

ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 50 | 2018

THE BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES



Rev. John Parker



Rev. Chris Cravens

NEW CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Alabama and Heartland Regional
Conferences Elect New Leaders



From the Editor

This year, *The Bible Methodist* publication is celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. Later this year we will present a paper that gives a broader overview of those years and the editors that managed the magazine.

While we celebrate an anniversary, we also join with Heartland Regional Conference and Alabama Regional Conference in welcoming new leadership. In June of 2017, Heartland Annual Conference elected Pastor Chris Cravens to fill the position of Conference President. In July of 2017, Alabama Annual Conference elected Evangelist John Parker to the position of Conference President.

In the pages of this issue you will read about the men who have been selected to lead their respective Conferences. The articles will give you a glimpse of the newly elected leaders. That glimpse will give a brief history of their lives and an overview of their past ministries. You will also capture a sense of the vision they have as they look forward to leading, administrating and ministering among the churches under their care.

May I encourage you to pray for these men in leadership? I would like to challenge you to pray for other men in leadership in the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches as well. Dr. Michael Avery is our Connectional Chairman, Tim Keep is the Missions Director, and Blake Jones serves as Conference President for the Great Lakes Regional Conference. May I also encourage you to pray for the General Conference that Alabama Regional Conference is hosting?

Since prayer has been mentioned, this issue also includes some inspiring testimonies that rise from the January focus on prayer. ■

G. Clair Sams
Editor



Celebrating 50 years
of The Bible Methodist
magazine!

Photo Credit: Cover photo of Chris Cravens by Eric Leszkowicz – KeepsakePortraits.com

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REV. JOHN PARKER

ALABAMA REGIONAL CONFERENCE'S NEWEST PRESIDENT

By **Doug Eades**

John Daniel Parker is the firstborn of 10 children of Pastor Dan and Charlotte Parker. Born in Hampton, Virginia in 1956 to newly converted parents who were just getting acquainted with holiness people. At six months of age, John became deathly ill with an intestinal blockage and almost died through two very traumatic surgeries, and a battle with peritonitis. God miraculously healed him after being anointed by their Pastor, Rev. Elbert Barrow, who proclaimed that he believed God was going to heal John and make him a holiness preacher! The rest is history!

John started school at Salem Bible Academy (Allegheny Wesleyan) in 1962 in his father's senior year of Bible College. His earliest recollections of church and ministry were in a Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Ohio

Conference where Dan Parker pastored while attending Bible College. When Dan graduated in 1962 the family felt called to come back to Dan's home state of Alabama to plant a new church near his family in south Alabama. John and Cathy would re-plant that church on that same property almost 20 years later.

John's first memories of camp meeting and conference were in the last remaining years of the Alabama Wesleyan Methodist Conference before the merger. John well remembers the anguish of those in leadership in making those painful and costly decisions. And when the decisions were reached to become Bible Methodists, the Parker family was a part of that decision and John's father was among the very first to be ordained in the newly formed Bible Methodist Conference of Alabama.

Those memories are indelibly stamped in John's mind and heart!

John's years of elementary and junior high school were in the public school systems of the states of Alabama and North Carolina. In 1966 the family moved to Harkers Island, NC to plant a new church. John would grow up in an island fishing community, working in the water, and with his dad in construction until he was a sophomore in college. Those skills would come in useful in bi-vocational pastoring and church planting in the future!

In his high school years the Lighthouse Christian School was established on Harkers Island, NC (a ministry of the Lighthouse Chapel – Harkers Island, NC) John graduated from this school in 1974. He felt a clear call to attend God's Bible School after surrendering to a call to preach in the summer of 1974 in a camp meeting where the Stetler Trio was singing.

John attended GBS 1974 to 1978, graduating with a Bachelor of Religious Education. He traveled for GBS in Public Relations singing groups three years. John lived with Dr. R.G. Flexon for his junior and senior years, helping to care for him. That mentoring influence had a life-changing impact on John's life.

