

# DECEMBER

4th– Pastor & Wives Christmas Dinner– Noon  
 13th– Mission’s Meeting– 6:00 pm  
 13th– Medicine Valley Advisory– 7:00 pm  
 14th– Ladies Christmas Program– FBC– 10:30  
 18th– Men’s Prayer Breakfast– FBC– 8:00 am  
 21st– Winter Begins  
 24th– Mission Center Closed  
 25th– Merry Christmas  
 27th– Mission Center Closed  
 30th– Bookstore Inventory– 6:30 pm  
 31st– Mission Center Closed



## Salem Baptist Church

December 4th– 6:00 pm  
 Evangelist– Tim Wilson  
 Music– Living Water

3 Lewis Rogers  
 6 Linda Niffen  
 15 Teresa Harkey

December Birthdays



## North Grand River Baptist Association

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## CANDYMAKER’S WITNESS

A Candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church and firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a “J” to represent the precious name of Jesus who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the “Good Shepherd” with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out of the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candmaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we were healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promises of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane, a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who “have eyes to see and ears to hear”.



North Grand River Baptist Association

# The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 35, Number 12  
 December, 2010

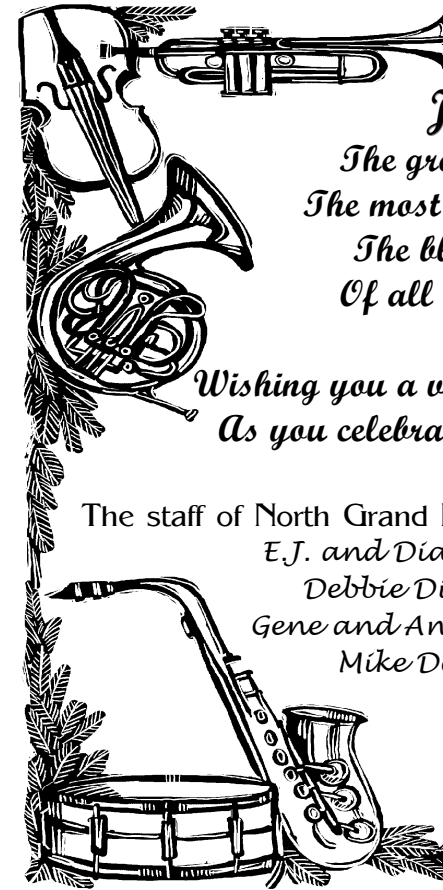
“Churches working together to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission.”  
 Matthew 28:18-20



NGRBA Churches

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

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Jesus  
 The greatest story.  
 The most amazing gift,  
 The blessed hope  
 Of all who believe.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas  
 As you celebrate the birth of Jesus

The staff of North Grand River Baptist Association  
 E.J. and Diann Barnes  
 Debbie Dickinson  
 Gene and Ann Schreffler  
 Mike Dennis.



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





**THOUGHTS  
FROM THE  
HEART**

**FROM MY HEART TO YOURS**

It is Christmas time again. (WOW!—this year has literally flown by.) Luke 2:8-20 shares with us about the shepherds in relation to the birth of Christ. There are three truths that come from this passage I believe we should act upon during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year:

1. The shepherds purposed in their hearts to act upon what they'd heard concerning Jesus. They made it a priority to seek Jesus and to experience Him personally, (Luke 2:15-16). We also should make time to seek our Lord and spend time with Him.
2. The shepherds proclaimed with their lips to others what they'd seen concerning Jesus, (Luke 2:17-18). We also should take time to share our witness to others about the marvelous truths about Jesus that we have experienced that they may experience Him too.
3. The shepherds praised and glorified God for what they'd heard and seen concerning Jesus (Luke 2:20). We also should make time to express our appreciation and adoration to God for His revelations of Jesus Christ in our lives. He is worthy!

Let's again remember "the reason for the season!" Let our focus be on Jesus our Lord and Savior! May we have many opportunities that we take advantage of to experience Christ in special ways, to share Him with others and to worship Him in Spirit and Truth.

