

Blood River Baptist Association
Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions
P.O. Box 18, 47 Aurora Hwy.
Hardin, KY 42048-0018
270-437-4203



Newsletter deadline for August 2025 is
July 21st
EMAIL US AT:
bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org
Remember to limit your words to 175.

Mark’s Memo:

Our 2025 Brotherhood Golf Scramble is in the books. We had seven teams this year and the golf and the fellowship. Our guest church, Westside Baptist Church in Murray ended up winning the tournament with a score of 60(-11 under par). New Harmony and Bethel tied for second with a score of 64(-7 under par). New Harmony won the prize on a coin toss. I want to thank all of those who participated as well as our sponsors who provided some of the prizes.

I want to thank those of you who have been praying for my wife following her accident and subsequent foot surgery. While the surgery was successful, the recovery is going to be slow. She will need to be on the knee scooter for the entire month of July. So, please continue to keep her in your prayers. Also, I ask that you pray for our daughter, Sarah Beth Sickling. The Trustees of the International Mission Board will be meeting on July 19th to vote on several Missionary candidates, of which Sarah Beth is one. This is the final hurdle before she will be commissioned as a career Missionary to Thailand. So, your prayers for her and us are appreciated.

We rejoice with Elva Baptist Church, as they have called Dr. Joshua Hodges to be their next pastor. Please pray for Dr. Hodges and family as they move from Arizona to Kentucky. We also rejoice with FBC Gilbertsville, as they have called Bro. Steven Harris as their Transitional Pastor.

While we rejoice with Elva and Gilbertsville, we also are saddened by the news that Bro. Rob Bratcher, pastor of Altona Baptist Church in Calvert City has resigned. Please pray for Bro. Rob and his family as they prepare to move to Florida and begin their new ministry there. Also, pray for Altona Baptist Church as they begin searching for their next pastor.

I am working on the details for two remaining mission trips for this year. The first is the Inspire NYC Mission trip sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This mission trip is scheduled for August 30 – September 3 and the approximate cost is \$400. Our team will join teams from all across Kentucky to serve church planters in New York City as they bless public school teachers they have partnered with.

The second mission trip is the Christmas In The Villages Mission Trip to Arizona. This trip is scheduled for December 10 – 15. We will be assisting Missionaries Eric and Brittany Gibbs and LiveLove Ministries as they hand out Christmas Gifts to Native American Children on the reservations they serve. This team is limited to 5-6 people and the approximate cost of this trip is \$500. If you are interested in participating in either of these mission trips, please contact me at director@bloodriverassoc.org or 270-437-4203.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark E. Sickling



Mark your calendar

July 2025

1st	10:00 a.m.	Evangelism Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
4th		Happy 4th of July (Office Closed)
6th		Religious Liberty Sunday
7th	5:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
9th	1:00 p.m.	Budget Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
10th	6:30 p.m.	Quarterly Executive Board Mtg @ Olive Baptist, Hardin, KY
11th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
11th-13th		Altona VBS (see VBS schedule on last page)
13th-15th	6:00 p.m.	Kirksey VBS
16th	12:00 noon	Pastor's Luncheon @ August Moon, Murray, KY
18th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time
19th	9:00 a.m.	+One Sunday School Team Training @ BRBA Office Donuts @ 8:30 a.m.
20th-25th	5:00 p.m.	Elva VBS
25th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
28th	7:00 p.m.	WMU Quarterly Mtg @ New Zion, Benton, KY
29th	2:00 & 7:00 p.m.	ACP Training @ BRBA Office register by calling (270)437-4203
31st	5:30 p.m.	Personnel Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
August 2025 (Mark your calendar)		
1st		Freedra Harris Toy Drive Begins (Aug 1st-Oct 26th)
1st	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
1st		Deadline for Scholarship Applications
3rd		Send Relief Sunday
5th-7th	9:00 a.m.	Rockin' thru the 50's, VBS for Young at Heart
		Altona Baptist, Calvert City, KY @ 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
5th	10:00 a.m.	Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
5th	5:00 p.m.	Scholarship Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
6th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
8th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
11th	5:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
15th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
22nd	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
24th		Global Hunger Sunday
29th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
29th-2nd September		Inspire NYC Mission Trip



