



NGR Bookstore will be open on Friday night, December 6th, for Trenton Downtown Christmas.

**SALE- ONLY DURING**  
5:00—7:30 PM

10% off all items in the store

**DECEMBER SALES**

December 2-6- 15% off Boxed Christmas Cards

December 9-13- 10% off lowest price of Bibles and Bible Covers (Excludes Good News Bible)

December 16-20— 15% off all Books

December 23, 27 & 30th  
In-Store Specials



**December**

- 3 Lewis Rogers
- 6 Linda Niffen
- 16 Kenny Wilson



The Mission Center and Bookstore will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas Holidays and December 31st for Inventory



**E-Encourager Online**

If you have access to the internet-- check out the E-Encourager online at [www.northgrandriverbaptist.com](http://www.northgrandriverbaptist.com) under the Info Center tab. If you would like to receive the E-Encourager, please email Debbie at [ngrmission@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ngrmission@sbcglobal.net). Over 165 people receive the E-Encourager. The E-Encourager will have all the information of the Encourager plus information that comes in after the Encourager is printed and it is in color.



**Pastor's Luncheon**

Pastors Prayer & Fellowship Time at Pizza Hut 2nd Monday of each month

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** Trenton First Baptist  
**Saturday, 8:00 am**  
**December 21, 2013**  
**All Men Invited!**



**North Grand River Baptist Association**

1108 N Main  
Trenton, MO 64683  
Fax: 660.359.0200

E-Mail: [ngrmission@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ngrmission@sbcglobal.net)  
BSU Telephone— 660.654.0785

DOM's Office— 660.359.3365

Telephone — 660.359.3897

Web Page— [northgrandriverbaptist.com](http://northgrandriverbaptist.com)

Director of Missions

Rev. E.J. Barnes

Ministry Assistant

Debbie Dickinson

BSU Director

Diann Barnes

North Grand River Baptist Association

**The Encourager**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 36, Number 12  
December, 2013

**“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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**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*

*E.J. and Diann Barnes*

*Debbie Dickinson*

*Gene & Ann Schreffler*

*Mike Dennis*

*Christina Boatright*



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

In spite of the normally cold weather, which I am not crazy about, this is my favorite time of year— CHRISTMAS TIME! It's the time to celebrate the birth of our Lord— Jesus Christ. Though it can be stressful we should have an overall attitude of peace and joy. IT should be a time of reflection concerning Jesus' birth and what was involved in the making of the event.

- (1) It was a SUPERNATURAL EVENT! *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'" Matthew 1:18,20*
- (2) It was a SCRIPTURAL EVENT! *"Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated God with us. [Isaiah 7:14].'" Matthew 1:23*
- (3) It was a SACRIFICIAL EVENT! *"...God with us." Matthew 1:23 "And she will bring forth a Son..." Matthew 1:21 "Then Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus." Matthew 1:24-25 Our Lord sacrificed to come from heaven to earth to be with us. Mary sacrificed to carry and bear Jesus Christ as well as bearing the shame of the process. Joseph sacrificed reputation and instant gratification in marrying Mary and waiting until after Jesus was born to be intimate with her.*
- (4) It was a SALVATIONAL EVENT! *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21*

What a glorious birth it was! What a glorious time it is now! Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR—worshipping Jesus Christ and serving Him faithfully and sacrificially— allowing Him to fulfill His promises supernaturally through us to bring others to salvation!

For His Glory,  
E.J. Barnes

# TOTALLY HIS

## HEART, HANDS, VOICE

2013 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS DECEMBER 1-8

**CHURCH GOAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

The 2013 theme for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is "Totally His ... heart, hands, voice," based on Matthew 22:36-39. Totally committed to God, first to love Him, then love others. No less than all of our heart, soul and mind is what's required of us as believers in Christ. All believers, all of the church, all Southern Baptists — totally His.

