

Ashe Baptist Association News



December

2023

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM Monday—Friday
Location: 204 Beaver Creek School Road West Jefferson, NC
Mailing Address: PO Box 850 Jefferson, NC 28640
Phone: 336-846-5631 **Website:** www.ashebaptist.org

Appalachian
Bald Mountain
Beaver Creek
Big Flatts
Big Laurel
Blue Ridge
Bristol
Buffalo
Calvary
Christian Unity
Farmers Memorial
Fletcher Memorial
Friendly Grove
Friendship
God's Will Missionary
Grassy Creek
Happy Trails Cowboy
Healing Springs
Laurel Knob
Liberty Grove
Little Helton
Midway
Mission Home
Mount Olive
New River
North Beaver
Oak Hill
Obids
Old Fields
Orion
Phoenix
Pilot Mountain
Pine Swamp
Pleasant Home
Pleasant Valley
Riverview
Round Knob
Trinity
Tuckerdale
Wagoner
Warrensville
Welcome Home

Preacher David's Corner

Rev. David Blackburn, Director of Missions

Email: domdblackburn@gmail.com



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Annual Meeting 2023

In the heart of Greensboro, North Carolina, the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center buzzed with energy on Monday and Tuesday, November 6-7, as it played host to the 193rd Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting. The theme, "On Mission Together," echoed through the halls, drawing 1,880 attendees from all corners of the state. Linda and I and several of the ministers and their wives from Ashe Baptist Association attended the Annual Meeting as well as the North Carolina Pastors Conference (The Shepherd of the Flock)

The convention center's spacious halls echoed with the harmonious voices of attendees as they gathered for worship, prayer, and fellowship. The air was thick with anticipation and reminded me of a meeting in heaven as written in Revelation 7:9-12.

Messengers congregated in a large auditorium to discuss and make decisions that would shape the future of the Baptist State Convention. One of the significant milestones achieved during this gathering was the approval of a 2024 Cooperative Program (CP) budget. The budget, totaling \$31 million, marked a substantial \$1.5 million or 5% increase over the existing budget. What made this decision even more impactful was the move to a 50/50 split with global ministry partners, signifying a commitment to shared responsibilities and a broader mission.

The messengers engaged in thoughtful discussions and passionate debates, reflecting the diverse perspectives within the Baptist community. The decisions were not merely financial; they were statements of purpose, embodying the commitment to being "On Mission Together."

Among the resolutions passed was an amended "Resolution on Equal Protection For The Preborn." The assembly, with heartfelt conviction, sought to address issues of profound importance, aligning their stance with their beliefs and values.

The convention also provided a platform for reports from various N.C. Baptist institutions, agencies, and ministry partners. Representatives from the Biblical Recorder, Provision Financial Resources of N.C. Baptists (formerly the N.C. Baptist Foundation), the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) of North Carolina, N.C. Baptists on Mission, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention shared updates on their activities and missions.

As the two-day event unfolded, it became a testament to the strength of unity within the Baptist community. The theme of being "On Mission Together" reverberated not only in the resolutions passed but in the shared commitment to serving a higher purpose. The messengers left the convention center with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to carry the mission forward and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Your Servant, David



Ashe Really Cares

336-846-5234

ashereallycares@gmail.com

Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

As we continue to celebrate the season of thanks and the celebration of Jesus's birth, let us be thankful of what Christmas means to us. It is not a celebration of only gift giving to others but a celebration of the gift that Christ has given to those who accept. A gift that is beyond measure, a gift that is free and a gift that only Jesus could give. The gift of salvation and being with our Heavenly Father for all eternity. Oh what JOY awaits those who are willing to accept this gift!!!! The gift of eternal salvation and joy.

Another year has come and gone, while we sit here and wonder where it has gone. We have seen a lot of folks come through your mission. Many are in need of the food, clothing and household items. Many are just struggling to stay afloat of the things going on in our world. Some need salvation and the hope of tomorrow. You and your mission have helped families to feel God's love and touch through what you have donated to the ARC. I appreciate so much the support and the prayers, as we work together to be a place that families can come and be loved on.

There has been a lot of food that has passed through our doors this past year. The churches, individuals and even those outside of our county have been a blessing. It sometimes amazes me how much is donated to helping others feel God's love. We serve and amazing God.