On July 21, 1978 John married fellow GBS graduate, Catherine Horrall from Monroe City, IN. She came from a farming home, raised by a godly widowed mother and had previously earned her R.N. degree from Vincennes University.

John and Cathy have 1 son and 3 daughters and are grandparents to 11 beautiful, angelic, genius grandbabies (5 boys & 6 girls)!

When Cathy and John graduated, they moved to Alabama after a short stint as Youth Pastor in his father's church, and re-planted the Bible Methodist Church in Enterprise, AL from 1978 to 1982. John supported the family and church planting effort in a variety of different ways while getting involved in the community. During that first pastorate John:

- Was a substitute teacher in the Coffee County School system
- Organized and set up a Hospital Chaplaincy Program in Enterprise Hospital
- Served as Vice President of the



Enterprise Ministerial Association

- Awarded Jaycees “Enterprise, AL - Outstanding Young Religious Leader” for 1981
- Wrote a weekly column in the Newspaper – “Minutes in Methodism”
- Served the Alabama Bible Methodist Conference as Youth President

God clearly led the Parkers to pastor the Easley Bible Methodist Church from 1982 to 2002. The Easley community is home to their family. It was there the children grew up and married. During those years John served as:

- Hospital Chaplain in Baptist Medical Center 1982 – 2010.
- Chaplain of the “Easley Rescue Squad”
- Served on Easley Planning Commission’s Community Development Committee
- The Department of Social Services – Child Protective Services Advisory Board 3.5 yrs
- Trained and Certified by NOVA, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, as a “Crisis Debriefer” and served on Pickens County Crisis Response Team.
- Treasurer for Bible Methodist Missions for 12 years
- Alabama Conference Vice President for 6 years.

In 2001 John sensed the clear leadership of the Lord to plan to resign his 20 year pastorate to prepare for what God had next for them! He resigned in the spring of 2002. In June of 2002, John was elected General Missionary Secretary for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches and served in that capacity for two terms from 2002-2010 during that time he:

- Served on Advisory Board Member of Youth Challenge

- Evangelist / Conference Speaker for Camps, Youth Camps, Revivals, and Conventions both here in the US as well as in 9 other countries.
- Directed the Establishment of a Christian Academy in the Philippines and oversaw the Administration of the Philippine Bible Methodist Bible College and Latin American Bible Institute in Mexico.
- Traveled extensively, even into very remote areas in promoting and funding Church Planting and Pastor Training in the Philippines, Mexico, and South Africa, South Korea, Cambodia, & the Caribbean.

Following the completion of his second term as Missions Director, while waiting on clear leadership from the Lord for the next assignment, he served as a General Evangelist for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches – 2010 & 2011.

In July of 2011 John felt led to accept the call to be the Senior Pastor of Village Park Bible Methodist Church and served in that position until July 2016.

In the late winter and early spring of 2016 John had felt clearly that his time as pastor in Indiana was coming to a close, but did not have clear leadership for what was next. The sense of God’s leadership was so clear that he and Cathy had put their home on the market and sold it to free themselves for whatever God might lead them to. One door seemed to open and be the answer to their prayers, when unexpectedly that door closed leaving them bewildered. The Church Board in Indiana had already been advised that they planned to leave the pastorate.

It was during this time that a reoccurring burden for their home conference seemed to press in on John’s heart. It seemed unlikely, and yet undeniable. So, when in the middle of a funeral he was attending in Columbus, IN John’s phone rang, he left the service to answer the call, seeing it was from Alabama. It was a member of the Conference Executive Committee informing him of Conference President, Hedstrom’s announced plans to retire, and asking if he would consider returning to Alabama to be considered as their next Conference President. He didn’t have to pray about it! The answer was an immediate and enthusiastic “YES”!

The Parker’s moved to the Campground in Pell City, AL in July of 2016 and were elected by the Annual Conference to serve alongside Rev. Hedstrom as Vice President of the Alabama Bible Methodist Conference and General Evangelist for the Bible Methodist Connection.

