

# Goshen News

Goshen Baptist Association

WWW.GOSHENASSOCIATION.COM

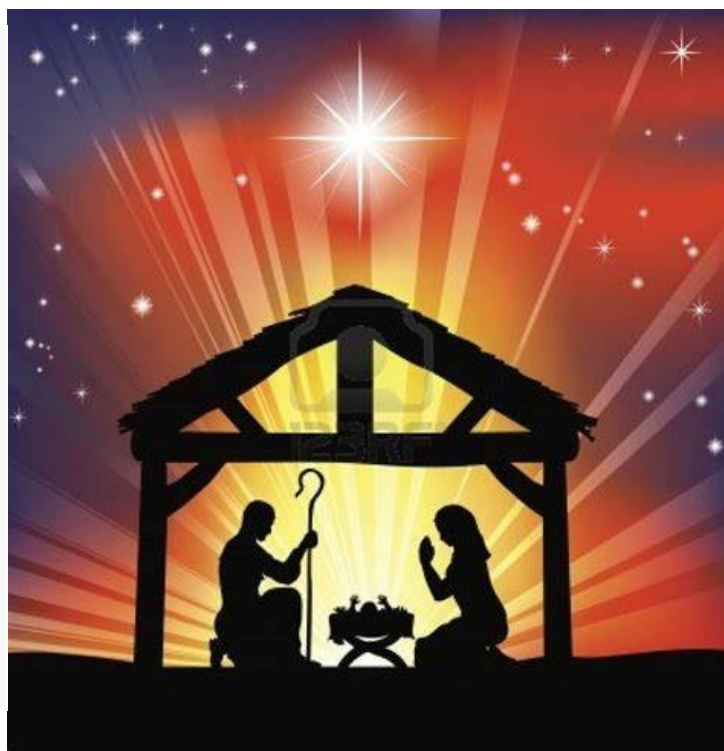
December 2023

Volume XXXIX Number 12

Email address: [GoshenAssociation@hughes.net](mailto:GoshenAssociation@hughes.net)

*"The purpose of this Association shall be to proclaim Christ as Lord, to expand the Kingdom of God, and to assist our affiliate churches to carry out their mission before God."*

*Christmas*  
BEGINS WITH  
*Christ*



*May you have a very blessed  
Christmas season!*



*From the staff of Goshen Baptist Association*

*Dee ~ Joy ~ Keith ~ Kris*



## RuraLove Ministry

587 Mica Road, Mineral  
540.894.8440

*The RuraLove Thrift Store is open to the public to purchase clothing and yard sale items on Wednesdays (year-round) and the first Saturday of the month April-November from 8-12:30. In the past month (through your contributions and donations to RuraLove) you have helped local families in crisis by providing:*

- 17 Families with financial needs (\$7,572.22)  
(Rent, Mortgage, Utilities)
- 5 Families with household needs
- 2 Families with a medical equipment loan
- 4 Families with clothing
- 1 Family with a project

*In the past month the RuraLove Thrift Store sales have:*

- ◆ Served 305 families with clothing
- ◆ Served 700 families with household items

Total sales from the Thrift Store for clothing and donated yard sale items for the past month: **\$5,820.75**

**We are concentrating on focusing on better outcomes allowing the Lord to provide the income and for us to be good stewards of His income.**

### RuraLove is in need of:

**Full-size mattresses & box springs,  
bed frames (metal or wood with frames in all sizes),  
microwaves, electric stoves, refrigerators,  
washers & dryers, chest of drawers, etc.**

*RuraLove* is a ministry of Goshen Baptist Association churches to local families in crisis. Churches are needed to **follow up** with families in crisis to build a relationship with the goal of meeting spiritual needs.

**All items are to be nice enough to give in Jesus' name.**

**100% of proceeds go to local families in crisis.**

**Have you ever considered being a driver or helper on one of the RuraLove vehicles?** RuraLove has experienced increased requests for picking up donated items and deliveries and could still use more volunteers. If you would consider this, it would help out tremendously. Please call 540.894.8440 and a coordinator will return your call.

## Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, cards of encouragement, and loving prayers during the homegoing of my sister, Jean Stokes. Each of you are greatly appreciated.

*Joy Dickens*

## Crossroads Community moves to new site



Crossroads Community Church moved to its new facilities in Zion Crossroads next to the fire house on Poindexter Road on Sunday, October 29th.

It has been an eight-year journey getting to this point as one of Goshen Baptist Association's younger churches.

Congratulations to Crossroads on this big milestone.

Please remember to lift up all our sister churches in prayer as we seek to work together for the common goal of God's Kingdom work in our communities and beyond.

# Mission Opportunities

## Project for December:

**Chaplain Support** for Goochland Women's Correctional Center. The state of Virginia does not provide chaplains for prisons. The chaplains need our support to continue their vital ministry. Financial support for the chaplain at GWCC is due by December 14.

**Southwest Virginia Partnership Inc.** based in Nickelsville, VA and ministering in Clinch Valley, Powell River and Wise Counties. Register a team of volunteers or get info at [www.swvpartnership.org](http://www.swvpartnership.org)

**BGAV Impact Virginia Disaster Response** See [www.bgav.org](http://www.bgav.org) for more information and trainings.

**Christ In Action (Disaster Response Org)** in the Culpeper Air Park, 21465 Business Court, Elkwood, VA 22718. Call Susan Boston, 703.368.6286 to schedule a tour Mon-Fri 8-4. [www.ChristInAction.com](http://www.ChristInAction.com)

**Hope for Appalachia** <http://hfavateam.com> ~ make "Hope Boxes" for students age 4-18 to be given out with salvation message at schools in Kentucky in the spring and fall. See website for info.

**Hope House 540.371.0831** Battered women's shelter for abused women and their children ~ 902 Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg

**Shelter for HELP in Emergency 434.963.4676** Working to end domestic violence. Charlottesville.

**Paul Stefan Home** (Pro-Life Maternity Housing & Educational Center) [www.paulstefanhome.org](http://www.paulstefanhome.org) ~ 120 Caroline St., Orange. 540.854.2300 See website for current needs. **Volunteers also needed!**

## International Mission Opportunities

**Romania: Ministry to Roma People at Ruth School** Brittany Garton: [Brittany.garton@project-ruth.org](mailto:Brittany.garton@project-ruth.org) or see: [www.project-ruth.org](http://www.project-ruth.org)

**Little Dresses for Africa:** [littledressesforafrica.org](http://littledressesforafrica.org)

**Door of Hope, South Africa** (finding homes for unwanted children) [www.doorofhopesa.com](http://www.doorofhopesa.com) & [facebook.com/doorofhopeSA](https://www.facebook.com/doorofhopeSA)

## Collecting

~Old prescription eye glasses and reading glasses (found in stores) for a missionary in Guatemala.

~Old prescription bottles and non-prescription bottles (aspirin, vitamins, etc.) for Doctor's Without Borders. Labels do **NOT** have to be removed. Bring to the Goshen Ministry Center.



## Ministry Action Budget 2023-2024

<u>Church</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>GMO</u>
Antioch			
Berea			
Blue Ridge Shores			
Craigs			
Crossroads CC			
Dogwood	253.00	253.00	
Elk Creek			
FBC, Louisa			
Gordonsville			
Louisa			
Mechanicsville	737.09	737.09	
Memorial of Columbia			
Mine Road	320.00	320.00	
Mineral			
Mount Gilead	204.33	204.33	
Mount Hermon			
Mountain View	100.00	100.00	
North Pamunkey	441.77	441.77	
Oakland	485.00	485.00	
Orange	418.18	418.18	
Perkins			
Rhoadesville	583.39	583.39	
Shady Grove			
Smyrna	415.00	415.00	
South Anna	208.00	208.00	
St. Mark	250.00	250.00	
Trinity	100.00	100.00	
Waldrops	875.00	875.00	
Waller's			
Zoar	541.16	541.16	
Others	655.00	655.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,596.92</b>	<b>6,596.92</b>	

