

January

- 1: New Year's Day
- 3: Office re-opens
- 8: Connect
- 15: M L King Day
- 18: Youth Ministry Conclave
- 19: Forerunner News Due
- 21: Sanctity of Life
- 22: Pastor Perks

February

- 5: Connect- Rudy French
- 16: Forerunner News Due
- 19: Presidents' Day
- 19: Pastor Perks
- 22-23: DOM Meeting
- 25: Racial Reconciliation Day
- 26: Transitional Pastor training, Linden Valley
- 27: Executive Board- 7:00pm, Bethany BC

The Forerunner

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1160 Tyson Ave
 Paris, TN 38242
 wdbapt@gmail.com

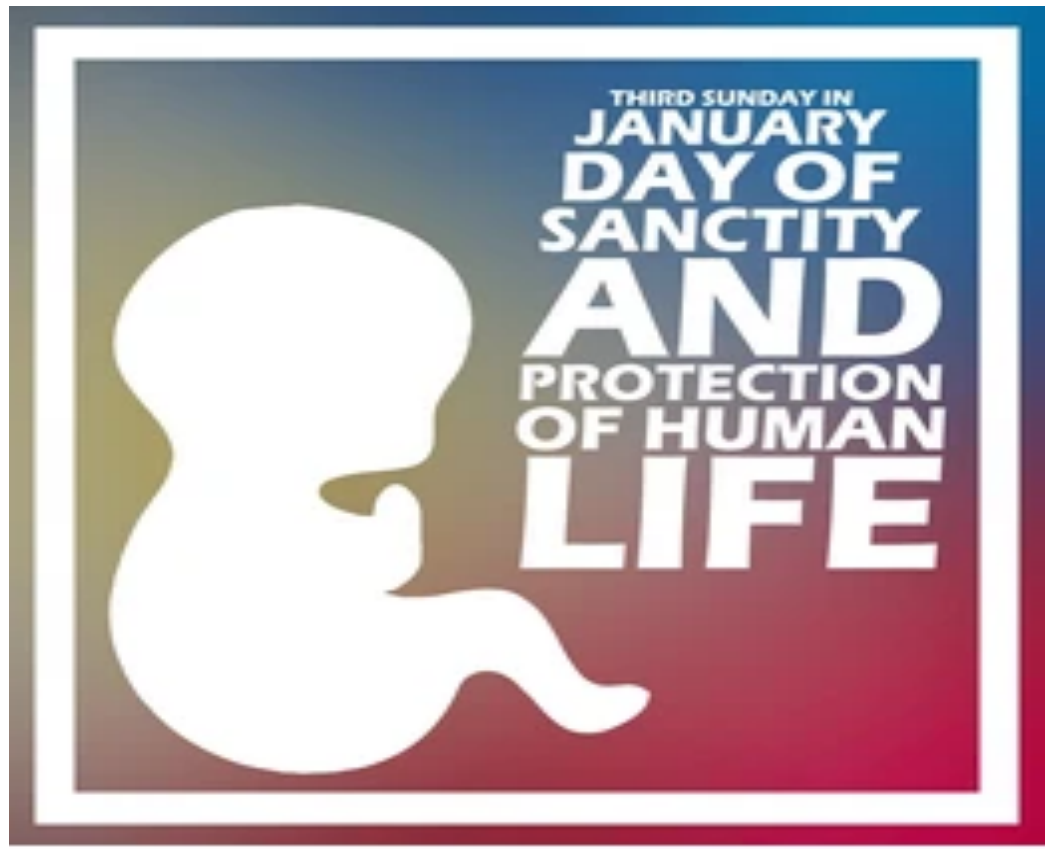
James Twilbeck
 Associational Missions Strategist
 Mary Dye – Ministry Assistant

Phone: 731-642-4641
 Fax: 731-642-5227
 www.wdbaptassoc.coM

Vol.11

January 2024

Issue 13





Happy New Year as you welcome in 2024. As many of you know I like to find a scripture verse and make it my verse of the year in place of making a new year's resolution. My scripture verse for this new year is Philippians 1:5 where Paul says he thanks God for "their partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." The word partnership or fellowship is the word we know of as koinonia which means to have something in common. Literally Paul was saying that because of Jesus Christ they could share in the spreading of the gospel. As the churches the Western District Baptist Association that is exactly what we do – share in the spreading of the gospel. I thank God for each of your churches and your continued support as our association seeks to "Make disciples from Paris to the World." We will accomplish this through 4 key areas:

1. **Word Driven leadership** – Demonstrated by Servant leaders who connect with Christ, make disciples and engage their world.
2. **Direct Engagement** – Demonstrated by God-directed connections resulting in Kingdom advancement
3. **Biblical Stewardship** – Demonstrated by investing in new church starts, Cooperative ministries, and mission's endeavors.
4. **Assisting Churches** – Demonstrated by supportive prayer, material resources, and heartfelt communication.

