



**Billy Graham Newsweek
Special Commemorative- \$8.00**

Thank You Billy Graham DVD
Commemorative Edition- \$17.00

Billy Graham- "Where I Am"- \$8.00
Billy Graham- "Just As I Am"- \$17.00

April Sale

April 2-13- CD'S & DVD's 10% Off
April 16-27- Boxed Cards- 15% Off

Graduation Gifts

Boxed Cards

"God's Promises for Graduates"

"Jesus Calling for Graduates"

Mug- Commit to the Lord

Bibles

Mother's Day Gifts

Mom Mugs, Candles, Purses
Picture Frames, more

NEW RELEASES!

By Thom S Rainer

"Becoming a Welcoming Church"- \$5.00

"We Want You Here"- \$5.00

"The Believer's Code" by O.S. Hawkins
365 Devotions to unlock the Blessings in
God's Word

North Grand River Baptist Association

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Interim DOM
Mark Clifton
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Debbie Dickinson
BSU Interim Director
Christina Boatright



RA CONGRESS
2018
April 27-28-
State Fairgrounds
Sedalia MO

ALL BOYS
1st-6th grade

You do not have to be a RA to attend.

Meet a missionary and take part in
traditional RA events & activities.

\$11 Pre-registration through 4/23/18

\$16 Onsite registration

\$8 T-shirts by order only with
registration by 4/12/18

Fees do not include housing.

Details and register online at
mobaptist.org/racongress

April 16- 7:00 pm Executive Board Meeting

Items for agenda must be submitted
by Monday, April 2.

Department reports due-
Tuesday, April 10.



NGRBA
Churches

Alpha*
Edinburg
Gallatin
Galt
Jamesport
Laredo
Lineville
Medicine Valley
Mercer
Modena
Princeton
Ravanna
Rural Dale
Salem
Shelburne
Tenth Street
Trenton First
Union

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Love In Action

North Grand River Baptist Association

The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 42, Number 4
April, 2018

"Churches working together to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission."

Matthew 28:18-20

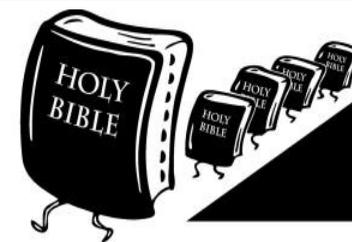


NGR Association
VBS Fair Clinic

Monday, April 2
Trenton FBC
6:30-8:30 pm

"Game On- Gearing Up for Life's Big Game"

"His divine power has given us everything required for life and
godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own
glory and goodness". 2 Peter 1:3



Children's Bible Drills

Association & State

Come and bring children from your
church to watch the children in Bible
Drill competition. This is a great
opportunity for children & leaders to
see the drills in action.

Association Drill- April 11th, 6:30 pm
at Shelburne- Tenth Street & Shel-
burne children

Children's State Bible Drill- April 28,
8 am to noon at Shelburne
Michelle Stark- NGR Leader

North Grand River Baptist Association's Purpose- "To mutually and prayerfully support,
encourage and challenge one another as churches to exalt Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
to edify and equip His disciples to serve him and one another, and to evangelize those who
have yet to come to know Him personally." Matthew 28:19-20



From the
Interim DOM

He takes one more look at his sermon notes before gently placing them back in his well-worn Bible. He still loves to preach, perhaps more now than ever. As he closes his Bible he takes a quick glance out of the window of his Pastor's study. Once again he's doing the "parking lot" count. His heart sinks. Really? Only 11 cars? "Maybe everyone will arrive late" he thinks to himself. Yet he knows the truth; all of his members actually arrive early and his church hasn't seen visitors in months.

Today he will preach to maybe 25 dear saints.

Not many years ago, there would have been 40 cars in that lot and more than 100 in the sanctuary. Quickly his mind races back several decades to his first Sunday in this beloved, aged building. Things were simpler then; he would preach, and the congregation would listen. In those days, he wasn't surprised to see new faces as he looked out at the pews from behind his pulpit; that's what he used to expect. But the optimism and excitement that filled his heart in those early years has been replaced by a growing pessimism and bouts with depression. In those days, it seemed as if the parking lot couldn't hold all the cars. Now it sits mostly empty. In years past, it was young adults and young families that filled the hallways and classrooms. Today some of those same people are here, but without their children and past retirement age. Back then, his own voice would be drowned out by the full-throated bellows of his singing flock. This morning, he will be able to pick out the voice of every person singing every hymn.

He loves this church, he loves his Savoir and he loves to share the gospel. So why does this church continue to decline? Will it ever grow again? Should he use these late years in ministry to simply care for the dear old saints, or should he try any number of new approaches to grow again? He has tried so many church growth plans and none of them seem to make any difference. Is it his leadership? Is it the changing community? Is it the new church plants in the area that attract all the young families? Why does this church he loves continue to decline? Should he consider seeking another church to serve? Has he done all he can do here? Is his work finished? Even if his work is finished here, who is going to call a pastor his age? And if he left, what would happen to these remaining members? Is he the only thing that keeps this church going, or is he the reason it can't seem to adapt and embrace change that is needed?

