

RRVBA/BSM Donations Oct 27—Nov17	Year to Date
ATLAS	0 600.00
BAGWELL	50.00 550.00
BETHEL	184.52 1,357.20
BOUNDS	144.76 2,681.23
BROOKSTON	0 0
CHICOTA	0 1,495.56
CHISUM TRAIL	100.00 1,100.00
COLLEGE AVE.	0 0
CUNNINGHAM	360.00 1,620.00
DIRECT	0 2,534.57
DOUBLE R	0 1871.00
EAST DELTA	0 4,828.32
EAST PARIS	0 5,416.70
EMBERSON	80.00 880.00
FAITH	0 1,721.73
FBC ANNONA	81.15 960.71
FBC BLOSSOM	150.00 1,650.00
FBC BOGATA	1,103.97 13,019.49
FBC CLARKSVILLE	100.00 1,100.00
FBC COOPER	160.00 3,124.58
FBC DEPORT	0 0
FBC DETROIT	31.66 380.75
FBC PARIS	890.07 12,333.84
FBC ROXTON	0 1,260.00
FRIENDSHIP	0 0
FULBRIGHT	0 739.48
GLORY	126.45 2,349.67
GRAHAM ST.	0 0
HOWLAND	61.80 892.36
IMMANUEL/WMU	50.00 9,064.66
LAKeway	0 0
LAMAR POINT	0 622.17
LANE'S CHAPEL	0 0
LEESVILLE	1,293.00 17,425.00
MAXEY	150.00 1,650.00
MT. OLIVE	196.00 2,494.00
NOVICE	314.45 5,731.05
PACIO	117.60 1,730.59
PATTONVILLE	0 0
PETTY	133.24 1,463.50
POWDERLY	300.00 3,600.00
PROVIDENCE	139.01 1,905.54
SALEM	300.00 1,800.00
SOUTHSIDE	589.79 7,572.55
SPRINGLAKE	0 3,540.08
TRINITY	0 0
YOUNG'S CHAPEL	0 0
TOTAL	7,207.47 123,066.33

**RISE & BUILD FUND:
\$88,602.22**

Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve! I think when we pray, we are participating in all three of these challenging commands. We need to stand before God with bold and specific requests. Then we need to watch God bring the results!

The group of approximately 60 who attended the World Day of Prayer at Springlake Baptist Church, Paris on November 2, 2015, was truly blessed. The evening began with praying for the missionaries that had a birthday on that day and worshipping God through music. They heard Bible study, notes from administration of the organization, testimonies, special music and most of all prayed!

The planning team from the Women's Retreat met recently to review the comments regarding the event and started bouncing ideas around for the next one. It is so exciting to be a part of God's work! Thanks for letting me serve as your Association WMU Director.

Plan now to include the story of the birth of Christ from God's word in your Christmas celebration. Merry Christmas!!



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



JESUS is the Reason for this and every season - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS! What a wonderful time of year! We're still counting all our blessings, including beautiful music written and sung honoring our SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Special musical programs remind us of the GIFT GOD GAVE US.

Dr. Charles Stanley said, "GOD taught us the practice of GIVING that FIRST CHRISTMAS when JESUS was born. Everyone in the story had something to give: MARY submitted to God's plan and gave her body to be the first home of the incarnated SAVIOR, surrendering her good reputation to fulfill the Lord's calling for her life. JOSEPH offered his love and protection to Mary and the CHILD Who was not his own. An ANGEL gave an announcement of the MESSIAH's birth to some lowly shepherds watching their flocks at night. A Heavenly Host of ANGELS offered praise and glory to GOD. The SHEPHERDS shared the first personal testimony about the MESSIAH. The WISE MEN relinquished the comfort of home to seek the newborn KING and gave HIM gifts worthy of royalty...Application for us today...Believers are called to give of themselves to the Lord and to one another in similar ways...What gifts could you give to CHRIST today? Maybe you need to submit to His will in a difficult area or endure misunderstanding to obey Him...and gifts to those around you - who need your protection, love, time, or perhaps the good news of SALVATION in CHRIST?" (IN TOUCH Magazine)

Our RRV Old Fashioned Hymn Singers were blessed to sing at Colonial Lodge last month, and will sing at others during the Holidays. We are excited to participate in the events around the Downtown Paris Square on TUESDAY, Dec. 15th at 4:00 pm singing real CHRISTmas Carols reminding folks what it's really all about! We'll rehearse at Springlake BC at 2:00 pm, enjoy some hot cider or chocolate and cookies, then go together to sing downtown. AMEN!

