



# God's Country Tidings

Blackwater Baptist Church

www.blackwaterbaptist.org

Oct/Nov 2008

## A Note from our Associate Pastor. . .

How does a Long Island, NY Yankee find his way down south living surrounded by soybean and corn fields, enjoying a glass of sweet tea, and driving a riding mower in Moyock? I must say that God has a sense of humor. Below are a few humorous things that I have noticed since being here:

- I can actually see the stars.
- My blood is slowly thinning, hence the jacket on 70 degree days.
- One snowflake closes all of Hampton Roads.
- "Y'all" or "I reckon" is still not in my vocabulary.
- Bagels and fake Italian restaurants do not cut the mustard (Val agrees).
- I like NC barbeque better than VA barbeque.
- Sweet Tea is the best drink.
- People shop in Food Lion barefoot.

It is truly God's leading that brought my wife and me down to here to eventually place our membership in the small church with a big heart. Curtis and I often talk about how Mandy and I originally found the church. We were seeking a church at the time and were taking a shortcut from Moyock to Sandbridge when Blackwater Baptist appeared. We did not know anything about the church but decided to attend a

Sunday service. Immediately we recognized something different: friendly, family like, and a warm atmosphere; everything a church should have. The church was especially supportive during Mandy's difficult pregnancy and the birth of James and Benjamin, and for that we are very grateful. You know the rest of the story.

It has been a joy to be a part of this church and be accepted as the Associate Pastor. I'm looking forward to serving you and the community as a minister of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. It is imperative that we are, "not ashamed of the Gospel," in this twisted and relativistic world where anything goes. We must remember that the Gospel is, "the power of God and the salvation for everyone who believes." (Rom 1:16) Do not be afraid to stand up for the Gospel. Share the Gospel, and live out Christ-like principles in our own homes. As believers we are called to remain steadfast and true. Let us join together in this endeavor as we lead our church into the future.

*Live it!*

*Pastor Bill*



## Welcome to Our New Associate Pastor!

What an exciting time for all of us here at BBC! We welcome our first ever (at least to my knowledge), Associate Pastor, Bill Russo. Welcome Bill! We are so glad that God has called you to serve here with us at BBC!

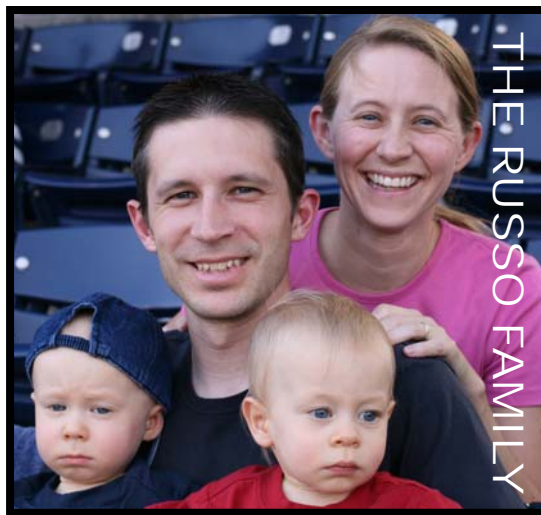
Bill received his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies at Messiah College and also studied abroad at Jerusalem University College. Currently Bill is working on his master's degree in Pastoral Counseling at Liberty University.

Bill is bi-vocational and currently serves as the Spiritual Life Director, Bible Department Head and Teacher Supervisor at Atlantic Shores Christian School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

So what will Bill be doing here at BBC? I am glad you asked. Bill will have many duties but will initially be focused on developing our youth ministry. Our hope and prayer is to disciple and equip our youth for living out the Christian life. At the same time, Bill will be working to lead and develop community outreach events and special happenings within BBC. Bill will also be responsible for assisting with pastoral duties such as preaching, teaching, and visitation.

If you'd like to help with our youth or just have a question, let Bill know.

Glad you're here, brother!  
*In Christ, Pastor Greg*



## Now You Can Listen on the Web!

There are now recordings of each service on our website. If you miss service on Sunday mornings, log on to the church website at:

<http://www.blackwaterbaptist.org/audiofiles>

Thank you, Mike Carey, for doing all the legwork to bring this great feature to our site!



## With Sympathy

We express our heartfelt sympathy to Susan Kovacs and family for the loss of her mother, Lottie Burke, on September 29th.

## 2008 Scholarships

Scholarships in the amount of \$250 each were awarded to the following members: Melissa Frazier, Jennie Jones, Andrea Scott, Sarah Scott, Jena Williams, Jessica Williams, and Skylar Wyatt. We wish all seven of you continued success in your educational endeavors!

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following individuals who were baptized on September 28th:

- Thomas Carey
- Hannah Dumond
- Rachel Dumond
- Smith Hammer
- Isaiah Shirley
- Mark Webber



## Youth Group

A Youth Group for those in 7th-12th grades has

been formed. Come join us Wednesdays at 7 pm!