On July 4th, 2017 John was elected Conference President with a nearly unanimous vote to replace Rev. Walter Hedstrom who had faithfully served as Conference President for 27 years. Rev. Parker encouraged the Conference Executive to sell the Conference Parsonage in Pell City, and has refurbished the Vernon house on the Campground and added a large Conference Office and Meeting Facility to the rear of what is now the Conference Parsonage at Camp Eden where they will reside. ■



REV. CHRIS CRAVENS

HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE'S NEWEST PRESIDENT

By **Valorie Quesenberry**

Leading a people for God is a task as old as Moses and as current as the new President of the Heartland Conference, Rev. Chris D. Cravens. To stand in the gap, to intercede, to mentor and to shepherd is a calling that carries both great weight and great joy. The Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches has been blessed throughout its ecclesiastical life with qualified, godly men to take up this mantle. And on June 20, 2017, another such leader was elected at Annual Conference on the Beulah Grove Campgrounds in Mendon, Ohio.

His journey to this office began many years before, though, on November 3, 1969 when Robert E. and Thelma R. Cravens welcomed their third son and youngest child into the family. They named him Christopher. He completed the array of siblings which included a sister Theresa and brothers, Robert, Jr. and Mark. Mr. Cravens, Sr. had served

in the United States military during World War II as had his father before him in World War I. At the time of their youngest son's birth, he was employed in a local factory. Mrs. Cravens, a farm girl before her marriage, left the work force to raise her family after she and her husband received Christ as Savior. The Cravens' children were reared doing chores and developing a good work ethic; Chris remembers helping his father on various jobs and running a small mowing business.

President Cravens received an education from both public and private institutions and though he had a heart always tender toward the Lord, it was during the summer following his high school graduation that he became settled in his decision to follow Christ. He surrendered completely to God in entire sanctification that fall and very soon afterward felt God was calling him to preach. He began to prepare to

fulfill that call in his studies at Union Bible College.

Throughout his time at UBC, President Cravens traveled with many public relations groups, often as the representative for the group. He traveled with his first musical group at age fifteen and toured a total of eight summers. He was very involved in all the aspects of public relations administration and was asked in 1990 to launch an Office of Student Recruitment and was active in that capacity until 1993.

In June of that same year, Chris Cravens took as his bride, Julie Ann Thomas, the oldest daughter of song evangelists Larry and LaDonna Thomas. Having grown up in a very musical and ministry-oriented family, Julie is extremely gifted and has been a beautiful asset to President Cravens' ministry through the years, from music ministry to pastoring to his current role in administration. They began singing together and in various college musical groups even before their marriage and afterward continued to bless others in this way. Over the years, God sent Chris and Julie four wonderful children, Meagan, Christopher, Ryan and Luke. Julie has given them a wonderful educational foundation by homeschooling and the whole family has been involved in their small business, breeding and selling AKC registered Labrador Retrievers.

As a student at Union Bible College, President Cravens was very involved in the ministerial division, serving as President of the Ministerial Division and being instrumental in organizing a ministerial convention, various events on campus and a weekly prayer service that was highly effective. Following his graduation in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, the young Rev. Cravens and his bride entered full-time ministry which they continue to this day. He earned his Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership from Indian Wesleyan University in 2009.

Their first pastorate was in the little town of Grawn, Michigan where they were given the challenge of helping to re-invigorate a discouraged congregation within one year to keep the church doors from closing. With God's help, Pastor Cravens was able to lead the

church in improving their physical plant as well as paying down the debt, increasing giving to the conference and missions and seeing the attendance grow significantly. During their time there, their firstborn, Meagan, joined the family and God was faithful to them during some significant health crises in her early life.

In 1995, Rev. Chris and Julie Cravens moved to northwestern Ohio to take on the responsibilities as lead pastor of the Bible Methodist Church in Findlay. In his tenure there, President Cravens has been used of the Lord to lead the church in building a beautiful new campus, in energizing the Sunday School and catapulting it to new heights in the conference, in developing leadership within the church family and developing numerous ministry positions to include a vast array of spiritual gifts, in being financially stable and paying off the building debt, in creating an effective and exciting youth ministry which enhances the church in many ways and in establishing a positive and winsome public image in the community. The Cravens' boys were all born during their ministry in Findlay and this has been home to their family for a long time.