KEEP LOOKING UP "SEASONED" SAINTS, JESUS IS COMING BACK SOON!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Sun, Nov 29 – Sun, Dec 6: Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions
- Thurs, Dec 3: Secretaries/Support Staff Christmas Party, 11:30 am, RRVBA
- Thurs, Dec 10: RRVBA Christmas Open House, 10:00 am—2:00 pm
- Thurs, Dec 17: RRVBA office closes at 2:00 pm for the holidays
- Mon, Jan 4, 2016: Office reopens

NEWS FROM THE BSM. . .

Dear Family,
We have been praying for a good year and God has definitely stepped up to deliver. I am so excited to be able to report to you once again that I got to be part of leading a college student and a high school student to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their savior! What a blessing this school year has been already.

So much stuff going on this year! We had our first fall garage sale to raise funds for our spring break mission trip and God blessed! Our Monday lunches have been huge this year! We have served over 150 different students this semester and many have come back to the different events as a result! Zombies (progressive hide and go seek) has been huge again this semester with attendance averaging about 45 students every week we play. Attendance is up at Bible study and game nights! Most importantly people are showing an interest in having their lives changed for Christ! Students are still using the building daily and thanks to leftovers from Monday lunch, several of them are eating daily!

On a personal note, I know so many of you have been praying for my family this last year as my wife has been sick. We all want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and support. We have had to make lifestyle changes, primarily in the way we eat, to see her health improve. As a result we are all looking and feeling much better. I would continue to ask for your prayers for our health as we still have a ways to go. Aside from my wife's health, my son has unofficially been diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome. We have been suspicious of this for some time and are going to have some of the same testing done on him that we have had done for my wife. I will continue to keep you updated with him as well as we go.

Beach Reach is just around the corner it seems. A lot of preparation, training and fundraising to take place! We will have our spring garage sale on Saturday, March 5th. Donations can be brought to the BSM at any time. If you or your church would like to sponsor a student this year, the cost is \$475 per student. This covers their food and housing for an entire week. Several of our students attend smaller churches that can not sponsor their student fully, if you would like to make a partial scholarship available that would be welcomed as well. More important than money and stuff, we need your prayers! We need you to begin praying now for the team that God will be sending and for the hearts of these students that will be going. Pray for the students we will be ministering to that God would prepare their hearts to receive the Gospel. The Holy Spirit has more power over the physical body than drugs or alcohol. We have seen amazing things happen in the lives of broken students after receiving Christ during Spring Break! Thank you for helping us get there year after year!

I borrowed this from my daily devotional from YouVersion: *HUMILITY* Few things are more effective in undermining our walk with God than pride. Many of us claim to be dependent on Him, but live our lives depending on ourselves. The way we respond to both our achievements and our disappointments is a powerful testimony to our children. When your sense of worth soars with success, you are taking credit for positive results. Results, however, ultimately depend on God, not us. In His sovereign wisdom, He uses both good and bad experiences to bring about His plan. When we understand this, we have a better perspective on success and failure. Our talents are gifts from God and, while He calls us to use them for His glory, the outcome belongs to Him. Model humility in your successes and your failures. "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day." (Deuteronomy 8:17-18 ESV) To God be the glory great things HE hath done!

Living God, Loving Life
Scott Powell, BSM Director, 903-246-1364 (cell)

The RRVBA will be closed
 for the holidays from
 December 18 to January 3.
 The office will reopen at
 8:00 am on Monday,
 January 4, 2016.

**SECRETARIES & SUPPORT STAFF
 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Thursday, December 3,
 11:30 am, RRVBA Office

Bring a "finger food"
 along with a \$5.00 gift
 to exchange.

Tea and coffee
 will be provided.



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.



