

February Calendar

- 8 Revival Fires Rally at Spickard- 2:30
- 8-15 Focus on WMU Week
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day- Mission Center Closed
- 17 Ladies Prayer & Program Luncheon-
At Mission Center- 10:30 am
- 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast- Jameson 8 am

Upcoming Events

Acquire the Fire- February 27-28 at Kansas City. For more information the web site is www.acquirethefire.com or call 1-800-329-3473 extension 7026.

MBC Instrumental Workshop- February 27-28 at Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City. For information contact Mission Center or MBC at 1-800-736-6227.

MBC Handbell Festival- March 13-14 at South Gate Baptist Church, Springfield.

VBS Training Clinic- April 6th Trenton FBC



**BIRTHDAYS
FEBRUARY**

- 7 Jesse Cass
- 9 Bobbie Helton
- 12 Peggy Dennis
- 15 Stan Rushton
- 21 Debbie Dickinson

North Grand River Baptist Association

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Ministry Assistant

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Diann Barnes



FIREPRO

NOW at the BOOKSTORE!

DVD on SALE- \$17.50
(SRP- \$24.98)

"Love Dare"- \$10.00

Valentine's Day Is for Christian Love

Valentine's Day is for honoring love;

To show those we love we care.

Red hearts with tender sentiments

We send, our love to share.

So on Valentine's Day we're reminded

Of our very first Christian goal:

To love the Lord with all our heart

And all our mind and soul.

To love our neighbor as ourselves

We are also told to do,

So let's live our love by the Bible;

It's God's word, flawless and true.

If we give this Christian Valentine first,

We'll never run out of love,

For infinite love will come to us

From God in heaven above.

By Joanna Fuchs

North Grand River Baptist Association

The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 34, Number 2
February, 2009

"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
- Milan Hispanic
- Modena
- Princeton
- Ravanna*
- Rural Dale
- Salem
- Shelburne
- Spickard
- Tenth Street
- Trenton First
- Union



North Grand River Associational



March 1, 2009 2:00 pm

Tenth Street Baptist Church

Guest Speaker

Rick Hedger

(MBC Partnership Mission Specialist)

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 My Heart to Yours

It is my desire to have our local churches to serve as...

LIGHTHOUSES that shine forth faithfully and brightly where souls sailing on the seas of life may be warned of dangerous and destructible paths and may be led to safe harbors even during raging storms;

HOSPITALS where people can come to be cared for and healed from the spiritual enemies that have plagued and injured them;

BASES from which the soldiers of the cross may launch attacks against every spiritual enemy (Satan, demons, the flesh, the world, sin and death) that comes against faith in Jesus Christ, the truth of God's Word and the love of God working through His Spirit.

May we be churches and individual Christian people whose ultimate "Valentine" is Jesus Christ! May we love Him with all of our hearts, souls and might! May we love others, at least, as much as we love ourselves.

Keep praying for 1) Real Revival in our churches, 2) Spiritual Awakening in our area, 3) More Laborers— Preachers, Teachers & Healers, 4) For God to make Himself Known however He wills and 5) to use us!

I am sensing that our nation's cultural changes that are anti-Christ will be accelerating in the days ahead. As we take our light outside of our church buildings into a world growing more and more dark, we will encounter bolder and more intense opposition.

Even this past week here in Trenton I encountered hateful opposition to our BSU ministry. Be watchful— prayerful— courageous!

Check out what is happening this month and be involved as God leads.

For His Glory-
E.J. Barnes

Executive Board Meeting Notes

The Executive Board of NGR met on January 19th. Following are motions that were made at the meeting-

- Elected Jim Whitley & Dr. Spencer Ray to serve on the Executive/Personnel Committee.
- Approved Tamme Faulkner as Assistant Camp Director and Jim Whitley to replace Joy Stotts on the Camp Committee.
- Advertise the property of Providence Church in the local papers in Mercer and Grundy County. To advertise in Pathway the pews that are available from Providence.

December Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	MW	EW	DT	WMU	Bapt. Men	Youth Kids Ministry	Bapt.	Ltr/Other
Alpha	\$ 288.96		16	22							
Edinburg	\$ 592.48	\$ 32.91									
Gallatin	\$ 796.49	\$ 50.00	88	124	28			8	50		
Galt	\$ 145.00	\$ 25.00	29	36							
Jameson											
Jamesport	\$ 75.00		31	49	15					1	
Laredo	\$ 444.74	\$ 100.00									
Lineville	\$ 299.74	\$ 59.95									
M. Valley	\$ 39.56	\$ 25.00									
Mercer	\$ 374.00	\$ 25.00	39	62	20						2
Modena	\$ 136.14		11	4	4						
Princeton	\$1,040.61	\$ 50.00	101	166	48	17	56	44	175	1	
Ravanna	\$ 146.64		12	12	7				9		
Rural Dale	\$ 677.30	\$ 50.00									
Salem	\$ 118.05										
Shelburne	\$ 576.39	\$ 50.00	37	43	40	35	9				1
Spickard	\$ 55.00		12	20							
Tenth St.	\$1,005.05	\$ 167.51	75	134	31		5		44	1	
Trenton FB	\$1,105.13	\$ 184.19	96	169	37				74		
Union	\$ 278.43	\$ 200.00	50	73	16	42					
Total	\$8,194.71	\$1,019.56	597	914	246	94	70	52	352	3	3
Chilli, FBC		\$ 50.00									
MBC		\$ 690.00									

Seminary Checking	\$457.44
Seminary Savings	\$2,027.74
Benevolent Savings	\$1,128.55
Belarus	\$814.76
BSU— December— Income to Expense	
Beginning Balance	\$2,712.18
Income	\$1,851.35
Expenses	-\$1,596.62
Ending Balance	\$2,966.91

December Account Records	
Beginning Balance	\$19,383.50
Income	\$13,687.56
Total	\$33,071.06
Expenses	\$11,378.75
Ending Balance	\$21,692.31
Line Items in General Checking	
Designated	\$5,549.17
General Fund	\$16,143.14
Account Balance	\$21,692.31
NGR Oct—Dec- Income to Expense	
Income	\$41,275.09
Expenses	\$41,085.66
Difference	\$189.43

Budget Questions

As we receive questions throughout time in regards to the finances of NGR and about the budget— we would like to help explain some questions that will hopefully help you. A copy of the budget can be obtained at the office or in the Annual Book for the association.

- Q. Does money the churches send to NGR help fund the BSU?
- A. No. Money that is sent to NGR goes into the general fund, which is used only for the ministry of the association. Those items include the utility costs, insurances, salaries (for the Director of Mission, Secretary and Custodians), ministries such as WMU, Brotherhood, Youth, Sunday School, Discipleship, etc.
- Q. How does the BSU obtain funds?
- A. Churches or individuals that send money will mark on the check that it is for the BSU. That money goes into the BSU checking account, and is used only by the BSU.
- Q. Does money the Church send buy items in the Bookstore?
- A. No. The Bookstore is a ministry of the association, such as Sunday School, WMU, Youth, etc., but it is non-profit and self-supporting. All funds received over the expenses goes into the general fund to help with the ministry work of the Association. All items (excluding Lifeway products) are discounted off the retail price. Through the Bookstore, there has been opportunity to share the gospel, encourage people, to inform people about churches in the association, and many other opportunities arise.
- Q. How can I find out what my Church has sent to the association?
- A. Each month the Encourager will list the amount given to the association in one column and what was given to the BSU in the other column. The month is listed in the upper left corner. Checks are documented on the day they are received at the Mission Center.

Extreme Makeover:

Heart Edition

GA Retreat 2009

- March 20-21— Grand Oaks
- March 27-28— Grand Oaks
- April 3-4— Grand Oaks

2009 Ministry Project

Baptist Builders

You may choose to bring one or more of these items to the GA Retreat:

1. *Carpenter's Pencil*
2. *Black Sharpie Magic Markers*
3. *Brown Cotton Gloves*
4. *Small Bottles Hand Sanitizer*
5. *Paper Towels*

All girls grades 1-6 are invited to attend, whether or not their churches have active GA organizations.

Girls will meet missionaries, participate in games, crafts, music, Bible study, prayer and more! They will enjoy meeting girls from other churches.

Registration deadline is February 20th. You may register until March 6th, however, the registration will go up \$5.00, and t-shirt orders will not be accepted. There is also the possibility that the camp will become full.

Cost by February 20th- \$35.00

Cost by March 6th- \$40.00

Register online at:
www.mobaptist.org/wmu



Edinburg— We had our annual candlelight ceremony on Christmas Eve. There were 62 in attendance.