## Oops!

*The following is an omission from the last newsletter regarding the plans of one of our college graduates:*



Ashley Marrow, a 2008 Kellam High School graduate, started her first semester in the nursing program at Radford University this Fall. Her ultimate plan is to get her masters in nursing and will be working to become a nurse practitioner.

# WMU<sup>TM</sup>

## News



**Operation Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Once again, this year we'll be collecting boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. Boxes will be collected through Sunday, November 16th. Please have it in your hearts to give generously to this mission. Please prepare a shoe box or plastic tote full of things for a child in need. Label it boy or girl and include \$7 for shipping. If more than one box, and sending a check, please make a combination donation. You may also pay online EZ Give method.

[www.SamaritansPurse.org](http://www.SamaritansPurse.org)



This year we'd like to add to the Samaritan's Purse mission with a special Christmas project called **Life's Christmas Shoe Project**. A little mission of making "croc-like" rubber shoes shipping and manufacturing for as little as \$3.20. This sturdy, durable, water-resistant material keeps children without any shoes from crippled feet, disease, infection and worse case, death. Please pray that these poor children will be blessed with a brand new pair of shoes as we celebrate His Son's birthday this Christmas. "The smallest things in life make the biggest difference."

[www.LifeToday.org](http://www.LifeToday.org)



## Luta Tebault Circle

On July 15th we held our monthly meeting at the home of Stephanie Gwaltney. Everyone brought a side dish; we had dinner (which was delicious!) and then held our meeting by the pool. 13 members attended. The card committee gave its report of cards mailed. We discussed our annual school supply collection for Creeds and Moyock Elementary Schools which was in progress through September 7th.

The three Williams' ladies, Jennifer, Jena, and Jessie, hosted our August 19th (5th annual) full course dinner meeting (which was outstanding as usual!). Counting our newest member, Tammy Miller, we had 15 members present.

During Samantha Cortazzo's WMU Program, she brought up the bottle ministry (Life Change Baby Bottle Campaign) which supports The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater. This campaign was held through September 28th. We discussed the menu for the annual Deacon Dinner in September. We held our yearly election of officers and welcomed Samantha Cortazzo as our new President and Twylla Williams as our Vice President.

On September 16, the Luta Tebault Circle held its annual Deacon Dinner. We fed the deacons, pastors, trustees, ushers and ourselves. 12 men attended and 12 circle members were present. After dinner, we had our monthly meeting. School supplies that were collected had been delivered to Creeds Elementary by Terry Davis and to Moyock Elementary by Stephanie Gwaltney. Thanks to everyone who supported this yearly drive. September 28 was the deadline for the Life Change Baby Bottle Campaign and we thank everyone who donated money to help The Crisis Pregnancy Center. We firmed up the menu for our next meeting when we will feed the Ruritans on October 14th.

We will once again be sponsoring the annual Trunk or Treat. This will be on Sunday, October 26 from 6-8 p.m. We will have a costume contest and a trunk (vehicle) contest. If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate wrapped candy, you may put it in the box on the hall table. We will be collecting non-perishable items for a Food Drive before and during Trunk or Treat. There will also be a box on the hall table for donated food items.

We were involved in several community missions during the month of September. If you like to eat, cook (ha ha), and/or enjoy fellowship, come join us!



Contests for  
Best Costume +  
Best Trunk

S'mores + Cider  
Candy, Candy,  
Candy!!



# Trunk or Treat

October 26th 6-8 pm



No Ghosts,

No Goblins,

Just Plenty of Fun!!

Sponsored by the Luta Tebault Circle

Canned and non-perishables will be accepted at this event for the Food Drive.

# Annual Report (September 2007- August 2008)

## **Baptisms**

LaVerne Benns, Samantha Cortazzo, Leslie Saunders

**Deaths:** Robert Wayne Whitehurst, Nicole Swan Lambert

**New Members:** Kyle & Lauren Anderson, Michael & Kendall Carey, Leslie Saunders

**Marriages:** Richard & Mary Keller (4-25-08); Katie Conger & Jamie Ramberg (8-2-08)

**Births:** Troy Warren (to Ronnie & Cheri Warren)

**College Graduates:** Lauren Anderson, Ashley Kovacs Boyett, Kelsey Pecsek, Andreea Scott, Jena Williams

**High School Graduates:** Nicole Fisher, Lance Gilbert, Hunter Knight, Ashley Marrow, Devon Pilkington, Joshua Saucier



# Nominating Committee Report 2008-2009

**Ushers:** Pete Dozier (Chair), Pat Riddick, Gary Jones, Austin Savage, Randolph Whitehurst, Don Arth, Valentine Cortazzo

**Officers:** Clerk - Adabelle Riddick; Treasurer - Phyllis Arth

## **Norfolk Baptist Assoc.**

**Messengers:** P.J. Whitehurst, Gloria Whitehurst, Earl Tebault, Laura Tebault

## **Sunday School Officers:**

Superintendent - Bill Russo;  
Sunday School Secretaries - Judy Burns, Susan Kovacs, Cheryl Shirley; Sunday School Literature - Adabelle Riddick

