

# 2001

This is an exciting time for Ringgold Baptist Church.

As you read from the past history submitted by Mrs. Eva Walton, the New Family Life Center was dedicated on Sunday, March 25, 2001, during a service at 3:00 pm. The speaker for the dedication was Rev. Alden Hicks, Mission Resource Consultant for the Virginia Baptist Resource Center, Richmond, VA. Also taking part in the service was Dr. Robert Putt, Associational Ministries Coordinator, and the Rev. Carl E. Burger, the Pastor of Ringgold Baptist. The cost to build and furnish the new addition was \$820,000.

At this time we are busy moving in to our new classrooms (each class trying to decide how to decorate their room). Our Pastor, Rev. Carl Burger, has a beautiful new office and our Secretary, a spacious place to work.

Many meals and events will take place in the new fellowship hall. We give God the praise and the glory for this new addition to our church.

A reception was held the first of this year for Faye Yates and Penny Hudgins. They had been our faithful Custodians for fourteen years. They were recognized in a morning service and a reception in their honor was held after the evening worship service.

A recent report from the Treasurer's Office of the Virginia Baptist Resource Center shows that Ringgold is 3<sup>rd</sup> in mission giving among Pittsylvania Baptist Association churches. We gave a total of \$42,958.27 in 2000. Also recently in the *Religious Herald*, Ringgold was listed 83<sup>rd</sup> in the *Top 100 Churches* in the commonwealth of Virginia in giving to missions.

On February 25, 2001, we gave a special offering toward the purchase of a church building and land to house our Associational Hispanic Ministry.

Our church observed an Ash Wednesday Service which was very interesting.

A reception was given honoring Tracey Ewing for her many years of faithful service and beautiful music. Tracey started playing for the church when she was 12 years old. For about a year she played the organ and she recalls that she had to sit on the edge of the bench in order for her feet to reach the pedals. After that, she became our pianist.

Mrs. Elizabeth Scott was welcomed as our new pianist on September 9.

A new ministry of WMU began. This came about as a suggestion from our Pastor's wife, Susan Burger. The WMU ladies of Ringgold Baptist Church will prepare a meal for the family

of deceased members. This will be done for a family of an active or non-active member. Susan Burger, Janice Fitts and Hazel Newton were selected to serve on the first Food Ministry Committee.

A heartfelt thanks to:

- Tom Clark for constructing a portable lectern to be used in the Family Life Center,
- Gene Morris for donating a fax machine to the church office, and
- Keith and Laura Whitt and the staff of Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home for donating a clock and grill for the FLC.

Again we enjoyed our Annual Brunswick Stew. It is always delicious and throughout the years it has been a great time of fellowship as members come together with vegetables from their gardens and prepare them for the Stew. A big “Thank You” to Marvin McDowell and his sons, Ray and Mac, for preparing this stew each year.

The Christmas Mailbox is in place once again for us to place our church family Christmas Cards in. This has been sponsored by the Ruth/T.E.L. Sunday School class for many years and has become an annual event. The postage for the cards goes to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The beautiful Christmas cantata, *The Journey of Hope*, was presented by our choir under the direction of Kathy Andrews.

Christmas Eve is a very special and meaningful time for our church family when we come together for the beautiful and inspirational Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

This year we had 3 baptisms and 6 additions by letter.

## 2002

Two of our young men, Denton Ireson and Edward Whitlow were ordained as Deacons in the first of our new year. In February, Denton Ireson was the speaker for Baptist Men’s Day. The day began with a breakfast cooked and served by the men.

A request was made of the Church asking if some would like to help with the purchase of furniture for the vestibule. One could give in memory of someone or just as a gift to RBC.

Our Church family helped with the collection of packs of seeds for the country of Liberia. With the joint efforts of many, we collected 305 packs for the project.

Missions is very important to our Church family. RBC has been recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state of Virginia with an offering total of \$22,423.32 for the year.

“Sweet Land of Liberty” was a cantata performed by our choir at RBC jointly with the choir of Kentuck Baptist Church. Don Merricks, Director of Music at Kentuck, led the group. The program was very patriotic and well attended.

The Church year ended with 6 new members by baptism and 3 by letter.

## 2003

The service of ordination was observed for Chester Holland Sneed, Jr. He would serve on the Deacon board for 3 years.

RBC has always been blessed with a very talented Choir. To show our appreciation for their faithfulness and hard work, a reception was held to honor them. It was attended by the Church family and many expressed their gratitude for the gift of music they have presented over the years.

New choir robes were given in loving memory of Elward and Patty Neal by their son, Calvin and his wife, Jean. His parents were faithful choir members for many years.

The Easter cantata presented this year was “Jesus Christ Is Lord.” It was a great celebration of worship and praise.

In order to better meet the needs of people outside the Church family, the RBC Benevolence Committee made the following guidelines for giving assistance. Those applying must live within a 5-mile radius of the Church. Also, an application would need to be filled out for the Committee to review. A decision to assist or deny would then be given.

A Finance Committee was established to allow more time for the Deacons to do a family ministry.

In July, our Church Secretary, Sharon Brown, gave a letter of resignation. Karen Law was then welcomed as her replacement.

One of our favorite annual events is the Ice Cream Supper we have as the summer months come to a close. It makes for another great time of fellowship and we have some good “ice cream makers” because RBC loves ice cream!

An open forum was called to discuss changing the By-Laws to allow fundraising. RBC has always found the membership to be most generous when groups had special needs. This was a well-attended meeting with a lot of interest. This proposal to make a change brought out the point that we would not be depending on God to look after our needs, but money-making projects. After much discussion, the decision was made to have fundraising.

Because of the generous gifts of some, a much-needed, updated computer, printer, and ACS software were purchased for the church office.

A member of our Church family, Nancy Adams, was given the position of Youth Director. In helping to raise funds, they presented a dinner theater. The play was “The Case of the Mysterious Benefactor.” What a great evening it was, with a delicious meal and then, great humor and entertainment.

In the fall our Harvest Renewal Service was led by Rev. Don Davidson, Pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church.

For Christmas, our Choir presented the cantata, “Festival of Lights.” Their music always helps in preparing our hearts for the celebration of Jesus’ birth.

We had 2 additions to our Church by baptism this year.

## 2004

Starting January 1, the Church Secretary will be doing all the financial records on the church computer.

Keister Whitt III was ordained as a Deacon on February 1.

In September, David Foster was welcomed as our new Sunday School Director. He immediately began monthly meetings of the Sunday School teachers.

The Harvest Festival Revival was held November 7 – 10 with the Rev. James D. Newman.

This year we had 3 baptisms.

## 2005

The year of 2005 began with the ordination of Roger Allen Ruis, Jr. Baptist Men's Day was observed with Bobby Scearce being our morning speaker.

A first for us was a Community Gospel Sing. Other churches participating were Kentuck and Mount Tabor. The service was at RBC.

A proposal was made by Paula Ruis and accepted that a Young Couples' Class be formed. It would come to be known as the New Friends Class.

In April, our Pastor of 16 years, Rev. Carl E. Burger, presented a letter of resignation. It was a sad day for this Church. At the same time we were thankful that the Lord had blessed us in such a marvelous way. Not only had he been a dedicated Pastor, but his wife, Susan, had also contributed to the ministry.

In his letter of resignation he stated that he would be entering a new season of life, commonly known as "retirement." But even though he would be retiring from the pastorate, he would not be retiring from the ministry.

His last Sunday was August 7, 2005. The Church honored them with a reception that afternoon. It was well-attended by so many, not only from the Church, but also others in the Association. As an expression of appreciation, RBC gave Rev. Burger a bookcase.

A Pastor Search Committee was elected. Betty Jo Foster served as Chairperson. Others appointed were Steve Adkins, Jackie Anderson, Eddie Dodson (Vice-Chair), Dianne Donahoe, Nancy Snead (Secretary), and Sammy Tucker.

To honor his parents, Howard and Virginia Whitlow, H. F. and Jo Ann Whitlow gave a silver service to the Church. It would be used by the Church family on special occasions. Items donated for our use are as follows:

4 round silver trays

8 silver spreaders

8 silver bowls

1 silver candelabra with floral attachable bowl

A small engraved tray from the set is on display in the secretary outside the Secretary's Office in the Family Life Center.