## 2023-2024 Annual Budget Report

Budget for 2023-2024	186,562.00
Monthly Needs	15,547.00
Received Oct.	6,597.00
<b>Budget</b>	<b>- 8,950.00</b>

Totals as of 10-31-2023

## Mission Stitchers

**All are invited on Sat, December 9, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Bring a lunch or about \$10 for lunch. Bring your machine and tools or fabric scissors to cut out the patterns to the Goshen Ministry Center (587 Mica Road, Mineral).

**Needs:** Flannel by the yard (new), flannel bed sheets and pillowcases (new or gently used), 100% cotton quilt batting or 80% cotton/20% polyester quilt batting, cotton pillowcases (new or used-no stains, no microfiber), cotton fabric by the yard (new), girls underwear sizes 14, 16 & 18 (new), modern white wedding dresses (gently used). For more information on this ministry contact Terry Graham, 540.661.6268 or email [mrsjrg@aol.com](mailto:mrsjrg@aol.com).



# "A word with Dee"



**Dee Whitten**

In our secular world we focus on Christmas "presents" and packages. However, as Christians our focus on this special day should be the "presence" of God in our hearts and lives.

That is the real message of Christmas: God came into this world in order to be present with us...God came into this world as a little baby born in Bethlehem...That's what the incarnation is all about:

God is present with us.

The Creator became a part of his very own creation.

Jesus came into the world to demonstrate the love of God:

Through his message

Through his miracles

Through his ministry

But primarily Jesus demonstrated his love for us by giving his life on a cross...Jesus allowed himself to be crucified on a cross so that we can have eternal life...

If you go on a tour of the Holy Land, one of the most impressive places to visit is the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Roman Emperor Constantine had a church built on this very location in 330 AD in order to commemorate the exact place where Jesus was born. The truth is that this location is probably pretty accurate. Inside this huge cathedral is a cave...and in the cave is a silver star which supposedly represents the very spot on which Jesus was born.

We cannot know for sure...but there is no doubt that this loca-

tion is very close to the exact location of the birth of Jesus. The inscription on this cave reads: "To the Virgin Mary is born Jesus"

One thing that is very interesting about a journey to the Holy Land is to recognize how close Bethlehem is to Jerusalem. It is only 5 miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

Therefore, the place where Jesus was born is only 7 miles from Golgotha...the place where Jesus was crucified.

This means that the distance from the cradle to the cross is about the same distance as it is from the RuraLove Ministry Center to the town of Louisa. The two most important events in all of history (the birth and death of Jesus) took place only 7 miles apart.

This truth reminds us that Jesus was born to die. The primary purpose of his arrival in the world was for Jesus to be nailed to a cross and take the sins of the world upon himself on that cross.

That means that we can have eternal life (a personal relationship with Almighty God) because Jesus has taken away the punishment for our sins.

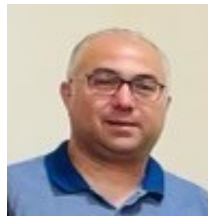
That is the greatest Christmas present of all time...

That is the reason that we need to celebrate on this very special occasion. ~ Dee

## Sign up now to support or continue to support our three church planter pastors in Armenia



**Pastor Vardan**



**Pastor Svin**



**Pastor Avo**

Following the reports from members of the Mission Team to Armenia, the Goshen Missions Committee voted to extend our informal partnership with Goshen's three church planter pastors in Armenia. We are asking Goshen individuals who feel led of the Lord, to commit to donating \$200 per year for the next three years. We need at least 54 commitments.

The previous three year commitments (made by generous churches and individuals) were completed in 2023. If you would like to make a commitment to help support

the bi-vocational pastors (pictured above) by sending in your commitment in 2024, 2025, and 2026 please let the Goshen Ministry Center know by calling 540.894.8440 or emailing [goshenassociation@hughes.net](mailto:goshenassociation@hughes.net)

The Missions Committee also agreed that they would like to send another mission team in 2024 to work with our church planter pastors in Armenia. If you are interested in possibly being a part of this team, please call the Goshen Ministry Center and you will receive a call back from the team leader. No dates have been set.