As the next year will soon begin, let us ponder on how we can serve God better and be his hands and feet to someone else. I hope that your days are filled with love, laughter and happiness but most of all filled with Christ and His love for each of us. Extend that love beyond your door and into the homes and hearts of others around you.

Ashe Really Cares
Pat Miller, Director



December 1	B. Mrs. Mary Graybeal
December 4	A- Rev. & Mrs. Toby Oliver
December 7	B- Mrs. Lesia Goodman
December 10	B- Mr. Johnny Calloway
December 13	B- Mrs. Margie Jones
December 15	B- Mrs. Denise Woodie
December 15	A- Rev. & Mrs. Chris Goforth
December 16	A- Rev. & Mrs. Larry Powers
December 16	A- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Burkett
December 17	A- Mr. & Mrs. Nathan McLeese
December 23	B - Rev. Carl Witherspoon
December 26	B- Mr. Scott Roten
December 28	A- Rev. & Mrs. Darien South
December 28	A- Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence Goodman
December 31	A- Rev. & Mrs. Russell Hart

Hope for the Mountains PRAYER TEAM meets weekly at 8 AM on Tuesday mornings in the sanctuary of Midway Baptist Church. We have a short devotion, share prayer requests, and gather around the altar for prayer. It is open to the public, men and women, all are welcome!

GOOD SOIL MINISTRY would like to remind everyone that we accept your used literature and other materials monthly at Ashe Really Cares. This literature goes out all over the world to assist in aiding those you are spiritually orphaned. We do appreciate your support with this mission work.

WE WISH YOU A VERY
Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

ASHE BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE
Rev. David Blackburn, DOM
Mrs. Debbie Miller, ABA Ministry Assistant
phone: 336-846-5631 email: ashebaptist@gmail.com

ASHE REALLY CARES STAFF
Mrs. Pat Miller, Ashe Really Cares Director
Mr. Nathan McLeese, Ashe Really Cares Assistant
phone: 336-846-5234 email: ashereallycares@gmail.com



Ashe Baptist Association
would like to thank our sponsors
for the Ashe Baptist News heard on WSKS
each Saturday and on SoundCloud on the Web.

Randy Marion Ford in West Jefferson
Josh Harrold, General Manager
Krista Harrold

Tri-County Paving, Lucian and Patricia Jordan
Tri County Monuments, Mike and Lisa Peters
State Wide Insurance Solutions,
Chris and Andrea Finney.

They are all Christians and attend church and
welcome you to come see them when you find
yourself in need of their services.

Newsletter

We want to CELEBRATE with you and share the GOOD NEWS when exciting things are happening at the church you attend! Please send articles, pictures or flyers to our e-mail address: ashebaptist@gmail.com, and we will announce on our WSKS weekly radio show, post on the events page of our website, ashebaptist.org, and on our Facebook Page, in addition to printing in this monthly newsletter publication that is posted in color on the website and mailed to 680+ folks in Ashe Co., all across NC, and neighboring states!

As you set dates for church events, Special Singings, Revivals, or Speakers, let us know! You must submit articles for the Newsletter NO LATER THAN the 20th of each month in order for them to appear in the next month's publication.

FaithHealth Connector Report

The words Thank, Thanks, Thankful, and Thanksgiving are used 140 times in the Holy Scriptures. These words basically mean to be grateful to someone for a benefit bestowed. At this holiday season, we all have much to be thankful for. As Christians, even if 2023 has been a difficult year, the Bible reminds us that we have the Lord's help, counsel, comfort, and strength to draw on each day. We are never left alone; for our Lord Jesus Christ has promised that He would never leave us or forsake us. He has told us, "I am with you always, even till the end of this age". God is our Father, Jesus is our Savior, and the Holy Spirit is our Helper who helps us in all the challenges of this life. Best of all, we have the promise of eternal life in heaven at the end of our journey in this life. Yes, we are called to be a thankful people, rejoicing in the goodness of God and for all His loving kindnesses and tender mercies. Let us also remember to give thanks to our God that we still live in a free society where we are able to worship freely and practice our faith in Jesus Christ.