For His Glory,  
*EJ Barnes*

October 2010 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	MW	EW	DT/Wed	WMU	Bapt. Men	Youth Kids Ministry	Bapt.	Ltr/Other
Alpha	\$ 155.22		14	20	10						
Edinburg	\$ 663.30	\$ 78.04	47	83	49	31			13		
Gallatin	\$ 822.42	\$ 50.00	97	148	51				69		
Galt	\$ 170.00	\$ 25.00	25	33							
Jameson											
Jamesport	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	29	48	15						
Laredo	\$ 288.53		15	28			2				
Lineville	\$ 192.70	\$ 38.54	31	36	17				30	1	
M. Valley	\$ 76.62	\$ 25.00	16	18		14					1
Mercer				70	23	15				3	
Modena	\$ 102.84		7	15	10						
Princeton	\$ 687.12	\$ 50.00									
Ravanna	\$ 121.37	\$ 52.02									
Rural Dale	\$ 459.25	\$ 50.00	63	105			9		9		3
Salem	\$ 83.38		38	47	17						
Shelburne	\$ 428.48	\$ 50.00	43	52	30	31					
Spickard	\$ 75.00		12	19							
Tenth St.	\$ 793.16	\$ 132.19									
Trenton FB	\$1,191.92	\$ 198.65	108	138	38				113	1	
Union	\$ 294.15	\$ 100.00	65	89	17	56					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,630.46</b>	<b>\$ 874.44</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Chilli, FBC		\$ 43.00									
MBC		\$ 460.00									

<b>Seminary Checking</b>	\$344.48
<b>Seminary Savings</b>	\$2,051.37
<b>Belarus</b>	\$7,055.52
<b>Benevolent Savings</b>	\$740.38
<b>NGR Savings</b>	\$9,486.12
<b>BSU- October- Income to Expense</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$1,949.16
Income	\$1,757.54
Total	\$3,706.70
Expenses	\$3,208.68
Ending Balance	\$498.02

<b>October 2010 NGR Account</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$10,148.13
Income	\$11,677.54
Total	\$21,825.67
Expenses	\$14,712.57
Ending Balance	\$7,113.10
<b>Line Items in General Checking</b>	
Designated Funds	\$3,608.51
General Fund	\$3,504.59
Checking Balance Total	\$7,113.10
<b>NGR October 2010</b>	
(Does not include designated funds)	
Income	\$10,448.57
Expenses	\$13,200.83
Difference	-\$2,752.26

**ARE WE THERE YET?**

**2010 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®**  
National Goal: \$175 Million

imb connecting

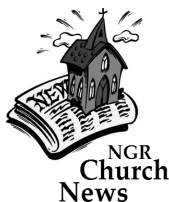
imb.org/offering

**Bookstore Inventory**

If you can help with the inventory of the Bookstore on Thursday, December 30th at 6:30 pm, please call Debbie at the Mission Center. With just a few volunteers the work is done very quickly.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

**First Baptist Church- Trenton**  
**December 18, 8:00 am**  
**All Men Invited!**



**Edinburg**— On Sunday evening, October 24, our Children's Church hosted the evening meal followed by a musical program. There were 65 in attendance.

As Director of Children's Church, this writer feels especially blessed to be surrounded by a church family that so willingly pitched in to do whatever necessary to see that this program was a success. I feel especially blessed to have my regular Children's Church helpers that carried on so perfectly during the time of my absence.

On October 31, the children met at the church and went on a hayride. They returned at 6:00 pm and participated with the rest of the congregations in a Special 5th Sunday "Togathering" in the Fall.

On Sunday, November 13, during Children's Church regular services one of our children came forward and accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. We feel so blessed when one of these young ones accept Jesus.

**Gallatin**- December will be a busy month as we celebrate Christ's birth. Please join us for any of the special services that are listed on the back of the Encourager. We also will be participating in the Angel Tree ministry for the Children's Home. We will not be having evening service on December 26th.

**Galt**- We had a guest speaker from the Gideon's on October 3rd.

Our annual church retreat was held at Grand Oaks on October 20th. A great day of fellowship, food and music! Once again, the men brought home the scavenger hunt trophy. We honored pastor Gene and his wife Ann for 22 years of service to this church and community on October 24th.

**Jamesport**— In October we ended the Friday night movies for this year. We had pastor appreciation night at our Wednesday night supper in October. We continue to send bags of clothing from the Mustard Seed to Chicago with Bro. Earl. Skate night was enjoyed by our children of the church on October 5th. Sunday evening, October 31, our church had Trunk n Treat prior to our Sunday night services.

