

Bro. Clay & Lana attended the Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) Retreat on May 23-26 in Pigion Forge, Tennessee for a time of refreshment and fellowship.



Please welcome the newly elected officers of the BHBA WMU!



Left to right – Bro. Andy Nolen, Judy Molder, Joyce Wall, Jennifer Elam, Diane Sorrell, Shirley Spiller, Martha Jo Wright, Sylvia Hawkins, Harriet Cannon



**MASON HOLLIS KELLEY**  
2023-2024  
Myra Short Scholarship Recipient  
[mason.kelly@my.uu.edu](mailto:mason.kelly@my.uu.edu)

**Mason Hollis Kelley** from First Baptist Church – Ripley is the 2023 **Myra Short Scholarship recipient**. He is the son of Cliff & Kim Kelley.

Mason will be a junior at Union University pursuing a bachelor's degree in athletic training with the ultimate goal of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy. He is a graduate of Ripley High School. At Union, he is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and Sigma Delta. In December 2022, he accepted the Worship Leader position at First Baptist Ripley. Mason felt God's calling and stated that he knew his musical talent was a gift from God and that He gave it to him to help proclaim His greatness through music.

One of his references said that Mason "has a rare work ethic, is a well-rounded student and possesses a high level of leadership skills."

We are proud to support Mason through the Myra Short Scholarship and look forward to hearing wonderful things from him as he continues his education and talents to glorify God.



**Congratulations Mason!**

## From Our Director of Missions, Clay Gilbreath

A favorite story I like to tell is of Yakov Smirnoff, a comedian from the old Soviet Union who immigrated to the United States in 1977. As he detailed the joys and wonders of this great country, he described a visit to the local store one day. He was amazed by the variety of products available there, things he didn't even know existed. Down one aisle he saw powdered milk – and it said on the carton: just add water, and you will get milk! “What a country”, he said. Next he came upon powdered eggs – just add water and you will have eggs! Again, “what a country!” Finally he rounded the corner and there on the shelf was baby powder – all he could say was: “wow, what a country.”

That silly story has a great truth for us all to be reminded of: it is a privilege to live in this great country and to call America our home. God may call us elsewhere, but until He does I believe we should thank Him for the freedom and privileges we have to live here. As you celebrate Independence Day, I hope you enjoy time with family and friends in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

But like a dear family member who is also in great need, though we love our country we realize that America is struggling. Decades of rejection of God has made us a shell of what we once were. Founded on Christian principles, honoring God in all our institutions, even passing laws that aligned with Biblical morality seems like just a memory of a time long, long ago. We have replaced prayer in schools with pride marches and parading of wickedness that just a few years ago would have been hard to believe. Now it's the norm. Godly leadership in our government is nearly impossible to find, while it seems the entirety of society bows to the lies of the evil one.

I believe it was in 1965 when Ruth Graham stated: “If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.” I am so thankful that Mrs. Graham hasn't had to witness what you and I have seen lately.

In spite of it all, though, there is hope! Would you have believed that Roe v. Wade would be overturned? It has. The closest thing to a breakout of revival in our lifetime happened recently at Asbury College. Our churches still stand as a light and testimony to the gospel message in these dark days. Followers of Christ have reason for hope and joy and peace, knowing that we have a great opportunity before us to live for Jesus.

So as we celebrate July 4, I am thankful for my country. But I am far more thankful for our true citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20), and for the Lord Jesus and His kingdom that will never be shaken (Heb. 12:28).

### WMU NEWS - WMU Director, Harriet Cannon

harriet.cannon@att.net Cell # 901-277-2963

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12*

**Quarterly Meeting:** 45 people from 8 churches attended the Quarterly Meeting on June 13th at First Baptist-Covington. Pastor Shun Abrams, Memphis Send Relief Ministry Center Director, gave an inspiring message about SEND Relief Network and the work they are doing in Memphis and around the world. SEND Relief is the compassion arm of the partnership between IMB and NAMB. He said that WMU was his greatest supporter and encourager! Bro. Andy Nolen, Oak Grove Pastor, installed the 2023-24 Leadership Team. We collected supplies for The Fostered Gift and completed funding of the \$1000 Myra Short Scholarship. (See bio elsewhere in the Herald on Mason Kelley, the 2023 recipient)

We will be resuming our participation with **Dyersburg State and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry** for fall semester.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

**Christmas in August** (2023 Missionary List on the website)  
August 8 - **Leadership Team Meeting** at Associational Office 6:00PM

Monthly Budget	\$ 13,773.00
May Gifts	\$ 13,741.90
Fiscal YTD Shortfall	- \$ 4,311.45