## **Sunday School Teachers:**

Beginners - Jeremy Schratwieser, Susan Barbee, Samantha Cortazzo;  
Primaries (1-5) - Gaye Hammer;  
High School (6-12) - Bill Russo;  
20-Somethings - Jennifer Riddle, Hollie Schratweiser; Outreach Discussion - Larry Bearden; Joyful Adults - Curtis Shirley, Sarah Whitehurst, Cecil Shirley;  
Women's Bible Study - Gloria Biemesderfer, Crystal Frost, Sue Shirley

**Ministry:** WMU Director - Samantha Cortazzo; Lord's Supper - Susan Kovacs, Leslie Saunders, Sue Shirley, Cecil Shirley;  
Worship Flowers - Alice Savage;  
Flowers and Cards - Laura Tebault, Sue Shirley; Reservation Calendar - Adabelle Riddick, Lettie Dozier;  
Kitchen Supply - Helen Lane

**Children's Ministry:** Nursery Coordinator - Samantha Cortazzo; Kids Church Coord. - Samantha Cortazzo; VBS Director - Mandy Russo

**Music Ministry:** Music Director - Sylvia Cliver; Praise Team Leader - Hollie Schratwieser

**Building Fund Committee:** Pat Riddick (Chair), Larry Bearden, Gary Jones, Cecil Shirley, Curtis Shirley, Earl Tebault

## **Maintenance/Ground**

**Committee:** Pat Riddick (Chair), Don Arth, Larry Bearden, Joel Carey, Pete Dozier, Bobby Goodman, Austin Savage, Cecil Shirley, Cheryl Shirley, P.J. Whitehurst

**Scholarship Committee:** LaVerne Benns (Chair), Helen Lane, Kathy Wyatt

**Cemetery Committee:** Pete Dozier (Chair), Amos Lane, Charles Lewis, Adabelle Riddick, Pat Riddick, Earl Tebault

**Newsletter:** Jennifer Riddle

**Bulletin:** Judy Burns

**Audit Committee:** Gary Jones, Helen Lane

**Benevolence Committee:** Diane Horsley (Chair) Terry Davis, Lettie Dozier, Alternate - Bobby Goodman

**Christmas Program:** Susan Saucier

**Nominating Committee:** Larry Bearden, Sylvia Cliver, Greg Hammer, Bill Russo, Cecil Shirley



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Dot Joyner	6 Charlotte Garris	7 Nancy Daniels Betty Jean Whitehurst	1 Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Charlie Hughes Jr. George Shirley	2	3 Walter Barcroft Sr.	4 Eddie Gilbert Jr. Daniel Satterthwaite Pete & Lettie Dozier
12 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Marie Grubbs Becky Tatum	13 Kelli Whalen	14 Centennial Jenny McClain Circle Mig @ Angie's Billie Groh Cecil Shirley Jr. John & Sandy Baum	8 Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Danny Jordan Neil McClain Danny & Linda Jordan	9 Mikey Dobransky Lance Gilbert Charlie Hughes Sr.	10	11 Amanda Skaggs
19 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am	20 Sarah Shirley	21 Clinton McClain	15 Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30	16 Larry & Connie Bearden Tom & Kelli Whalen	17	18 Neil Foster Mike Stafford
26 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Trunk or Treat & Food Drive: 6-8 pm 	27 Gloria Whitehurst	28 Cheryl Shirley Rodney & Peggy Foster	22 Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30	23	24 Mert Whitehurst	25
			29 Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Joseph Gibbs	30	31 Alice Savage	



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 Services: 8:45 &amp; 11 am Sunday School: 10 am</p> 	<p>3 Shane &amp; Jennifer Riddle</p>	<p>4 </p>	<p>5 Prayer &amp; Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30</p>	<p>6 Connie Cibert</p>	<p>7 Dawn Carey Jaime Pecsek</p>	<p>8 Mack Satterthwaite</p>
<p>9 Services: 8:45 &amp; 11 am Sunday School: 10 am</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Lettie Dozier</p>	<p>12 Prayer &amp; Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Cindy Harris</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Services: 8:45 &amp; 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Samartan's Purse Christmas Shoebox &amp; Life Today Shoe Project DEADLINE</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Ken Jensen Debbie Keller</p>	<p>19 Prayer &amp; Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Jennifer Riddle</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Services: 8:45 &amp; 11 am Sunday School: 10 am</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Prayer &amp; Bible Study, 7 pm Youth Group, 7 pm Praise Team, 7:30 John Groh</p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28 Kristen Davis Earnest Marrow Jr.</p>	<p>29 Rev. Ralph Horn</p>
<p>30 Services: 8:45 &amp; 11 am Sunday School: 10 am</p>						

**IDENTIFICATION  
STATEMENT**

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Newsletter**

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