Our Christmas program was cancelled for Sunday, December 21st due to the bad weather and was rescheduled for December 28th. The program was performed by the children. There was a large crowd that attended. Candy, oranges and nuts were given each child after the program.

On Wednesday, January 7th, the Women on Mission held their annual soup supper in conjunction with their regular monthly meeting.

Saturday, January 17th was our men's breakfast with 36 in attendance.

Galt— We delivered a box of donations to the women's shelter. Thirty shoeboxes were filled and taken to the drop site in Chillicothe. The youth hosted a "parent's night out" on December 19th. They provided free babysitting for 13 children. The evening was spent making crafts, playing games, decorating cookies and making homemade pizza.

Princeton— The WOM groups projects were Food for Families and Adopt a Family for Christmas.

A children's skit was done before morning worship on Sunday, December 7th. The Youth Christmas Program was held during worship service on Sunday, December 21st. The Christmas Candlelight service was held on Christmas Eve.

The WOM 3 Group held a New Year's Party on Tuesday, December 30th with 27 in attendance. The Youth Group held a New Year's Party (lock-in) on Wednesday, December 31, with 38 in attendance.

Shelburne Church- We now have a new medium blue carpet in the sanctuary, which replaced a 35 plus year old red one. An all-church hayride was enjoyed by all. We toured Posey Park and came back to the church and had a devotional and hot-dog roast.

Marcia Bland took some of the youth to Ferguson, MO, to attend a Life Action Ministry Summit for the weekend.

Shelburne hosted a Thanksgiving Service with Edinburg and Dockery Chapel. Bro. Stan Rushton brought the message. Refreshments were served after the service.

Pastor Brad, the deacons and wives hosted an appreciation dinner for the Church in December.

Exciting news! At the December business meeting Bro. Brad Walker was called as fulltime pastor. He will begin serving in this capacity after his school term ends in Chillicothe. That's a Praise!

The ladies from Shelburne served 46 for the first BSU lunch on January 14. It was a cold, blustery day but they braved the weather and came.

TWELVE from Shelburne attended the Pastor/Deacon/Wives Conference in Bethany recently.

Seven have united with Shelburne in the last few months; one coming by baptism. What a Blessing!

Trenton First— There were 110 attending the Christmas Eve Service. We are starting Bible Studies, Esther and Fireproof. The Senior Adults will be having a salad luncheon and then do a Bible Study beginning with the "Beverly Hillbillies". The Senior Adult meeting will be January 23 at 1:30 p.m. They will be making valentines again this year for missions. Upcoming events- there will be a church dinner February 15, following the morning worship service to celebrate Bro. Denny's 5th anniversary with the church. February 21st will be the coffee house at the activity center at 5 p.m.

MBC Collegiate Ministry of NCMC "Know Him—Make Him Known—Jesus"

Because the college, for the first time this fall, began scheduling classes on Wednesday through the lunch hours, the Wednesday Free Lunch ministry had to be changed in 2 ways. The time was lengthened to give students more time to come over from their 11 am and 12 noon classes, and alternative ways of sharing about Jesus had to be added. Instead of sharing only once during the 2 hours, devotions given by ministers are repeated and more evangelistic DVD clips have been purchased to be played on a cycling basis throughout the 2 hours. A greater concerted effort is also made by Sophomore students and myself to sit by new students in order to make them feel welcomed and take advantage of the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus. Comments like the following were shared thru the semester letting us know that this ministry is truly meeting needs and making changes in student attitudes toward the love and power Jesus has for them. One student spoke across the room so everyone present would hear. She said, "Diann, all of the nursing students have decided that we should come over every Wednesday, before we take our test." I said, "Really? Why?" Her response, "You know, last week when you prayed for all of us over the test we were going to take that day?", "Yes," I said. "Everyone in the class, even those who weren't here for you to pray for, passed the test! It's the first time that has ever happened." Early on in the semester another student of about 30 years shared, "I laid out last year from school, because I lost my mother who was my best friend and supporter." "When I came back this year, I was scared and depressed, thinking that I might not be able to do this again. I am so glad you are still doing this lunch ministry, because they mean so much to me and have really encouraged me not to give up. Thank you, so much." These are only a few of the comments about the many opportunities we have been given to minister to these students, sowing encouragement and hope, and especially new understanding that Jesus really cares and loves them.

