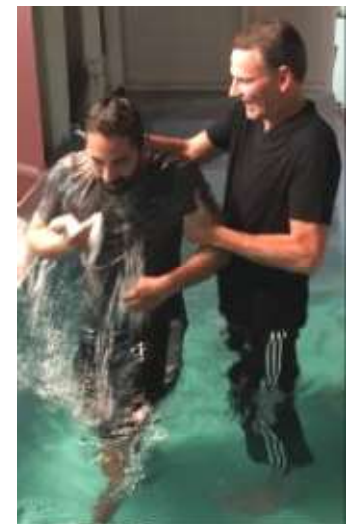


New Day Baptist Welcomes 11 New Believers into the Fold.

During the month of December, New Day Baptist Church in Muncie baptized six new believers (plus one in October) and the campus in Alexandria baptized four. God has been at work in the lives of His people and He continues to draw people to Himself. Please join us in prayer for Juvia, Abbi, Brooke, Chris, Katie, Tristen, and Lance in the Muncie campus and Brad, Misty, Eric and Janet in the Alexandria campus as they begin their new lives with Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Bob Ball Honored for 55 Years of Serving God at Old Town Hill

Old Town Hill Church honored Bob Ball for 55 years of service as a deacon in the church. Pastor Bruce Reynolds presented Bob Ball with a plaque in the morning service and Chairman of the Deacons, Ted Hendrickson, presented a cake to Bob at the Christmas party.



Old Town Hill Pastor, Bruce Reynolds, Bob Ball, and Chairmen of the Deacons, Ted Hendrickson (L-R).

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Educational Matters

By Dr. Ron Ross

For forty-nine years our Education Coordinator has served on church staffs in a variety of ways — as minister of youth, music, education and as senior pastor. With such a wide background in local church ministry, coupled with his educational base in each of these areas of ministry, he shares thoughts that, hopefully, will help and encourage pastoral leadership to always take the high-road in ministerial preparation. What might appear, humanly speaking, as a waste of time from actual hands-on ministry is just that, human thinking and rationality.

One of the greatest ministerial examples in Scripture is the Jewish leader, Saul. He was one of that days' young-guns in Jewish circles and had the determination to climb the proverbial Jewish ladder of religious success. It was in that context he encountered Jesus Christ, through the inward working of the Holy Spirit designed by God the Father in eternity past. You know the story of his marvelous repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior, but for the sake of this article, let's concentrate on his three-year classroom experience with the Godhead. His life was changed in that three year period, so much so, that rather than hating fellow Jews who had, likewise, accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior/Messiah, he had a deep love for them that included a desire to see them grow in their relationship with Him.

God had changed Saul's life — a man, indeed, whose life had experienced the freedom from legalism, but who had also experienced the freedom from lusting after the fleshly desires of the world around him. Just like his life-change — God changed his name; he became Paul, the one we know as an apostle, the one who is credited for writing many of the letters which became our New Testament.

It was in that three-year experience in Arabia that God revealed to Him the multiple aspects of what we call "salvation." His letter to the church at Rome supplies us with insights into the three doctrines of justification, sanctification and glorification. It was in that training period that God revealed a clearer presentation about a believer's relationship with their Heavenly Father, with their Savior, and with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. During that same time, God made clear to Paul what sacrificial living was like, as well as sacrificial giving and caring

about those around them. Indeed, those three years produced life-change — a quality not found in so many servants of God.

With our concerns on numbers, dollars, programs and buildings, it is no wonder that we stand at a crisis point. With more being spent in the realm of religious affairs than ever before, why are we not seeing a community, city, county, state, or nation affected by the power of God like that first century scene mentioned in Acts (17.6), as the Spirit of God worked through His people in amazing ways. Fifty-three years later, this writer emphatically knows that though we know facts that can have tremendous impact on our lives, ONLY time with God will change attitudes that will directly change life-styles. Rather than stressing numbers and dollars, and what it takes to acquire both, wonder what would happen if we stressed the importance of life-change brought about by the Holy Spirit through the faithful presentation of God's inerrant Word?

The light in the classroom should always be on!

January

Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

Birthdays

None

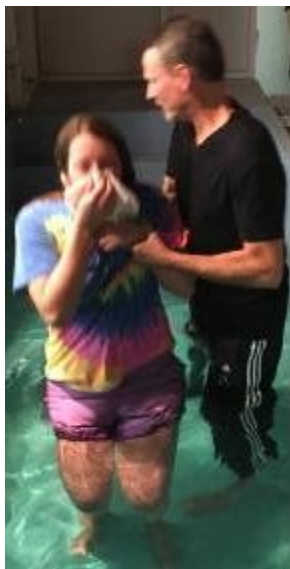
Anniversaries

January 23—Jim & Jama Marlow
(North Del Muncie)

Church Anniversaries

January 19—Mark Wilkerson— Eaton,
8 years

More Glimpses of New Day Baptisms



Upcoming Events In January

January 7—10:00 a.m.,
Leader Lab and Pastors
Luncheon at Halteman
Village Baptist Church,
4100 N Oakwood Avenue,
Muncie, IN 47304

SBC Emphasis for January

**Month of January Call to
Prayer**

January 6-13 —January
Bible Study

January 20—Sanctity of
Human Life Sunday



Preparing for Vacation Bible School Begins Now

By Brenda Brooks, ECBA Children's and VBS Coordinator



It may be only December, but summer will be here before we know it and it will be time for VBS.