Bags of Hope Pantry list for July

Altona – Bars of Soap & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Bethel – Peanut Butter & Chili
Bethlehem – Tuna & Instant Potatoes
Briensburg – Canned Chicken & Mac ‘n Cheese
Cherry Corner – Pork ‘n Beans & Pancake Syrup
Elva – Ramen Noodles & Pancake Mix
Flint – Ravioli & Vienna Sausage
Gilbertsville – Chicken Noodle Soup & Canned Tomatoes
Grace – Instant Potatoes & Sweet Green Peas
Hamlet – Tuna & Canned Potatoes
Hazel – Ravioli & Mac ‘n Cheese
Holly Hills – Spam & Ramen Noodles
Kirksey – Peanut Butter & Canned Potatoes
Lakeview – Mixed Vegetables & Chili
Ledbetter – Canned Chicken & Canned Potatoes
Locust Grove – Vienna Sausage & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Memorial – Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars) & Canned Black Eyed Peas
New Bethel – Spam & Canned Carrots
Hew Harmony – Chili & Sweet Grean Peas
New Mt. Carmel – Tuna & Pork ‘n Beans
New Zion - Instant Potatoes & Canned Tomatoes
Northside – Vienna Sausage & Mixed Vegetables
Oak Grove – Canned Chicken & Canned Black Eyed Peas
Olive – Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup
Owens Chapel – Peanut Butter & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Pleasant Hope – Spam & Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars)
Salem – Ravioli & Bars of Soap
Spring Creek – Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars) & Chicken Noodle Soup
Sugar Creek – Spam & Canned Potatoes
Union Ridge – Canned Chicken & Canned Black Eyed Peas
West Fork – Canned Tomatoes & Mac ‘n Cheese

Bags of Hope Ministry

In May, we were able to help **323** people, of which **44** were new. We gave out **2,838** food items, **393** bread, and **136** personal hygiene items. Thank you for your continued support that keeps this ministry going. Please continue to pray for each client and volunteer.
Thank you and God Bless

Bags of Hope

Hours for Food & Clothing: Monday & Thursday 1 - 4 p.m.
Food donations can still be donated at the Association Office
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 2:00 p.m. if more convenient.
Phone: 270-252-9266

SUMMER MISSIONS ADVENTURES

PREPARE YOUR KIDS FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION!

"Transformed!"
Luke 8:39

Help children learn what it means to live a "Transformed" life by attending these missions experiences this summer!

Check out schedule of events at <https://www.kywmu.org/events>

Blood River Review

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PRAYER
TIME.

July Pastor's Prayer Times

11th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office
18th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office
25th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office

Churches Currently without Pastors

Pleasant Valley	Locust Grove	Holly Hills
FBC Gilbertsville	Ledbetter	Altona

Prayer REQUESTS

ISREAL	THE LOST	Our Leaders
Sister Churches	Our Youth	Our Country
Our Schools	The Sick	Each Other
Missionaries	Our Pastors	Our Teachers
Churches without Pastors	Tornado and Flood Victims	
Vacation Bible Schools	Church Revivals	

July Birthdays

10th	Mark Sickling, BRBA
10th	Sandy Joselyn, Ferguson Springs
15th	Bernice Taylor, New Mt. Carmel
16th	Shawn Hanes, Kirksey
17th	Brad Walker, Briensburg
18th	Misty Harris, Poplar Spring
18th	Teresa Bazzell, Sugar Creek
23rd	Graig Wortham, New Providence
23rd	Jason Logsdon, Oak Level
26th	Mike Farmer, Vanzora
28th	Steven Harris, FBC Gilbertsville (I)

July Anniversary

20th	Steven & Tina Harris, FBC Gilbertsville (I)
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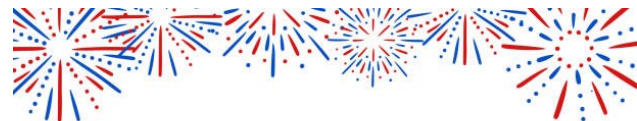
July Church Anniversaries

First Sunday

Jordan Roach, Hazel (2016)

Third Sunday

Frankie McKinney, Salem (2021)
Bob McCuiston, Old Salem Road (2024)



WMU Quarterly Meeting

July 28, 2025

7:00 p.m. @ New Zion Baptist

2900 Wadesboro Rd South, Benton, KY



Scholarship
Deadline!

August 1st

Contact Bro. Mark Sickling at (270)437-4203 for more information

BETHLEHEM

We were very busy in May preparing for our yard sale that will go toward supporting mission work in our church. June was the big yard sale and despite the rain, The Lord blessed us with a great one! Now, we are preparing for our VBS in July, the 28th-30th from 5 pm to 7 pm. Be much in prayer for VBS! God Bless.

