



Christmas Boxed Cards 15% Off

November 27– December 8

Bibles– 15% Off
(Excludes Good News Bibles)
Bible Cases– 10% Off

December 11-22

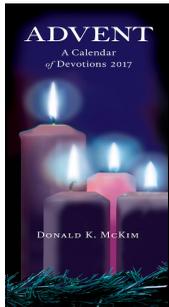
DVD's & CD's– 10% Off
All Books– 15% Off

December 18-22

Gift and Novelty Items
10% Off

December 27-29

10% Off Everything in Store



“Advent A
Calendar of
Devotions 2017”
.85

North Grand River Baptist Association

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NEXT SENIOR FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

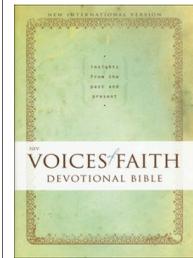
January 2, 2018

Mission Center

Potluck Carry in Dinner

Followed by Bible Study led by
Rev. Ron Ratliff

Doris Provorse is leading the NGR Senior Fellowship. The first meeting was on November 7th with 12 in attendance. Josh Gottman led the study on Daniel 1. We hope you can join us at our next meeting. We had a good time and a great Bible Study



NIV Voices of Faith
Devotional Bible

Hardcover- \$10.00-
SRP- \$34.99

December

- 3 Lewis Rogers
- 6. Linda Niffen
- 10. Christina Boatright
- 16. Kenny Wilson
- 17. Ron & Amy McPherson
- 19. Abner & Jennifer Neill
- 26 Jennifer Trunk



North Grand River Baptist Association

The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 41, Number 12
December, 2017

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



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

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year
as we celebrate the Miracle of Jesus Birth*

From the staff at North Grand River Baptist Association

*Debbie Dickinson
Christina Boatright
Gracie Cabral
Doug Crawford*



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



By the time most of you read this article, the Spickard Baptist Church will have closed its doors. The last service in that building was held on Sunday morning, November 19th, although the church (the people, not the building) hosted the annual Spickard Community Thanksgiving service that evening at the Christian Church (because the Baptist Church building was in no condition to host such a service). Yes, it is a sad time for all those good folks who attended this church over the years. My wife Peggy grew up in that church and she and I were married there 41 years ago. As a child she came to know Jesus in that place, as

have countless others over the years. We both have many fond memories of the church and the activities that took place there in happier days. In particular I remember two Halloweens when we “haunted” the basement and scared the daylights out of the kids and youth of the church and community! I was Dracula, Peggy was an old witch stirring her potion in a cauldron, her brother Lyle was an insane man in chains and her brother-in-law Jimmy Carter was a corpse in a coffin who would rise up and talk to the kids as they passed by him in the candle lit basement.

Peggy likes to tell about the time her mother’s Sunday School class sang a special. I guess they were so bad her brother was down on the floor laughing. We also remember the Christmas when the church went caroling in the bitter cold, with ice and snow everywhere, walking the streets of Spickard, shivering and trembling with cold and singing joyous Christmas songs to the residents of the town. What I remember most about that evening is the hot chocolate and cookies after the singing was over!

So yes, it is sad to see the church close its doors. But the time had come to do just that. The few remaining members were not able to take care of the place anymore and the building had been neglected for so long it would not be financially feasible to make all the repairs necessary to keep it open.

But that’s not the end of the story. The piano was donated to the BSU. Fourteen of the twenty pews are going to a mission on an Indian reservation in South Dakota. Many other items have found homes with people who care about them and have an attachment to them. But more importantly, God’s work will go on in Spickard. God willing, a new work will begin there in a year or two and you, the North Grand River Baptist Association, will need to be a big part of it. There will be survey work to be done, going door to door and taking stock of the spiritual needs of those in the community. A suitable place to gather for worship will need to be found. People will need to pray, and people will need to come for worship and to encourage others.

Starting a new work in a village like Spickard won’t be easy and it won’t happen overnight, and it won’t happen if God’s people don’t pray. Pray for God to raise up a church planter who has a heart for lost people and that community. Pray for financial needs to be met. Pray for lost souls to come to Jesus. Pray for God to put it all together.

And don’t forget to ask Him what you can do to help.