Stories like this are all too familiar to us. My desire is that in the coming months our association will learn how to help churches just like this one and many others understand what the future is for them. Jesus has a future for every church. It's our responsibility to listen to him and his voice. And respond to what he says. I was grateful for the tremendous turnout we had last week for Rick Fisher as he led us understand the absolute importance of prayer and all that we do. So please join me in the next few weeks and making daily our prayer to the Lord for each church and our association. I look forward to continuing to meet with each and every pastor in our association. I look forward to an opportunity to share with our association some ways we can move forward together for God's glory and for the health of all our churches.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you.

Mark

Church Giving

Church Service Times

February 2018 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 428.59	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 578.48	\$ 64.28	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 598.36	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:40	6:00	7:00
Galt			10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Jamesport	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	9:45	10:45	7:00	7:00
Laredo	\$ 400.00	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:00
Lineville	\$ 173.10	\$ 25.00	9:45	10:45	6:00	6:00
M. Valley			9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer	\$ 209.42	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 56.00		10:00	10:40	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 167.10	\$ 80.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 178.59	\$ 76.53	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 604.67	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:45	5:00	6:00
Salem	\$ 105.17	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 374.28	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:00	6:30
Tenth St.	\$ 730.94	\$ 121.82	9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$ 879.65	\$ 146.41	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union	\$ 232.89	\$ 100.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	6:00
Total	\$5,742.24	\$ 939.04				
Chilli, FBC						
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				
Milan FBC		\$ 165.59				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Linn-Livingston		\$ 41.70				
Zion		\$ 25.00				

Join any of these churches in worship

NOTE: BSU included in NGR Account below.

February 2018 NGR Account

Beginning Balance	\$46,012.90
Income	\$11,382.42
Total	\$55,781.08
Expenses	\$9,768.18
Ending Balance	\$46,012.90

Line Items in NGR Checking

NGR Designated Funds	\$18,736.60
NGR General Fund	\$20,965.82
BSU Line Item Balance	\$7,423.87

NGR October 2017—February 2018

(Includes BSU & Designated Funds)

Income	\$70,697.75
Expenses	\$63,812.31
Difference	\$6,885.44

Seminary Checking	\$134.21
Seminary Savings	\$2,325.20
Benevolent Savings	\$797.23
NGR Savings	\$1,260.65
Knapp Scholarship	\$5,403.79
BSU— February— Income to Expense	
Beginning Balance	\$7,135.24
Income	\$2,268.86
Total	\$9,404.10
Expenses	\$1,980.23
Ending Balance	\$7,423.87
General BSU Fund	\$7,024.11
Designated BSU Fund	\$399.76



Edinburg- We have been helping with the Thrift Store during the month of March on Fridays, so you might see some friendly faces from Edinburg. Even one of our youth, Eric, helped out.

We are getting off to a good start with our Health & Wellness class. On Tuesdays they meet from 6:30-7:00 pm to exercise. On Thursdays we have a short devotion and exercise— 6:30-7:30 pm. There has been an average of 6 to 8 in attendance. This is for both men and women.

We had 8 of our members to attend the NGR Senior Luncheon and Bible Study at the association on March 6th. Pastor Ron Ratliff gave the Bible Study and by request quoted some Cowboy Poetry. The devotion touched our hearts and poems was enjoyed by all. The name “Senior Society” was chosen for new NGR senior adult group. The next meeting will be May 1st.

On April 29th we have a meal and movie night planned. We have all kinds of events going on from children, youth, young and middle age to our senior adult group. Our main focus is to share Jesus word and love to others. We would love to have you join us at anytime.



Gallatin- The JOY Youth will be attending the “Youth Super Rally” “Training Teens for Triumph” at Cameron YMCA from 2-5 pm on Saturday, March 24, sponsored by the Lake Viking Church of Gallatin. The James Day Band and Rev. Josh Patrick will be featured. There will be free skating, food and fun. The is for ages 7th through 12th grade.

The JOY Youth will also be hosting, Potato Bar with all the extras luncheon after morning worship on Sunday, April 15. A freewill offering will be taken and funds used for youth camp.

The Community Good Friday Service will be held at the Gallatin United Methodist Church with the Rev. Wayne Smith presenting the message, and the Community Choir under the direction of Linda Arnold presenting the special music.

The Gallatin Celebration Choir will be presenting an Easter Cantata during our morning worship service on Sunday, April 1.

Some other special activities for the month of April are: Keenagers monthly noon luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 5; the deacons will be hosting the Naomi Banquet for the widows of our church on Saturday, April 21 at 5 pm at Cycles; and Pioneer Club Awards and Family Night will be held on Wednesday, April 25.

Did you know that if you shop Amazon at **smileamazon.com** you can list who you would like for the charity contribution portion of your purchase to go to? I have listed the International Mission Board. You could list other ministries.

Union Coon Creek - [1 John 4:16](#)
So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

We look around and we see the slight tenses of spring beginning to show as our church has resumed our Wednesday night children’s Bible study.

