



From Our DOM
Rev. Joe McDowell



Volume 60, Issue 2
March 2021
"Serving Thirty Local Churches"

Dear Association Members,

Your churches are in my prayers! I hope, as I'm sure you do, the roll out of the Coronavirus vaccine will be effective in controlling this pandemic which has made many aspects of our lives challenging.

Church has not been an exception to challenges. I cannot help but to believe God has seen His Church through this time and that He is pleased with many of the ways we have met the challenges. We have used technology in many ways to keep our churches active in discipleship and in outreach. At this point, many restrictions are still in place and we are dealing with those. I hope and pray these restrictions will be lifted in the months to come. That will be a glorious day.

I do believe God has used this pandemic to show us (the Church) that we can, with His guidance, meet the challenges presented to us. I think all of our churches will be better poised to face any challenge that may present itself in the future--whether that be global, continental or local.

The Association is poised to broaden ministry and missions as restrictions ease. We are planning, with optimism, but at the same time realizing we may not be able to carry out our plans exactly as we might hope. We would covet your prayers.

We are working on two projects that I am very excited about:

1. A Ministry to First Responders
2. An organized effort to help people in need

This pandemic crushed all plans for Camp Concord in 2020. The camp set idle; however, the down time allowed extra time to work on the physical components of the camp. Though we were unable to host campers, time was given to "sprucing" up. It is



Don't forget
To set your
clocks forward
1 hour on March 14

DOM Continued

difficult to know what this summer will hold for our Camp. Pray for the Camp Concord board as they plan the summer. If we cannot hold camps as usual, we pray it can be used in other ways. The board will ultimately have to plan two strategies and some decisions will probably have to be made "last minute." Pray for God to pave the way for our Camp to have impact on the lives of campers no matter what form the Camp may take in 2021.

I am thankful to be in His service with you,
Joe



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
FIRE FIGHTERS

Attention: First responders

We would like to know who you are! Please contact the Association office by email newton@concordbaptistassoc.org, by phone 447-7240, or simply mail this form back to the Association at 121 S. Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, VA 23970.

NAME: _____

DEPT SERVING: _____

CHURCH: _____

CBA CALENDAR

(CBA = Concord Baptist Association, South Hill)
(All meetings at CBA unless otherwise noted)



- 01 State Line Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 P**
- 07-14 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**
- 09 Pastor's Conference, 12:00 PM (Noon), Zoom**



- 05 State Line Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00 P**
- 04 Easter Sunday**
- 05 Easter Monday (CBA Office closed for Holiday)**
- 15 Administration/Finance Committees, 7:00 PM**
- 20 Missions/Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM**
- 22 Executive Team Meeting, 7:00 PM, CBA OFFICE**
- 27 WMU Annual Meeting, 10:30 AM,**

CBA MEETINGS

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00 PM

MISSIONS/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 6:30 PM

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEES

Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:00 PM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers, Chairpersons of committees, Pastors, and church lay person (representative) from each church (visitors always welcome) will meet together on **Thursday, April 22, 2021 7:00 PM, CBA**



*Many Thanks to the volunteer who helped with the February Grapevine:
JoAnn Bowers*

CBA CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH January 2021

CHURCHES	CBA CONTR.	ASSOC. MISS.	STATE LINE
ANTIOCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
AVERETT	401.00	0.00	0.00
BETHANY	4,500.00	0.00	300.00
BETHEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHESDA	0.00	0.00	0.00
BLACK BRANCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOYDTON	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLARKSVILLE	22.00	0.00	22.00
CONCORD	770.00	0.00	0.00
EBENEZER	0.00	0.00	0.00
EPHESUS	375.00	0.00	960.00
FIRST, CHASE CITY	167.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST, SOUTH HILL	100.00	0.00	158.00
GRAVEL HILL	0.00	0.00	0.00
JAMES SQUARE	0.00	0.00	0.00
JEFFRESS	80.00	0.00	0.00
LA CROSSE	163.00	0.00	0.00
LAWRENCEVILLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY	197.00	0.00	0.00
MOUNT HOREB	2,500.00	0.00	750.00
MOUNT VERNON	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE	0.00	0.00	0.00
OLIVE BRANCH	0.00	0.00	1,072.00
REEDY CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00
SANFORD MEM.	479.00	0.00	137.00
TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION CHAPEL	1,131.00	0.00	905.00
UNION LEVEL	300.00	0.00	0.00
WARFIELD	200.00	0.00	0.00
WYLLIESBURG	800.00	0.00	0.00
Totals:	\$10,883	\$0.00	\$4,304



Total CBA Budget for Year: \$104,179.00

Ministers and Wives Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- Rev. Michael Reynolds – March 3
- Rev. Kristen White – March 18
- Dr. Wayne Guynn – March 19
- Mrs. Mary Reynolds – March 22
- Rev. Earl Stanley – March 28
- Rev. Steve Battaglia – March 31

Wedding Anniversaries

- Rev. & Mrs. Charles Davis – March 1

Minister Anniversaries

- Dr. Wayne Guynn – March 1

Church News

Please be in prayer for all our churches especially those without pastors at this time

Church news is due on the 15th of every month

Averett

February 14th was Adults on Mission Focus Sunday. Pastor Jimmy and Vanessa shared stories from their mission trips. Pastor Jimmy's message focused on Matthew 28:17-20. Adults on Mission will meet Monday, March 1st, at 3:00 in the fellowship hall. We will be focusing on the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, March 7-14.