November 21 was our annual harvest dinner after which we had games and special music including an children's bell choir.

A Christmas cantata is planned for Saturday evening December 18th and Sunday morning at 11 am on December 19th. "*Light of the World*" is the name of the Cantata.

**Mercer**— We will be having our Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner on December 12th.

**Shelburne**- Dockery Chapel, Edinburg and Shelburne enjoyed a Community Thanksgiving Service at Dockery Chapel on November 19.

The Children's Choir sang during the morning worship service recently and that choir and the adult choir are preparing for the Christmas music program on December 19.

Ivy Swank and Justin Anderson were married at Shelburne on November 18.

*Christ  
Is Born!*

**Medicine Valley Community Ministry**- November has been a busy and eventful month in our ministries here in our Medicine Valley Area.

Twelve shoe boxes have been filled and sent to children through the Samaritan Purse Ministry of Franklin Graham.

Installation of the furnace in the parsonage at Newtown has been completed in a timely fashion, enabling our Mission Service corps Volunteers to stay warm during the coming winter months.

The new handicap accessible restroom at sanctuary level is now finished and is now usable having finally had plumbing connected to the sewer.

As you read this each of our four ongoing Bible Study Group's will have previewed an early cut of the movie "*Last Ounce of Courage*". It is to be in theaters in the fall of 2011, (it is to be shown to all our overseas troops prior to that). The movie is about putting Christ back in Christmas. It has a patriotic theme as well, honoring our military personnel.

At the time of this writing, our plans for December include a Fall Harvest Celebration the week of November 28-December 5.

A Christmas/Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Sunday evening December 12, followed by a showing of the movie "*Christmas Cottage*".

A Children's Christmas Program is planned for

We remain grateful for the prayers and financial support of area Baptist churches for this "mission in your own backyard". Finances remain tight for the mission, particularly in the area of Home Bible Study Group development and Children's ministry. We are constantly grateful, however, in seeing the Lord's hand in meeting our needs, sometime in unexpected ways. We pray God's blessing upon you all and wish each one a very Merry Christmas.

**Salem**— On Sunday, November 14th, we finished our Bible study on the New Testament. November 21st we will be having our Thanksgiving Harvest supper with services to follow. November 28th we will be having the Hanging of the Greens followed by a baked potato bar supper. December 4th at 6:pm, we will have a one night revival with Bro. Tim Wilson bringing the message. Living Water will be leading the music and singing. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Everyone is invited. December 19th at 6:00pm is our Christmas Service. December 24th at 5:00pm we are going to have a Christmas Eve service. The holidays are here, it's hard to believe. We pray everyone will have a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving. We praise our Heavenly Father for the many blessings we have in this country.

**Trenton FBC**— Awanas are having good attendance. December 15th they will be having a Christmas musical at 6:30. Our Senior Adults have been busy with trips, shopping and one their favorites— eating at the Galt Café. They continue to take food to the Medicine Valley Ministry and support the Backpack Buddies. They had a Thanksgiving dinner on November 12th that was well attended. November 14th we collected shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our Worship Choir will present a Christmas Musical on Sunday evening December 19th. Finger food and fellowship to follow. Our bell choir is faithfully practicing. We look forward to hearing them.

Gregg Brummitt, who is back on furlough, was our guest IMB speaker on November 21st. He and his wife Andrea are serving as church planters in the Czech Republic. December 5th we will be having our International Flag ceremony in the morning worship service. November 29th— December 3rd we will have our Week of Prayer for International Missions at noon. It will be a brown bag lunch.

## MBC—BSU @ NCMC

It doesn't seem possible, but as I write this article it has occurred to me that there are only 3 weeks of this semester left. It has literally been a whirlwind of ministry this year. Here are some highlights for this semester:

Wednesday Free Lunch ministry hit an all time high serving 132.

Welcome Move-In Saturday in Aug. received a lengthy "Thank You" email from a parent in Richardson Texas, stating how encouraging it was to know there was a ministry on campus that would encourage his daughter to walk her faith during her time away from home.

Tuesday Bible Study and supper studied "Epic" by John Eldridge and will conclude this Tuesday the book of Philippians for the semester. The students also experienced a special evening with Michelle Stark who hosted a Bible study. Thank you Michelle. The girls still talk about the wonderful blessing.

