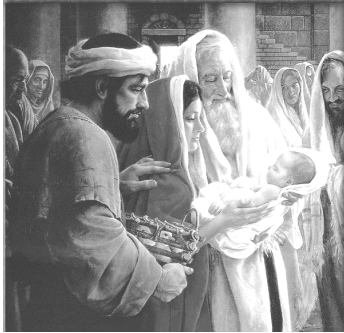


Organized 1855 "Connecting Churches for Missions & Ministry"

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007



He Came Down

When Jesus came down, He left the splendor and riches of heaven for a barn. He left those that knew and loved Him to come down to be despised and rejected. I love the description in Philippians 2:7, "*He made Himself of no reputation...*" The original language literally translates "He emptied Himself."

As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is my daily call to empty self and fill-up with the Holy Spirit. To the degree I do this, I experience the fullness of God in my life. This applies to us individually and as churches. Christmas is a good time to empty ourselves, following the example of our Lord. Let us go down, to the sick and poor, the incarcerated and oppressed. Let us empty ourselves for the sake of the Good News of great joy for all people. Jesus came down! Let us go, in His name!

MERRY
 CHRISTMAS

Hal

The Inside Scoop



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Pray for these Churches and Pastors during

NOVEMBER

18-First Baptist, Stanfield,
Rev. Bruce League

25-Union Grove, Rev. Lee Church

DECEMBER

2-Vine Life, Rev. Gary Hunsucker

9-Welcome, Rev. Ray Moon

16-West Albemarle, Rev. Adam Hatley

23-West Oakboro, Rev. Eddie Barbee

30-West Stanly, Rev. Ron Nichols



BIRTHDAY PRAYER CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

22-Scott Shoffner, pastor of Grace

24-Melissa Benfield,
wife of pastor of Prospect

26-Stoney Benfield,
pastor of Prosepct

27-Aaron Brooks, pastor of Calvary

29-Shirley Hoffman

DECEMBER

1-Mark Little,
pastor of Paul's Crossing

5-Jessie Dennis,
pastor of South Albemarle

18-Bettye Baker,
wife of pastor of Red Cross

19-Gloria Hunsucker,
wife of pastor of Vine Life

20-Cheri Lindsay,
wife of pastor of Poplin Grove

23-Kimlen Gray

27-Ron Honeycutt,
pastor of Anderson Grove

30-Edna Bolin

SEARCHING FOR A PASTOR

Aquadale

Berea.....Rev. Warren

Rice*

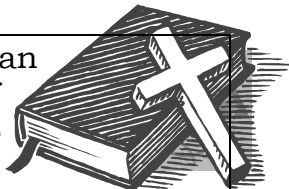
Mt. Calvary.....Rev. James Gerald*

Pleasant Grove

Silver Springs.....Rev. Mac Keck*

*Interim

Come join us for an in-depth study of **Revelation 1-3** - beginning Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Stanly Baptist Association off Canton Road. This 10-week precept Bible Study requires 30-45 minutes of daily homework. Sylvia Hinson will lead this study. If you have questions, please call her at 704.986.4068.



MEN'S CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 1
STANLY COUNTY AGRI-
CIVIC CENTER**

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Admission - Free

For more info, please call Rick Lowder at 704.796.6498 or e-mail him at lowder158@aol.com



Being Transformational!

Pastor Paul Crews
Research and Development

We live in a day of mass information. Statistics reveal that in 2006, the amount of digital information created, captured, or replicated alone was about 3 million times the information in all the books ever written. That is astounding! YouTube, a popular internet company hosts over 100 million video streams a day. Experts claim that a billion songs are shared everyday over the Internet in MP3 format. That is a lot of information! But simply passing on information is not the goal of the church. ***The goal of the church is not informational but transformational!*** I want to encourage you to evaluate the ministry of your church by asking, "Are we primarily informational or are we transformational?"

Let's answer that question by first answering two others. One, "what does it mean to be transformational?" Transformational Christians or transformational churches are concerned with two things: 1) Allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives, and 2) Allowing the Holy Spirit to use us to transform the lives of people around us.

The second question is "how do I know if I'm informational or transformational?"