### Church Giving

### Church Service Times

October 2013 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 202.26	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 602.81	\$ 66.98	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 958.15	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:40	6:00	7:00
Galt	\$ 145.00	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Jameson			9:30	10:30		
Jamesport	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	9:45	10:45	7:00	6:30
Laredo	\$ 335.08		9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Lineville	\$ 322.56	\$ 107.53	9:45	10:45	6:30	6:30
M. Valley	\$ 28.08	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer	\$ 296.62	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 118.83	\$ 150.00	10:15	9:00	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 681.96	\$ 50.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 136.71	\$ 58.59	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 746.07	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:35	7:00	7:00
Salem	\$ 196.29	\$ 50.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 783.58	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:45	7:00
Spickard	\$ 70.00		9:30	10:30	6:30	
Tenth St.	\$1,632.51	\$ 272.08	9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$1,084.18	\$ 240.93	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union	\$ 263.15	\$ 100.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,628.84</b>	<b>\$1,421.11</b>	Join any of these churches in worship			
Chilli, FBC		\$ 45.00				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				
Harrison Assoc		\$ 500.00				

<b>Seminary Checking</b>	\$31.21
<b>Seminary Savings</b>	\$2,081.45
<b>Benevolent Savings</b>	\$755.71
<b>NGR Savings</b>	\$434.54
<b>BSU— October— Income to Expense</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$2,073.46
Income	\$3,041.81
Total	\$9,398.59
Expenses	\$3,373.27
Ending Balance	\$6,025.32
General BSU Fund	\$4,407.30
Designated BSU Fund	\$618.02

<b>June 2013 NGR Account</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$3,369.41
Income	\$13,002.83
Total	\$16,372.24
Expenses	\$10,859.88
Ending Balance	\$5,512.36
<b>Line Items in General Checking</b>	
Designated Funds	\$4,901.96
General Fund	\$610.40
Checking Balance Total	\$5,512.36
<b>NGR October 2013</b>	
(Includes Designated Funds)	
Income	\$13,002.83
Expenses	\$10,859.88
Difference	\$2,142.95



**Edinburg-** The WOM entered another quilt in the Apple festival to help raise money for the Baptist Children's Home. The quilt placed second. What a great reward and a terrific way to help the Baptist Home. We have some hard working ladies in our church. On Oct. 5, all children and youth from 3-18 were joining in fellowship for a complete day of learning, praising, and fall fun. The theme was, "Put on the Full Armor of God." The teachers were Judy Wynne and Kelli Hines, and helpers Angela Hines and Kelby Orndorff. There were several attending that day and \$55 was raised to help support Grand Oaks Camp in revamping their pool and numerous other buildings. Remember this opportunity to give locally when supporting missions. This is a true mission to many children and youth. Sometimes this is the only opportunity they get to hear about Jesus. October was pastor appreciation month and we celebrated and recognized our pastor and wife, Bro. David Robertson and Barbara. God bless your month. The children of the church had a fun filled craft evening on November 9. The children were served supper and did various crafts. They also decorated homemade flag magnets to give to the veterans and those serving who attended our church on Nov 10. There were 13 children attending and leaders and youth helpers to supervise the event. Dan and Janan Gott worked with the children with the help of Barbara Robertson, Charlie and Kelby Orndorff, and Kelly and Angela Hines. Our Thanksgiving dinner is set for Sunday Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are not attending anywhere or just like to visit we would love to have you. We welcome all visitors to our church. Our Church Services start at 11:00 am.

*Edinburg Continued-*  
Our average attendance for October was 30 for Sunday School, 52 for Morning Worship, 26 for the Evening Worship and 20 for Wednesday evening.

**Gallatin-** The Ladies Christmas Ornament Exchange will be held on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is for all ladies of all ages (birth to ?) Come join us and enjoy a good time in the Lord. You will need to bring a wrapped, unmarked Christmas ornament and your favorite food.

Jamesport- **Jamesport Baptist Church opens New Youth Center**- Pastor Rich Neeley and the Jamesport Baptist Church have opened a new youth center in Jamesport. The Grand Opening for God's Garage Youth Center was Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a night that was full of praise and worship and a message from the Lord. Approximately 110 people attended from the community. They were fed pizza, snacks, drinks, and the Word of God. The facility is located across from the A.V. Spillman Event Center in the old Jerry's Garage building. The center is filled with pool tables, air hockey, foosball, and ping pong tables. The "Kid Cave" snack shop offers a variety of soda, candy bars, chips, and all the free popcorn you can eat! The worship center houses a 12ft x 25ft stage and a 16ft x 9ft screen with HD Projector and Satellite HDTV.

