

# Rowan Southern Baptist Association Newsletter

## January 2011

Greetings to all God's mission leaders, missionaries, financial supporters and prayer supporters of the Rowan Southern Baptist Association. Your Association is moving forward as the Spirit of Christ leads us. The office is open and ably staffed every day. Volunteer Pastors and our Interim Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Cindy Key, are working together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Your **Associational Missionary Search Team** has met with the Consultant from the NC Baptist State Convention. The two hour meeting was enlightening and productive. Brother Lester Evans, taught us how to develop a **profile** of our Association and its **missional calling**. We also discussed the nuts and bolts of the process for calling a new Associational Missionary. At this time the Search Team is reading and digesting the voluminous printed material he provided to us. We will meet again in early January to pray over and plan the next steps in the search process. We are also keenly aware that an **Interim Missionary** needs to be sought out and called. We are taking the calling of an Interim Missionary just as seriously as we would a permanent leader. Our intention is to bathe every step with prayer. Please pray for the Search Team as we proceed.

The Personnel Committee has met twice. They are proceeding with their task of hiring a new Administrative Assistant. I have been advised that they plan to present a candidate at the January meeting of the **Executive Committee**. This will be held on January 24 at 7:00 pm at the Associational Office. If you are on the Executive Committee please plan to attend. Your prayers and participation are essential to the great mission of our Association.

We are also busy planning a calendar of events and ministries for the 2011 year. If you have any ideas for mission projects or ministries please call the Association Office.

From Your Staff,

Dr. Dale Robertson, Moderator

Mrs. Cindy Key, Administrative Assistant

Happy New Year and May the Holy Spirit of the Lord guide your every step.

### **Happy Birthday WMU!**

January 8, 2011 is the 125th birthday of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. WMU Directors should have received a booklet with suggestions for celebrating this occasion. If you need further information, please contact Dee Dee Moody or visit the [wmunc.org](http://wmunc.org) website.

### **WMU Focus Week**

February 14-20, 2011

Churches should be receiving Week of Prayer guides very soon.

### **Missions Extravaganza**

Now is the time to begin making reservations for Missions Extravaganza at Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center on April 8-10, 2011. This conference is an opportunity to meet missionaries, hear testimonies of God's provision, receive training in age-level organizations, attend sessions on how to strengthen your walk with God, and enjoy the fellowship of women across the state. There will be a birthday party on Saturday night for WMU NC. This weekend promises to be both inspiring and fun-filled! Visit the [wmunc.org](http://wmunc.org) website or call Dee Dee if you have questions.

### **Pastor's Conference**

Just a reminder to all of our Pastors, Associates, and Youth Pastors, as well as staff....

Don't forget about our weekly Pastor's Conference  
held every Tuesday at 11:30am.

Any questions, call the office at 704-637-3407

## Haiti Trip Postponed

Jim Harris was slated to return to Haiti with a team of 15 persons January 15-22. This team was to go in tandem with a team of 11 persons from First Baptist Church of Salisbury led by Brent Barker and Rod Kerr. Due to expected violence on Election Day, January 16th, we have been advised by Haitians and Americans in Haiti to not come on that date.

If you remember a few days back, there was violence in the country for several days due to those who did not approve of the way the Primary Election turned out. Pastor Kelly was kept from even going to the market to buy food for the Orphans for 4 days. When there is this kind of violence, the police are helpless. The government in the country is so corrupt and weak, that the police do not even try to stop such uprisings. If it was that bad at the primaries, there is more and even worse expected at the General Election on the 16th.

Even if we were safe, if the people are afraid to leave their homes, or tents, or wherever they can hold up, we would not have an effective ministry. We plan to have two medical clinics in two different cities. We have two doctors and three nurses with the team. We also plan to work with the boy's orphanage and the girl's orphanage, do construction work, and preach and share the Gospel. That cannot happen if the Haitian people do not, or cannot come to where we set up the clinics, or if we cannot go out and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consequently, we have postponed our trip until March. The dates have not been confirmed yet, but we are considering March 10-17.