In August, Rod Hale and John Tadlock were invited by the Pastor Search Committee and the Deacons to speak to our congregation. They would present the plans for the Intentional Interim Program. Mr. Hale works for the Baptist General Association helping churches in the region with Pastor Search Committees. Mr. Tadlock oversees the Intentional Interim Program.

It was through the sizable donation of someone that the Church was able to purchase a much-needed copy machine.

In October, RBC observed a Baptist Women's Day. Betty Jo Foster spoke on "The Virtuous Woman" using Proverbs 31 as her scripture. Jackie Anderson gave a talk honoring Eva M. Walton, a truly virtuous woman who has served our Church for many years. Mrs. Walton was very surprised about this honor and that her family was in attendance.

For our Fall Revival Rev. John Groff, a former pastor, was our invited speaker. Each night a different Sunday School class was host to a covered-dish dinner before the service. It was a time of great food, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

It was also in October that RBC was the host for the 217<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Meeting for the Association.

The idea of having a "Family Fall Festival" originated during a Sunday School Workers Meeting. It would serve as a strong outreach to the families of not only our Church, but also the community.

On December 14, 2005, our Pastor Search Committee Chairperson, Betty Jo Foster, at a called business meeting made a motion to call Rev. David Burgess to lead us in the Intentional Interim Program. The vote was taken by secret ballot and the motion was passed.

Our Church year ended with the welcoming of 9 by baptism and 6 by letter into our Church family.

## 2006

Steven Todd Adkins was ordained as a Deacon on January 29.

We had a farewell luncheon for the Rev. Larry Farrell on Sunday, February 12. This was his last Sunday with us as a pulpit supply minister. Rev. Farrell had served us well.

On February 19, Rev. David Burgess joined us as our Intentional Interim Pastor. He and his wife Shirley were welcomed with a covered dish luncheon after the morning worship service. It would be a very busy time for the church as we started the Intentional Interim Program.

A Church Council meeting was held on March 5 to discuss the duties and goals of the all the committees.

On March 26, nominations for the Transition Team were made. Those elected to serve were: Susan Wilkerson, Jackie Anderson, Michael Shelton, Monica Sellers, Steve Adkins, Nancy Adams, Ronnie Emerson, Allen Ruis and Terri Motley.

At a called Business Meeting on May 21, a Counting Committee consisting of 12 members with a rotating schedule was established. Also 2 signatures would be needed on all checks.

Also at this meeting there was a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to purchase five 60" round tables and 40 chairs at a total cost of \$3,287.30, and to remove 6 trees from the front lawn to make more parking space.

These recommendations were passed; however, in a Business Meeting that was held on June 14, the recommendation of removing the trees was brought to the floor again in old business.

Jackie Anderson had visited Mrs. Eva Walton sometime after the other Business Meeting and Mrs. Walton met her at the door voicing her deep concerns about removing the trees. She thought the trees added a lot of beauty and serenity to the church and she said no other church around had trees.

When Jackie told about Mrs. Walton's concerns, David Foster got up and said if Mrs. Walton didn't want the trees removed, he didn't think we should do it. A motion was made immediately by Steve Adkins and a second by Brian Horne to rescind the original vote. The trees are still standing on our front lawn, and we have to admit they do add a lot of beauty.

Debbie Dixon was welcomed as our new Youth Director on June 7.

On June 11 we started recognizing the Sunday School classes. David Foster, our Sunday School Director, came up with the idea in hopes that it would create interest from those that were in our congregation, but not attending Sunday School. Before the morning worship service, a class member would give a brief description of their class, and this was done each Sunday until all classes had been represented. It was interesting to hear the many functions of our Sunday School.

Justin Barker did a playground project at the back of the church for his Eagle Scout Award. This project was completed in June. We congratulate Justin and thank him for this project.

Also, the baptistery pool was repainted. Thank you Sonny Wilkerson.

On July 2, there was a called Business Meeting from the Building and Grounds Committee with a recommendation to repair the choir loft and the permanent extension to the pulpit at a cost of \$6,553.80. It was approved.

The Transition Team would be meeting every Monday night beginning July 17.

On July 30, surveys were sent out to members of the church designed to help the church determine their likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses. After the surveys were completed, they could be placed in a ballot box in the Family Life Center or brought to a "listening session"

conducted by the Transition Team. People would also have the option of meeting with 2 members of the Team on a one-on-one basis to discuss their comments and suggestions.

In July, the Transition Team began looking for history on the church in pictures (old and new), newspaper articles, special events, and also pictures of loved ones you would like to remember.

This History Celebration came together on Sunday, September 31. It was a day of reflection, rediscovery, reunion, and refreshment of our church history. The walls along the Family Life Center were filled with our history. Also, people were most generous with memorabilia, pictures of loved ones, and special events that were made into a video and shown in the Family Life Center. In the Family Life Center foyer, another special video was being shown continuously of an interview with four very special members of Ringgold Baptist Church. Christine Wilkerson, Claire Wilson, Eva Walton, and Bernice Clark met one afternoon and shared wonderful stories they recalled from times past. They told of “heated” business meetings, special projects of the WMU, powerful revivals, and even some humorous stories about the Sunbeams (children’s group). Jackie Anderson was on hand to ask a question or two and Donna Favero did the video. It was inspiring because it made us realize just how faithful and dedicated our forefathers (and mothers) were to the growth of Ringgold Baptist Church. This History Celebration was truly enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Transition Team for the many hours that were put into this project.

On Saturday, October 1, Town Hall Meetings were started to decide the church’s vision and mission.

A Revival was held on October 22 - 26 with Glenn Bohannon on Monday and Tuesday, Jim White on Wednesday, and Cliff Hudgins on Thursday.

We hosted the Associational Minister’s Meeting on November 14.

On November 29, P.U.S.H. – “Pray Until Something Happens” was started and would meet every Wednesday night. A Prayer Journal would be placed in the secretary by the Church Secretary’s Office for the church family to write prayer requests.

On December 31, Violet Barker started teaching the New Converts Class. This was a Bible study time that would last around 9 weeks.

This year there were 2 baptisms and 8 additions by letter.

## 2007

The Church Council met on February 10 for yearly planning. All committee chairpersons were asked to attend.

To help with the ministry of the church, four teams were formed in February. The teams were: Visitation, Outreach, Handyman and Bereavement.

February 28 was the last day as Youth Director for Debbie Dixon.

A training session was held for the Counting Committee on April 15.

On May 20, it was decided that anyone who wanted to use the Family Life Center (member or non-member) must fill out a request form and submit it to the church office.

There was a special called Business Meeting on June 3 to vote on a new Youth Director, Katie Gaffner.

In July, the Casserole Team was formed in order to have an ongoing supply of food for sickness, family crisis, etc.

Leslie Nicomede was welcomed as our new pianist. Her first Sunday with us was July 29.

We observed Ringgold Volunteer Fire Department Appreciation Day with a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship service on August 5.

Sunday, August 12 was the last day for Rev. David Burgess as our Intentional Interim Pastor. A barbeque luncheon was served after the worship service.

At a Business Meeting on October 10, Doug Motley with the Building and Grounds Committee made a recommendation that the outside doors on the Family Life Center be replaced with glass doors at a cost of \$2,681. The second recommendation was a maintenance proposal in the amount of \$4,350 to make exterior and interior repairs to the parsonage. Both recommendations were passed.

On October 28, the church voted to call Dr. Steve Ellis as our full-time Pastor. This was done by secret ballot at the end of the worship service in a called Business Meeting. Dr. Ellis was welcomed to our pulpit on November 18. He came to us from the Westview Baptist Church in Shelby, North Carolina. Prior to this he lived most of his life (growing up and preaching) in Kentucky. He and his wife Jean have three children – Seth, Aaron and Devon Hope. A reception was held for the Ellis family on November 25.