Take this little test:

1. Is the goal of our worship to learn something or to adore God?
2. Is the goal of our Bible study to increase knowledge or to increase intimacy with God?
3. Is the goal of our prayer life to get through a list or to draw near to the throne of grace?
4. Is the goal of our ministry to moralize people or see their lives change from the inside out?
5. Is the goal of our church to make our church known or to make Jesus known?

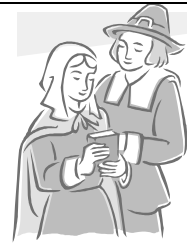
Pray over these things this month.

God is taking me on a personal journey to understand what it means to be a transformational Christian and to lead a transformational church. This is going to be a nine part series and I hope you'll read, think about, and pray over these things. I have a great burden for churches and pastors of the SBA and I hope this will be helpful to you. If you would ever like to talk about them with me, please email me at Pcrews@ctc.net or call me at 704-463-5212.

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 20
MINISTER'S
CONFERENCE**

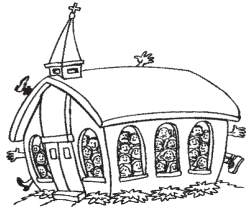
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship

10:30 a.m. – Time of
Business/Worship



**TUESDAY,
DEC. 11 -Pastors/Wives
Christmas Fellowship
Ryan's Steak House-
Time to be Announced!**

**NEWS FROM
OUR
CHURCHES**



BIG LICK Baptist will be honoring those who serve or have served in the military by decorating a Hospice Christmas tree. Please send photos, names and addresses that you would like to be included to Big Lick Baptist Church, 626 Big Lick Road, Oakboro, NC 28129. These will be placed on the tree in their honor. Please mail by November 17th. If you have questions, please call Amanda Poole at 704.485.8208. Thank you!

CENTERVIEW Baptist is searching for a part-time Minister of Music and a part-time Youth Leader. If you are interested in either position or know of someone who is, please contact Rev. Todd Galloway at 704.983.5203. Thank you!

FIRST BAPTIST, Albemarle says farewell to Rev. Doug Thompson, Music Minister. He has answered the call to Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh. He and his family had served First Baptist for the past eight years. He will certainly be missed!

KENDALLS Baptist-Patricia Swann will portray Ms. Lottie Moon on Sunday afternoon, November 18, at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited – please join them for this exciting presentation and for refreshments immediately following the service.

WEST OAKBORO Baptist has called Rev. Eddie Barbee as pastor. We welcome he and his wife, Debbie to the Stanly Baptist Association. May the Lord bless them and the West Oakboro Congregation.



Stanly Baptist,
Thank you for giving the
N.C. Baptist Singers an
opportunity to sing in the
association. Also, thank
you for a great meal on Monday evening.
It was a joy to partner with the Stanly
Association.

Blessings,
Neal Eller
Baptist State Convention

Stanly Baptist Association,
Our family can never adequately express
our appreciation for the way you have
loved and cared for us. We thank God for
your thoughtfulness as you have lifted us
up with your prayers and showered us with
your blessings.
Thank you for the basket of flowers given
in memory our father.

The Dunevants

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Central United
Methodist Church
(172 North Second Street,
Albemarle)
is again a regional
collection site.

Monday, Nov. 12-Friday Nov. 16
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 17-11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Nov. 18 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 19 – 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
For more info, please call 704.982.8158.
Thank you!

Dates to consider for your 2008 Church Calendar



FEBRUARY 17-20 (Tentative Date) **Student Revival**

Sunday – Challenge to get real

Monday His Hands & Feet (mission action)

Monday- Wednesday 6:30 p.m. (student worship)

APRIL 19 Operation

(Statewide)

This is a mobilization of church members to serve in day. Training is available for your church upon



Inasmuch

the community on this request.



OCTOBER 26-29 Stanly Baptist Acts 1:8 Missions Challenge

Sunday a.m. Host missionary at your church

Sunday p.m. guest missionary at your church

Monday p.m. guest missionary at your church

Tuesday 3-8:30 Assoc. Meetings at Highland

Wed. 9-noon Assoc. Meetings at Bethel

Wed. p.m. guest missionary at your church

The goal is to have each church host one missionary and rotate missionaries so that every participating church can hear and meet one regional, national, and international missionary.

