

# BLACKWATER BAPTIST

*The Small Church with the Big Heart*

6000 Blackwater Rd, Va Beach, VA 23457 . 757-421-6000 . [www.blackwaterbaptist.org](http://www.blackwaterbaptist.org)

Pastor Greg Hammer  
Associate Pastor Bill Russo

April 2009

## THIS ISSUE:

### CHURCH MEMBER PROFILE

*Brand New!*

*Featured this month is Pastor Greg.*

### CROSSWALK YOUTH GROUP

*Wednesday nights - for high schoolers  
grades 7-12.*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Music, Worship & Play - for grades K-6.*

### PAST HAPPENINGS

*Pancake Dinner*

*Baptisms*

*Missionary Eduardo Buldain*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*"First Night Bag" - April 5*

*Sweet Sensation Sale - April 5*

*Easter Egg Hunt - April 11*

*Easter Sunrise Service - April 12*

*Senior Citizen Luncheon - April 19*

*Yard Sale - May 2*

*VBS - June 22-26*

### WMU NEWS

## Pastor Bill's Message for the Month

During a sermon, I read a slip of paper that I had picked up on the table of an Amish wood carver. Some asked for a copy of the piece. Enjoy!

### *Words from an Amish Carver:*

I'm really amazed at some of the lessons for life itself that have come out of a few twigs and branches and a sharp pocketknife. Sometimes the most unique and interesting pieces of art can emerge from what, to most casual observers, is just a pile of trash waiting to be burned or ground up into mulch... raw material from which no one would expect anything of beauty or value. Sort of like some people who might come to mind, or situations or circumstances in life that, at best, can be considered tragedies.

Several of my own most-prized carvings have come from truly "loser" branches and scrapes of wood. It's amazing what transformations have taken place! At different times over the past number of years, when I've been sorely tempted to give up in some situation, or have been ready to write off some person as absolutely hopeless, I've remembered some of my "ugly" branches that have become very much appreciated pieces of art. I've been reminded to take that "ugly branch" and place it in the hand of the Master Carver, God Himself, and let Him carve as only He knows how.

He knows everything there is to know about wood, and knots, and twisted grain, and less-than-ideal raw material! And He really is good at what He does, even if some of the cuts hurt, and I don't understand the "why" of a particular stroke He's using. I'm sure, though, that if I trust Him and let Him have His way in this whole life-carving process, when the piece is finished, there will be a lot of exclamations like: "Wow! Look at that piece of art! And to think of the twisted and crooked old branch that it came from! What a Carver!!!" - E.C.L.J.

This is brand NEW! Each month we will be profiling one of our fine members at Blackwater Baptist Church! So look forward to learning about people we don't know so well and one we thought we knew everything about! Our very first profile is, well, only fitting, because EVERYBODY knows Pastor Greg! So we hope you enjoy this new section and let us know who you think should be next!



## Church Member Profile

### Pastor Greg Hammer

**1. Name:** Gregory Allen Hammer - Something that I enjoy about middle name, is the family history and connection that my middle name Allen has. My Dad's middle name is Allen, my grandfathers middle name was Allen, my great great grandfather's middle name was Allen, my great great great grandfather's first name was Allen, and His uncle's middle name was Allen. I've kept the family tradition going and my first born son's middle name is Allen. Even my sister joined in and gave her son the middle name of Allen.

**2. Age:** (I know, could be trouble!) 44 - but I really feel more like 43!

**3. What is Home to you?** I counted up how many different places that I've lived. Some of this is short term temporary housing, but I figure anything over a month or two counts. I've moved 20 times in my life. Our family has been living in Moyock, NC since July 2000, which is the longest I have ever lived in any one place. What is especially interesting to me is that when we moved to Moyock our expectation was that we would be there 3-5 years and then move again. Here we are almost 9 years later and we are still here. This feels like home now.

**4. How long have you been with us at Blackwater Baptist Church?** My first trip inside the church was March 13, 2004. I preached a sermon titled, "A Bout with Doubt" from Matthew 11. But I had driven by our church before. I remember being struck with its quaint beauty and country charm.