Matt Foster has a deep concern and compassion for people and this year, he decided to start an annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The church family really rallied behind him in providing and preparing the food, supplying transportation, and making gift bags for each person attending. Also, they would have access to our Clothes Closet. This is an outreach for people that do not have family, for those who would not be able to have a Thanksgiving meal, truck drivers that may be coming through (fliers are placed at truck stops) and also meals are carried to dispatchers that are on duty for the day. Any leftovers are carried to the homeless shelter, Salvation Army, etc. We commend and thank Matt for the project.

On December 12, the church voted to give a 2-week paid vacation to all Church Staff after 48 months.

This year there were 8 baptisms and 5 additions by letter.

## 2008

On February 10, Billy DeMott and Brian Horne were ordained as Deacons.

In a Business Meeting on February 13, the church voted to glaze the sanctuary stained glass windows at a cost of \$13,150 with a 10-year warranty.

This year for the first time after our Sunrise Service, breakfast was served in the Family Life Center. This will become an annual event.

On April 9, Dianne Donahoe with the Building and Grounds Committee thanked Frank Horne and Bobby Gene Atkinson for putting the pull-down screen in the Family Life Center. It was also noted that a \$5,000 donation had been given to help with the glazing of the windows.

Dr. Ellis started teaching the Bible Study – *The Seven Churches of Revelation* on Wednesday night, April 13.

The church voted on May 14 to purchase a new Roland organ and accessories. The church already had the funds to make this purchase. Ginger Collie has served faithfully as our organist for many years.

Our Youth began a Paintball Ministry.

We had a *Miracle in May* service. This was when Dr. Ellis challenged all church members to be in attendance for worship on Sunday, May 18. Our attendance was 288.

On June 11, a utility building was approved for the parsonage with a cost of between \$2,500 – \$3,500. Also, new countertops had been installed in the parsonage.

The Youth (24 students and adults) went on a Mission Trip called *Impact Virginia*. Their destination was Bluefield, Virginia.

Tyler Motley presented a request to the church on July 8 to help finance the building of a Prayer Garden between the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center. This was an Eagle Scout project.

On August 10, Dr. Ellis told us to “put on our thinking caps” for ideas for a Christmas Parade float. The theme – *Enchanted Christmas*.

Karen Law’s last day as our Church Financial Secretary was Wednesday, August 13.

A revision of the Church Roll was completed.

Titles of “Music Director” and “Youth Director” were changed to “Minister of Music” and “Minister to Youth”.

Dr. Ellis presented a new logo for Ringgold Baptist Church:



On August 24, in a called Business Meeting, the church voted to purchase +/- 2 acres of land located beside the church from the Harold Terry family for \$7,500.

In September, Dr. Ellis introduced us to *September to Remember*. During the month of September he preached sermons using object lessons and illustrations that really made you remember. It was a time of fun things and enjoyment. A huge, inflatable whale (55’ long) was constructed in the Family Life Center and moved to the front lawn of the church that certainly made passers-by take notice. That Sunday, Dr. Ellis’ sermon was *Big Fish* from Jonah 4:1-11. We also enjoyed 3 concerts during the month.

Our fall revival was held October 5 – 8 with evangelist Rev. Steve Mayle from Watertown, TN. He was a dynamic speaker and the revival was well attended.

On October 8, Jo Ann Holley was hired as our new Church Financial Secretary.

In the month of November, the Youth put an invitation to Ringgold Baptist Church services on 340+ pumpkins and placed them in a wagon in the front of the church. People passing by could stop and get a free pumpkin.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, we received this letter:

*You've touched my life in ways you may not even be aware of. Thank you so much for your ministry to truck drivers on Thanksgiving Day! My husband was disappointed at being away for the holiday. He called - crying – he was so touched by your thoughtful gift of care and food. Plus – it was delicious!*

*Thank you again, your kindness has meant so much.*

*Don and Danita Everett*

*Tony, Wisconsin*

On November 30, Dr. Ellis gave the *State of the Union* for our church.

Where have we been?

Where are we now?

Where are we going?

Jo Ann Holley resigned her position as Church Financial Secretary on December 22. Laura Davis would become our interim Church Financial Secretary.

This year there were 5 baptisms and 15 additions by letter.

## 2009

At the beginning of this year Lawrence Gilbert, Jr. was ordained as a Deacon.

There was a called Business Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, to consider a proposal to install a new sound system in the Sanctuary. The total contract price for the sound system was \$26,794. Funds were already available for the project. It was approved.

On February 14, the Youth hosted a *Senior Valentine Dinner*.

Keith Barker introduced the *G.R.O.W. (God Rewards Our Work) Ministry* to us on March 9. Two sessions were held in March to explain what *G.R.O.W.* was all about and to get members to sign up to be on the teams. It is an outreach ministry that is done by sending cards,

and letters, and making visits and phone calls. We thank and commend Keith for this tremendous outreach project.

A beautiful Easter cantata *May We Never Lose the Wonder* was presented by the combined choirs of Kentuck Baptist and Ringgold Baptist at the Kentuck Baptist Church on March 29 at 6 pm.

Also on April 9, we were invited to Kentuck Baptist Church for *Joining Hands –Joining Hearts*. There were missionary speakers from Ireland and Mexico and also speakers in other areas of missions.

In a Business Meeting on April 15, Paula Ruis made a motion to name the Prayer Garden, *The Eva Walton Memorial Prayer Garden*. The motion carried.

Laura Davis was hired as our Church Financial Secretary on May 3 in a called Business Meeting.

May 4 was the starting date for the *G.R.O.W. Ministry*. It was divided up into 4 teams that would meet each month on the first Monday, second Monday, third Tuesday, and Fourth Thursday at 7p.m. Each team would have team leaders.

A Children's Choir (preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) was started on May 10 by Kim Dodson, Leslie Kendrick, and Ginger Collie.

On May 31, Tyler Chase Motley received the rank of Eagle Scout in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Following the ceremony and light refreshments at 3 pm, there was a dedication of the *Eva Walton Memorial Prayer Garden* at 4 pm. We congratulate Tyler and thank him for the beautiful Prayer Garden.

In a Business Meeting on June 9, Ray McDowell from the Building and Grounds Committee made a motion and it was approved to reseal and restripe the parking lot at a cost of \$5,400.

Dr. Ellis and his wife Jean attended the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on June 21 – 23.

On August 12, Katie Gaffner stated that the Youth Missions Trip to Charleston, South Carolina, was a huge success.

Adam Touchstone was hired as Minister to Children on August 30.

John Foster was elected as a Trustee to replace Denton Watson. Mr. Watson had been a faithful Trustee for many years.

On October 14, Sandra Dodson resigned her position as Treasurer after faithfully serving for 13 years.

Ryan Barker's project for his Eagle Scout award was the creation of the Clothes Closet area in the basement of the church. We congratulate Ryan and thank him for this project.

This year we had the formation of the first Praise Team.

The Acteens, under the leadership of Tammy Anderson and Susan Pritchard, were reorganized and have become quite active.

Also, Boy Scout Troop #357 was formed.

A steeple that had added so much beauty to our church when it was purchased in the spring of 1988, received a good pressure cleaning.

Our Nursery grew by leaps and bounds this year. There were 7 babies born into the church family.

On December 9, our church had its 2<sup>nd</sup> float in the annual Christmas Parade.

Sunday, December 13, the Ellis family hosted a Christmas Open House at the parsonage. It was so enjoyable, and we thank them for having us in their home.

The Adult Choir and **R.A.G.S. (Ringgold Actors in God's Service)** presented the beautiful cantata, ***A Baby Changes Everything*** on Sunday morning, December 20.

In the evening service, the Children's Choir gave an outstanding performance of ***Once Upon a Night***.

This year, Dr. Ellis challenged the members to read through the entire Bible. Many responded, receiving a blessing from God and a gift from the church.

This year we had 9 baptisms and 17 additions by letter. It might be noted that the additions in 2009 were more than any other year in the past 32.

## 2010

As the New Year of 2010 began, Dr. Ellis declared it as the “Year of the Family.”

We were all challenged to be more vigilant in reading God’s Word. Dr. Ellis provided a daily plan to read the Bible through. His plan would assist each of us in making this a personal reality.

