



Goshen News

Goshen Baptist Association

WWW.GOSHENASSOCIATION.COM

April 2025

Volume XXXXI Number 4

Email address: 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."

MISSIONS FAIR
Goshen
Missions Fair
Sunday, April 6 from 3-5 p.m.
At the **Goshen Ministry Center** (587 Mica Rd, Mineral)

Celebrate RuraLove's 30th Year of Ministry with a guided tour!

You will also see the Goshen Trailers & Tools Ministry; and visit with representatives from The Paul Stefan Home; Hope for Appalachia; the Armenia Mission Team and the Southwest Virginia Partnership Mission Team. Learn how you minister to the inmates of Goochland Women's Correctional Center; The Tidewater Transportation Ministry; and The Ruth School in Romania. Food and fellowship will follow the tours. All ages are invited! (comfortable shoes encouraged)

Goshen's Annual Spring Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 2-4 p.m.

Blue Ridge Shores Baptist Church (1230 Firehouse Dr., Louisa)

Special music—Nikisha Diggs, Music Director of Mineral Baptist

Doctrinal Sermon—Dr. Steve Whetzel, Pastor of Blue Ridge Shores Baptist

Mission Sermon—Dr. Brian Jones, Executive Director of Northstar Church Network

New Business:

The Religious Liberty Pathway Project will be presented (see page 5 for the proposal outline)





**RuraLove
Ministry**
587 Mica Road,
Mineral



Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Alan and Mary Beth Miller and family on the passing of his mother, Debbie Miller, on February 16, 2025. Alan is the pastor of Orange Baptist.

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:

- 10 Families with financial needs (**\$5,138.34**)
(Rent, Mortgage, Utilities)
- 11 Families with household items
- 1 Family with a whole household
- 2 Families with medical equipment loan

Total Thrift Store sales: **\$4,971.75.00**

The RuraLove Thrift Store served:

199 sales with clothing and 550 sales with household items



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 the coordinator will return your call.

RuraLove is in need of:

Mattresses & box springs (especially full & twin), metal bed frames (twin, full & queen), 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.

Call 540.894.8440 for more info.

100% of proceeds go to local families in crisis

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.

Changes for RuraLove

Dear Goshen Baptist Association Family;

After much prayer and consideration, I want to share with you that I will be stepping down from my role in RuraLove at the end of March. This past January, I transitioned to be the Senior Pastor of Mineral Baptist Church, and this decision to step down from RuraLove has not been an easy one, as serving in this ministry has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I am deeply grateful for the many churches, pastors, volunteers, and supporters who have come alongside this ministry with a shared heart for serving and making an impact for the Kingdom.

Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of witnessing God move in powerful ways—changing lives, strengthening communities, and drawing people closer to Him. None of this would have been possible without the faithfulness of so many who have prayed, given, and served. Your dedication and passion have been a constant source of encouragement, and I have no doubt that God will continue to use this ministry to do great things in the days ahead.

Though my season in this role is coming to a close, my heart for this ministry and for the churches in our association remains strong. I look forward to seeing how God leads in the next chapter and will be praying for a smooth transition as Keith Wollenberg and other Goshen leaders continue to carry the mission forward.

If you have any questions or would like to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you again for your partnership, support, and friendship. It has been an honor to serve alongside you.

Be blessed,
Kris Hutchinson

Ramps and Firewood

The Crosspoint Outdoorsman Ministry has a ramp ministry for anyone needing a ramp. Crosspoint also gives firewood to those in need. For more information contact Roy Hopkins at 804.943.0734.

Crosspoint Outdoorsman Event

Saturday, April 26

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.)

@ **The Joy Center** (5478 Yanceyville Road, Louisa)

Tickets are \$10 (buy one and get one free!)

Axe throwing, fishing, archery, cornhole, sporting clay, deer and turkey shoot. (All guns, ammo, and archery equipment provided. Ages 13 and up. Waiver must be signed.)

Crosspointoutdoorsman.org

Mission Opportunities

The Projects for April:

Church Planter Support for 2025 is due.

Candy & Gum Bags— fill a zipper style sandwich bag with individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate) and two packs of gum. They will be used by the Tidewater Transportation Ministry in Virginia ports to gift to seafarers giving them an opportunity to share the Gospel and Christian literature with people from around the world. Deadline April 29.