HAZEL

Our mission team of approximately 30, went to Mountain View Baptist Camp in May to help prepare for the upcoming weeks of camp. In addition to that, we have just finished a fabulous week of Vacation Bible School with 108 enrolled. The VBS Mission Offering is going to Mountain View Baptist Camp and we collected, at this writing, \$18,000+ to sponsor project(s) that the facility needs. We are also excited to welcome to our church family Drew Boyd and Tom Thomton by baptism and Gina Thomton by letter. Plans are being made for our "Serve Day and Block Party", GOD IS SO AWESOME and HE is using Hazel Baptist Church in mighty ways!!! Don't forget July 4th holiday and be thankful for each one who has served or gave the ultimate sacrifice, so America has the liberties and freedoms that we do. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

NEW BETHEL

On June 3rd-7th, at Crossings Camp 2 out of our group of 9 were saved and there was 1 rededication. Great stuff from a great youth camp!! On Thursday, June 5th, our New Bethel Young at Heart Seniors had their monthly outing at the Catfish House in Graves County, enjoyed a great meal and a lot of fun fellowship. Sunday June 15th was Father's Day. We remembered and honored all our fathers, grandfathers, significant father figures in our lives and our Heavenly Father. We had our Church Picnic on Sunday June 22nd and our 1 day VBS Summer Fun Day will be on Saturday June 28th. Coming up in July, our monthly Young at Heart outing is on Tuesday July 8th and our Youth Lock-In is on Saturday July 12th. We love and appreciate Brother Beau, Lacey, Hastings and Anderson. God Bless them. Proverbs 1:8 "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"

SALEM

Summer has arrived! The year is flying by! VBS is just around the corner from July 6th thru the 10th. Send your little ones to come join in on the fun, food, fellowship, and facts about Jesus in God's Holy Word, the B-i-b-l-e. Psalms 103:1-2 KJV "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;"

SPRING CREEK

Pastor Sanders retired from his secular job and the church celebrated with him after the Sunday night service with cake & ice cream. Congratulations! Sister Sarah Sanders and Jazmine Gonzalez attended Summer camp, with Sister Sanders being the Camp Nurse and Jazmine one of the teen counselors. The church participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign again this year. Bro. Gerald Hill, his crew, along with church members, constructed a wonderful ramp for a church member. Thank you, Bro. Gerald, your crew, and the church members, for this wonderful outreach. On June 7th, the church recognized the 50th year anniversary for Jimmy and Norma Lampkins. They are looking forward to the next fifty. Colton Lampkins metaled three times in the Special Olympic State Championship with two seconds and one fifth. Congratulations! "PRESERVE me, O God: for in the do I put my trust."



Fourth of July

WORD SEARCH

C A G F D P S J F R E E D O M
R E V O L U T I O N L W L S X
O V B I S T A T E S I V T J Y
E F U D N X Z Z B W B C G U W
F O L N H D Q I W A E I F L G
E I H A I P E Q V R R L N Y V
A C R N G T A P H A T F L A G
M C J E B O E T E N Y Z Y S J
E S X P W S D D R N K R M B V
R U U I E O T R S I D A Q N G
I M G C V E R A O T O E K U T
C M J N W M C K R T A T N P N
A E G I W I Y R S S M T I C A
C R H C K J P A R A D E E C E
E H D Q G A X U N B V C G S I

United States	Independence	Revolution	Fireworks
Liberty	America	Freedom	Picnic
States	Stars	Flag	Patriotic
Parade	Flag	Summer	July



Attention Adults 55+,

If you missed last year, you need to make sure to mark your calendar this year! The Classics, VBS for the Young at Heart is BACK, and we are Rockin' thru the 50s!

Here is our schedule:

Tuesday-August 5 9:00AM-12:00PM

Wednesday-August 6 9:00AM-12:00PM

Thursday-August 7 9:00AM-12:00PM

Registration link will be available soon on our Facebook page!

For more information you can check out our Facebook page, email us at altonambc@gmail.com or call 270-395-4342.

So dust off those poodle skirts! We will see you in August!

Altona Baptist Church



Summer Vacation Bible Schools

Altona - July 11th-13th

(Friday @ 5:30-8:15 p.m.; Sat @ 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Sun 1:00-6:00 p.m.)

Kirksey - July 13th-15th @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Bethlehem - July 28th-30th @ 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Elva - July 20th-25th @ 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Altona (Young at Heart) - August 5th-7th @ 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Quarterly
meeting

NOTICE

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting

July 10th @ 6:30 p.m.

Olive Baptist

4611 Olive Hamlet Road, Hardin, KY



It's almost ACP time again!!!!

ACP Training

July 29th @ BRBA Office

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Call BRBA Office to register @ (270)437-4203