Another “first” for the church family was the “Golden Calf Chili Cooking Contest.” There were lots of entries and the tasting could be described as somewhat mild to hot, hot, hot! Brian and Cheryl Horne were awarded the “Golden Calf” first place trophy.

Mary Adams invited the church family to a spaghetti luncheon to be served on February 14. It would be a fundraiser to help with her expenses for a medical mission trip to Jamaica. It was a great meal and those in attendance gave generously to her cause.

Beginning Feb. 17, we were given the option of choosing from three Bible studies for the Wednesday night service. The choices were Beth Moore’s A Woman’s Heart, led by Jean Ellis; In the Dust of the Rabbi with Dr. Steve Ellis; and Spiritual Outdoor Adventure with Steve Adkins and Michael Gaffner. Attendance was good for all three studies.

March 12 - 14 was the date for our “Spring Thaw Revival.” The invited speaker was Rev. Micheal Pardue. Special music each evening was provided by Aaron Stewart, Lee and Tracey Ewing, and Brandon Neal.

A new church directory was made. It was nice to have an updated list of members, their addresses, and phone numbers.

A new website with an on-line version of the church newsletter, “The Reflector,” was set up. It was a great way to make available our church information and activities to not only church family but to anyone.

On April 1, Dr. Ellis planned a traditional Passover Seder Meal to be held on Maundy Thursday. It would be a new experience for us and we were excited about the service. To be sure there would be enough seating, reservations were expected by all who would attend. Under Dr. Ellis’ direction, we were led through the meal, giving meaning to each dish plus the preparation required. For the many who attended, it left a lasting memory.

On the weekend of April 24 - 25, we were the host for a reunion of “Horizon.” They are a group of four friends that started singing together back in 1987. Our pastor, Dr. Ellis, was a part of this musical group that spanned seven years and produced two albums, dozens of original songs, and church and concert appearances in over a hundred locations spread across three states. Since they had been apart for fifteen years, our church was so blessed to have them. We enjoyed a concert on Saturday night and again on Sunday morning. It was a very spiritual time featuring uplifting music with wonderful harmony.

Katie Gaffner, our Minister to Youth, said, “We so often assume that the only thing a minister can do is preach.” This weekend, as Horizon came together, we caught a glimpse of a new side of our Dr. Ellis, the musician and song writer. And as a great addition, the entire Ellis family joined the group...each one playing instruments. We all agreed, they are a very talented family!

On May 8, the youth gave a luncheon for all mothers and their daughters. This event was to honor the mothers for Mothers’ Day. Approximately thirty people attended.

Dr. Ellis shared with us that the month of May was a very special time for him. May 5 marked his fortieth year as a Christian. And on May 12, 1985, he publicly surrendered to the call of full-time ministry.

Our youth presented a dinner theater play, “Who Done Stole the Bride.” It was held for two nights, May 21 & 22. They raised about \$1,600 for the upcoming mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee. It was a delightful evening of great food and lots of laughter.

On June 9, Suzanne Emerson was asked to serve as WMU Director and Nancy Adams was asked to continue as the Sunday School Director.

Following the morning worship service on June 20, a circle of farewell prayers were made on behalf of our youth. The youth were leaving on their mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee. Their week-long stay kept them busy with helping to restore a lady's house that had been damaged by the flood. They also met with other youth groups for fellowship and worship during their trip.

Our J.O.Y. Club (Just Older Youth) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 22. The first organizational meeting under the guidance of Susan Burger was held May 23, 1990. The first meeting was on June 27, 1990, with sixteen charter members. They now have a total of forty-six members.

President Marjorie Morris planned an enjoyable program for the anniversary. Candles were lit in memory of sixteen deceased members who had died over the last ten years.

Mrs. Christine Wilkerson, age ninety-five, the oldest and only active charter member was present. The highlight of the day was in recognition of Mrs. Wilkerson who had been such a faithful and dedicated member. She was always a big supporter of the J.O.Y. Club and had served as secretary for thirteen years.

In recognition of the importance of this day, flowers were placed in the church sanctuary on the following Sunday morning. A dogwood tree was later planted on the side of the church near the prayer garden.

Over the years, the J.O.Y. Club has enjoyed lots of good food, fellowship, fun bus tours, and doing many deeds of kindness for others, especially their senior friends.

The Building and Grounds Committee called for additional volunteers to assist in giving our church a spring cleaning. We not only gave attention to the church, but also to the grounds. Dr. Ellis gave a big praise of "well done" when all was completed.

July 4 was celebrated with a patriotic cantata by our adult choir who did a great job in their presentation. The sanctuary was decorated in red, white, and blue . . . thanks to Suzanne

and Ronnie Emerson. “God Bless the U.S.A.” brought the congregation to their feet with thanks and pride in our country!

Gene Morris was elected as a trustee to replace Bobby Searce who had served faithfully for many years.

The Acteens, under the leadership of Tammy Anderson and Susan Pritchard, asked everyone to share their favorite recipes. Their goal was to put together a cookbook that would share our “great RBC cook recipes” and help the Acteens raise money for certain projects they had planned. The book would be called “Heavenly Delights” and would be dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Eva M. Walton.

The Vacation Bible School theme this year was “Saddle Ridge Ranch.” To make things more authentic, they needed a covered wagon. Kathy Andrews expressed her appreciation to the following people who made this possible: Bobby Wilkerson, Wilma & Hump Newton, Paula & Allen Ruis, and Kenneth Holly. The wagon gave a “finishing touch” to the western décor.

Ringgold Actors for God (R.A.G.S.) were called to reorganize. Led by Kathy Andrews, they would again bring skits or give readings as an emphasis and added expression of faith to the worship hour.

On August 11, Keith Barker spoke on behalf of the G.R.O.W. Team. He shared that in the past sixteen months, the team had sent 2,075 cards, 332 letters, made 249 visits, and 581 phone calls. On many occasions when visits were made, food was provided by the Casserole Committee. Keith expressed thanks for all who had helped to support the team.

The Eva Walton Circle presented the idea of planning some type of event that would introduce all the ministries that Ringgold Baptist Church offered. Under the very capable direction of Tammy Anderson and Susan Pritchard, the “Hands and Feet Ministry Fair” was created. All circles, as well as Sunday School classes plus other departments, were asked to participate.

On Sunday afternoon the Family Life Center was opened to not only our church family but also prospective members. As one made their way around the room, you visited displays set up by each Circle, some Sunday School classes, Children’s Ministry, Music Department, Joy

Club, and the G.R.O.W. team. Each group had members present to tell of their ministry and pass out light refreshments and literature. It was well attended and very informative. This was also a time to view the renovation of the children's wing of the church.

On Sunday, September 5, Dr. Ellis began having two morning worship services. The 8:30 a.m. service would be called "Straight Up Worship." The second service was held at the regular time, 10:30 a.m. This was being done on a trial basis for one month. On October 11, we converted back to our regular schedule.

A Youth/Children's Guidance Committee was appointed. The committee would consist of at least four members and would function to provide support and guidance to this ministry. The committee would also work with the Minister to Youth and the Minister to Children in implementing and organizing activities for these groups.

The Pittsylvania Baptist Association asked that the member churches participate in a Pulpit Exchange Day on October 17. Rev. Rick Markham from Calvary Baptist on Edgewood Drive in Danville, Virginia, was our speaker. Dr. Ellis spoke at Mill Creek Baptist Church in Chatham, Virginia.

Again this year, RBC held the October Fall Festival. It was a great success! A lot of prospective names were collected for follow-up contacts. The number in attendance was about four hundred.

On November 7, we had an "Old Time Religion Day." Everyone was asked to participate by wearing vintage clothing from the past. It was a great time of fellowship as we went down "memory lane."

It was also in November that we were chosen as the host church for the Pittsylvania Baptist Association's annual fall meeting. This is our sixth time in one hundred thirty-four years of the church's history to serve as host. Great effort was given by many, not only by the Building and Grounds Committee, but also by members of the Social Committee. They offered a very well-planned meal including all the trimmings. Our guests were most gracious with their compliments. Dr. Ellis was truly grateful to all who made it such a huge success.

