

I end with a final word concerning where the association is in regard to this year's budget receipts and income. We are presently in need of about \$7,000 of December income to meet the 2015 budget. The association office closes December 17th for the Christmas Holiday. You may place your donations in the mail drop located by the front door, or you may mail them to the association office.

God's goodness and grace be yours,

Mike Fortenberry  
 Director of Missions

#### RRVBA Mission Statement:

Help each other become healthy "Great Commission" churches.

#### RRVBA Vision Statement:

We are a family of churches who are committed to sharing ourselves, resources, and expertise with one another for the purpose of fulfilling the "Great Commission."

#### Director of Missions

Mike Fortenberry  
 mikefortenberry@hotmail.com

Baptist Student Ministry Director  
 Scott Powell  
 pjcbasm@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant  
 Nancy Redus  
 redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

Red River Valley Baptist Association  
 2320 Clarksville St.  
 Paris, TX 75460  
 903-785-2890

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The first Executive Board meeting of 2016 is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 19**, at **Powderly Baptist Church**. A fellowship meal will be served at 6:00 pm followed by the meeting at 6:45 pm. Pastors, elected Executive Board representatives, and all church members are encouraged to attend as we discuss the business of YOUR Red River Valley Baptist Association. **GET INVOLVED—GOD IS DOING GREAT THINGS IN THE RRVBA!**

#### REMINDER:

There will be NO Secretaries/ Support Staff lunch in January. We will meet again on February 4.

#### ATTN: FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Finance Committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 5:30 pm in the RRVBA office. Please call Nancy at 903-785-2890 if you will not be able to attend.

WMU Team Meeting  
 Saturday, January 9  
 10:00 am  
 RRVBA office

#### JANUARY CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day  
 Monday, Jan. 4: Office reopens  
 Saturday, Jan. 9: WMU Team Meeting, 10:00 am, RRVBA  
 Monday, Jan 11: CIA Day meeting, 6:00 pm, RRVBA  
 Tuesday, Jan. 12: Finance Committee, 5:30 pm, RRVBA  
 Monday, Jan. 18: Office closed (Martin Luther King Day)  
 Tuesday, Jan. 19: Executive Board, Powderly, Meal: 6:00 pm, Meeting: 6:45 pm  
 Sunday, Jan. 31: 5th Sunday