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

**The Journey Home** [www.journeyhomeminerall.org](http://www.journeyhomeminerall.org)

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

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

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

**Southwest Virginia Partnership Inc.** based in Nickelsville, VA and ministering in Clinch Valley, Powell River and Wise Counties. For more info or to register see [www.swvpartnership.org](http://www.swvpartnership.org)

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

**Christ In Action (Disaster Response Org)** in the Culpeper Air Park, 21465 Business Court, Elkwood, VA 22718. 703.368.6286 [www.ChristinAction.com](http://www.ChristinAction.com)

**Construction Outreach:** If your Goshen church is working on an outreach construction project it may be possible to check out a **GOSHEN TRAILER** and/or **TOOLS:** for tools, call 540.894.8440 and a member of Goshen's Tool Team will contact you. For requirements to check out one of the trailers email: [goshenassociation@hughes.net](mailto:goshenassociation@hughes.net)

## International Mission Opportunities

**Romania: Ministry to Roma People at Ruth School** 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://facebook.com/doorofhopeSA)

## SWVA Mission Trip

Sign up now to be on a mission team to Southwest Virginia Partnership from July 7-11, 2025 along with members of Mt. Gilead Baptist. Members went this past summer and worked in the food pantry. Call 804.457.2938 for info.

## Ministry Action Budget 2024-2025

| <u>Church</u>        | <u>February</u>    | <u>YTD</u>         | <u>GMO</u>        |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Antioch              | 326.20             | 2,059.55           |                   |
| Berea                |                    | 2,084.33           |                   |
| Blue Ridge Shores    | 352.30             | 1,146.04           |                   |
| Craigs               |                    |                    |                   |
| Crossroads CC        | 250.00             | 500.00             |                   |
| Dogwood              | 264.00             | 1,771.00           |                   |
| Elk Creek            | 833.34             | 2,083.34           |                   |
| FBC, Louisa          |                    |                    |                   |
| Gordonsville         |                    | 2,415.08           | 1,200.00          |
| Louisa               |                    | 6,181.72           |                   |
| Mechanicsville       |                    | 4,862.22           |                   |
| Memorial of Columbia |                    |                    |                   |
| Mine Road            | 700.00             | 1,750.00           |                   |
| Mineral              | 3,078.00           | 5,996.00           |                   |
| Mount Gilead         | 322.52             | 1,760.56           |                   |
| Mount Hermon         | 150.00             | 650.00             |                   |
| Mountain View        | 117.00             | 834.00             |                   |
| North Pamunkey       |                    | 3,890.02           |                   |
| Oakland              |                    | 3,440.00           |                   |
| Orange               | 546.17             | 2,759.88           |                   |
| Perkins              | 434.00             | 2,170.00           |                   |
| Rhoadesville         | 625.00             | 3,125.00           |                   |
| Shady Grove          |                    | 500.00             |                   |
| Smyrna               |                    | 2,150.00           |                   |
| South Anna           | 332.00             | 956.00             |                   |
| St. Mark             |                    | 250.00             |                   |
| Trinity              | 100.00             | 500.00             |                   |
| Waldrops             |                    | 655.00             |                   |
| Walters              | 623.75             | 2,931.59           |                   |
| Zoar                 | 154.58             | 997.23             |                   |
| Others               | 5,212.33           | 29,540.33          |                   |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$14,421.19</b> | <b>\$87,952.89</b> | <b>\$1,200.00</b> |

## 2024-2025 Annual Budget Report

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Budget for 2024-2025 | \$186,562.00       |
| Monthly Needs        | \$15,547.00        |
| Received Feb.        | \$14,441.00        |
| Received Oct-Feb.    | \$87,952.00        |
| <b>Budget</b>        | <b>\$10,217.00</b> |

Totals as of 2-28-2025



## Mission Stitchers

All are invited on Sat, April 19, 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).

**Ongoing 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). 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

Lee Strobel wrote an excellent book entitled "The Case for Christ." In this book Strobel investigates the claims for the resurrection even as a news reporter would search for the facts in a case. He wanted to see if there was really solid proof that Jesus had been raised from the dead. So, he interviewed a variety of scholars in order to collect evidence for the reality of the resurrection. One of the scholars he interviewed was a college professor by the name of Gary Habermas.

Some years ago Habermas engaged in a debate with one of the leading philosophical atheists in the country...a man by the name of Anthony Flew. The topic of their debate: "Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?" The results of the debate were definitely one-sided. Of the five independent philosophers from various colleges and universities who served as judges of the debate's content, four concluded that Habermas won the debate. One called it a draw.

No one cast a ballot for Flew, the atheist. One of the judges said after the debate, "I was surprised (shocked might be the more accurate word) to see how weak Flew's own approach was. I was left with this conclusion: Since the case against the resurrection was no stronger than that presented by Anthony Flew, I would think that it was time I began to take the resurrection seriously."

One other debate judge said: "Habermas does end up providing highly probable evidence for the historicity of the resurrection with no plausible naturalistic evidence against it."

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in Romans 1:3-4: "The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord." The resurrection of Jesus is the greatest event in the history of the world. We should celebrate this life-changing event every day of our lives...not just on Easter Sunday!