As the Faith-Health Connector for Ashe County, I continue to assist residents with physical, mental, and spiritual needs. The needs in our County are many, but there are also many resources available to assist residents. Food, clothing, shelter, counseling, and medications are available for those in need. If you, a loved one, or a neighbor needs assistance, please call me at the Ashe Baptist Association. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Paul Strickland
Faith-Health Connector for Ashe County



Season of Hope

Free meal and entertainment for those in need of a little extra help this season.

Saturday, December 16, 2023

5:00-7:00pm

Family Central Dining Hall

Helpful resources and networking available

Transportation available upon request, call

336-846-3795 or 828-406-6863

by December 12th for transportation

Brought to you in cooperation with -

Ashe Coalition for Children
Ashe Department of Social Services
Ashe Food Pantry
Ashe Really Cares (ARC)
A Safe Home for Everyone
BROC

Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission
Compassionate Commissary
Salvation Army
Work First of Ashe County
And many others

*“blessed are those who hunger now, for they shall be filled,
blessed are those who weep now, for they shall laugh . . .”*

~ Luke 6:21

Let's Get Together and Pray

Hope for the Mountains
PRAYER TEAM
meet each Tuesday 8:00 am
at
Midway Baptist Church
Everyone is welcome to attend!

*Devote yourselves in prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2*

Community PRAYER NIGHT

WED - JAN 31ST
6:30PM

ASHE CIVIC CENTER, WEST JEFFERSON

SUN - MAR 3RD
6:00PM

WELCOME HOME BAPTIST CHURCH, CRUMPLER

WED - MAY 29TH
6:30PM

RESTORATION CHURCH, WEST JEFFERSON

SUN - JUN 30TH
6:00PM

CHRISTIAN UNITY CHURCH, JEFFERSON

WED - JUL 31ST
6:30PM

CALVARY FREEWILL BAPTIST, GLENDALE SPRINGS

SUN - SEP 29TH
6:00PM

SOUTH FORK CHURCH, PINEY CREEK

WED - OCT 30TH
6:30PM

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH, LANSING

SUN - DEC 29TH
6:00PM

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, WEST JEFFERSON

2024 SCHEDULE

PASTORSTEVE@APPCHURCH.ORG

Church Announcements

Bald Mountain Baptist Church –Come join us! **Sunday School- 9 am and Worship Service -10 am.** **Wednesday night services are at 6: 30 pm.** Pastor John Elledge welcomes you to attend.

Bald Mountain Baptist Church –Position available- Youth Director This will be a paid position. Please send resume to Bald Mountain Baptist Church, 1460 Bald Mountain Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or contact the office at: 336-877-1550.

CHRISTIAN UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
513 East Main Street, Jefferson, NC 28640
and Pastor Darien South invite you to their Christmas Program
“O What A Glorious Night” **Sunday, December 24th at 11 am**

Fletcher Memorial Baptist Church announces Rev. Paul Strickland is their new Interim Pastor. We welcome Brother Paul and his wife Cindy to the Ashe Baptist Association in the new position and look forward to working with them.

NORTH BEAVER BAPTIST CHURCH 2023 CHRISTMAS CANTATA
“DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE”
WILL BE PRESENTED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th. At 6:00 PM
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND THIS CANTATA, IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM AND A WONDERFUL
OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO VISIT US AT:
NORTH BEAVER BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Matthew Tilley
8000 Hwy 163 West Jefferson, NC 28694

Tuckerdale Baptist Church announces that Rev. Jonathan Stansberry has been elected Interim Pastor by a 100% vote. We welcome Brother Jonathan, his wife and their two boys to the Ashe Baptist Association and look forward to working with them.

WARRENSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
130 Church Street Warrentonville, NC 28693
WILL PRESENT THEIR CANTATA- “ON THIS VERY NIGHT”
DECEMBER 10TH AT 6:30 PM WILL FINGER FOODS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND. PASTOR JACKIE STONE

The Minister and wife Christmas Dinner for the Ashe Baptist Association will be held at Bald Mountain Baptist Church on Thursday, Dec. 7th at 6:00. We will enjoy delicious food, catered by Mountain Air & Seafood, Desserts by Mrs. Joan Walters. Special Music by Mr. Jim Ashley of Bald Mountain Baptist. We will be singing Christmas Carols and enjoy the reading of the Christmas Story. Just a time of fellowship, food and a little fun. Our sponsor this year is Virginia-Carolina Concrete Company in honor of Teddy Huffman Jr.