I am looking for volunteers to attend the Vacation Bible School training at Highland Lakes on Saturday, April 6th, then lead the Associational age-level VBS training in May. Please let me know if your church is interested in holding a VBS in 2019 and if you would be interested in helping to train. You will learn a lot at Highland Lakes that you can pass along to the VBS workers in our Association.

The Associational VBS training will be held on Saturday, May 18th at Redeemer Baptist Church, 3230

Lindberg Road, Anderson IN, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. At the Associational VBS training, lunch will be provided and there will be VBS prizes to be won. Redeemer will be decorated and ready to go so that you can get some good ideas as well. I will also be giving away all of our materials following Redeemer's VBS the first week of June, so let me know if your church is interested in having them.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending either of these trainings, please e-mail me at brendabrooks1107@gmail.com or call me at 765-393-1458.

East Central Baptist Association Christmas Party

The East Central Baptist Association Christmas party for Pastors and staff and Associational leaders was held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7th at North Delaware Baptist Church in Muncie. The evening began with a welcome and prayer then the attendees enjoyed a catered Mexican buffet with baked potato ham and cheese alternative. Following dinner, the group played a wrapped gift timed game and Greg Haisley rapidly won it. The traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange brought a lot of laughter, especially when Jama Marlow opened the toy outhouse with collectible poopsies brought by

Jeremy Cowin. Vice-Moderator, Ron Ross, shared a brief devotional before the evening was closed in prayer.



Harrison Williams decked out for the Christmas party.



ECBA Pastors and Leaders enjoyed a Christmas party hosted by North Delaware Baptist Church in Muncie.



Deneia Trego rushes to open the package with oven mitts on before her husband, Dale, rolls doubles on the dice.



Sharon Jones cautiously opens her White Elephant Exchange gift.



Jama Marlow laughed so hard she was crying when she opened this White Elephant Gift of an outhouse with collectible poopsies.

A Brother We Will Never Forget...

By Dr. Ron Ross

Edward A. "Ed" McNickle went to be with his Lord at age eighty-two Friday morning, November 30, as a patient at Community South Hospital in Indianapolis. His funeral was held in Muncie on Wednesday, December 12, at Meeks Mortuary. A former church member with Ed commented that she was saddened as the officiant did not know Ed and spoke only as to what he was told.

Big Ed was a loving, kind, generous man who loved people. This writer was impacted by his life. He never met a stranger. As a postman for thirty-three years in the Whitely section of Muncie, his size and personality captured the hearts of those he served. At lunchtime, he would often eat in a neighborhood house for a time of conversation and laughs.

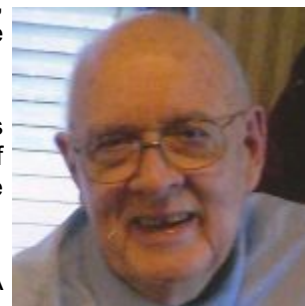
It was after Ed's retirement that we became friends. The initial meeting was at an ECBA meeting in the facilities of Creekwood Baptist Church. Ed mentioned he was interested in an apartment ministry and took the necessary training to carry out his desire. Though that ministry was started, it was short lived, and he shifted his interest to World Changers, a NAMB ministry involving youth/young adults and sponsors engaging in neighborhood house repairs and beautification. The local sites picked for the ministry were often in the neighborhoods where he had delivered mail years earlier, and since it was his church that provided leadership, it was a great match.

Ed often visited various ECBA churches to support and encourage pastors. At one of those services, he was told about Joe Hunter of Truck Stop Ministries headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. Later, he met and became involved in that ministry at Petro Truck Stop (I-69 & SR 28). Often he would share testimony of lives changed through that outreach ministry.

As his health declined, his wife had to place him in a nursing facility close to their house. He quickly made friends there and was involved in chapel services. When his wife and son died, his health increasingly got worse. He was moved to a second and third nursing home closer to his daughters in Indianapolis, where he died.

Ed was a behind-the-scene encourager to pastors and lay-leaders alike — he will be greatly missed!

Editor's Note: Although I did not know Ed very well, he certainly made a footprint on my heart. I recall that when my dad, Charles Adams, was treasurer for the Association, Ed would occasionally call and leave messages for him, encouraging him and letting him know that he was praying for him. Before Ed became ill and right after I took the ECBA Administrative Assistant position, Ed also did this for me. The first time he called, we talked about my dad, who was still living at that time, and the service he had provided the Association for more than 40 years. It warmed my heart and encouraged me. Ed was a special man. He will be missed.



More Glimpses of Bob Ball's 55 years of Service Recognition at Old Town Hill



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FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019
HIGHLAND LAKES BAPTIST CAMP

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