Sunday Night Alive Supper with Devotions has taken on a little different character. Instead of 40-50 students, we have had 10-15 each Sunday giving us the opportunity to experience a quieter more relaxed family atmosphere. This has enabled us to really know our students, learning their personal stories, and praying with them over the struggles they face.

See You At The Pole was authentically led by college students, with 18 students standing in the rain, praying for their campus.

At MO Days parade, students walked the parade route, carrying the cross, handing out 500 gospel tracts, and over 300 color-beaded gospel key chains.

10 students made the trip to both Ronald McDonald Houses in KC, taking supper and a van load of toilet paper and paper towels to stock their pantry.

Thanksgiving Feast was last night. With the steadfast help of Ann/Gene, Reggie/Jolene and May, we fed a total of 57 people who heard how "BIG" our salvation is through Jesus Christ, shared by Jason Yarnell, campus minister at NW Missouri State University.

More students have been involved this semester through various ministries than ever before during my privilege of serving in the BSU. The opportunities to pray with students and for students have multiplied weekly. More frequently, students are sharing with me how God is calling them to be actively involved in ministry for His Glory. I already have 3 students who have committed to me to be a part of next year's mission trip to Canada. You can almost FEEL the moving of God's Spirit on campus...EJ prays, asking God to send a "Revolution" to our campus, and I sense that He has heard.

Be Ready with us, Be Praying with us, Be Expecting with us for God to send the "**Winds of Spiritual Revolution**" to NCMC campus this coming year.

PS: Since August, God has been revealing a "GOD SIZED" mission vision for our BSU in the year 2011. It's an Acts 1:8 vision of Jerusalem, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. Many of you KNOW that God is getting ready to do mighty things thru our association, because HE is burdening your hearts with a hunger to serve Him in missions this coming year. I beseech you NGRBA prayer warriors to begin binding with me in Prayer for this mission vision in 2011. Ecclesiastes 4:12 "**A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.**"

He is Worthy to Receive the Rewards of His Sacrifice—Souls

*Diann Barnes*



## Christmas Celebration with the Brummitt's

First, I want to thank everyone who made the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Program such a blessing! Whitney Prewitt and Carol Gutshall gave such great presentations on Sudan and Belarus, and those from First Baptist who worked in the kitchen and with the sound system were invaluable in their service. Besides our speakers, (and a wonderful luncheon!), we also had a "Prayerwalk" along tables displaying maps and items from the seven different continents/areas featured in the program materials from the BWA. Each area had prayer requests that were provided for each one present to pray for as we "traveled" from table to table.

The Brummitt family will be our special guests at the December 14th Christmas Celebration at First Baptist Church, Trenton at 10:30 am. A covered dish lunch will follow.

The January 18th Prayer Luncheon will be at 11:30 am with a devotional and prayer ministry led by Doris Provorse. A covered dish luncheon will follow. Please note the change in time for the January winter luncheon. The WMU Council will meet at 10:30 am for a planning session.

Ladies, let's take advantage of this Christmas season to let those with whom we come in contact know the real reason for the season! We can use Christmas gospel tracts, Christmas buttons with a message, or just greeting people with "Merry Christmas"

Have a joyous Christmas and a wonderful new year!

*Bev Martin*  
WMU Director



## Church Christmas Events Edinburg

Children's Christmas Program  
December 12th— 6:00 pm  
"Legacy of Love"

## Gallatin

November 28— Hanging of the Greens  
December 19—

(AM) Bro. Marty's Christmas Message  
(PM) Children's Christmas Program  
December 22— Parsonage Open house  
December 24— Candlelight Service  
December 26— (AM) Adult Cantata

## Jamesport

Saturday, December 18— Adult Cantata  
Sunday, December 19— 11am— Adult Cantata  
"Light of the World"

## Medicine Valley

Dec. 12— Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner— 6:30 pm  
Movie to follow— "Christmas Cottage"  
December 19— AM— Children's Program

## Salem

November 28— Hanging of the Green  
December 19th— 6:00pm Christmas Service  
December 24th— 5 pm Christmas Eve Service

## Shelburne

Children and Adult Choir Program  
December 19

## Trenton First

Dec. 15th— 6:30 pm— AWANA Christmas Musical  
December 19th— 6:30 pm— Adult Cantata  
"Star of Bethlehem"  
December 24th— Candlelight Service