As our church year came to an end, Dr. Ellis presented his “State of the Union Address.” This report gives us a summary of the year via a power point presentation. We had the opportunity to see both our growths and our short falls. The report was first given in 2008.

Our church year ended with six baptisms. Five people transferred into RBC by letter.

## 2011

Brandon Neal, a very talented musician and grandson of Calvin and Jean Neal, joined us for the morning worship service on January 20. In conjunction with his visit, the Eva Walton WMU Circle hosted a luncheon in the Family Life Center directly after the service. This luncheon was held to help raise funds for Brandon and his family as they prepared for the relocation to Bonaire in the Caribbean Netherlands and for their missionary work with Trans World Radio.

Also on February 20, the “Festival of Tables” was a beautiful sight to behold! Donations of \$1,890.00 were received to support Brandon Neal and his family on their mission trip. A luncheon of spaghetti, salad, and dessert was served.

The air conditioner for the Family Life Center kitchen had to be replaced at a cost of \$2,938.00.

We enjoyed the second “Golden Calf Chili Cook-Off” on March 5 with Jeannie Adkins taking the first place prize this year . . . the “Golden Calf” trophy.

Dr. Steve Ellis and his wife, Jean, went on ten-day tour of Israel. On Sunday night, March 13, they shared the highlights of their trip with us via video and personal accounts. It was extremely interesting and a blessing for those in attendance!

On March 20, we had “Wildcat Sunday.” To honor the Dan River High School basketball team and their coach, Jacob Gruse, for having a very successful season, our Social Committee prepared a delicious breakfast for them. It was enjoyed by all who attended. The team members

and some of their families attended our worship service. Dr. Ellis' sermon made references to sports and playing on a team.

This was also the last day (March 20) for Adam Touchstone to continue as our Minister to Children. Adam had led the children in many Bible studies and activities during his time at RBC. He named the group "Clubhouse Kids." Also, the children's wing was renovated while Adam was here. Many members of our congregation helped with this project. We will always remember Adam and his big smile.

On March 27, the Acteens sponsored "Make, Bake, and Partake." Folks prepared recipes from the Acteen's successful cookbook, Heavenly Delights. This was a fundraising meal to help them with upcoming projects.

Serving in the role of chairman for the Constitution Committee, Doug Motley, presented to the church the revised Constitution on April 13. It was noted that for the most part changes were made for ease of reading and grammatical corrections. This revision was the result of many meetings and a lot of hard work from the committee on behalf of our church.

This year on Friday, April 22, Dr. Ellis added a Community Good Friday Service. It was well received. Many churches in our area participated.

A spring revival was held on May 1 - 5 with Rev. Steve Mayle from Watertown, Tennessee. All services were well attended and people were blessed through God's Word.

On May 22, a farewell reception was held for Katie Gaffner, our Minister to Youth. Her resignation would be effective as of June 5. Katie was very talented and energetic. She did an extraordinary job with our youth! There is one thing for sure and certain, members of our congregation will never forget her candy cane fundraiser. We will truly miss Katie, her husband, Michael, and all of the little Gaffners.

Dr. Ellis began teaching a Bible study series on the book of Revelation on Wednesday, June 1.

On June 20 - 25, our youth and chaperones went on a "Power Plant" mission trip to Atlanta, Georgia.

Nancy Adams, our Sunday School director, planned a contest between our Sunday School classes. The three classes with the highest percent of attendance would receive free tickets to “Spirit Night” at the Danville Braves game on July 8. A hotdog supper was provided at the Family Life Center before the game. It turned out to be a very fun night of relaxation and fellowship.

The vacation Bible School theme for this year was, “Big Apple Adventure.”

On July 24, Aaron Evans was hired as our new Minister to Youth. We welcomed him and his wife, Joy, as they came to lead the youth of our church.

The Acteens announced a huge success with the sale of their church cookbook, Heavenly Delights. They collected orders for the second printing.

In August, the heating/cooling system affecting the nursery, choir room, and basement area was replaced with a heat pump. The job was priced at \$4,658.72.

Saturday, October 8, was a very special day in the life and mission service of the Pittsylvania Baptist Association. It was on this day that we engaged in “Operation In-As-Much.” This project had been in the making for over a year.

The Association Ministries coordinator stated that someone once said, “You can get a lot accomplished if you don’t worry about who gets the credit.” However, he wanted to give well-deserved thanks to the Tag Team and Cluster Leaders that had worked so hard on the project. The churches in the Association were divided into clusters, each cluster having a leader. Dr. Ellis was the cluster leader of the churches in our area.

“Operation In-As-Much” was a great success. Over 1,700 Pittsylvania Baptists (all wearing red t-shirts to identify them as workers in the program) engaged their community in acts of service. Over 140 projects were attempted . . . some large, some small, but all important to the people being served. A home roof was replaced, porches were repaired, and windows and storm doors were replaced. The project was funded through a \$4,856.00 special offering by participating churches plus a \$ 10,000.00 grant from the Danville Regional Foundation.

At Ringgold Baptist, Dr. Ellis appointed Suzanne Emerson and Steve Adkins to be Cluster Representatives and they in turn did an amazing job of planning and organizing.

RBC had 96 people of all ages to participate. Suzanne Emerson said, “The weather was beautiful, but the spirit of giving and receiving was even more beautiful throughout the day.”

“Operation In-As-Much” activities at Ringgold Baptist Church were as follows:

- The Food Ministry at Piggly Wiggly and Food Lion yielded 1,869 pounds of canned food and cash donations of \$214.32 for God’s Store House.
- Approximately 300 pounds of pet food and treats were delivered to the Humane Society.
- 380 notes were written to the Virginia National Guard soldiers presently serving in Afghanistan. These were written by the R.B.C. Scout Troop 372 (Steve Adkins, Scout Master). Their table was set up at the River Festival in Danville.
- 19 of our men and women worked at the playground of Kentuck Elementary School spreading mulch under the playground equipment, scraping and painting the swing sets and slides, painting two sets of bleachers, removing old crossties, trimming trees, clearing a fence line, planting a flower garden, raking, weed eating, and moving dirt.
- Dozens and dozens of cookies were baked, bagged, and delivered to shut-ins at home and in health-care facilities in the Danville area.
- The Danville Cancer Association received over 50 chemo-hats that had been crocheted.
- 1,600 pounds of paper were shredded, designated as the Community Shred Day
- Visitors at R.B.C. visited our “Clothes Closet.”
- The Laundromat and carwash ministry at Cain Creek blessed many with free services, and witnessing opportunities occurred.
- Approximately 85 delicious bag lunches were prepared at Ringgold Baptist Church.

and delivered to the workers on site.

Putting “hands and feet” to work in our community showing God’s love was the essence of the idea behind this project. All the workers received a blessing by witnessing and helping others. A second “Operation In-As-Much” is planned for 2013.

On Sunday night, October 9, members of the church went as a group to see the movie, “Courageous” at the Danville Stadium. Approximately 25 from our church attended. Later, Steve Adkins taught the “Courageous Bible Study” on Sunday evenings.

Dr. Ellis taught a class for new members from September 11 - October 23. He entitled it, “Ringgold 101.” It was for children and their parents. He had approximately eight children enrolled. The subject matter consisted of the following titles:

- “What it means to be a Christian.”
- “What it means to be a Baptist.”
- “What it means to be a member of Ringgold.”
- “Using your talents and abilities for Him.”

Once again, we were so privileged and excited to have the remarkably talented Larry Reynolds and Roger West join the “Ellis Family Band” for Horizon Reunion II on Saturday night and Sunday morning (November 5 and 6). This year, Mr. Jim Pool, a very talented bass singer, was able to be part of the special get-together. We were truly blessed by their testimonies and beautiful music.

A very special November event, our annual Thanksgiving Meal that has been held for the past four years, was again offered. The tables were decorated and set with our finest china. Under Matt Foster’s leadership, the church members are asked to help with donations of turkey, dressing, vegetables, and desserts. Lucy Adkins has been a tremendous help to Matt in every way. Lucy has a great talent for planning and preparing meals.