As we look to 2024 a couple of Mission Endeavors, we be doing our Annual Ministry at the World's Biggest Fish Fry in April. I know it's only January but we start making preparations for that ministry now. Secondly we will be going back to Guatemala June 25 – July 2nd. This will be our last trip to Guatemala as we close out this partnership that has been going on for almost 10 years now. If you are interested in going to Guatemala we will have a meeting on January 25 at 6:30 pm. The estimated cost in approximately \$1800 with \$940 for in country cost and approximately \$800 for airfare.

The in-country cost covers your food, lodging and travel while there. For our pastors we are going to start something new. You will notice on your Calendars that we meet for Connect at 10:30 am on the 1st Monday. After we are meet we will all go to somewhere eat. Then on the 3rd Monday we have Pastor Perks. We will meet at 10:30 am at Sweet Jordans for coffee and a time of fellowship. Coffee will be provided by the association. Just as an update to our Hispanic Ministry, we have welcomed back Edwin and Panchy. Since their coming back we praise God for 6 salvation decisions. As you know we have more Hispanics coming across our borders and God is opening a door of opportunity for us to share the gospel with them. Emmanuel and Haley are still with us and they are expecting a baby girl anytime now during the month of January. Please keep them in your prayers as they look forward to the birth of this new addition to their family. Mark January 21 on your calendars. That is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. If you need materials or baby bottles to collect coins you can contact Tomorrow's Hope at 731-642-0600. As I have shared recently with you the Tenn Baptist Convention has cut their supplement to the Associations across the state by 20%. For our Association that is a cut of over \$200 per month. We know as an association of churches that we cannot do what we do without you. So let me say thank you for your continued support. We've made some necessary cuts to help defray that loss of revenue. And we are trusting God to provide as we move into 2024. Obviously that will mean your churches helping us to continue our ministry together. We do have a partnership in the Gospel. I've been praying about 2024 and God laid this upon my heart. 1 more in 2024. If each one of our churches would reach one more person and see them baptized and disciplined what would that do for our churches. Will you commit to praying your church reaches "One more in 24?" It is a joy to serve your churches and I am looking forward to either visiting your church or preaching there in this new year.

In Him,

Bro Jim

Birthdays

- 3-Micheal Barnhart- Cottage Grove
- 6-Jerry Massey- North Fork
- 10- Charles Parsons- Springville
- 13-Lori Bullock- Paris 1st
- 23- Johnathan Smith- Fairview
- 23- Judith Eaton- Bethlehem
- 25- Johnny Farmer- Bethany
- 31- Sheila Miller- Faxon



Kraft Dinner Casserole

- 1 package boxed Kraft Dinner (Mac & Cheese)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/3 cup cream (or half and half)
- 1 pound cooked ham steak, diced (can substitute with 3 cans flaked ham)
- 10 ounces canned cream of mushroom soup (can substitute with canned cream of chicken instead)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
- nonstick cooking spray

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cook the pasta according to the instructions on the package. Remember to undercook the pasta just slightly so that it's not overcooked. It will cook a bit more when you bake it in the oven.
3. Mix the cooked pasta with the enclosed powdered cheese packet, butter, and cream until well combined.
4. Next, add the canned cream of mushroom soup and ground black pepper. Stir into the macaroni and cheese mixture until well combined.
5. Add in the diced ham and stir that through as well.
6. Grease a 9x9 inch baking pan.
7. Transfer the pasta mixture to the pan and gently flatten out the top.
8. Top the mixture with the grated cheddar cheese and pop it into your preheated oven for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and bubbly.
9. Remove the casserole from the oven and plate. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley if desired.

Hi Ladies,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

Tennessee WMU scholarships are due by January 25, 2024. The information is listed below:

Scholarship Details

Tennessee WMU can provide scholarships because of the generosity of Tennessee Baptists through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions and several endowments and funds.

The following scholarships are awarded by the Tennessee WMU Scholarship Committee and Executive Board. The committee determines scholarship awards based on information provided on applications.

Scholarship information and applications are available at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/wmu>.