Sunday morning worship service, 10:00 AM, is available by drive in, Facebook live, big screen tv in the fellowship hall and by tuning in to 88.7 FM in the church parking lot. Wednesday night Bible study continues to be available on Facebook live or in the fellowship hall at 7:00.

Ephesus

In spite of having to cancel church service three times in January due to COVID and the weather, we are continuing to hear good messages from 2nd Peter. We have also continued to support the bread box with donations and food items unfortunately, we were not able to have our usual valentine's day banquet or our WMU focus week, but look forward to next year when that may be possible. We continue to pray for our sister churches who may be struggling with the loss of faithful members.

First, Chase City

Just wanted to let everyone know that we are still alive and well here in Chase City, VA. We continue to hold our Sunday service in our sanctuary at 11:00 am each week, although the inclement weather has cancelled services for the last Sunday in January and the first two Sundays of February. We are also still broadcasting the service over the radio and on Facebook and have many listening from their cars or their living rooms. We welcomed two new members in January, Paul and Niki Billings. Raymond Toone was honored as a Trustee Emeritus during a business meeting in January for his 15 years of faithful service as a Trustee. The church elected Roger Bailey as a Trustee to replace Raymond.

First, South Hill

We will be welcoming our new pastor, Steve Battaglia on Sunday, February 21st. We are sad to see our Interim

Pastor, Dan Peters, leave. Dan graciously served our church in the last several months and went beyond the call of duty to assist our church and First Christian School. First Christian School continues to meet in person being very aware of Covid 19 precautions. We are so thankful that the school can continue in its effective in-person format. It means so much to the students and their parents.

Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville Baptist Church continues to search for a forever pastor in the first months of 2021. Praise God for a vaccine and prayers that all who want to receive this preventative will be able to get it!! LBC recently did an outreach for Valentine's day to shut-ins and those who are unable to attend due to the pandemic. We have also instituted a newsletter to keep all informed about the church since so many are unable to participate in-person. LBC is hoping to have a celebration for Easter with a sunrise service and a church service. Also, we look forward to so many possibilities for the future- For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future!! Jeremiah 29:11

LBC has also been blessed to have Coach Mike Barmoy fill the pulpit on numerous occasions. He is able and willing to step up at the last minute if plans for a guest speaker fall through and to volunteer his services. Coach always has an uplifting and interesting message and LBC is fortunate to have this family of God in our congregation. Blessing to all.

Olive Branch

December was a difficult month for Olive Branch. Dr. Doug Willett, Pastor Emeritus, passed away on December 17th. Pastor Doug had been part of Olive Branch since 1997. He first served as a long-term interim pastor for 6 years, then served as Pastor Emeritus for 17 years. He also served and preached in many churches in our community and Association in the 23 years he lived in this area. A memorial service to celebrate his life was held on January 9th. His leadership, knowledge of God's Word, compassion, vision and shepherd's heart will be greatly missed. We pray earnestly for his wife, Mary Ellen whose journey without Doug now starts. She and Doug were married 66 years.

Also, on Sunday December 6th we had to cancel all activities at church for safety reasons because of COVID exposure at our Wednesday night youth meeting. Also, because the public schools closed for in-person instruction in December, we cancelled our youth and children's

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ministry's for December. Our Christmas celebration for December 13th also had to be postponed. Fortunately, no one contracted the virus because of the exposure. Our Sunday worship services began again on December 13th and then a full Sunday morning schedule on December 20th.

The New Year began with our Wednesday night youth meeting – Young Church (YC) starting again on January 6th. Our children's ministries on Wednesday night waited until the public schools were back to in-person instruction so they will begin again on February 17th. We plan to restart our Lunch Buddy ministry to La Crosse Elementary virtually on February 24th. Our Christmas celebration with music and readings ended our Christmas season rather than kicking it off and was held on January 10th. It was an uplifting way to conclude the celebration of Jesus' birth!

The youth have been meeting on Wednesday nights. They hosted a family movie night for the entire church on February 13th. We watched the movie *I Still Believe* which is based on Jeremy Camp's life story. Olive Branch is hosting Light the Night's youth night of worship YNow 2021 on March 20th. The event is from 6:30-8:30pm and is for all the youth in our community. All youth who preregister will get a Chick-Fil-A meal box. The band Unshaken will play and the guest speaker will be George Dennehy. George was born in Romania with no arms and was adopted by an American pastor and his wife. George also writes music and plays the guitar with his feet. All youth who preregister will also be given a YNow 2021 mask to wear during the event. To register go to www.lightthenight.net. To learn more about George Dennehy go to www.thatarmlessguy.com. This event is FREE!