Steve Dennis
Supply at Spickard Baptist Church



Church Giving

Church Service Times

October 2017 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 100.07	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 467.78	\$ 51.98	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 725.10	\$ 50.00	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	\$ 250.00	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:00
Lineville	\$ 175.14	\$ 25.00	9:45	10:45	6:00	6:00
M. Valley			9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer	\$ 231.75	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 258.80	\$ 150.00	10:00	10:40	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 48.23	\$ 80.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 125.97	\$ 53.99	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 644.41	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:45	5:00	6:00
Salem	\$ 104.60	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 557.53	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:00	6:30
Spickard	\$ 25.00		9:30	10:30		
Tenth St.	\$ 670.76	\$ 111.79	9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$ 600.26	\$ 100.04	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union	\$ 223.27	\$ 100.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	6:00
Total	\$5,233.67	\$1,022.80	Join any of these churches in worship			
Chilli, FBC		\$ 45.00	NOTE: BSU included in NGR Account below.			
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				
Milan FBC		\$ 143.49				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Zion BC		\$ 25.00				

Seminary Checking	\$144.21
Seminary Savings	\$2,313.16
Benevolent Savings	\$796.60
NGR Savings	\$1,259.54
BSU- October- Income to Expense	
Beginning Balance	\$11,575.38
Income	\$2,196.29
Total	\$13,771.67
Expenses	\$2,397.58
Ending Balance	\$11,374.09
General BSU Fund	\$5,726.83
Designated BSU Fund	\$5,647.26

October 2017 NGR Account	
Beginning Balance	\$40,240.85
Income	\$22,730.74
Total	\$62,971.59
Expenses	\$10,556.51
Ending Balance	\$52,415.08
Line Items in NGR Checking	
NGR Designated Funds	\$24,647.22
NGR General Fund	\$16,393.78
BSU Line Item Balance	\$11,374.09
NGR October 2017 (Includes BSU & Designated Funds)	
Income	\$22,730.74
Expenses	\$10,556.51
Difference	\$12,174.23



**NGR
Church
News**

Edinburg- We had ten of our people serve punch and cake for the birthday party at Sunnyview. The residents really enjoyed it.

Thirty-two went to Judgement House at Cameron. The youth had a movie night at our church with 20 in attendance counting youth and adults.

We packed OCC shoe boxes to be sent out so children can hear about Jesus.

We are preparing for our Christmas program on December 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Danny Gott's Deacon Ordination service will be on December 10th.

December 15th we are going caroling at 5:30 pm. We are having a candlelight service on December 24th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

I would like to announce that Danny Gott will be ordained as a Deacon of Edinburg Baptist Church on December 10th, 2017. This is a call for all ordained men to join us on December 10 to help us in the ordination process. We will have a carry in dinner following morning services with Ordination service to follow.

Ordination council will be at 1:30 (all ordained men are welcomed to attend)

Ordination services at 2pm

Thank you

Pastor Ron McPherson

Edinburg Baptist Church

Gallatin First Baptist Church Annual Church-Wide Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3, immediately following morning worship. The meat will be furnished. Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert and join us in fellowship and thanksgiving.

The Keenagers Christmas Luncheon will be on Thursday, December 7th.

REJOICE! FBC Celebration Choir
The choir has been working hard this fall on our Christmas music. Instead of a prepackaged cantata, we are doing 6 anthems tied together with narration. Phillip Arnold is coming to work with us in a choir clinic on December 3. Pray that we have all these great songs embedded in our hearts so we can pour them out in adoration to our Lord on Sunday morning, December 17! Pray also for the health of our members, as each one is vitally important to this group, including its sound and more importantly, because we are a family. Linda Arnold – Music Director

The Kid's Praise Children's Choir is practicing for their Christmas Program entitled "An Unplugged Christmas" created by Susie Williams and Luke Gambill.. The children will be presenting their Christmas Program on Sunday evening December 15 at 6 pm.

JOY Youth Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 20.

Gallatin First Baptist Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be from 5 to 7 pm. "The Lord's Supper" will be served by the deacons. Candlelight will be the only lighting in the worship center and soft Christmas music will be playing in the background. You may sit wherever you wish to meditate and pray for as long as you desire. When you are ready, you may move to the front of the sanctuary where you will be served the Lord's Supper. This is truly a beautiful service in observance of Jesus' birth.

Medicine Valley- In October we distributed food to 134 people in 54 households. In November the Humphreys distribution was done from the Galt Baptist Church. This due to a unique set of circumstances flooding the cold building with hot water and loosening all the ceiling tile.

We are very grateful to the Galt pastor and congregation for the use of their building.

We are thankful to have sold the parsonage at Newtown with closing on the 31st day of October. Funds received will assist greatly in support of the budget in coming months, assisting in closing the present gap between the mission's receipts and expenditures.