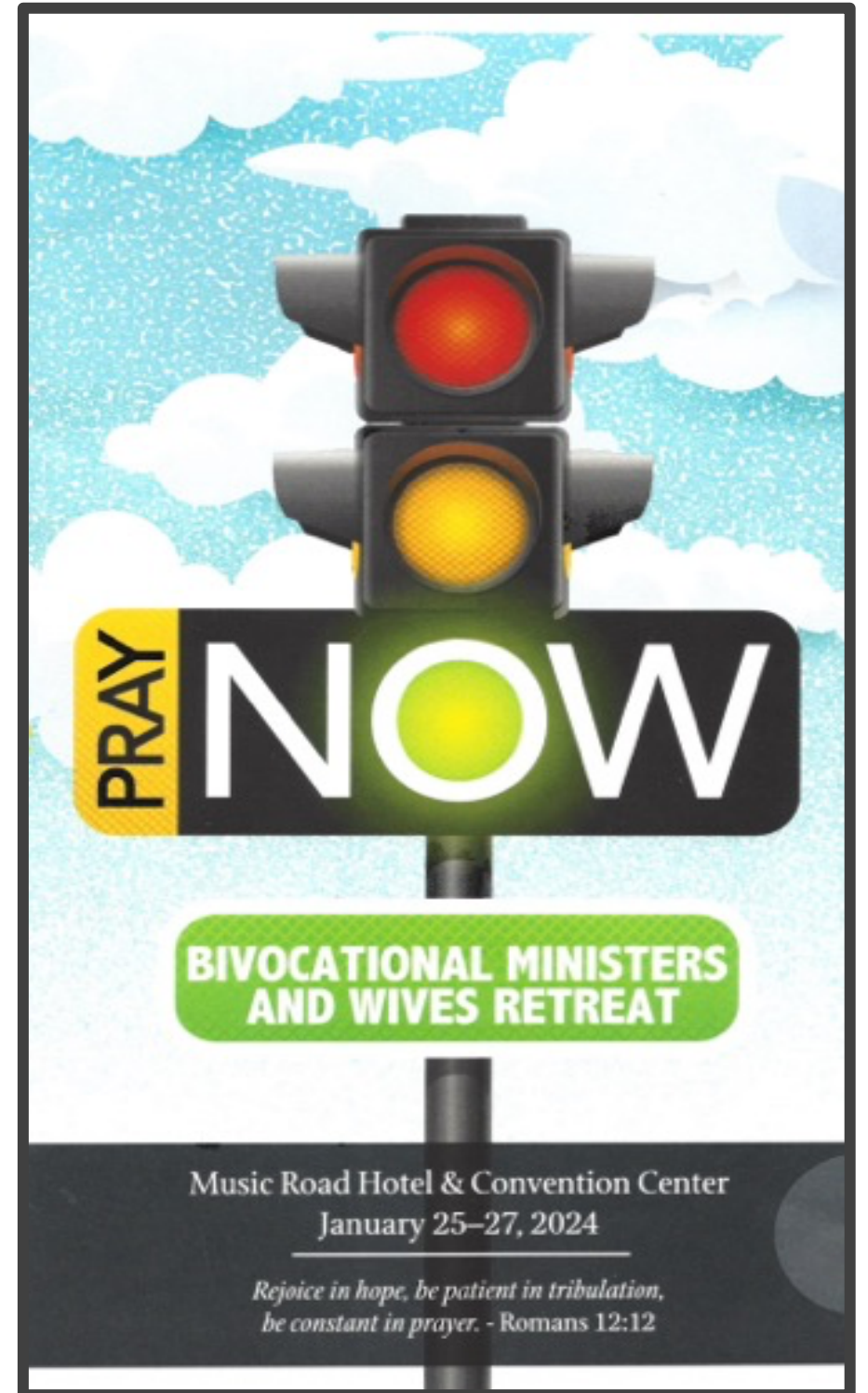
Completed Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than January 25, 2024.

Please let me know if you need any assistance with these scholarships.

**FOR HIS
GLORY**



MISSIONS
GET-TOGETHER
April 11-13, 2024
Brentwood Baptist
Brentwood, TN



Church News

Friendship: A Christmas breakfast with the men cooking was held on December 17th with a program following. The adult Christmas party was cancelled since so many were sick and will be rescheduled. Christmas food baskets were collected and distributed. Donations were collected to purchase Christmas gifts for the needy and distributed. Wednesday Night Youth on December 20th had the annual "Happy Birthday Jesus" party. A 5th Sunday singing was held on the 31st. A Deacons meeting was held following the singing. A business meeting was held on January 3rd following Bible study. A men's prayer breakfast is held on January 6th. Birthdays and anniversaries for January were recognized the 7th during the morning service. Russell Ragsdale, pastor.