The other ministry the Lord has really blessed in 2 major ways this past semester has been the "Sunday Night Alive". The students living in the dorms have been ministered to, seeing an average of 35-40 students in attendance. One night 47 students ate supper and watched the Louie Giglio film "*How Great is Our God.*" The second blessing has come from our churches and individuals in our association, who have gone out of their way to bless the BSU with 2 huge sacks of frozen deer meat, numerous #10 gallon cans of chili, beans, nacho cheese sauce, bags of pasta noodles, taco seasoning, etc, etc, etc.. This has cut our cost of feeding these 40--6' to 6'5" tall students from \$75-\$80 per week, to about \$15 per week for the smaller needed items. Thank you, all of you for blessing this ministry. Lives are being changed. Thanksgiving Sunday, saw us share the meal with 63 students; Ken Franklin, a brand new Christian, share his testimony; and a student share her testimony about how Jesus had not only saved her but had also brought her through some very terrible personal family problems.

For those churches and individuals who not only see the BSU ministry as a REAL opportunity of sharing Jesus, but also support the BSU with consistent unfailing prayer support, Thank you. "Thank You" also to our NGRBA church families, individuals, and churches outside NGRBA, for your past, present, and future financial support. Most of you not only give a monthly financial support to our NGR Baptist Association, but you also in addition give a monthly support to the BSU ministry. These monthly BSU offerings and prayers are the main reason the BSU is able to continue sharing Jesus. This spring, our Lord has brought to us students from all over the United States, South Africa, West Africa, Zimbabwe, Lithuania and beyond. He has brought these students here to our Jerusalem for a short season. Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to help the BSU share Jesus with them, encouraging them to become serious about HIM. "Satan truly is a roaring Lion, roaming to and fro, seeking whom he may devour. . . Let's not grow weary in well doing."

Diann Barnes



Let's Promote WMU Focus Week

First, if you are not already aware, the December 16th Pathway had an excellent article on page 4 about our WMU organization, written by Dr. David Tolliver. He toured our WMU headquarters in Alabama and was very supportive of our organization, even using our watchword "change a life...change the world" as the focus of his article. If you would like a copy of that Pathway to share with your church or WOM group, let me know. It is encouraging to have one of our MBC leaders supporting us.

At our January luncheon and prayer program, we collected \$65.00 for the Pure Water, Pure Love Ministry of WMU. Way to go, ladies!

WMU Focus Week is here! February 9th through the 15th we want to take every opportunity to show our churches what WMU is all about and to promote WOM and the other age-level organizations. The theme is "Love Through WMU". I have brochures "Change a life...change the World" for all of the age-level groups that are excellent promotional and informational handouts. If you would like some to use in your church, let me know. I also have posters with the WMU theme for this year, "Call to Love", that are good promos.

The February Valentine Program and Prayer Luncheon will be at 10:30 am at the Mission Center. Even though it will be after Valentine's Day, it's never too late to celebrate love! We will have a special DVD presentation with "love" as part of it's title, Come join us!

GA leaders and church leaders, registration for the GA Retreat needs to be in by February 20th to get the \$35.00 fee. From February 21st through March 6th the fee is \$40.00 Your church does not have to have a GA group. It's for girls grades 1 through 6. If you don't have the information or registration forms, contact Belinda Hogan, me, or Debbie.

With spring just around the corner, there are 3 books I would recommend to WMU Directors, WOM leaders, and mission's leaders for perhaps, some new ideas for mission projects for individuals as well as groups. "*Party With a Purpose*" by Page Hughes, "*I Can Do That!*" by Cathy Butler, and "*Splash the Living Water*" by Esther Burroughs are all excellent! Let me know if you use any of their ideas.

Our March Program and Prayer Luncheon will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th at 10:30 am at the Mission Center. We're planning to have a guest speaker in connection with the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasis. Let's have a "green lunch", as much as possible!

Happy Valentine's Day! Let's use Valentine's Day as an opportunity for ministry and outreach.

Bev Martin
WMU Director



Women Evangelising Women

"*Five Touch Points to a Woman's Heart*" Given by Diane Noble
February 27th—6:15 to 8:30 pm February 28— 8:30 am to 11:30 am
First Baptist Church in Milan
\$5.00 Conference fee per person: Registration deadline— February 20
Mail registration to First Baptist Church
PO Box 294, Milan, MO 63556
Childcare available