**5. What is your favorite hymn?** Hymn #330 - Amazing Grace! It never gets old. It gives me goose pimples almost every time we sing it!

**6. What has been your favorite event/activity at Blackwater Baptist?** Hands down without question its last Sunday's service. Next week, it will be last Sunday's service. I love coming to this church and worshipping God with fantastic people.

**7. What are you most thankful for?** Got to be Jesus!

**8. When did you become a Christian?** April 1980. I was at a revival service for teens and God was moving in such a powerful powerful way. Many people were going forward to accept Christ. I went forward to pray with others and while I was praying with others I felt the weight of my own sin and realized I was a fraud. I was only pretending to be a Christian. I stopped pretending that day and surrendered my life to Jesus. I remember standing up to make a public confession that Jesus was my Savior and someone telling me and actually pulling on me not to stand up. I jerked my arm away from them and stood, acknowledging what Christ had done for me. Thank you, Jesus.

**9. Who has influenced you most in your Christian walk?** My beautiful wife!

**10. What is something new or different you would like to see at our church?** If your reading this and you don't come to church I'd like to see you at our church.

# Crosswalk Youth Group

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Grades 7-12

Blackwater's youth group has been named **Crosswalk**. The title was chosen to bring identity, meaning, and camaraderie to the group. **Crosswalk** has multifaceted meaning wrapped in the title. As Christians we carry the cross of Christ understanding that the road will be long and difficult at times. Whether people observe us close up and from a distance, we strive to cast an image of the cross as we walk. We attempt to carry the cross wherever we go recognizing that failures, slip-ups, and sin at its worst are covered by the awesome grace of God through His son Jesus Christ. With a sense of humbleness yet confidence, we carry the cross knowing that we are saved by grace on a mission to share what we have to a lost world. Our goal is for others to walk in the light and not the darkness.

Currently a symbol/logo is being developed to promote our youth group. We would love to grow, so please tell others about us. All 7th-12th graders are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We attempt to have monthly events as well. Pray that we grow closer to the Lord and serve others. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Walk your talk!  
Pastor Bill

# Wednesday Nights

Blackwater Baptist is the place to be on Wednesday Nights! There truly is something for the whole family! So come out and join us at 6:30 pm! It will be the best hour of your whole week!

K-6th Grade ~ Music, Worship, Play & lots of fun learning about God

Grades 7-12 ~ Crosswalk Youth Group

Ages 18 & Better ~ Bible Study with Pastor Greg (studying 1 Corinthians)

# Wednesday Night Children's Ministry

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm ~ Grades K-6

Bring all your children along on Wednesday nights. We will begin together for corporate worship and then break into groups for Bible study. Grades K-3 and grades 4-6 will meet in separate Sunday School rooms while the infants-pre-K remain in the nursery. Then for the remainder of the evening grades K-6 will reunite for games and fellowship.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be a part of this new ministry!

---

# Easter Egg Hunt

April 11 at 12 noon

Come join us for the annual Church Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 11th at 12 noon. Goodie bags and prizes will be given in each age category.



# Easter Sunrise Service

April 12 at 7 am

Celebrate the gift Jesus gave to us all as the sun rises this coming Easter morning. Our sunrise service will be held outside and begins at 7 am. Afterwards, Pastor Greg and Pastor Bill will be cooking everyone breakfast!

# Senior Luncheon

April 19 after 11 am service

On April 19th the Luta Tebault Circle will be hosting its annual Senior Citizen Luncheon following the 11 o'clock service. The menu will make you wish you were 55 or better! They will be serving pulled pork barbeque with all the fixins! After the feast, our senior citizens get to put their years of knowledge to the test during the Blackwater Community Trivia Game! Look in the next newsletter for the winner and the hardest question!

## Softball

There's still time to sign up! If you'd like to play on this year's softball team, please contact Val Cortazzo at 277-6768.