Participating churches will be responsible for hosting (travel, lodging, honorarium) of one missionary.



friend
day

NOVEMBER 2 Friend Day

This is an event that encourages members to invite friends and family and generates a heightened awareness of our responsibility toward those around us in respect to the Gospel. This high attendance day is best followed by "Second Friend Day" that continues 6 weeks.

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

The Senior Adult Celebrators 2008 will be in Charleston, South Carolina for a four-day, three-night Christian conference tailored to reach and encourage Senior Adults from fifties on up. The Celebrators will be held at the North Charleston Arts center on May 5-8, 2008. David Jeremiah will be a guest speaker along with others. If you are interested in going, please let us know by January 15 so we can send in your \$25 non-refundable registration deposit. The Early Bird rates for 4 persons/room will be \$199.00 and 2 persons/room \$299.00. If there is enough interested in going, we would like to take a tour bus – cost will be determined later. Please call the office at 704.982.1033 or Mary Ann at 704.983.1755

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR

NOVEMBER

- 18- 4:00 Patricia Swann will portray Ms. Lottie Moon at Kendall's Baptist Church
- 20- 10:00 a.m. -Minister's Fellowship
10:30 a.m. – Minister's Conference
- 22-Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

DECEMBER

- 1 – 9:00 – 11:30 Men's Conference
2:00 – 4:00 Men's Conference
Stanly County Agri-Civic Center
- 2-9 Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
- 11 – Pastors/Wives Christmas Fellowship
Ryan's Steak House
- 24 – Christmas Eve
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 24-25-26 – Office Closed



WMU NEWS

Thanks to all who came to the WMU directors' breakfast in October. Thankfully, we had a beautiful Saturday to meet outside and socialize for about an hour. Several of us shared concerns about our churches and what is happening, so keep all of our churches in your prayers.

Many thanks go to those who helped us collect deodorant for the women's prison ministry in Raleigh.

We had a total of 21 churches who donated for the cause, it is greatly appreciated. Also, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Claudette Burriss for being willing to deliver it to Camp Mundo Vista for us.

Many thanks to our churches that have paid their dues. At the time of the last report, we had 16 churches who had paid. Please remember to get your dues in as soon as possible. At this time, we have a little over \$2000.00 in our account. If there is a project that is near to your heart, and you need some financial assistance, feel free to contact me and we will discuss the possibility of helping.

The state WMU, as I am sure many of you are aware of by now, did not receive any financial help from the N.C. Mission Offering this year. Please do not let this stop you from doing what we have been doing. Let us continue to support the missions that are near and dear to our hearts, like the Lottie Moon Offering, Annie Armstrong Offering, and the Baptist Children's Offering. These are valuable missions and the women of NC are big advocates of these and other mission projects.

The next WMU Associational Meeting will be Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Associational Office. All WMU Directors are welcome to attend. We will also have an informal directors' breakfast sometime in March.

Hope each and every one of you have a wonderful and joyous holiday. Please remember to give thanks for all that we have, as well as keeping CHRIST in Christmas, for He is what we are all about. Always keep Him foremost in our lives. Sometimes we tend to put Him on the back burner when we get busy. I am guilty of doing that, and need to remember He is the reason for the season!

Happy Holidays to All!

Barbara Klein 704.982.9508

Love + Give = Hope

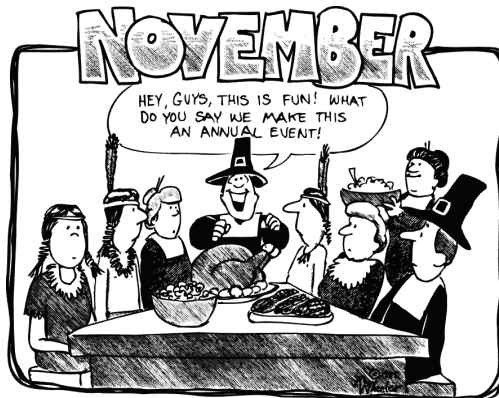


BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES of North Carolina
2007 OFFERING
Week of Prayer: November 11-18

The boys and girls at the home know you care for them because you don't just say it...you show it.

The statewide goal is \$1,400,000.

Please encourage your church to participate



**“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving...” Psalms 95:2
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**