

## From the Moderator

I am always excited when VBS comes around. So much effort goes into making the Gospel accessible to our communities. I know of a handful of churches in the association have already had VBS and follow up is in full swing. At the time of this mailing our church will be conducting VBS. Others are still putting on the finishing touches before launch.

What makes a great VBS also makes a great association. Look at just three areas where this is true.

First off, a great VBS and a great association begin in prayer. Most churches begin praying six to twelve months early. It is on our knees that battles are waged. On our knees, we seek God's guidance in choosing a director and other leaders and workers. On our knees, we seek God's provision of supplies and funds. We hold prayer meetings asking the Spirit to open doors and hearts. And when the week of VBS gets long, it's on our knees, we find God's sustaining power to see us through. So too an association is great when the churches in it turn to God first.

Next, VBS is great when people join together to serve God by serving others. Every year I've been involved in VBS, God has brought out the gifts He has placed in the membership of the church. God has gifted us not for our own benefit but so that we can serve others. Volunteers in Bible study, music, crafts, snacks, missions, and recreation do things they never thought they could. This happens because they are committed to service. An association works best when we are looking to serve others rather than to be served.

Cooperation also makes VBS great. No one person or type of person can accomplish VBS. It takes a director, teachers, decorators, food service, and assistants of every type to pull it off. A Baptist association needs churches of every size and location to work.

I ask that you continue praying for God's will to be done in the New River Baptist Association.

God bless you,  
Jeff Stading

If you would like to send a card or letter to Elmer and Nancy here is their summer address:

1025 Landharbor, Newland, NC 28657

## Good News!

New River Baptist Association has entered into an agreement with the FBC and been approved to be an official Cleanup and Recovery Unit for the Florida



Disaster Relief program. Many thanks to Jim Briggie, our Disaster Relief coordinator, for the hard work he has put into getting us certified. Our trailer has been modified to hold all the equipment required to participate in the program. We will have the logos for Fla.

Disaster Relief put on the trailer in the next couple of weeks thanks to a \$500.00 startup grant from the Florida Baptist Convention. We currently have had a portable compressor and a compound miter saw donated. However, there are a number of things still needed. Please contact Bro. Jim at 352-201-0216, if you would like to contribute items or funds to this great cause.

Some of the items we still need: 2 Stihl chain saws ( a discount is available through the FBC), safety gear for chainsaw (Buy 1 through FBC get 1 free), 1 fire extinguisher, 1 First Aid Kit, 1 ladder (16' articulating "Little Giant types are more versatile), 2 100' extension cords, Drill, Circular saw, 2 brooms (1 sweep & 1 push), Hard hats, 2 crow bars, Tool set with basic wrenches, sockets, screwdrivers, pliers etc., Shovels (pointed and square), 2 Nail guns, Optional but recommended—Generator (Minimum 3800KW recommend 5000KW, gas powered blower, 18 volt screw guns (2), etc.

If you would like to donate any of these items or provide funds to purchase them, contact the association or make checks payable to NRBA, Disaster Relief.

## Mission Trips

**Kingsley Lake Baptist Church**—There are two mission trips planned for 2012. Ocoee Outreach on July 8th thru 14th and Brazil Amazon on July 24th thru Aug. 2nd.

**Trinity Baptist Church**—Mission trip to Cuba on October 4th.

**1st Baptist Church of Keystone**—Mission trip to Haiti from July 28th thru August 3rd.

## Annual Concert

### "Jesus Never Fails"

Presented by the Combined Choir and Orchestra of New River Baptist Association Churches.

Friday, August 24, 2012 @ 7PM

Madison Street Baptist Church

Starke, Florida

Saturday, August 25, 2012 @ 7PM

Trinity Baptist Church

Keystone Heights, Florida

If you would like to be a part of this great event, please come to the rehearsals as listed below:

**July 24, 2012**

Choir rehearsal

Orchestra rehearsal

**7:00 PM**

Madison Street

Trinity

**August 7, 2012**

Choir rehearsal

Orchestra rehearsal

**7:00 PM**

Combined @ Trinity

**August 21, 2012**

Choir rehearsal

Orchestra Rehearsal

**7:00 PM**

Combined @ Madison

**August 24, 2012**

Performance

**7:00 PM**

Madison Street

**August 25, 2012**

Rehearsal

Performance

**4:30 PM**

Trinity

**7:00 PM**

### **You Are The Association**

With the principle of unity at its foundation, our area churches become an association by acting in cooperation with each other. Within our churches are individuals with unique gifts and resources which God bestowed to fulfill the Great Commission. The gathering together of these resources creates greater potential for more effective ministry. People expressing their oneness in Christ by sharing their talents and gifts is how the church should be defined and the association is the channel to assist that.

As you pray for your church, pray that the spirit of cooperation and unity will sweep through the Association to advance the Kingdom as never before. Also pray for the DOM Search Committee that God's will be utmost in their minds!

## June 2012 Treasurer's Report

PRST STD  
Postage Paid  
Permit 69  
Starke, FL 32091

New River Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 358  
Starke, FL. 32091

Return Service Requested

New River Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 358, Starke, Florida 32091  
904-964-8340  
Jeff Stading—Moderator  
Email-newriver@embarqmail.com

# New River Baptist Association

**"Gathering Churches Together"**

## Something New!

### *Association Website*

Our association now has a website thanks to our Moderator, Bro Jeff Stading. The address for the new site is: [www.newriverbaptassn.com](http://www.newriverbaptassn.com)

There are currently four pages on the site. The first page is the "Home" page that contains our Mission Statement, Association description and Daily Manna.

The second page is a directory of our churches containing a picture, name & address, phone number and the pastor's name. If you would like to make any changes or corrections to this page, send them to the association via email or snail mail. The third page is a list of headlines from the Baptist Press where you can get the latest news from the Southern Baptist Convention. We will be adding additional information to the website in the future. The fourth page is a Calendar of Events for the association.

We are looking for a volunteer "webmaster" to maintain and enhance our website. If you are interested, please give us a call @ 904-964-8340

***Missions Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 17 @ 10AM***

**July 2012 Newsletter**