Throughout his ministry life, President Cravens has been active outside the office and pulpit in many other venues of leadership and service. He has served capably as a board member of Holiness Pilgrim Mission (with a focus on Haiti), board member of the Union Bible College Board of Directors, board member to the Inter-Church Outreach and Bus Convention, board member of the Board of Directors of God's Bible School and College from 2013 -2016 and as a board member of the Board of Trustees of Kentucky Mountain Bible College from 2016 to the present. He has served as an adjunct professor at God's Bible School and College, as the director of the Ministerial Internship Program at God's Bible School and College, as a leadership overseer for the Grace Place in Stuart, Florida and as a trustee for the Heartland Bible Methodist Conference.

From the years of 2005 to 2015, President Cravens served the police department of Findlay as a volunteer law enforcement chaplain. He attended training by the International Conference of Police Chaplains and was certified by the Ohio Police Officer Training Commission, and The Office of the Attorney General. His responsibilities included: riding with officers, counseling officers, counseling at crime scenes, death notifications, debriefings, crisis management, working with administration, and conducting an inmate ministry. He was also involved in appreciation and seasonal events for the officers and their families.

President Cravens was ordained an Elder in the Heartland Conference in 2002 and since that time has filled various leadership and administrative capacities within the conference including Youth Committee, Ways and Means Committee (finances), Chairman of Moral Reform Committee, Education and Elder's Orders Committee (working with ordination candidates and Course of Study), Conference Trustee, Youth President, Conference Extension Committee Chairman, Secretary of the Conference Executive Committee and Elder on the Conference Executive Committee.

And from 1990 to the present, President Cravens has been involved in preaching revivals and camp-meetings, conven-



tions and conferences and speaking to young people at colleges and at Youth Challenge. He is passionate about biblical truth and sees his responsibility in the pulpit as foundational to his other involvement in ministry.

In his time away from his desk, President Cravens is an outdoors enthusiast, enjoying hunting, fishing and some golfing. He is an avid fan of coffee and likes to have a cup close by when he is reading or studying. Being a man who believes his family is his greatest investment, President Cravens really enjoys doing things with his wife and four children.

As he steps into new responsibilities and takes on a new role, President Cravens is convinced of the importance of the local church. He wants to be a pastor to the pastors of the Heartland Conference - to give guidance, support and a feeling of connectedness between the churches. He is already at work on a ten-year strategic plan for the conference focusing on mentoring ministerial leaders, developing missional churches and continuing the modernization of the Beulah Grove Campgrounds.

On Sunday morning, June 25, 2017, in the humid summer air, Rev. Chris D. Cravens knelt beside his wife and was commissioned as the new President of the Heartland Conference. Like his predecessors, he is convinced more than ever before that this office is one that he takes as a sacred trust under the Great Shepherd. This call demands the submitting of his gifts and his time and his energy. But he cannot succeed alone. As the Conference family, let us gather around, bless him with our prayers and support and pick up the piece of rope that falls to each of us. Together, we can serve our Lord and advance ever forward, not only ministering to our church families but also reaching out to a hurting world as we become better equipped through our conference community and shared vision.

God bless President Chris Cravens and God bless the Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. May we always seek His Kingdom and Power and Glory forever. ■

TESTIMONIALS FROM JANUARY'S PRAYER FOCUS

In January, the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches presented a challenge to the Pastors and people of their churches and mission fields. The challenge was to focus on prayer for 21 days and concluded with a "Pray Around the World" focus the last Sunday. The testimonies that follow give a little sense of what God is doing in response to that focused prayer time.