March the 3rd Mike and Sherry Knapp shared their recent Africa bucket ministry trip. Polo Baptist Church has booked them to come and share with them on April the 7th.

We held our annual wild game supper as a springboard into a spring revival. Oklahoman Kolby King came and shared God’s gift to him of presenting the Gospel through ventriloquism and illusions. We had numerous decisions for Christ from ages of 8 to 80 as God’s message through Kolby touched both kids and adults.

We are planning to have a Thursday pre-Easter service at 6:00 pm the 29th of March. We are going to have our annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday morning, April 1st at 9:00 am then dismissing to our worship service at 10:45 am .

We go to Eastview Nursing Home every 3rd Sunday of the month and serve the Celebrate Recovery meal once a month.

We pray for and ask God to Bless all our sister churches in NGRBA as well as all associational ministries.



April 8-12, 2018
Tenth Street Baptist Church
10:30 am Sunday- 7:00 pm Evening Service

Pastor Ron Ratliff will start each service with a few of his original poems.

Worship will be led by Mark Silkwood
Mark is supervisor for MoDot, has played in several bands and leads worship at Circle 3 Tree Cowboy Church in Jamesport

Danny Decker will be preaching
Danny has served in the pastorate, was Dom for NGR Association, served as the Director for Disaster Relief in MBC

We are expecting great and wonderful things!
Come and Worship with us.

Trenton FBC— Our new Associate Pastor, Andrew Bertram is leading the students on a study on Wednesday nights called, “Who Are We, “Who Are We”, focusing on what scripture says about who we are as the redeemed sons and daughters of Christ. On Sunday mornings they are doing a study called “Apologetics” which is designed to help us defend our faith and remain steadfast in Christ with a solid biblical worldview.

The Keenagers remain busy with activities and going to Gilman City for a luncheon in March.

The ladies have a Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 7 pm.

The Children’s Choir is meeting on Sunday evenings at 6 pm and the Adult Choir meets at 7 pm.

Crafty Ladies continue to meet on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Respite Information Meeting

Cornerstones of Care has partnered with First Baptist Church to present an informational meeting for anyone interested in how they can help children in foster care.

Attending this event does not obligate you to provide any services or proceed with any type of licensure, but instead will provide information on what you can do, even if you do not want to provide a service. You will be able to ask the Licensing Worker and Manager questions about the process.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

Trenton First Baptist Church
2421 Oklahoma Ave

Tuesday, April 24th– 6:30 pm

For more information contact Nicole Lynch at 816-216-4629.

April 8th- Cooperative Program Sunday

What is the Cooperative Program?

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

Camp forms are available now at your church or at the Mission Center.

YOUTH CAMP—June 4-8

Forms must be turned in at NGR by May 4th to avoid late fee

"Be Detoxed" Romans 12:2
Staff Directors— Christina Boatright &
Assistant Gary Lanning

Camp Pastor: Matt Arthaud
Worship: Nick Wilson

CHILDREN'S CAMP—July 23-27

Camp forms must be turned in at NGR by June 22 to avoid late fee

"Be Transformed" Romans 12:2



We had a good time at the March luncheon and study. We decided on the name 'Senior Society' for our group. Ron Ratliff led in the devotion and recited some of his poems.

Plan to come to our next luncheon on May 1st at the Mission Center. FBC has a quartet that will bring the program. Members of the quartet are Steve & Cyndi Caldwell, Dwayne Trump, Larry Dannar and accompanist Debbie Dickinson.

Bring a covered dish and join us!



A sunny day with a hint of spring was the setting for our March 13th WMU meeting.

We are glad to welcome some Edinburg girls that have been coming the past 2 months. It is always exciting to have some new blood to encourage us.

Prayer request were taken, with special note that we need to pray for our country, state and local leaders. Other request included Rylin Miller a child who is losing vision and John Mark Clifton, our new acting DOM.

The main project for today was making baskets for the Silent Auction at the State WMU Mission Celebration in April. The ladies were able to make 4 theme baskets that included "Tea Time", "Dorcas Sewing Basket", "Cooks Helper" and "Readers Delight". All the proceeds go to fund the Alberta Gilpin fund for retired missionaries.

Virginia Crumpacker gave the devotion from Genesis 2:4-24 about women being a help mate to their husband.

A lovely luncheon was shared by all after the meeting.

Bev Martin is offering to give pine cones to anyone that could use them for crafts. She has a large amount and wants to see some use them. Call her at 660-359-4479.

Up coming events: Put the dates on your calendar.

WMU State Mission Celebration at Springfield on April 6-7. Held at South Gate Baptist Church. If anyone wants to go, call Shelly Sims at 660-605-2184 or 660-663-2380. She has room in her car.

Associational WMU meeting at Mission Center on Tuesday April 17 at 10:30 am. Sherry Knapp will share about her trip to Africa.

Associational WMU meeting at Mission Center on Tuesday May 15 at 10:30 am. John Mark Clifton, the new acting DOM will share.

Verse for today—James 3:13- *"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom."*

Shelly Sims