The center is available to any organization for events, rallies, etc. and will have monthly worship rallies and movie nights. It is also available for birthday parties. Cost: donation

Be sure to visit the new God's Garage Facebook page for upcoming events, photos, videos, etc. If you would like to know more about the center or if you would like to book an event or party contact Pastor Rich Neeley at (660) 886-1243.

**Princeton-** FBC has been blessed with several being baptized and coming to know our Lord and Saviour we must continue to pray for those who are making decisions with their spiritual needs.

Our WOM Groups I & II had a good turn out for the monthly meeting, for the month of November we collected items for the shoe boxes.

Our Youth had a hayride and hot dog roast which was attended by several youth and adults, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

The Men's Breakfast was well attended with 25 in attendance.

We are holding our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday Nov. 24, following church services at 12 noon. Meat, rolls, drinks are furnished bring vegetables, salad or deserts. Everyone is invited to attend church services, and fellowship dinner.

**Medicine Valley-** Next Sunday, November 24, I will deliver a message based on verses 2-6 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Colossians, a message entitled, "Praying with Thanksgiving," I will be reminding our people prayer involves many facets and among the most beneficial of these are thanksgiving, praise and worship.

On Sunday, December 8, we will have our Annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner following the morning worship services. I will be preaching a series of messages on the Christmas theme Sunday December 1 thru Sunday, December 22.

On the third Thursday of December we expect to distribute "Christmas Food Boxes" to assist some 300 individuals in 100 to 125 households to have a happier Christmas.

Individuals served thru distribution of food at the pantry at Newtown will be invited to the Sunday services and the dinner following on December 8.

We are at present considering some possible changes in the format of our Medicine Valley Ministries. The Advisory Council is presently giving prayerful consideration to the possible changes including the securing of a young pastor and wife team to assume pastorate of the Chapel at Newtown.

*Medicine Valley Continued-* In this scenario I would continue as Director of the Food Pantry Ministry and focus more attention on ministries in the Humphreys area. I would continue working with Celebrate Recovery and Celebration Station ministries at Newtown, along with the Chapel pastor.

The ministries of the Chapel at Newtown would remain under the umbrella of Medicine Valley Community until such a time as it would move from mission status to incorporation as a church. We ask the prayer support of our fellow Baptists as we contemplate the direction of God's leadership. This is a critical moment in the development of these ministries, and we can ill afford to make mistakes. Pray we will truly know His will and follow through on it. Pray God to send us the right couple for the job if this truly becomes the direction in which He leads.

**Salem-** Nov. 17th we all brought our Samaritan shoeboxes to church. Sunday night we laid hands on the boxes, and said prayer over them. The children of the church will be bringing them in this week to FBC Collection Station. They are excited about it. We all enjoy doing this.

Another Christmas project is that we sent 2 large comfort boxes to our troops in Afghanistan. Each box will be enough food and home supplies to take care of 10 troops.

We are having foundation workers coming to give us estimates on repairing our foundation under the church.

We had a card shower this past Sunday, to celebrate Phyllis McCloud's birthday.

"Black Light" will be coming to our church in January.

Our Thanksgiving supper will be Sunday, November 24th at 6pm. The supper will be followed with song and Thanksgiving offering.

Please be in prayer for our country. Also for our troops during this holiday season. We know it is hard on them and their families. But they are fighting for America, and I suggest we do the same. Our country is in distress and we need God to once again Bless America.

Trenton First— Our Bow Shoot Ministry has started again at 7:00 pm on Mondays at the Activity building. All are welcome to either participate or watch.

Wednesday evenings begin with a meal at 5:00 pm. Awanas, Area 56 and Adult Bible Study at 6:00 pm. The older youth meet at 7:30 pm.

Crafty Ladies Group meets each Monday at 1:00 pm. A lady is teaching loom knitting. Hats and purses have been made for OCC shoeboxes, many prayer shawls have been made and given away. Other items are being made. The ladies are having a great time of fellowship. All ladies are welcome to come and be a part of this ministry.

We had an OCC shoebox packing party on November 16th. 168 boxes were packed.