**Please continue to pray for our Church Planters in Armenia...  
they depend on our prayers and support**

# CHURCH NEWS

**Antioch** reports that a Hobo Stew was held in place of their fall festival with around 60 from the community in attendance. The Fall Bible Study is on Proverbs. A Children's Christmas Program will be held in December. A Christmas Cantata will be presented on Christmas Eve during the 11 a.m. service.

**Elk Creek** announced they are blessed that Pastor Mike Gray has accepted the call to become the next minister of Elk Creek. Pastor Gray is coming from Gloucester, VA. Elk Creek thanks Jeff Cranford who ably served as interim pastor. The Woodchuckers have already served nine families with free firewood. Several more await delivery. Church members contributed 77 Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

**First Baptist of Louisa** Missionary Ministry is sponsoring gift boxes for needy children ages 2-14 to be given out in the US and abroad. A Christmas Play will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Sunday School. The church has adopted a family of three for the holidays.

**Gordonsville** ~ The Bell Choir will be playing during worship on December 3rd. Youth and Children's Special Music Sunday is December 10 at 11 a.m. The adult cantata "Christmas Presence" will be Sunday, December 17th at 11 a.m. A Deacon-led Candlelight Service will be held December 24.

**Louisa** - For the One Bright Night Christmas story and light show register for a free parking spot on [OneBrightNight.com](http://OneBrightNight.com)

**Mechanicsville** will present the Christmas play, "Stories of the Savior" at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. A Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 7 p.m. Men's Breakfast is the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. All are welcome. Parent's Day Out (free for children 3-12) is December 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Register on the MBC website: [www.mechbaptist.org](http://www.mechbaptist.org) Two new members were baptized recently and another member was added by transfer of letter. Worship services are now available on YouTube as well as Facebook.

**Mineral** ~ "A Glorious Christmas" will be presented on Christmas Eve at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Upward Basketball registration will enroll over 100 children. The monthly Sunday Night (4 p.m.) musical events at the Historical Sanctuary will be held for the next month. Mineral has a goal of 200 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Mineral is hosting Santa Council activities. The Men's Tuesday morning Bible Study has begun. For Upward Sports, event, and service information see [www.mineralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mineralbaptistchurch.org)

**Mine Road** reported that JOY (Just Older Youth) meeting has over 50 in attendance. Homecoming was held in October celebrating 232 years. The WMU has gathered and packed 82 shoeboxes for Hope for Appalachia.

**Oakland** reports they held Revival services with Dr. Don Campbell as the evangelist. Oakland recently recognized four people who had perfect Sunday School Attendance for the 12 Sundays. One member was on the Mission Team to Armenia. Two men will travel with Carpenters for Christ to Jetersville, VA to handle maintenance issues at Sandy Creek Baptist Church in Amelia County. Deacons will begin the search for an interim pastor and a pastor search committee begins their process.

**Orange** welcomes two new members by baptism. Orange is having its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. The Singing Christmas Tree concerts will be Saturday and Sunday December 9-10 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

**Perkins** had 3 baptisms recently. Perkins has resumed their Child Evangelism Fellowship Club at Byrd Elementary School in Goochland. A Christmas Party Club for the children is coming soon.

**Rhoadesville** reports good participation in Wednesday night and Thursday morning Bible studies and prayer time. Rhoadesville celebrated All Saint's Day on November 5th with a memorial service honoring deceased members. A Cantata will be December 10 at the 11 a.m. service and a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held. Rhoadesville continues to participate in the nationwide Linus Project by routinely hosting a day of sewing for the community to make blankets for children in the hospitals. The large group from various churches gathers at Rhoadesville and makes several hundred blankets each time they hold a sewing day.