Ashe Baptist Association Office and Ashe Really Cares will be closed for Christmas December 21-27th

Ashe Baptist Association announces host for next year sessions of Annual Meeting. Liberty Grove Baptist Church will be hosting on Friday and Friendly Grove Baptist Church on Saturday. Thank you churches for hosting. We look forward to being with you.

When you pray, please remember Buffalo Baptist Church, Round Knob Baptist Church, Mt Olive Baptist Church, and Big Laurel Baptist Church, are currently seeking a pastor.

New Church Announcements: please send updated church information for the church you attend to: domdblackburn@gmail.com or ashebaptist@gmail.com. We will get all new information provided on the Saturday Radio Program, the www.ashebaptist.org and the August-October newsletters. Thank you.



Jennifer Richardson

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Ashe County Volunteer Initiative

180 ChattyRob Lane

West Jefferson, NC 28694

PH: 336-246-4347 • FAX: 336-246-5724

jenniferrichardson@ashecountygov.com

To: Ashe County Churches and Organizations

RE: Stop Hunger Drive

It is difficult to comprehend, but in North Carolina, about 1.2 million people are experiencing food insecurity. 1 in 4 children are facing hunger on a regular basis. The causes of food insecurity comes from Poverty, Unemployment, Low Income, Lack of Affordable Housing, Chronic Health Conditions, and lack of access to Affordable Healthcare. Many of these individuals are going hungry because they have to choose between paying rent, utilities and buying food. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to help us in making a difference in the lives of many families in our county.

The Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program is holding a 'Stop Hunger Drive' which will run through December 7th and We Need Your Help! Our local food pantries can buy in bulk at lower prices than you can pay in the store, allowing them to save money on resources and get the most-needed items to people facing hunger. If your business or organization would be willing to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to **Generations Ashe 180 Chattyrob Lane, West Jefferson, NC 28694** and write 'Stop Hunger Drive' in the Memo Section.

Once the donations are collected, they will be dispursed amongst our four local food banks. These are: Ashe Really Cares, Ashe Food Pantry, A Safe Home for Everyone, and Ashe Outreach Ministries.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration in joining our efforts to feed our hungry friends and neighbors.

Thank you,

Jennifer Richardson

Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator



March 11-12, 2024

9 am – 5 pm

at

Midway Baptist Church

**1670 Mt. Jefferson Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694**

Register by email: ashebaptist@gmail.com
or call: 336-846-5631

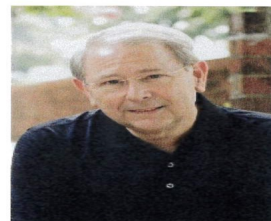
Registration Fee: \$75 includes materials,
meals and snacks

Hosted by: **Ashe Baptist Association
Rev. David Blackburn, AMS**

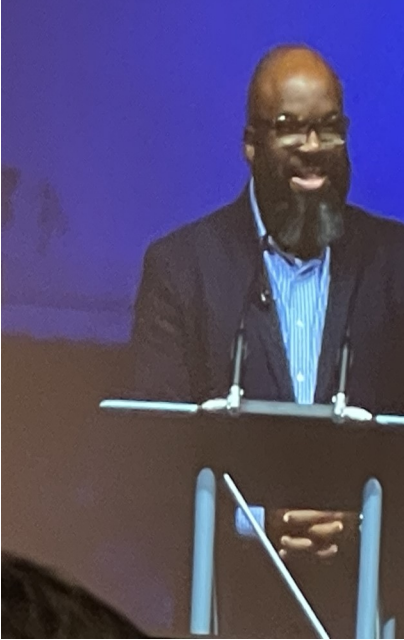
Transitional Interim Ministry training is a two-day event that equips pastors to serve as an interim pastor with churches in pastoral transition. You will be provided effective tools that can be used by either a traditional or a transitional interim pastor, as well as the pastor search committee. The training is from 9 am to 5 pm each day, with lunch provided.