Mansfield: Held Thanksgiving meal on Nov 19th. Poinsettias were donated in memory or honor of loved ones to decorate the church. Christmas candlelight program was presented by the young folks on Dec 17th. Followed by lunch. Church members then delivered the fruit baskets, nursing home bags, and food boxes. Gerry Gallimore, pastor.

Maplewood: Observation of IMB's Week of Prayer/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Held Youth Progressive Dinner. Hosted the annual Cancer Survivor's Dinner. Held monthly Men's Breakfast Fellowship. Hosted the HCHS Madrigals for an evening concert. Held Christmas cantata, Emmanuel, God With Us. Held annual Children's Nativity Program. Hosted a student Toy Drive. Held a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Ben Whitmire, pastor.

North Fork: Nov 12 recognized veterans. Nov 19 hosted annual Thanksgiving service and meal with Cedar Hill and Cottage Grove Baptist Church. In Dec received Lottie Moon offering, participated in Henry County Christmas shopping for children, gave a poinsettia to the elderly, homebound, and members. Dec 31 Bro. Larry Dukes guest speaker at the morning service. Jerry Massey, Interim.

Oak Hill: Held our Thanksgiving meal on the 3rd Sunday of November with the youth presenting a Thanksgiving program. Had our "Hanging of the Greens" To begin the Advent Services. Christmas Back Packs collected for Tomorrow's Hope. Donation to "Loaves and Fishes" and to the WDBA for the Guatemala food back packs. Donation for CEF and Lottie Moon. Larry Dukes, pastor.

Union Friendship: We celebrated "The Hanging of the Greens" on the 1st Sunday night of December. We have set our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal this year for \$700. A new member has joined our congregation on his statement of faith. Our 5th Sunday singing will take place on New Year's Eve this month at 5:00. Come and join us! Kerry Shopper, interim.



December 2023

	GENERAL	GIFTS	SUPPLIES		
	Fund	YR to Date	Other & Des	Disbursements	\$ Amount
Bethany	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,560.00		Payroll Expenses	\$ 6,479.67
Bethlehem	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,440.00		Admin expenses	\$ 4,848.25
Big Sandy, 1st	\$ 530.88	\$ 3,627.15		Assoc. Ministries	\$ 460.13
Birds Creek	\$ -	\$ 172.62		Education Exp.	\$ -
Buchanan	\$ -	\$ 2,951.82		Misc. Exp.	\$ 190.83
Central Point	\$ 82.50	\$ 1,069.50		Office Maintenance	\$ 1,217.96
Cottage Grove	\$ 157.89	\$ 2,297.55		Promotions of Program	\$ 90.85
Fairview	\$ 558.14	\$ 3,361.40		Shankle Designated	\$ -
Faro	\$ 12.90	\$ 120.12		WDBA Ministries	\$ -
Faxon	\$ 62.00	\$ 688.57		Total Disbursements	\$ 13,287.69
Friendship	\$ -	\$ 1,230.00			
Henry	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,430.00			
Mansfield	\$ 143.32	\$ 2,347.28			
Maplewood	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 19,970.53			
McDavid Grove	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00			
McRae's Chapel	\$ 538.23	\$ 4,342.43			
Mt. Sinai	\$ 183.00	\$ 2,257.00			
New Bethel	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,300.00			
New Harmony	\$ -	\$ 2,080.00			
New Hope	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00			
North Fork	\$ -	\$ 1,750.00			
Oak Grove	\$ 235.16	\$ 2,971.91			
Oak Hill	\$ -	\$ 1,285.00			
Paris, 1st	\$ 1,989.75	\$ 29,529.52			
Point Pleasant	\$ 554.80	\$ 6,487.86			
Puryear	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,200.00			
Ramble Creek	\$ 141.41	\$ 1,507.44			
Russwood	\$ 155.02	\$ 2,572.81			
Shady Grove	\$ 112.08	\$ 1,244.41			
Springhill	\$ 757.08	\$ 9,762.22			
Springville	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,500.00			
Temple	\$ 164.33	\$ 2,391.77			
TVCC	\$ 400.00	\$ 5,200.00			
Union Friendship	\$ 116.69	\$ 1,659.13			
DOM Salary Supplement			\$ 853.00	Account For	\$ 26,171.79
Hispanic Ministry			\$ 300.00	Disbursements	\$ 13,287.69
Misc.				Bal. General Account	\$ 12,884.10
Carnival Ministry					
Guatemala					
Totals	\$ 9,190.18	\$ 125,908.04	\$ 1,153.00		
Total Rec. (Gen. Fun	\$ 10,343.18				