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

December Birthdays

1st	Ryan Clark, worship	East Paris
2nd	Michael Julian, administrator	East Paris
3rd	Neil Barnes, music	Providence
13th	Eugene Adams, pastor	Pacio
13th	Jocquetta Weems, secretary	FBC Blossom
13th	Tommy Turner, pastor	FBC Paris
15th	Megan Surine, spouse	Leesville
21st	Karl Bush, pastor	Bagwell
23rd	DeLana McFadden, spouse	East Paris
30th	Johnny Rickman, pastor	Lakeway
31st	Donna Houchins, clerk	East Delta

December Wedding Anniversaries

1st	Matt & Katie Byrd, 8 yrs	FBC Paris
6th	Nathan & Heather Law, 11 yrs	FBC Paris
12th	David & Denise Harbison, 28 yrs	East Paris
13th	Kevin & Brena Burgan, 7 yrs	Leesville
17th	Travis & Karen Jackson, 27 yrs	FBC Paris
23rd	Ryan & Krista Clark, 16 yrs	East Paris
24th	Johnny & Kathy Witherspoon, 38 yrs	FBC Cooper
24th	Herb & Lynn Bullock, 68 yrs	Springlake
28th	Louis & Jan Holmes, 41 yrs	FBC Roxton
31st	Karl & Kathy Bush, 32 yrs	Bagwell

December Church Anniversaries

1st	Ronnie Aubrey, pastor, 12 yr	Trinity
2nd	Denise Harbison, admin asst, 13 yrs	East Paris
30th	Tim Parker, pastor, 28 yrs	Howland

Just a reminder . . .

Donations received by RRVBA and postmarked
AFTER December 31, 2015, will be credited to 2016.

Those postmarked December 31 or **BEFORE**
 will be applied to 2015.

The RRVBA 2016 Calendar of Events
 will be available at the Open House on December 10.

It lists all the events
 planned for next year -
 with room for more.
 Remember to come by and
 pick one up!
 (Copies will also be
 mailed to our churches.)



Voice of the Valley

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association

Volume 11, Issue 12



Christmas Open House

Thursday, December 10, 2015 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Come by to visit and enjoy the
 Food and Fellowship!

"Gives Thanks To The Lord and Proclaim His Greatness!"

Psalms 105 :1

Let me begin by wishing all of our pastors, their staff and their personal or church families a very Happy Thanksgiving. The words thank and thank come from the same root word. When we think about the Lord and all He is and all that He has and is doing for us it should cause us to have a thankful heart! This was true of the Pilgrims and our founding fathers and it should be true of us! May God grant us an attitude of gratitude and a heart of right contentment. Enjoy this special time of faith, family and friends!

We are only weeks away from the end of this year and the beginning of 2016. I have already begun to reflect on the past, learn from our successes and where we could have done better, to plan and prepare so our association can become all God wants it to be today and in the future. I am happy to report our youth event "Share Now" was a great success. There were between 40 and 50 participants who trained to share their faith. After the morning training and lunch the students went out into the community and encountered individuals with whom they shared their faith. As a result of this 7 people prayed to receive Christ in believing faith. Thank you association youth leadership team for planning and coordinating this event. Pray for these leaders as they prepare for association youth ministry in 2016. Share Now is another example of how we as an association can do more together than our individual churches can do by themselves!

I want to take a moment to remind our pastors and churches of our association's commitment to a future of expanded mission and ministry opportunities. We have seen the addition of a Day Camp (for pre-k - 6th grade students), a mission trip to South Dakota, a Teacher Training event that drew 78 people, and now "Share Now." We're only beginning to touch the hem of opportunity for expanded and additional association ministry and missions. I will share additional association opportunities in the January *Voice of The Valley*. The reason I mention these is because I want our association to realize we do have an opportunity to work together to do great things in and for His kingdom work. However, these things do take MONEY! You and your churches are the monetary supply which funds our association's ministry and missions. If our churches don't give, our ministry opportunities aren't fulfilled. Let me be frank: we are \$17,500.00 from meeting our annual budget, an annual budget that has already seen the DOM position go from full time to part time. We have not had a month this year where we've taken in that amount of money.

If we are going to meet this years budget it will require churches that have not given to give, those with marginal giving to give more, and some to give even more sacrificially. Ezra chapters 1 and 2 talk about the "Tragedy of Missed Opportunity!" We will miss the opportunities that are before us unless we stop and think about all God has done for and blessed us with and put our thankful hearts into action with some tangible giving!

From A Shepherd's Heart and a DOM's Pen,
 Bro. Mike

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
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Baptist Student Ministry Director

Scott Powell
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Admin. Assistant

Nancy Redus
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Red River Valley Baptist Association

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