



# BLACKWATER

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## BAPTIST CHURCH

MATTHEW 22:37-39  
est. 1774

Pastor Greg Hammer  
Associate Pastor Bill Russo

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## Church Member Profile Pastor Bill Russo



**1. Name:** William Joseph Russo - My first and middle names are comprised of my two grandfathers' middle names. Russo is Italian, but I am actually an Italian, Polish, and Russian mix.

**2. Age:** 32 and gray!

**3. What is Home to you?** The feeling I get on Christmas Eve when all the work is done, and we are with family sitting by the tree thankful for what God has given us.

**4. How long have you been with us at Blackwater Baptist Church?** I resort to my wife for the specific day: Mother's Day 2006. That's about one year before the boys were born. Hollie was pregnant with Grace. We were quickly made to feel like family, and Blackwater became our home.

**5. What is your favorite hymn?** Hymn: *Come thou Fount of Every Blessing*; Praise Song: *The Stand* by Hillsong United

**6. What has been your favorite event/activity at Blackwater Baptist?** The first ever Blackwater Baptist Youth Fishing Tournament at the Shirley Pond. Over 100 fish were caught that day. Amazing!

**7. What are you most thankful for?** God's provision through Jesus Christ and my family.

**8. When did you become a Christian?** I became a Christian in the summer after 9th grade, (1992) during camp at Catskill Christian Assembly. God moved in a mighty way and I gave my life to him. It was at that point I knew I would be in ministry but never thought God would move me into the pastorate.

**9. Who has influenced you most in your Christian walk?** Pastor Paul Furniss of Levittown Baptist in NY and the preaching of Alistair Begg.

**10. What is something new or different you would like to see at our church?** I would love to see our youth membership grow and would like to see more complete families attend. It would be great to see more unity from the oldest to the youngest members as we praise him together.

# Blackwater Baptist Unveils New Logos

We now have new church logos! One is for our church which goes with our church's motto/theme - "The Small Church With A Big Heart" and one for our Youth Group, Crosswalk. So get ready to wear it proudly and spread the news to our community. Shirts, mugs, pens. . . and more items will be available for our 235th anniversary celebration!

## Baptisms

We would like to welcome with great joy, Jerry Ball, into the family of God. Jerry was baptized in July. Congratulations!



## The Boomerang Express has moved on, but it's impact remains!

VBS is over, and Blackwater Baptist Church looks like a church once more rather than a whistle stop in the Australian Outback! Sixty children, ages 6 months to 6th grade participated this year, most of which do not regularly attend any church. The children learned about Jesus' relationship with Peter and how they too can have a relationship with Him. Over the last few weeks our follow-up team has visited or called each of the families that do not belong to a church and have had many good conversations with them. Thank you to everyone, over 40 people in total, who participated in this ministry!

## Scholarships

2009 Scholarship Applications are available on the hall table. Eligibility for this Award is limited to members of Blackwater Baptist Church who are currently enrolled (full or part time) in a college or university program. Applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by **August 16th**.

New Logos. . .

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## Youth VBS: Rock & Reef Tour

Pastor Bill and the youth, grades 7-12, did their own VBS on Wednesday nights during May and June. Together they studied Jesus' relationship with Peter. They learned about Peter's desire to follow Him, mistakes that he made along the way, and his unending devotion to Jesus. Our last two meetings were most engaging as some of the youth asked deep questions about Christianity and what it means to truly follow him. Several of the youth then volunteered to help with the children's VBS this summer. They played a valuable role in ministering to the children. Good day Mates!

## Green Sheets

Attention ALL church members!!! It's that time of the year. . . the Green Sheets are out!

You say you don't know what a Green Sheet is? Well...its just about the greatest thing you could give to your church! Your time and talent!!! It is your opportunity to sign up for a job!

You can sign up for a variety of different positions, help teach a Sunday School class, join the choir or praise team, and more! Don't see the job you want? Then write it in! Of course, our children's ministries are always overwhelming rewarding and appreciated, so volunteer for Children's Church or the nursery. But please, no matter your age or how long or short of a time you've been with us at Blackwater Baptist, please take the time to read through all the great ways you can volunteer and let God lead you to your place at our church. The Green Sheets can be found on the back hall table! Pick one up today and return them by **August 9th!**

# Annual Church Picnic August 9 @ Munden Point

Come out and enjoy fellowship with one another at our Annual Church Picnic! This year's picnic will be held under Shelter #1 at Munden Point Park on **Sunday, August 9th at 12:30pm**. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. Please bring a covered dish to share. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hall across from the sanctuary. Please sign your family and friends up so we know how many to plan for. We are looking forward to a great time!! Please see any Outreach Discussion Class member for questions. Thank you to the Outreach Discussion Class for organizing this year's picnic!

## 235th Anniversary Celebration: The Small Church with the Big Heart

That's right! Blackwater Baptist Church is almost 235 years old, and the heart continues to beat! Mark your calendars and tell all your friends and neighbors to join us. **Saturday, September 19th at 3:00 p.m.** right here at church we will celebrate this amazing historical work of God. Festivities will include an anniversary service, good food, fellowship, music, and lots of fun. A tent worship service will follow Sunday morning.

## Church Renovations We're Growing!

The main purpose of our last business meeting was to approve the proposed addition to our church. The two classroom, large youth room addition was approved by church members present. Our plans were also recently approved by City Council and construction should begin in the Fall.

The structure will be added to the south end of our church in what is now being used for parking. The new section will be accessed through what is now the front room of the pastor's office which will be converted into a hallway. The Ladies' and the Adult Study Sunday School classes will call the two new rooms' home. The new Youth room will sit opposite of the classrooms and will be the new spot for our air hockey and ping-pong tables, and hopefully a lot of other cool stuff for our youth to enjoy! We are all very excited about our new addition and all the possibilities it holds for the growth of our church family.

# Annual Report 2008-2009 Church Year

## Baptisms

Thomas Care	Chrystal Gwaltney
Rachael & Hannah Dumond	Ruth Massey
Smith Hammer	Emma Saunders
Isaiah Shirley	Morgan Saunders
Mark Webber	Jerry Ball

## Births

Eli Schratwieser - 1/31/09

## Marriages

Andrea Scott & Eric Daniels - 4/15/09  
Melissa Frazier & Robert Oliver - 7/5/09  
Sarah Scott & Brad Whitson - 7/18/09  
Eric Keller & Robin Backus - 8/8/09

## High School Graduates

Briton Arth

## College Graduates

Stacey Bigelow  
Melissa Frazier  
Jennie Jones  
Megan Kovacs  
Jenny Lewis  
Wil Massey  
Ashley Scott  
Jenna Williams  
Jessica Williams

## Deaths:

Dave Bryant  
Walter Cardwell  
Stuart Ives  
Ralph Frost



# Join Us!

## SUNDAYS:

NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday School ~ 9 a.m.

Service ~ 10 a.m.

Children's Church ~ 10 a.m.



## 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**

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