Hazel Newton, from the very beginning, has prepared gift bags for the guests, along with help from Ellen DeMott and Lucy Adkins. Also, Sunday School classes and individuals in the church have been most generous with their donations. This year Hazel and the recipients were really blessed when Jeannie Adkins donated 100 stocking caps and 100 scarves that she had knitted and crocheted during the summer, even doing it on vacation.

Hazel is also a great seamstress so she even makes the bags with remnants that are given to her from upholstery shops, etc.

Many of those who attend the dinner struggle economically and enjoy selecting items from our clothes closet. Matt and his mother, Diane, spent lots of time getting the clothes closet in order for this event.

Many volunteers of all ages show up each year to help with transportation, cooking, and cleaning. All of the workers seem to be so excited, and they all receive such a blessing by seeing the fruits of their efforts enjoyed by each guest and visitor. A big “Thank You” to everyone for a job well done.

In Dr. Ellis’ “State of the Union,” Kathy Andrews was honored for twenty years of service as our Minister of Music. She was presented with a bouquet of red roses for her outstanding job. Appreciation for her many years of faithful service and beautiful music was given.

On December 11, we again enjoyed “Christmas Open House with the Ellis Family” held at the parsonage. Thanks were given for a very enjoyable time of fellowship.

The beautiful cantata, “Journey of Faith” was presented by the adult choir on Sunday, December 18. That evening, the children’s choir did a great job presenting the musical, “Census Time in Bethlehem.”

This year, 2011, we had 3 baptisms and 3 additions by letter to our church membership.

## 2012

The year 2012 was christened by Dr. Ellis as “The Year of Possibilities.”

Dr. Ellis suggested that the Sunday School class that was host for the Wednesday night family dinner would also provide a 15-minute devotion. On January 11, the Ruth/TEL class did a great job of hosting and Betty Jo Foster gave a very inspiring devotion.

A Special Events Committee was created. This committee will be coming up with ideas for things to do on special days, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, etc. that will enhance our worship services. Their work will also include special events that take place at the church such as the Fall Festival and High School Graduation Recognition.

The Youth, in preparation for the upcoming remodeling of their downstairs area had to temporarily relocate to the library. The Library Committee, along with the help of the youth, started a major transformation of the library. Members of the congregation were asked to make donations of beneficial Christian books and movies.

"The Ringgold Reflector" will be seeing improvements and enhancements in celebration of its 45<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and we have started doing a video recording of the services for our shut-in ministry, along with making the services available online.

Jeannie Adkins created a knitting and crocheting ministry that was given the name "Loopy Ministry" by Laura Davis. Their first meeting was January 26. Jeannie said that when she first came to help with the Thanksgiving Community Dinner that she began to wonder what she could do to contribute to the gift bags that were given to the guests. After knitting and crocheting 100 caps and 100 scarves for the bags in 2011, she decided it would be a good thing to have some help. Thus the "Loopy" ministry was born. Also, Tony Adkins and Dianne Donahoe had made 50 chemo hats for the Danville Cancer Association when we participated in the Pittsylvania Baptist Association "Operation In As Much." The "Loopy Ministry" hopes to craft and donate many caps, scarves, afghans, and shawls for our Thanksgiving gift bags, our shut-ins at home and in nursing homes, and cancer patients. It will also be a great time for members to learn to knit and crochet and also a time of fellowship. Thank you Jeannie for this ministry.

Another great talent that Jeannie has and puts to good use is decorating the tables in the Family Life Center for holidays, special meals, and other occasions.

Following our tradition, Baptist Men's Day was observed on Sunday, January 29, with a breakfast at 8 a.m. and inspiring messages brought by Aaron Evans for the morning service and Avery Dalton for the evening service. Also, on this Sunday, our youth sponsored a spaghetti lunch as a fundraiser for their Summer Mission Trip.

Scout Sunday, a yearly event, was held on February 5. Boy Scout Troop 372 and Cub Scout Pack 372, along with their parents, were welcomed to our church.

At the business meeting on February 8, Aaron Evans, Minister to Youth, gave a report on youth activities and funds being raised for upcoming mission trips. He stated that the average meeting attendance was 15 on Junior High Night and 19 on Senior High Night. Under new business, it was decided not to have a family night dinner on the Wednesday night that we have a business meeting.

On February 12, Tommy Strader and David Pritchard were ordained as deacons.

There was a called business meeting on February 15 to hear recommendations concerning the crafting of a new pulpit podium. Steve Adkins, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, presided. After much discussion, the motion did not carry and the meeting was adjourned.

The Ringgold Baptist Church “Wire” (the new e-mail ministry of our church) was made available in March.

On March 25, we celebrated “Wildcat Sunday” to recognize and congratulate the Dan River High School basketball team, coaches, and cheerleaders, along with their families, for an amazing season! A church-wide luncheon followed the morning worship service.

On Palm Sunday (April 1), our adult choir and special cast presented a beautiful Easter Cantata, “Joy Came in the Morning.”

Our youth hosted a “Fine Dining Missions Banquet” on April 22. During the banquet, the details and vision of the youth’s upcoming mission trip to Washington, DC were shared. All proceeds went to the Ringgold Baptist Church mission fund.

The month of May was really special in our church. We want to thank the Special Events Committee for the fine video presentation of pictures that were made on Mother’s Day (May 13) and Memorial Day (May 27). Also, on Memorial Day, we remembered those that had lost their lives while serving our country and our loved ones that had passed on. The church purchased white flowers in memory of our loved ones; and during the service, family members walked to

the table in front of the church and placed the flowers in a vase. Jennifer Gregory does an amazing job in creating our beautiful videos for special occasions at our church.

Our youth went for a weekend retreat to Chincoteague, Virginia. Our Minister to Youth, Aaron Evans, said it was a great time of fellowship and preparation for the upcoming mission trip to Washington, DC, in July.

On June 3, our service format was changed on Sunday night. A very talented group of young adults, college and high school age musicians and singers were a part of this major overhaul. It was called "Alive at 5." Dr. Ellis did a series of sermons on the Parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

In a business meeting on June 6, a handout was presented showing the remodeling plans for the music suite. Funds were already available for the project. Some of the money had come from a life insurance policy that was left to the church by Bruce Dodson. Since Bruce had always been such a faithful choir member and loved to sing for the glory of God, this seemed to be a very appropriate way to use his donation. The church voted to move forward with the renovations.

Our Vacation Bible School, "Amazing Wonders," that was held on June 11-15 was a great success. Thank you Donna Gibson, VBS Director, and all the teachers and workers for a job well done.

Effective July 1, Tammy Anderson became our new Director of WMU.

Our youth's summer mission trip to Washington, DC, was July 15-21. Their main mission was to help a church (Living Word) with Vacation Bible School. As the youth and chaperones shared their week with our congregation, their experiences were very inspiring. One of our youth made a profession of faith while on the trip and three more made that important decision after they returned home.

On August 18, a Women's Conference ("All Aboard the Faith Cruise") was held at Faith Memorial Baptist Church. A number of women from Ringgold Baptist Church attended. The speakers, including our own Jean Ellis, did a wonderful job. Faith Memorial was such a great host and everyone was truly blessed and inspired.

The Hudgins Memorial Class hosted a breakfast on September 2 to begin the new Sunday School year. This became a tradition for our church on the first Sunday of each quarter. Different Sunday School classes are assigned a Sunday morning to provide basic preparations for the meal. Suzanne Emerson and Michael Shelton are the new co-directors of our Sunday School.

We entered into “40 Days of Prayer and Invitation Challenge” in conjunction with our upcoming revival. Members were urged to wear one of the black and white (darkness into light) wristbands that would symbolize our commitment to those days of prayer and invitation. Our revival was held October 7-11 with Evangelist Steve Mayle.

October 21 was an exciting time for Ringgold Baptist Church. We had the dedication of our music suite. An enormous “Thank You” was given to David Dodson, contractor for the job, and to all individuals whose time, talents, and generosity helped to make this project a reality. The dedication service was well attended. We enjoyed a spaghetti dinner in the Family Life Center after the dedication.