It was an honor to lead a service for "Pray Around the World." To think that we are uniting with our brother's and sister's around the globe is awe inspiring. Here at Ada Chapel some of our other district churches gathered together to spend this time with us. There were tears, sharing burdens, prayers of praise, and prayers of surrender. Then it was time to pray for our missionaries and Connectional and Conference leaders. The greatest thing of all was that God met with us. I look forward to this annual event. It is my hearts desire that we pray and that we pray well.

Pastor Doug Eads

Ada Chapel, Bibb County, AL

The consequence of the month of prayer is still having its effect on our people. The entire service agenda each week was focused on the subject; however, one major thought emerged: that God refused to answer unless we pray! That revolutionary thought reminded me of Otto Koning's Pineapple Story when he told the natives that God sees in the dark. Our people who asked more about how to pray are new converts and they are anxious to grow in their faith. It is amazing to see how thoughts and values change as we learn how God chooses to act within our lives. I

am humbled to again be reminded that it is the basic, foundational truths of God that continually change our lives and pull us toward Jesus Christ. As a result of the month long emphasis, we have changed how we pray; we do not pray in generalities, we do not stop praying until we get an answer, plus we have learned that the more we pray, the more God changes us!

Pastor Adrian Rosa

Hill Top Chapel, Concord, MI

Here at Bristolwood, the special emphasis on prayer was a wonderful way to begin a new year. We all can so relate to the busyness of life, especially having just celebrated the birth of Christ with all the holiday activities that come during that wonderful time of year. As we launched into the unknown, it was a refreshing reminder of the importance of personal quiet time with Christ. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..." (2 Chronicles 7:14) Through this time, we were encouraged to spend more time in personal as well as collective prayer, and as a result we have had many mention it helped them refocus on what is really important eternally. Collective revival is always a result of personal revival, and our continued prayer is that God

used this time to rekindle a personal revival in many of our hearts.

Pastor James Durr

Bristolwood, Grand Rapids, MI

A little girl in our church was inviting people to church and they asked what kind of church it was, she replied "It's a Church where God is!"

And my friends, I want to tell you that is SO TRUE!!! God is doing amazing things in our church! Satan is fighting hard because he isn't happy that God's people are learning how to pray – I don't just mean pray like we always have, I mean PRAY like we have never known we were able to pray! I mean Pray and see God move! I mean pray with a knew vision! I mean pray with renewed faith! I mean PRAY like God designed it!

I am in awe of God and how He is working on my heart and helping me in my prayer life. It had felt so dry and fell so short for so long. But I have learned that God has heard my hearts cry and my prayers are being answered that I have prayed all along. Just in God's perfect timing! My heart is so full and I just can't wait to see what more He is going to do!

Sarah Mishler

Salem, OH

Photo Credit: Pixabay.com



WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS UPDATE

TIMOTHY KEEP | MISSIONS DIRECTOR



Youth Congress in Mexico

Carolyn Keep traveled with her father to the annual youth convention in Mexico this year. “Carrie” loves connecting with people, and it did not take her very long to make friends with several of our Mexican BMC young people! She also loves children and was a big help to Brennan and Ivon, helping with “little” Brennan and Jared. The Lord truly blessed the youth convention and many young people responded to the Holy Spirit as He drew them through the preaching of the word of God.



Shepherd's College Graduation

In March, the 58th commencement ceremony was held at the Philippine Bible Methodist Shepherd's College, with five students graduating from our 4-year program in Bible & Christian Ministry. One of these graduates is already serving as pastor in a local church. All of them have been active in local church ministry during their training. We are excited to see what doors God will open for each of them in the days to come. Please pray that God will continue to guide them in paths of service. – *RG Hutchison*



New Philippine Church

We rejoice that another village in the Philippines has a church! Pastor Raymond Corpuz is a Shepherd's College graduate whom God lifted out of the "miry clay" of sin and called into the ministry! Praise the Lord for His redeeming grace. This newly-planted Philippine Bible Methodist is located in the barangay of Raniag, Burgos, Isabela. RG tells us that the name "Raniag" means something that is "radiant," and prays that the light of Christ will shine through the lives of this new congregation!