In closing, let me say a huge word of thanks to Kris Hutchinson for his faithful volunteer service to RuraLove during the past number of years and his ministry as Co-Director more recently. As most of you know, Kris has been called as the Pastor of Mineral Baptist Church. This exciting new assignment has led to his resignation as Co-Director of RuraLove. We will certainly miss him at RuraLove but will be praying for him in his new role as Pastor. ~ Dee

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## CHURCH NEWS

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**Elk Creekers** are busy in numerous community services big and small, but all important. In February one couple who devoted 15 hours at the food bank; another, and crew, spent 21.5 hours picking up 27 bags of trash (make sure to give a wave of thanks to show appreciation to those volunteers cleaning up the roads). The Elk Creek Band is in need of a drummer. For more info contact Tony Wilson at: [wilsontony540@gmail.com](mailto:wilsontony540@gmail.com)

**First Baptist of Louisa** would like to thank those who attended the legal workshop. They welcome one new member by baptism and one by Christian experience.

**Gordonsville** has set their VBS dates as June 15-20 (9 a.m.-noon) with the theme "Magnified" (Made to Magnify God).

**Hebron WMU** will hold a Silent Auction on Saturday, April 5 with food and preview beginning at 5 p.m. and the auction at 6 p.m. Location: 11000 Hebron Church Road, Spotsylvania. For info contact Brenda Robbins at 540.895.5636.

**Louisa's** Young at Heart group collected items and made 30 Hope Boxes for Hope for Appalachia.

**Mechanicsville** A Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 2-4 p.m. with free food, games, an egg hunt, and more! Maundy Thursday Service is April 17 at 7 p.m. Easter Sunrise Service is April 20 at 7 a.m. with breakfast to follow, 9:30 a.m. worship, then Sunday School. See [www.mechbaptist.org](http://www.mechbaptist.org)

**Mineral** ~ For Upward Sports and service information see [www.mineralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mineralbaptistchurch.org)

**Oakland** (2965 Oakland Church Road, Gum Spring) delivered a load of inventory for Hope for Appalachia to New Salem Baptist

in Culpeper, which is the HFA headquarters. Inventory was also supplied by Perkins Baptist and another church in Powhatan. A truck load of baby equipment was delivered to the Paul Stefan Home in Orange and a large truckload of children's clothes and supplies to RuraLove—which were donated to their Children's Consignment Ministry by their consigners. Oakland's Spring Children's Clothing Consignment Sale is March 27 & 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Sat., March 29 and April 5 from 9 a.m.-noon. Both Saturday sales: all items marked "discount" will sell at half price. [www.oakland-baptist.com](http://www.oakland-baptist.com)

**Orange** will be presenting the musical, *Celebrate Life*, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is a fun, fast-paced retelling of the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection through music and drama. *Celebrate Life* will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

**Rhoadesville**—Don Campbell will be retiring as pastor the end of May with his last Sunday at Rhoadesville being June 2. A Project Linus Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 12 beginning at 8 a.m. to make blankets for children in need.

**Waller's** has started a Morning Adult Bible Study every Wednesday at 11 a.m. You can join by Zoom. Waller's Free Community Meals, every 3rd Wednesday of the month, are a blessing to all. On Sat., April 19 at 11 a.m., the annual Resurrection Egg Hunt will be held beginning with the Resurrection Story in the sanctuary, then the egg hunt & pizza for the kids. The Easter Sunrise Service is April 20 followed by a light breakfast, Sunday School, and traditional 11 a.m. worship service. See the website for Sunrise Service time. [www.wallersbaptist.com](http://www.wallersbaptist.com)

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

# Goshen on



## *Funds for Food Staples*

Part of the 2025 Mission Team to Armenia in July will be working with Armenian Refugees which fled for their lives and left their jobs, homes, and majority of their things behind. Several hundred thousand moved to Sisian, where the Mission Team will be working. Part of the team will be visiting with refugee families and ministering as they discover needs. One way to show Christ's love to them will be to provide some basic food staples as a gift with the hopes of the opportunity to share their faith. If you would like to participate in this project, please send any amount of funds to Goshen Baptist Association, P.O. Box 296, Mineral, VA 23117 with the memo: Armenia Project.

## *2025 Teams Update*

The June 2025 Mission Team to Armenia has been canceled. The July 24-Aug. 4 Mission Team has 14 members, tickets have been purchased, and the team has been meeting monthly. Please pray as they plan and prepare to do God's will.

## *Mission Team Speakers*

If your church or church group would like to have a couple of members from the 2024 Mission Team to Armenia come and speak (plus see a video) and share their stories —please contact the Goshen office at 540.894.8440 and a team member will contact you. Some are available on Sunday mornings and others are available other days to speak.