Sunday, November 4, was also a very special time for us. Aaron J. Evans was ordained as a minister of the Gospel. To be able to be a part of this service was truly a joy.

On Veterans’ Day (November 11), the Dan River High School JROTC Color Guard, under the leadership of Ronnie Emerson, was a part of our morning worship service. At this service, we also had a dedication and commissioning of the “Loopy” Ministry project. Aaron Evans delivered the message for the evening service, which was followed by a reception honoring Aaron and his wife, Joy.

On November 12, the Joy Club and invited friends visited the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina. While there, we took a tour giving us an insight from Rev. Graham’s early ministry days up to the present time. On the premises is Billy Graham’s home place opened for visitors. At the edge of the grounds is a cemetery where Ruth Graham is buried, a very reverent place. Harriett Jones is now the president of the Joy Club. She is doing a great job.

On Tuesday, November 20, the annual community Thanksgiving service was held at Ringgold Baptist Church. The Rev. Anthony Pass, Pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, delivered the sermon. The service was well attended.

There was called business meeting after the morning worship service on November 25 to vote on Miriam Dobbins for Minister to Children and Laura Webster for Minister to Youth. Both positions received a unanimous vote of approval.

A beautiful Christmas Cantata (“Changed by a Baby Boy”) was presented by our adult choir on Sunday, December 16. They did a great job.

This year we had 8 baptisms and 1 addition by letter.

# 2013

Dr. Ellis labeled the year of 2013 “The Year of New Horizons.”

In the morning service, on January 20, Michael W. Gauldin and Robert W. Anderson were ordained as deacons. At 5 p.m. we had the 2013 committee organizational meetings and at 6 p.m. the 2013 church calendar planning session.

Baptist Men’s Day was observed on January 27, starting with breakfast at 8 a.m. Dr. Joey Faucette was the speaker for the morning service, and Rev. Aaron Evans spoke at the evening service.

On Sunday, February 3, we had a church-wide covered dish luncheon to honor Laura Webster, our Minister to Youth, and Miriam Dobbins, our Minister to Children. Laura was already engaged with the youth and was having very good attendance. Miriam had begun in January; and parents, grandparents, and children were thrilled to have such an outstanding leader.

In the business meeting on February 13, Miriam Dobbins shared that the former “Clubhouse Kids” would now be called “Children’s Worship.”

Susan Wilkerson, representing the Building and Grounds Committee, presented a quote on two new renovation projects for the church – hallway between the sanctuary and new music suite at \$3,375 and the youth area in the church basement (labor and materials) at \$5,929.82. Both projects were approved. Dara Johnson, representing the Personnel Committee, read a letter of resignation from Kathy Andrews, Minister of Music.

Kathy served as Minister of Music here at Ringgold Baptist Church for 22 years. Her strong talent of music gave great inspiration to our worship service. Our choir was often referred to as one of the best in the association. Her abilities were just as strong with the forming of a Children’s Choir, helping in Vacation Bible School, and many other musical or church projects. Kathy often gave her testimony of her faith in Christ. She was a faithful servant and will be missed. Art Johnson became our interim Minister of Music.

The youth had charge of the morning worship service on February 24. It was called “Unmasked” – Expect the Unexpected.

In the morning worship service, we observed Scout Sunday. Boy Scout Troop 372 and Cub Scout Pack 372, along with their leaders and parents, were welcomed.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, the children of Ringgold Baptist Church presented Palms and Praise at the beginning of the worship hour. It was very impressive. The Maundy Thursday Service was observed on March 28 at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, began with the Sunrise Service at 7 p.m., followed by breakfast in the Family Life Center. Dr. Ellis' sermon for the morning worship was "The Day Death Lost His Grip" (Mark 16:1-6).

Dr. Ellis made an announcement from the pulpit in March, and also in the April Newsletter, that he was resigning as Pastor of Ringgold Baptist Church and moving to Wilmington, North Carolina, in a couple of months. His wife, Jean, had been employed as Manager of the Lifeway store in Danville, and her regional director had asked her to open and manage a new Lifeway store in Wilmington, North Carolina. Dr. Ellis said that they were convinced that this was part of a greater plan that God had for his family. Jean would be going to Wilmington on April 14, and he would join her after Devon Hope's high school graduation on May 25.

The youth hosted a spaghetti dinner on April 6 to raise funds for their summer mission trip.

In the business meeting on April 10, the Building and Grounds Committee reported that the main floor hallway had been painted and carpeted. Keith Barker, Chair of the Deacons, gave an update on the selection of the Interim Pastor. He explained that according to the church constitution, the Deacon Board would interview and secure the Interim Pastor and would then recommend that individual to the church for approval.

On Sunday, April 28, the Ringgold Baptist Church Children in Action (Grades K-5) led the call to worship.

The Nominating Committee was tasked by the Board of Deacons to organize the process to be used for selecting the Pastor Search Committee. Names for the prospective Pastor Search Committee should be submitted in writing (and signed by the one nominating that person) to a member of the Nominating Committee or the church office. Before submitting a name, the

person should be sure that the nominee met the required qualifications and was willing to serve. The 15 names receiving the most recommendations would be presented to the church membership to be voted on at the June 12 business meeting. The Pastor Search Committee would consist of seven members with two alternates.

The Senior Spring Fling was held on May 19 and enjoyed by all. We thank the Eva Walton WMU Circle for hosting this event each year.

On May 22, the deacons voted to recommend to the church Rev. Lewis Wall to be the Interim Pastor. His first Sunday with us would be June 2.

Sunday, May 26, was the last Sunday for Dr. Ellis. His sermon was titled “Things I’ll Remember, Things I’ll Forget” (Job 11:13-20). Following the worship service, there was a farewell luncheon honoring the Ellis family. Dr. Ellis served as pastor of Ringgold Baptist Church from October 2007 until May 2013. Pastor Steve was a brilliant teacher whose love of history and Greek scholarship produced interesting and informative Bible Studies. He prepared power point presentations as well as compiled study guides on the subjects. Dr. Ellis had the ability to preach sermons derived from the least familiar of scripture passages. He was exceptionally creative in his “September to Remember” sermons, often employing the use of props and visual aids to reinforce the message. Dr. Ellis had a vision for church growth at Ringgold. Under his leadership, G.R.O.W. outreach teams were formed and the Children’s and Youth areas were remodeled. We extend a big and heartfelt “Thank You” to the entire Ellis family for their service and dedication to God and our church family.

The Nominating Committee met on May 28 to tally the recommendations received for the Pastor Search Committee. The top 15 names would be voted on in the business meeting on June 12. Everyone would vote for nine (9) people with the top seven to become the Pastor Search Committee and the next top two (2) to become alternates.

At the business meeting on June 12, the following were voted on and approved:

Rev. Lewis E. Wall – Interim Pastor

Daniel Wolfe – Minister of Music (Beginning July 1)

Suzanne Emerson and Michael Shelton – Co-Directors of Sunday School

Pastor Search Committee:

Dianne Donahoe

David Foster

Bonnie McDarmont

Susan Pritchard

Ray McDowell

Tommy Strader

Tonya Barker

Alternates: Jeanne Adkins and Keith Hudgins

On Monday, June 17, Miriam Dobbins, our Minister to Children, passed away at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, after a brief illness. This was really a sad time for our church. Suzanne Emerson wrote a “Tribute to Miriam Dobbins” in the church newsletter in July; an excerpt of that tribute is listed below.

“In the short time that Ms. Miriam was with us at Ringgold she made a tremendous impact upon the lives of our children and any adult who had the privilege to work with her and assist her with the children’s programs. You could not talk with Ms. Miriam or be around her without feeling her love for children and her desire that they come to know Jesus. She also felt that children needed to learn about local and world missions and be actively involved whenever possible.”

On Sunday, June 30, we had a covered dish luncheon after the morning worship service to welcome Rev. Lewis Wall and his wife Janine to our church family. This was also Art Johnson’s last Sunday as Interim Minister of Music. We thank him for a job well done. For the evening service, Brandon and Laura Neal, on a six-week furlough, shared their experiences serving on the mission field in Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

On Sunday, July 14, we had a Commissioning Service for the Pastor Search Committee. Dianne Donahoe had been selected as chair of this committee.