This change has caused great problems. Unless AA cancels flights at that time, we will be penalized an unfair and a large penalty fee. Of course, it is possible that everyone who was going at this time will not be able to go in March and the teams will have to be reformed. We ask the Christians of RSBA to join us in prayer for God's leadership as to the time, the people who will go in March, and the monetary situation of the tickets. We don't want to pay the added cost, but a life is worth more than a few hundred dollars.

There is a great need where we work in Leogane, Haiti, and over this past year with our two previous mission trips, much work has been done, and hundreds of souls have been added to the Kingdom. There is still much to do, so we accept this little bump in the road and go right on with the planning of the Mission in March. Join us in prayer for God's will and leadership, and we thank you for that.

Rev. Jim Harris

## Christmas Store Update



Once again, we are full blast into the Christmas Season. As usual, everything is hectic, hurried, and priorities are not where they should be. Thankfully, this year we just finished our most successful "Christmas Store" that the Association has had. Despite every obstacle that came our way, God pulled us through and prevailed and we knew what our priorities were.

This year we served **190** families and provided Christmas for **431** children that would have gone without. Thanks to our counselors (especially Pastor Ed Bitner); there were **25** parents that made the decision to accept Christ. We succeeded in that which we set out to do. Our mail goal should be to win souls to Christ and to take care of the less fortunate.

I was truly blessed to be asked by Brother Brent last year to be the new Director of the Christmas Store. It is a huge task and could not be done without the many volunteers that give freely of their time year after year. There are so many to name here, but I will personally "Thank" each and every one of you again. You will all truly be blessed for your time and efforts. I would also like to thank everyone that provided food each day, you kept up nourished and able to continue our work. A very special thanks to Cindy Key, who has stepped in and kept the office running and kept me uplifted. I'm glad to have you as part of our Association. I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2011. May each and every one of you have a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In remembrance of Mary Jones..... We did it girl!

Phyllis Smith

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## **January Birthdays**

1 Rev. Mike Motley, Pastor, Trading Ford  
12 Mrs. Norma Thomas, Pastor's Wife, Franklin  
17 Rev. John Gray, Associate Pastor, Carmel  
19 Mrs. Elaine Beaver, Pastor's Wife, Main Street  
23 Mrs. Linda Gray, wife Associate Pastor, Carmel

## **January Anniversaries**

17 Rev. & Mrs. Franklin (Ruby) Myers, Pastor, Spencer First

## **Sanctity of Human Life**

On January 23, 2011, many Christian churches in America will be observing Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Your church has the opportunity to take part in this very special day.

The Pregnancy Support Center wants to help you promote this special day in your church. The Pregnancy Support Center is providing area churches with free bulletin inserts, information and/or speakers during this time. Area churches should have received information in December. Please encourage your church to observe this day. If you would like more information concerning Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, please contact the Pregnancy Support Center at 704-633-7695.

## **Carolina's Largest Baby Shower**

During the week of January 24-28, 2011, a baby shower will be held for the Pregnancy Support Center. The location will be held at Wal-Mart here in Salisbury. Needed items include: Diapers, Baby Wipes, New Car Seats, Crib & Mattresses, Baby Lotion, Baby Powder, Baby Wash, Baby Shampoo, New Baby Bottles, and Baby Clothes. Make plans to join in the fun and festivities. Your donations of new or gently used items enable the Pregnancy Center to continue serving families of Rowan County.

## **For Your Information**

**Pastor Ed Bitner** is available for supply work. Contact Pastor Bitner, at 704-633-8691 for more information.

**Phaniels Baptist Church** is seeking a conservative part-time Youth & Children's Minister. Please mail resume to:  
Phaniels Baptist Church  
2685 Phaniels Church Rd.  
Rockwell, NC 28138  
No phone calls please.

## **IRS Announces 2011 Standard Mileage Rates**

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2011 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning, on Jan. 1, 2011, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also, vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 51 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

**Executive Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24  
7:00 pm @ R.S.B.A. Office**