



Volume 17 - Issue 1 - January

TOGETHER WE SERVE ...

- List of churches: Abbottsburg, Beards Chapel, Bethel, First Baptist, Bladenboro, Briar Branch, Butters, Center Road, Christ Community, Clarkton, Council, Cypress Church, Dublin FBC, Delco, First Baptist, Elizabethtown, Faith, Friendship, Galeed, Good News, Grace, Greater Vision, Hickory Grove, Lisbon, Love Grove, New Center, Northside, Open Door Min., Renacer, Iglesia, Richardson, Riverside, Sandy Grove, Second Chance, Shady Grove, Suggs Grove, Tar Heel, The Lake Church, Union Grove, West Bladenboro, White Lake, White Oak, White's Creek, Zion Hill.

Bladen Baptist Association

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 4:30

Associational Missions Strategist
Rev. David Foster
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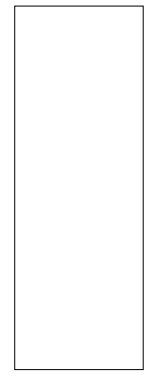
Administrative Assistant / Clerk
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Elizabethtown NC 28337

(Return Service Requested)



Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Elizabethtown, NC
Permit No. 35

Gifts to Budget (Jan - Dec. 18, 2019)

Table with 2 columns: Church Name and Amount. Includes churches like Abbottsburg, Beards Chapel, Bethel, Bladenboro, etc., and a final row for Budget Gifts to Date: \$102,894.08.

Birthdays: (January)

- 3 Bertha Strole
4 Rev. Richard Smith, Cypress Creek
9 Rev. Leon Warren, Center Road
15 Wanda Helms, Beards Chapel
26 Deanna Hill, Bethel
27 Tiffany McGill, The Lake Church
28 Robin Donaldson, Northside

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 8 Rev. Chris & Krista Hefner
9 Rev. David & Beth Foster
10 Rev. Larry & Libby Hayes
10 Rev. Walter & Peggy Hayes
17 Rev. Kincy & Lori Barrow
28 Rev. Tom & Kay Martin



Church Anniversaries:

- 1 Rev. Larry Hayes, Good News - 2001
4 Rev. Cipriano Moreno, Renacer - 2015

Birthdays: (February)

- 8 Rev. Charles Hester
10 Rev. Jerry Fisher, Christ Community
13 Faye McMillan, Friendship
26 Peggy Hayes, Suggs Grove
28 Rev. David Foster, AMS

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 25 Rev. Darin & Beth Andrews, Richardson

Church Anniversaries:

- 17 Rev. Barry Helms, Beards - 2008

Birthdays: (March)

- 10 Rev. Tom Martin
12 Rev. Chris Hefner, Zion Hill
16 Shirley Miller
16 Rev. Barry Helms, Beards
19 Rev. Bruce Miller, Hickory Grove
24 Pat Smith, Grace



Wedding Anniversaries:

- 31 Rev. Leon & Lynn Warren, Center Road

Church Anniversaries:

- 30 Rev. Kincy Barrow, Whites Creek - 2003

From Rev. David Foster:

Several years ago, while preaching a Tuesday night Revival Youth Service, I noticed that I had a very difficult time clearly making out the words of the text I was preaching. The words were blurred just enough to make some words impossible to read. When I got home I told Beth that the church “sure had poor lighting.” Later that same week we took the church secretary out for lunch to celebrate secretary’s day. It was a local Chinese restaurant in Murfreesboro, NC. Looking over the menu, I soon said, “Boy, the light in here is bad. I can’t see some of these letters very well.” Both Beth and Terry said something like this: “The light in here is just fine. It must be your eyes.” Sure enough, I needed to get reading glasses to help me see things more clearly. Things sure look much better when they are in proper focus.

We are now in the year 2020. I wonder if we have the proper focus as we look out into this new year. It is my observation that for many churches, things that were once clear are now blurred. Many have lost their proper focus. A New York ophthalmologist carried out a study looking at the eyesight to those living in large cities. One of his conclusions was that New York City had the largest population of near-sighted people than any other city in the Nation. His theory was that the people in New York City spent so much time looking at things up close and personal. Most did not exercise the eye muscles that focus on distance things. This resulted in near-sightedness.

Here is an important question: *Has the church become near-sighted?* Are we spending our time looking inward? Most of our buildings are designed and budgets are set to satisfy - well - US. We spend so much time focused on the things that are important to us. To the degree that those around us (the lost) become blurred. The danger, when that happens, is that the commission of God becomes blurred. This happened to the people of Israel time and time again. Rather than seeing those around them that needed to know the one true God, they repeatedly looked inward. And, honestly, this still happens in the family of God.

What do you do when you develop a vision problem? Right, you go to an eye doctor for help. The first step is to recognize and admit that you need help with your vision. The test: an eye chart. The same is true in our Christian lives, as well. The test is simple: Are you spending more time looking inward, or are you looking outward - seeing the lost community around you? My prayer is that the family of God in Bladen County in 2020, will get their near-sighted problem corrected and begin seeing those living in darkness and point them to the Light!

Associational Council Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2020

9:30am at the Association Office

Those who need to attend are listed

in the Annual Book of Reports

Officers (page 9)

Division Committee Directors

(page 9-10)

Please make plans to attend!

Executive Committee Meeting

Northside Baptist Church

898 Sunset Park Road, Bladenboro

7:00pm ~ January 21, 2020



Coming Together in Prayer

Second Chance Community Church

205 S. Poplar St. Elizabethtown

1st Monday of each Month 7:30 PM

(Jan. 6 ~ Feb. 3 ~ March 2)

Dublin First Baptist Church

7725 Albert St. Dublin (Hwy 87)

3rd Thursday of each Month 9:30 AM

(Jan. 16 ~ Feb. 20 ~ March 19)

**Continue to pray for our churches,
pastors, families, our communities**

Teen Challenge / SECC

and each other.



**Kingdom Focused
Church Conference**

January 24-25

Bladen Community College

Auditorium, Dublin NC

Come to be *inspired, encouraged and
challenged* for KINGDOM WORK



Speaking on Ministry

Dr. Mike Cummings

Speaking on Prayer

Dr. Chris Schofield

Speaking on Evangelism

Rev. Marty Dupree

Speaking on Worship

Rev. Heath Lloyd

Speaking on Fellowship

Rev. Tommy Puryear

For more information,
contact Pastor Tommy: (910) 733.1682



We still have bottles of
Orphan Gold Honey
available
\$5.00 per bottle



Rev. Samuel VanSlyke
First Baptist Church, Bladenboro

Rev. Eric Rich
Council Baptist

Sandy Grove Baptist Church would
like to invite you to join them on....

January 26th - Baptist Men’s Day

February 23rd - Baptist Women’s Day

March 22nd - Youth Sunday

For More Information, contact
Pastor Bill Cooper 910.648.2333



Because of so many helping hands from
various churches the Appalachian
Backpack Outreach was truly blessed.
Our goal of 400 filled backpacks was
exceeded with a Total Collection
of **509 backpacks!!**