**Smyrna** will hold a Christmas Message in Scripture and Song on Sunday, December 17 during the worship service. On Christmas Eve there will be no Sunday School—instead, at 9 a.m. a breakfast will be held in the fellowship hall followed by an extended Christmas worship service at 10:30 a.m.

**St. Mark** held a special celebration service for Pastor Rev. Dr. Tracie A. Daniels in honor of her fifth anniversary with St. Mark. The Guest Speaker was Rev. Kimberly Fortune of Galilee Baptist in Louisa. [www.stmarkbaptist.me](http://www.stmarkbaptist.me)

**Waller's** reports a wonderful turn out for their fall festival and trunk-n-treat at the end of October. The Adult Bible Study is continuing to study, "Basic Bible Interpretation" on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Their 8:30 a.m. contemporary service is held twice a month. Wallers gave out four Thanksgiving boxes for families in need. In December, four Christmas boxes are scheduled; sponsoring a family with gifts; and a commitment of filling 32 stockings for the Embrace Foster Care children. A Ladies Christmas Tea is December 1 at 6 p.m. Wallers Annual Christmas Show featuring the Puppetz4Jesus and the Children's Ministry will be on Sunday, December 10 at the 11 a.m. service. Christmas Eve will feature worship at 11 a.m. and a special service at 6 p.m. [www.wallersbaptist.com](http://www.wallersbaptist.com)

**Zoar** collected 44 shoeboxes and served 35+ meals to college students. A Christmas Cantata will be presented on December 17 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

## Woodchuckers need recommendations



The Elk Creek Woodchuckers have wood, but would like to have assistance in locating those who need it. You can help by letting them know of families in your congregation or community who can't afford to purchase firewood.

**Contact Tony Wilson at:**  
[wilsonTony540@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonTony540@gmail.com)



## Pastors Christmas Lunch

A Christmas lunch for Goshen pastors with BGAV's executive director, Dr. Wayne Faison, and field strategist, Jody Faig, will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at noon at Tim's at Lake Anna. **To reserve your spot**, please call or text Jody at 804.921.5177.

## Religious Liberty Project

The next meeting for the Religious Liberty Project for Leland-Madison Park will be held

**Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 10 a.m.**  
at the Goshen Ministry Center  
587 Mica Road, Mineral, VA 23117

This meeting is open to all who are interested in the history of Religious Liberty in Virginia.



### \*Pray for our Goshen Churches:

- ~Pray for Antioch and Pastor Heather Saunders
- ~Pray for Berea and Pastor Jim Stone
- ~Pray for Blue Ridge Shores and Pastor Steve Whetzel

### Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Marilib Langham and family on the passing of her husband, Jim on November 5. Jim was a former pastor of Mineral Baptist Church.

## December Calendar

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

13	Sylvia Moore	Shady Grove
17	Karen Clore	Retired
18	Everett Anniversary	Mineral
21	Hartsfield Anniversary	Retired
22	Wright Anniversary	Retired
30	Jim Graham	Mt. Hermon
31	McClary Anniversary	South Anna
31	Brown Anniversary	Retired

### Events

- Nov 26-Dec 3 Week of prayer for International Missions
- 4 Goshen Missions Committee GMC 9 a.m.
  - 7 Minister's Breakfast GMC 8:30 a.m.
  - 9 Mission Stitchers GMC 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - 13 Pastors Christmas Lunch @ Tim's Lake Anna (Reservations with Jody Faig Required)
  - 14 Financial support due for Chaplain GWCC

**December 22 through January 1**

Office Closed for Christmas Holidays

### Pray for Goshen churches in search of a pastor:

Craigs, Mt. Gillead, Oakland, Wallers & Zoar

## GriefShare Support Groups

If you need help in dealing with the loss of a loved one, you may want to join a GriefShare support group near you.

For information on GriefShare and where a group is meeting near you, see [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org)

## Notice to Churches

Please include: **GoshenAssociation@hughes.net** in your church's email list for your newsletter, prayer concerns, and event news blasts.

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**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month.**

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