November 17th was a very special day, the children carried the shoe boxes to the altar and we had prayer for the recipients of the shoeboxes. The children of Sonshine Preschool sang and Mrs. Kali Cook, the director, introduced the workers and shared about the ministry at Sonshine. After church we had an appreciation soup luncheon, hosted by the Friends of the Spirit Sunday School Class. Don Boyer, Grand Oaks Camp Director was our guest speaker and shared about the Capital Campaign to make much needed improvements at Grand Oaks.

December 1st-8th will be our Week of Prayer for IMB missionaries and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. We will have a special focus on different missionaries each Sunday in December. December 8th will be our Christmas dinner. Vesper services will be at 3:00 pm.

May each and everyone



## 2014 State Evangelism-Discipleship Conference January 27-28, 2014 Sowing in Tears Conference in Springfield

Church leaders go to [www.mobaptist.org/sowing](http://www.mobaptist.org/sowing) and register or call the Evangelism-Discipleship office 1-800-736-6227, ext. 319.

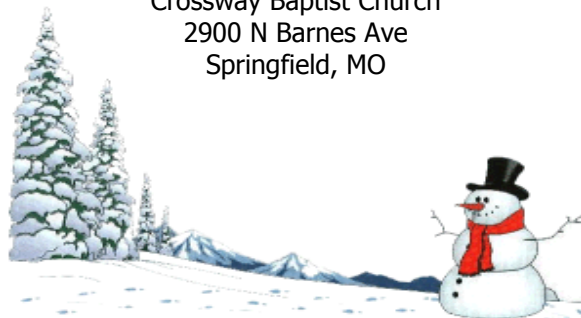
If you register prior to December 8, we'll send two copies of Gregory Frizell's 21-day guide to spiritual preparation.

We're encouraging churches to designate January 5-26 as a season of prayer and fasting for renewing their prayer and passion for God.

### Highlights of the Sowing Conference:

- Excellent world-class speakers – pre-session dinner with Sammy Tippit
- Pre-conference Monday afternoon led by Vocational Evangelists
- 12 breakouts which repeat
- Jason Crabb, award-winning musician bringing his pianist, too
- Crossway Baptist is hosting us – located I-44 & Glenstone in Springfield
- Many hotel and restaurant options

Crossway Baptist Church  
2900 N Barnes Ave  
Springfield, MO



Christmas Service's

**Gallatin-** All Kids Praise Choirs – Cherubs, Carolers, and Crusader Choirs will be featured in the Annual Christmas Program, Sunday evening, December 15 at 6 pm

The Celebration Choir will present “*Peace, Hope and Joy*” by Travis Cottrell during Sunday morning worship at 10:40 a.m. on December 22. Come and join us as we praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A Silent Lord's Supper will be held on Christmas Eve from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Jamesport Baptist Church** would like to invite you to join us for our annual Christmas cantata. This year there will be three presentations. On Saturday night, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm and Sunday morning, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:45 am.

The choir will also be presenting the Christmas cantata at 1 pm on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at Sunnyview Nursing Home in Trenton, Mo. Following Saturday evenings presentation the church is inviting everyone who attends to stay and enjoy a wonderful time of finger food and fellowship. If you have any question please contact Pastor Rich Neeley (660) 886-1243.

**Rural Dale-** Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 pm.

**Trenton FBC** will have their annual Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5:00 pm.

## **DNOW 2013**

**Disciple Now Retreat**

**Harrison & NGRBA**

**December 6-7 Cost: \$30**

**YOUTH – 7th—12th grade**

Register 6th: 6:30 pm - Leave 7th: 9:00 pm

**Grand Oaks-** (outside of Chillicothe)

**Trevor Darr & Shawn Allee –**

**Youth Leaders**

**What to Bring:** Yourself -Bible-Sleeping Bag/

Winter Clothes/ Working Clothes/PJs/Tooth

Brush-Fun-A willingness to be Changed by

God

**You can contact Shawn at 660-359-3898**

**for more information.**



**Campaign Ticker**

**Received: \$211,000.00**

**Pledged: \$29,000.00**

The camp trustees have selected Continental Pools in collaboration with Architect Ron Auxiere to build the new camp swimming pool. Final plans and pricing are being developed and work should proceed soon! Please pray about how you can be a part of this effort and pray for your trustees as they make final decisions.