For adults who would like to hear George Dennehy, he will be speaking at Olive Branch the next day, Sunday, March 21st at both our 9 am and 11 am services. George's visit with us on March 21st will be part of our Lenten and Easter celebration called *Refresh*. It will begin the first Sunday in Lent on February 21st with three weeks of sermons by Pastor Wayne to help us remove obstacles in our lives so that we can grow spiritually. On March 14th we will have a guest speaker, Stephen Arnold from Chosen People Ministries who will teach us how the Passover meal points to Jesus Christ. On March 21st we will have guest speaker George Dennehy. On March 28th we will have a special service of music, drama and Scripture readings to celebrate Palm Sunday and Good Friday. On April 4th we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection

with a resurrection service at 10 am and our worship service with Lord's Supper at 10:30 am.

You can always find out what's going on at Olive Branch at our website, obbblackridge.com, our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel, obbblackridge.

WMU NEWS

Hello everybody. I'm writing to you for Betty Lou Jackson. She wanted to let you know that she misses you all, and looks forward to the day when we can once again have our meetings.

She also wanted me to let you know that I am doing a daily devotion for the W.M.U on Facebook. It is a wonderful way to reach out to others since none of us are getting around much. I am really enjoying doing in... check it out.

God Bless each of you and take care,
Your W.M.U. sister, Cookie Stepp



Camp Concord News

It's hard to believe, but summer will be here before you know it and we are already getting ready for camp!! Dates are being planned so if you know of any children who are camp age, please encourage them to come. We have opportunities for Preschool through 12th grade.

We are very blessed to have the opportunity to work with children and youth in teaching them and encouraging them to follow Christ. Camp Concord is OUR mission field and I personally want to thank EVERYONE in the association for all of your support in the past. As we look forward to a new camping season, please begin to pray for our board, camp directors, summer missionaries, volunteers, and children that God will do a mighty work at the camp this summer. As in the past your support is needed- supplies, donations, volunteers---but most of all your prayers!

If your church is interested in learning more about this wonderful ministry, please contact the association office or Wanda Williamson at 434-917-0960. We appreciate all the help that has made this camp a success, and what God wants it to be!

Please understand that due to COVID, at this time we are unsure if we will be able to have Camp this summer. We are working hard as if we are going to have Camp, but we know that depending on restrictions we may not be able to. Please know that we will keep everyone updated as much as possible



MARCH 20, 2021
6:30 – 9 PM
Olive Branch Baptist Church
YNOW 2021
For Youth 6-12 Grades

YNOW 2021 is a one night event of worship and inspiration for youth in our area. Worship will be lead by the band Unshaken. The guest speaker will be George Dennehy. George was born without arms and lived in a Romanian orphanage until adopted by an American pastor and his wife. George not only speaks about his faith and overcoming obstacles, he writes and plays music on guitar using his feet. Youth must preregister at www.lightthenight.net before March 19th. Youth who preregister will receive a Chick-Fil-A meal box and a YNOW 2021 mask to wear for the event. This event and meal are FREE! To learn more about George Dennehy go to his website www.thatarmlessguy.com. This event is primarily for youth. If you are an adult who won't be brining youth, please consider coming to hear George Dennehy speak at Olive Branch during its morning services at 9 am or 11 am on Sunday, March 21st.

CHURCH SERVICES

Averett- Is worshipping by drive in, big screen tv in the fellowship hall, Facebook live and also tuning in to 88.7 FM in the church parking lot on Sunday mornings. Wednesday night Bible study is held in the fellowship hall and can also be viewed on Facebook live.

Bethel - Is having inside and outside services. Those that don't want to come inside yet can sit outside and listen to the sermon on the radio.

Ebenezer – Are doing services online and on Facebook.

Lawrenceville - Meets each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. They ask people to social distance and wear masks.

Mt. Horeb - Is meeting in person (weather permitting), drive-in and sermons are posted online. They have folks using all 3 so it provides a lot of options!

New Hope - Is doing in person but they have areas roped off. They also Facebook live and have an FM transmitter so people can tune in from their cars in the parking lot if they choose not to come inside.

Sanford Memorial - Meeting for Sunday school at 9:45 and at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary for church services.

Union Chapel - Meeting inside at 11:00 for services.

GRAPEVINE
A Newsletter of
Concord Baptist Association
 121 S Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, VA 23970
 Phone: (434) 447-7240
 Webpage: www.concorderbaptistassoc.org
 Rev. Joe McDowell, Director of Missions
 Dr. Stephen DeOrnellas, Moderator
 Mr. Steve Whitten, Vice Moderator
 Mrs. Rebecca Newton, Office Manager

Published Every Month EXCEPT January and July.
 Suggestions and news contributions welcomed

Deadline for April Issue
Will be Monday, March 15