## *2025 Prayer Partners Needed!*

Please sign up to become a prayer partner for the 2025 Mission Team to Armenia. You will only receive a couple of emails (or paper copy if no email). All you have to do is email [goshenassociation@hughes.net](mailto:goshenassociation@hughes.net) or call 540.894.8440 and leave your name, church, and contact info.

***Please continue to pray for our  
Church Planters in Armenia...  
Pastor Vardan and Pastor Hrach  
depend on our prayers and support!***

# **The Religious Liberty Pathway Project Proposal** *(Condensed)*

**Messengers will be voting on this Proposal at the Goshen Spring Meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

*By John Miller, of the Religious Liberty Pathway Committee*

1. The vision of the Religious Liberty Pathway Project is to turn the Leland-Madison Park into a place where the concept of religious liberty is celebrated. To achieve this, we envision a walkway being created with six signs scattered along the pathway following the process to make religious liberty the law of our country.
2. The loop walkway would begin at the second bridge over the small stream just down from the first bridge that leads to the Leland-Madison tree. The length and design of the loop would be determined by the space needed to adequately tell the story. The trail which now leads to the tree would be considered the end of the walk, but those not interested in the entire walk would still be able to go directly to the tree on that path.
3. A fence or other border would be erected to keep people away from the tree itself and to protect the ground surrounding it from being compacted by foot traffic.
4. The signs would tell the story of how religious liberty became a part of the Constitution....
5. The information on the signs must be accurate and precise...The information presented must be as historically, religiously, and politically unbiased as possible...
6. Included in the signage must be the story of Leland and Madison meeting....
7. Toward the end of the walk, there must be acknowledgement of the problem of religious liberty and slavery....
8. In the belief that there is often more to be told, part of the land at Leland-Madison Park will be reserved for future displays or improvements.

## Car Show & Anniversary

Shady Grove Baptist will host a Car/Motorcycle/Truck Show on Saturday, April 12 (Rain date April 26) from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To enter a vehicle there is a \$20 fee. Contact Jeff Ford at JFord1429@hotmail.com or call 540.395.7769 to register. Prizes will be awarded. Admission to view the vehicles is free. This is a fundraiser benefiting the Building Fund. Church location: 21024 Piney Woods Road, Orange. *Shady Grove will celebrate its 154th anniversary on Sunday, May 4, at 2:30 p.m. Special guests will be Pastor Fred Sales and the Macedonia Baptist Church family of Colonial Beach. Worship ~ 11:15 a.m. Repast ~ about 1 p.m. All are invited.*

## March Birthday Missed

My sincerest apology to Rev. Alan Miller, pastor of Orange Baptist Church. I accidently missed his birthday on the March calendar. Alan's birthday is March 24. Please join me in wishing him a very happy birthday!

*Thank you Jan Campbell for catching my mistake.*

## April

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

|    |                    |                |
|----|--------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Pam Lloyd          | Retired        |
| 4  | Nelson Anniversary | Smyrna         |
| 9  | Jim Stone          | Berea          |
| 10 | Melinda Bowers     | Dogwood        |
| 11 | Kendall Hutchinson | Mineral        |
| 17 | Josh Bowen         | Mountain View  |
| 21 | Gibson Anniversary | Zoar           |
| 22 | Bird Anniversary   | Gordonsville   |
| 23 | Tim Jarrell        | North Pamunkey |

### Events

|       |                                                    |                   |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3     | Minister's Breakfast GMC                           | 8:30 a.m.         |
| 5     | RuraLove Yardsale                                  | 8-12:30           |
| 6     | Goshen Missions Fair                               | 3-5 p.m. GMC      |
| 7     | Goshen Missions Committee                          | 9 a.m. GMC        |
| 7     | Board of Directors Meeting                         | 7 p.m. GMC        |
| 14    | Advisory Council Meeting                           | 7 p.m. GMC        |
| 19    | Mission Stitches                                   | GMC 9 a.m.-2 p.m. |
| 21    | Easter Monday                                      | ~ Office Closed   |
| 25-26 | Mom and Me I                                       | Eagle Eyrie       |
| 26-27 | Mom and Me II                                      | Eagle Eyrie       |
| 29    | Goshen Spring Meeting at Blue Ridge Shores Baptist | 2 p.m.            |
| 29    | Deadline for Candy and Gum Bags                    |                   |

## \*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

Please pray for Rick and Karen Clore (retired) as they recover from an automobile accident on **March 12.**

**Pray for Goshen churches in search of a pastor:** Craigs, Mt. Gilead, Trinity, Wallers & Zoar

## Notice to Churches

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

## 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)

## Goshen News

### Goshen Baptist Association

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Joy Dickens, Ministry Assistant

Rev. Keith Wollenberg, RuraLove Coordinator

Tammy Wood, Editor

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