On July 15 – 20, our youth went to a camp at Plumtree, North Carolina. This was a mission-based camp, emphasizing a vision for the community.

Vacation Bible School with the theme “Colossal Coastal World” was held July 22-26 with an average of 85 children and 55 workers. Thank you, Donna Gibson, Vacation Bible School Director, and all the workers for a great job.

In a called business meeting on July 31, the Building and Grounds Committee gave a report on fixing the roof on the rental house at a cost of \$4,850. This project was approved. Michael Gregory was to be placed on the church payroll to cut grass at the parsonage.

After the evening service on August 11, we enjoyed the annual ice cream social.

At the business meeting on August 14, the Sunday School report reflected an increase in attendance over last year. The new Sunday School group “Pairs and Spares,” under the direction of Sammy McCormick and Jeanne Adkins, had shown strong growth since its inception in June. The Pre-K Class for three and four year olds was restarted on July 28 and was continuing to grow in attendance and participation. This was a goal of Ms. Miriam. A recommendation was given by the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the four columns on the front porch of the church. Cap and base would cost \$2,360. It was also recommended that the light fixture on the roof in the steeple be replaced at a cost of \$1,200. These projects were approved. The Pastor Search Committee gave an update report. Tony Brooks, a field strategist for the Southside Region of VBGA, had met with them on July 29 and was very helpful in training for the pastor search process. He emphasized that the process should not be rushed.

On August 18, the Pastor Search Committee distributed surveys that would give the committee insight in selecting a new Pastor. The surveys were to be returned by September 1.

Dr. Ken Ellison was the speaker for the evening service on August 25. He shared his life experiences serving as a Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary in Indonesia for 40 years and his recent mission trip to Malaysia.

In a called business meeting on September 4, Madison Norris was approved to be the new Minister to Children. Her first Sunday would be September 8. Since the passing of our beloved Miriam Dobbins, the Children/Youth Guidance Council, along with the parents of the children, had kept the program going. A big thank you to all who helped with this program.

Also, in this meeting, a letter of resignation was read from Laura Webster, the Minister to Youth. Her last Sunday would be August 31. We thank Laura for her time spent with us and what she accomplished with our youth during that time.

In the morning worship service on September 8, the Special Events Committee had a presentation for our grandparents with lots of great family pictures.

On Sunday, September 29, at the 5 p.m. service, the children's choir, under the direction of Ginger Collie, presented the musical "Down by the Creek Bank" in loving memory of Miriam Dobbins. They did a great job, and it was enjoyed by all.

At the beginning of the worship service on October 6, Tammy Fielder, a coordinator for the Operation Christmas Child (Piedmont Area Team), gave a special presentation about her trip to Uganda and emphasized how much the shoeboxes meant to children around the globe.

On October 6 at 5 p.m., a town hall meeting was held in the sanctuary for the purpose of educating the membership on the differences between the Southern Baptist Convention and our other two state conventions - The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and the Baptist General Assembly of Virginia. A representative from each convention was present to explain the operation of each. Time was also made available for questions and answers. An information packet from each convention was made available to church members prior to the meeting.

On this same Sunday, the youth, along with Madison and Steven Norris, were joined by Pastor Lewis Wall for a basketball fun game in the afternoon. The youth also started a video Bible study on Wednesday nights called "God's Holy Days, Jesus in the Feast."

Renovations of the youth area in the church basement have been completed.

On Saturday, October 12, Ringgold Baptist Church, along with hundreds of churches and thousands of volunteers across the country, shared the love of Christ with people in their respective communities through a project called "Operation Inasmuch." Ringgold Baptist Church had 60 plus volunteers who participated in many different projects. Church members baked cookies for our shut-ins, and others made donations to support the "Operation Inasmuch" project..

William “Bill” Baker was the speaker for our morning worship service on Sunday, October 13. He spoke on behalf of Gideons International. Following the worship service, we observed World Hunger Day with a luncheon of beans, rice, and cornbread. Donations of \$636 were collected to support our Backpack Buddies ministry project.

Backpack Buddies is an outreach ministry of Ringgold Baptist Church and Kentuck Baptist Church that provides weekend meals to children who are in need of food. Individual bags of non-perishable food are delivered to Kentuck Elementary School and Dan River Middle School each Friday to be sent home in the child’s backpack to provide food over the weekend. The bags contain nutritious, kid-friendly items that are easy to prepare for three meals per day on Saturday and Sunday, plus juices and snacks. Each church committed to serve a maximum of twenty-five children (total of 50 children) per week. Church members are asked to donate money to support one child for 9 months and/or to give donations to support the program, which will be collected every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

In the business meeting on October 16, the church membership voted to remain with the Baptist General Assembly of Virginia (BGAV).

On October 19, we enjoyed the delicious fall stew that the “McDowell Brothers” prepare for us each year.

Jackie Anderson presented a very interesting drama of Fanny Crosby’s life at the 5 p.m. worship service on October 20.

Our annual Fall Festival was held on October 26. The youth decorated and helped with the many activities. Approximately 120 children and adults attended from throughout our community.

Sunday, November 3, was our Baby Dedication Service, committing five of our babies to the Lord.

Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer was observed on Monday, November 4. Different WMU circles prepared a meal for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with a short devotional; and church members, along with their guests, were invited to attend. Approximately 49 people participated throughout the day.

At a called business meeting on November 6, Mike Shelton stated that much of the Ringgold Baptist Church's website was out of date and that potential pastors and members look at this to learn about our church. He recommended that Brad McDarmont be hired to update our website. Brad provided a quote of \$2,500. This was approved.

On Sunday, November 10, we had the dedication and commissioning of the Loopy Ministry Project. Crocheted hats, scarves, and blankets, which were crocheted by church members, were presented and will be given to needy persons who attend our annual Thanksgiving lunch at Ringgold Baptist Church.

The dedication and commissioning service for Operation Christmas Child was on Sunday, November 17. Ringgold Baptist Church had prepared 234 shoe boxes for this project. Children from within the church brought the boxes down the aisle to the pulpit where they were stacked to illustrate the commitment to this project from the church membership.

In a called business meeting on November 24, Ginger Collie, representing the Music Committee, presented two recommendations: (1) To purchase a Yamaha digital piano in the amount of \$1,000 and (2) To purchase a set of risers in the amount of \$1,334. The recommendations were approved. Michael Gregory was hired as a church handyman to mow the parsonage yard and to do odd jobs in and around the church. It was voted on and approved for Madison Norris, Minister to Children, to also be the Minister to Youth and to be an assistant to the church secretary.

On Tuesday, November 26, Kentuck Baptist Church hosted the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. Our interim pastor, Rev. Lewis Wall, preached the sermon "An Attitude of Gratitude."

Our annual community Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Thursday, November 28. Once again, it was a big success with everyone receiving a blessing (volunteers attending and guests).

The Ruth/TEL Sunday School class again sponsored the "Lottie Moon Christmas Card Mailbox" whereby church members are asked to donate money they would normally spend on stamps for Christmas cards to the Lottie Moon mission offering and put members' Christmas cards in the designated mailbox at the church. The Ruth/TEL Sunday School class meets on an

annual basis for breakfast and sorts all cards by members and Sunday School class and distributes them in the classes prior to Christmas Day.

On December 7 and/or December 14, a total of 43 church volunteers went to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, to inspect and pack shoe boxes to be sent to needy children around the world.

We had Christmas caroling for our homebound shut-ins and nursing home residents on December 15 at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, December 22, during the worship hour, the adult choir, under the direction of Dan Wolfe, presented the beautiful cantata “Go, Tell It!” Betty Jo Foster was the narrator. For the evening service, we had the children’s Christmas musical, under the direction of Ginger Collie and Leslie Blair (pianist). It was a great production.

The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was inspirational and set the tone for a beautiful Christmas.

In 2013, we had one (1) baptism.

**\*\*Church History (2001 – 2013) Written by Dora Dunn and Jackie Anderson**