## Thank You

In our recent bereavement we have found comfort in the thoughtfulness of our friends. Our sorrow in the loss of a father, father-in-law and grandfather has been easier to bear because of your many simple acts of kindness. Your special cards, phone calls and prayers have been very comforting to us. Thank you for your unfailing sympathy, it will long be remembered.  
~ The William Edward Horsley Family

# Yard Sale

May 2 (rain date May 9) at 8 am - 2 pm

Spring cleaning anyone!?!? Well save all those things you're "not quite sure you need anymore" and sell them at our yard sale! To help raise money for our Relay For Life Team, the Luta Tebault Circle is hosting a yard sale on May 2nd with a rain date of May 9th. Just rent a space for \$20 and sell all of your goodies! We'll be there from 8 am to 2 pm! Hotdogs and drinks will also be for sale, because we all know selling lots of your old stuff can make you hungry!



## Vacation Bible School

June 22-26 at 6:15 - 8:15 pm

Get on board the Boomerang Express and join us for VBS 2009!

Preparation for VBS is already in full swing. This year's theme is a combination of Australia and trains. Just like a boomerang that flies back, on the Boomerang Express, "It all comes back to Jesus."

This year's director, Amanda Russo, will be leading a **training session for all adult leaders on April 5, 6:30-8pm**. There will be promotional booths at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 11 and the Yard Sale on May 2. There is a great need for volunteers both in preparation for and during VBS. Please see the sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board and consider how you can serve.

One of the most important aspects of VBS is of course, registering as many children as we can so that they may learn about the love of Jesus. Please invite and encourage all the children in your sphere of influence!

# PAST HAPPENINGS...

## Pancake Dinner

We had a great evening topped with butter and lots of syrup on February 15th! The wonderful Luta Teabult Circle hosted a pancake dinner to raise money for our church's Relay For Life Team. They were able to donate \$300 at the end of the night. Dinner ended as the bluegrass band Fentress Creek started to play. It was an evening full of fun and fellowship.



## Baptisms

We would like to welcome with great joy our loved ones into the family of God. Chrystal Gwaltney, Ruth Massey, Emma Saunders and Morgan Saunders were baptized Sunday morning, March 22nd in a ceremony following the 11 o'clock service.



## Missionary Eduardo Buldain Visits

In February we were honored to have Eduardo Buldain come speak at our church. He is a missionary in Buenos Aires, Argentina and "plants" churches there. Pastor Greg, Bonnie Satterthwaite and Curtis and Cheryl Shirley traveled with the Buldain family on their mission trip to Argentina. It was inspiring to hear Eduardo tell of how desperate the people in his country are to learn about God, how far they will walk to a church, even worship in a building with no roof! We all felt blessed that we have the gift of such a beautiful church to worship in. Continue to pray for the Buldain family as they help give fellow Christians in Argentina the gift of a place to learn and grow in God.

## Centennial Jenny McClain WMU Circle

The Circle recently gained a member, Susan Slocum. Welcome Susan! The last meeting was held at Sue Shirley's home. They gave baskets to several church members who were hospitalized recently, including Sylvia Cliver, Adabelle Riddick, and Cheryl Shirley.



# Join Us!

## **SUNDAYS:**

Contemporary Service - 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School ~ 10 a.m.  
Traditional Service ~ 11 a.m.  
Children's Church ~ 11 a.m.

## **WEDNESDAYS:**

Prayer & Bible Study ~ 6:30 p.m.  
Children's Ministry (K-6 grade) ~ 6:30 p.m.  
Crosswalk Youth Group (7-12 grade) ~ 6:30 p.m.  
Praise Team & Choir Practice ~ 7:30 p.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

"First Night Bag" for the Currituck Co Foster & Adoptive Family Assoc ~ April 5  
Sweet Sensation Sale to benefit the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering ~ April 5  
Easter Egg Hunt - April 11 at 12 noon  
Easter Sunrise Service - April 12 at 7 a.m.  
Senior Citizen Luncheon ~ April 19 following the 11 a.m. service  
Yard Sale to benefit Relay for Life ~ May 2  
VBS ~ June 22-26

# Get the newsletter via e-mail!

Email [jenriddle@cox.net](mailto:jenriddle@cox.net) to receive the newsletter via email. Sending the newsletter via email helps defray the cost of printing and postage. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email (to [jenriddle@cox.net](mailto:jenriddle@cox.net)) or send a letter to the church.

**Blackwater Baptist Church**  
6000 Blackwater Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457