We received four new members into our fellowship by baptism upon their previous profession of faith on Sunday, October 29 and an additional two on Sunday night November 19th.

This included three adults and 3 young people. In addition, we have had two adults join our fellowship by transfer of membership from a church of like faith and order. We praise God for all of these decisions and pray there will continue to be more.

In spite of all the problems in our nation and in the world God is still at work even in our small corner of the universe. We praise him for what he is doing in our midst in these days and continue to pray for the future of these ministries.

We remain truly thankful for all who continue to support our work here with your prayers, hands on assistance and financial contributions. May God's blessings be multiplied as you continue to support this "Mission in your Own Backyard".

Jamesport Baptist Church welcomes their new pastor and his wife Jim and Cathie Whitley. Bro. Jim's first Sunday will be December 3rd. Please pray for them and Jamesport Church as they begin with this new leadership. Jim was pastor at Alpha Baptist Church.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

- 2-10– Lottie Moon Week of Prayer- IMB Focus
- 11-12– MBC Executive Board
- 12- Pastor & Wives & NGR Staff Christmas Party at Mission Center
- 19- WMU Program & Luncheon
- 21– First Day of Winter
- 24- Christmas Eve
- 25– Christmas– Mission Center Closed
- 26– Mission Center Closed
- 29- Agenda Items due for Executive Board



- 1- Happy New Year- Mission Center Closed
- 2- Senior Fellowship & Bible Study
- 8- Council Meeting-Directors & Chairman
- 9- Executive Board Reports Due Executive Board
- 15– NGR Executive Board Meeting

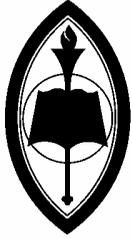
First Baptist Trenton would like to invite you to our Christmas services for December.

December 10– 6:00 pm– The Children's Choir Program

December 17th– 10:40 am—The Adult Choir will present "Sing Gloria"

December 24th at 5:00 pm will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.





Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Program at FBC, Trenton

What better way to pray for the world than to pray for the refugees from around the world that live right here in Kansas City, Missouri! Those of us who were present at our associational WMU World Day of Prayer Program were privileged to hear Richard and Vickie Casebolt and their sons Caleb and Kenson talk about their involvement with Refuge KC, a Non-government organization started by Richard to reach out to the refugees in Kansas City. Besides Richard telling about the work they do with refugees from 18 nations, we were blessed by two choruses the family sang with Richard playing the guitar and the boys doing actions to one of the choruses. Their oldest son Caleb told about their family and did the powerpoint presentation as Richard spoke about their work.

Virginia Crumpacker gave a short devotional from our Missions Mosaic before introducing our special guests. After the program we enjoyed a great covered dish luncheon and time of fellowship.

This month our churches will be collection for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the international missions. Their offering supports our missionaries around the world. Let's prayerfully consider our giving.

Our December 19th Associational WMU Program will be held at Sunnyview Nursing Home for a time of singing, devotional and prayer. We'll meet at the association office at 10:30am to carpool to Sunnyview. After the program we will return to the association office for our covered dish luncheon.

Have a glorious and joyful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, and have a blessed new Year!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14

Your sister in Christ,

**Lottie Moon Week of Prayer
December 3-10, 2017**

"Your Gift Transforms Lives"

Volunteers Needed!

Medicine Valley Community Ministry needs volunteers to help with the preparation and distribution of the Food Pantry Ministry



December dates to help with food distribution at Medicine Valley Community Ministry

December 19th- Prepare Boxes at Newtown Baptist

Chapel- 9 am to noon
December 21st- Food Distribution

The Meaning of Christmas

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. - Luke 2:13-14

[Tis the season for candy canes, Christmas sales, and Santa's at the mall... but what is Christmas really about?](#)

As we flurry through the holidays we need to remember the first Christmas seemed to do without all of these. The very first Christmas started without the power of TV, without Candy Canes, without Santa, and without Christmas sales. It involved a poor couple, who would lay the most precious child of all in a manger. ([Luke 2:4-7](#)). Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a Savior who came to redeem those who were not deserving. Christmas isn't just about showing love for those you care for, but for those who are undeserving, and those you do not even know. Just as God came to die, for those who were undeserving, and those who He did not know. Today, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas... Peace on Earth, Good will toward Men, for the Savior has come to show us how to love, and to give us the greatest gift of love. Instead of buying gifts that try to reflect our feelings, show them the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of God's love ([John 13:34](#)), and love others as God first loved you. ([1 John 4:19](#))

Merry Christmas

From

Moderator Doug Crawford



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him