Unrestricted Gifts	May 2023	Fiscal Year to Date Oct 2022 to May 2023
Ashport	367.02	367.02
Beaver	0.00	1500.00
Brighton	747.76	6398.63
Calvary	603.00	4516.00
Calvary Hill	250.00	1925.00
Central	0.00	0.00
Charleston	693.29	4745.83
Covington First	1250.00	10200.00
Cross View	0.00	500.00
Crossway Cowboy	0.00	0.00
Durhamville	932.00	3248.00
Faith	0.00	4666.69
Fellowship	639.24	4737.27
First Indian	0.00	0.00
Forerunner	80.00	320.00
Fulton	0.00	0.00
Garland	500.00	4000.00
Gateway	915.31	7982.55
Genesis	0.00	0.00
Grace	696.69	5200.40
Hope	225.00	1725.00
Keeling	0.00	284.00
Liberty	408.00	3264.00
Mason Cowboy	0.00	350.00
Mason First	233.13	1649.04
Mt. Lebanon	0.00	0.00
Munford	415.00	3320.00
Oak Grove	0.00	1685.05
Olive Branch	0.00	0.00
Pleasant Grove	1732.00	8902.00
Ripley First	583.33	4666.64
Salem	0.00	662.27
Servant's Heart	100.00	275.00
Smyrna	334.29	3359.50
Spirit Filled	200.00	800.00
Trinity	150.00	1200.00
True Life	0.00	0.00
True Word	418.50	2444.10
Victory	0.00	0.00
Walnut Grove	486.34	2021.16
Western Valley	0.00	0.00
Woodlawn	0.00	200.00
TBMB	782.00	6256.00
Other	0.00	2501.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,741.90</b>	<b>105,872.55</b>

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving. It is because of your sacrifice that we exist to connect churches on mission.

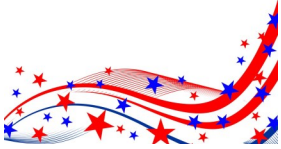


Physical Address: 1390 Hwy 51 N

Mailing Address: PO Box 646

Covington TN 38019

## JULY 2023 Calendar of Events

3-4		BHBA OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY. The Ministers Fellowship will not meet on July 3rd.
10	10:30 A.M.	Ministers Fellowship, BHBA Office Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Speaker: Todd Brady, Union University
17	10:30 A.M.	Ministers Fellowship, BHBA Office Lunch to follow at a local restaurant.
24	10:30 A.M.	Ministers Fellowship, BHBA Office Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Speaker: Bobby Lane, Union University
31	10:30 A.M.	Ministers Fellowship, BHBA Office Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Pastor Danny Spurlock, Smyrna Baptist Church

**Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 1990 Hwy 51 North, Ripley, Tn 38063,** is seeking a Bi-Vocational Pastor, who is able and willing to shepherd a small church in a rural community. Any inquiries, either by phone or Email should be made to: Allen Lewis, 203 Oscar Hinson Road, Ripley, Tn 38063 731-612-8355 or allen.emr67@gmail.com

**Durhamville Baptist Church, Ripley, TN** is looking for a permanent Bi-Vocational Pastor. We are a small country church and member of Big Hatchie Association, and Southern Baptist Convention. Resume may be submitted by Mail or Email to: Randy Gilbreath, 291 Durhamville Rd., Ripley TN 38063 Email: Randy.Gilbreath@TKlevator.com

**Oak Grove Baptist Church in Covington, TN** is looking for a bivocational youth leader. This individual will oversee and coordinate the church's ministry to grades six through twelve. They will be responsible to coordinate events, teach and disciple students, lead volunteers, and develop relationships with students and their families. Please send resumes to Oak Grove Baptist Church to shelby@oakgrovecovington.org. We will be accepting resumes until May 15, 2023.



1390 Hwy 51 North • Physical Address  
 P.O. Box 646 • Mailing Address  
 Covington, TN 38019  
 Tel: 901-476-6759  
 Fax: 901-476-5799

Director of Missions, **Clay Gilbreath**

Email: [clay@bighatchie.org](mailto:clay@bighatchie.org)

Ministry Assistant, **Cindy James**

Email: [cindy@bighatchie.org](mailto:cindy@bighatchie.org)

**Web Address: [www.bighatchie.org](http://www.bighatchie.org)**

*A note from* **Vicki Hulsey** *Childhood Specialist* | Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

615.417.0105 (Cell) | 800.558.2090 (Toll Free) P.O. Box 682789, Franklin, TN 37068 [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)

*Before you turn the page on VBS 2023, would you please take **60 seconds** to report your VBS? We all need to be encouraged by how God has been at work through VBS this year!*

*It's quick and easy! All you have to do is go to <https://vbs.lifeway.com/church-report/> and fill in each of the required fields. **Please complete the report regardless of the curriculum used.** There is a space for you to list your curriculum publisher. This info helps us to better serve your church and to celebrate what God has done in Tennessee and around the world! We can't wait to share how many lives were changed for eternity through VBS 2023.*

## **2023 BHBA VBS SCHEDULES**

- **Ashport** - June 28-30 / Times TBD
- **Brighton** - July 17-21 / 5 pm to 8 pm
- **Charleston** "Family Adventure Camp" - June 12-16 / 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- **Covington First**— June 5-9 / 8:30am to noon
- **Faith** — July 10-13 / 6 pm — 8:15 pm
- **Garland** - June 19-22 / 5 pm — 8 pm
- **Liberty** — July 9-14 / 5 pm to 8 pm
- **Munford** - June 4-9 / 6 pm—8:30 pm
- **Oak Grove** — June 4-8 / 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- **Smyrna**—Monday, June 26 / 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (**1-Day-VBS** concentrated week in 1 day.)
- **True Life** - June 4-8 / 6 pm to 8 pm

\*Other churches may still planning their VBS Schedules. Please email your VBS Dates and times to [bhba@bighatchie.org](mailto:bhba@bighatchie.org) We would love to advertise your dates in our next newsletter.