The experience of hundreds of congregations and their leaders confirms that what is done in the transitional period between the departure of one pastor and the calling of another greatly influences the future of the church. The \$75.00 registration fee covers materials, meals and snacks.

The training is taught by Allan Blume, contract worker for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, retired pastor, and former editor of the Biblical Recorder.



NC Baptist State Convention was held on November 6-8th in Greensboro, NC. Rev. David Blackburn, AMS and wife, Linda along with Rev. Paul Strickland and wife Cindy attended the convention along with several others from Ashe County.



Warrensville Baptist Church, Pastor Jackie Stone and congregation received a check in the amount of \$10,000 for their new food pantry from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Congratulations!!!

The ladies of the church also are sending 180 hand knitted scarfs to New York on a mission trip, and the church packed 110 Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes these will go to several different countries around the world. Congratulations and thank you for you mission work. To God Be The Glory.



COME JOIN US

LOOMS (Ladies with Open Hearts and Open Minds)
will begin the Bible Study, *The Battle Plan for Prayer*, inspired
by the Kendrick Brothers' movie *War Room*.
This study begins January 4, 2024, and we meet each Thursday
from 11:30 - 12:30 at Midway Baptist Church.

**PRAYER SHOULD BECOME THE FIRST PLAN OF
ATTACK IN ALL OF LIFE'S BATTLES, NOT
A LAST RESORT.**

The Battle Plan for Prayer explains the fundamentals of how
effective prayer works, how it inspires readers toward a closer
relationship with God, and shows how to develop specific
prayer strategies for life.

Come study with other ladies as we begin this 8-session
Bible study which includes a workbook and video per
session to engage with God on a deeper level and
discover that nothing is impossible with God; however,
truly knowing our Savior is the greatest reward of all.

Our goal for this study is for everyone to become more
devoted to prayer and to faithfully and effectively wield
the weapon of prayer in the battles and seasons of life.

Facilitators: Linda Blackburn, Jeanne Coward, and Elaine Cox
encourage you to attend.

So we can order ample materials and reserve you a spot, or if
you need further information, please contact

Jeanne at 336-877-0041 or Elaine at 336-877-7934.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON JANUARY 4, 2024!



October Update

Total Foster
Homes Licensed

381

Total Children
Served in Foster
Homes

779

Thank you NC Baptists!



PROVISION

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Help ease the cost of your education by applying for one of the five scholarships offered by Provision Financial Resources. Learn more about the requirements by visiting our website.

APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1, 2024



BULLARD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

- Be committed to preparing for full-time Christian ministry.
- Be a member of a North Carolina Baptist church.

LUTHER H. BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP

- Be a full-time student at one of six NC Baptist Universities.
- Be a member of a North Carolina Baptist church.

MARTHA WATSON SCHOLARSHIP

- Be a full-time student at any institution of higher education.
- Be a member of a North Carolina Baptist church.

MILDRED FRANCES THOMAS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Be a music major with an interest in piano and/or organ.
- Be a member of a North Carolina Baptist church.

NELL J. CLARY SCHOLARSHIP

- Be a full-time student at any institution of higher education.
- Be a member of a North Carolina Baptist Church



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Discipleship Tip of the Month

Will you travel to see Jesus this December?

Far to the east, wise men observed a bright and unusual star, a celestial sign that beckoned them to follow its radiant light. Guided by faith and the promise of a newborn king, they embarked on a journey across deserts and hills, bearing precious gifts fit for royalty. The wise men, shepherds, and angels—all witnesses to the divine spectacle—converged at the humble stable in Bethlehem, kneeling before the newborn babe in awe and reverence. The air was filled with the palpable sense of divine presence, and the world stood still, wrapped in the sacred moment of the Messiah's birth.

Merry Christmas to all!

December 2023

- 3-10 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 21-27 ABA/ARC office Closed for Christmas
- 25 Merry Christmas



2023 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024

- 1 Happy New Year
- 9 ARC Committee Meeting
7 pm @ ABA Board Room
- 11 ABA Ex. Committee Meeting
7 pm @ Liberty Grove Baptist
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 21 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 28 Baptist Men's Day



2024 JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 President's Day
ABA/ARC Offices Closed



2024 FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		