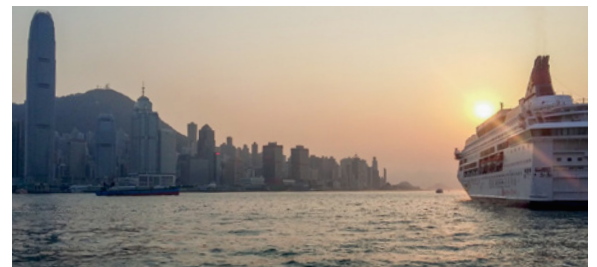


National Overseer Reelected

On April 10th Rev. Brendel Macadangdang was reelected to a fourth term as National Overseer of the Philippine Bible Methodist Church. We praise the Lord for Bro. Brendel and Sis. Delma, and for twelve years of faithful leadership.

Hong Kong International School

Paul and Esther were encouraged by traveling to Hong Kong with students from their learning center to participate in the East Asia ACE convention. They report that, "The evening preaching was excellent and worshipping with our fellow believers is always a moving experience. We and they do not get to experience this kind of corporate worship often as we are usually in a small house church setting on the mainland." We rejoice in how the Lord is changing lives through the ministry of Eagles Wings Learning Center, and through the growing Christian school movement in Asia.



ALABAMA REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

JOHN PARKER | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Rev. John Cain

On Sunday, February 18th, we celebrated the life of Rev. John Cain who went to heaven on February 8th. Rev. Cain served as a faithful pastor, builder and friend to many in our Conference over many years. He is the father of Mrs. Joan Stetler. He was a faithful patriot in military service, a devoted husband and father, and a faithful proclaimer of the Word of God! His boundless energy and wit will long be remembered. His 87 years were filled with many contributions and memories of faithful service to his Lord!



Mr. Spencer Clements

Bro. Spencer Clements from our Waycross, AL church passed away after a sudden illness on February 22. He was a beloved and devoted leader in the Waycross church and a faithful supporter of the Conference. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Patricia, and a grieving family. We thank the Lord for this good man and the legacy he leaves behind.



Salina, Kansas Bible Methodist Church Organized

Rev. Walter Hedstrom traveled back to Salina, KS at the request of Conference President John Parker to fulfill a commitment to organize the Church Plant there as a Bible Methodist Church. He was able to receive 12 members into this new church. There are great prospects for this flourishing ministry!



Youth Revival, Chattanooga Temple

The Youth Evangelist and a fine young man pose for a picture during the Youth Revival at the Chattanooga Temple Bible Methodist Church! (Rev. A.L. Kight & Rev. Walter Hedstrom)

Philippine Ministry Team

Conference Missions President, Mrs. Judy Eads, and her husband, Conf. VP, Pastor Doug Eads, along with Pastor Mark Potter, Philip Smith, Greg Murray and Cheyanna Underwood committed themselves to go to the Philippines to work and be a blessing to the ministry at the Shepherd's College in Villasis, Pangasinan. These teams do a great deal of work in a short time as well as travel in ministry to various locations. (Below, right) Leave it to a Team from Alabama to try new evangelism tactics!



A Visit with One of Our Founders

While preaching a revival meeting for one of our Elders from the Heartland Conf., Pastor Jonathan Phillips, in Emmett, Idaho, Conference President John Parker was able to spend some time visiting with a mentor, teacher and friend, Rev. Edsel Trouten. Rev. Trouten was a key figure in the founding of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. His grasp of our history and fervent zeal for our future is still very insightful and challenging! He is mentally sharp and passionate about the Kingdom of God.



Congratulations to Rev. Daniel Durkee, Newly Elected PVBI President

Conference President John Parker spoke for the Penn View Bible Institute's Missions Convention, April 3-5. What a blessing it is to witness the exciting journey of a young man who was saved through the outreach ministry of one of our conference churches to the newly elected position of President of a thriving Bible College. A flood of memories were shared by Rev. Parker as he reminisced across the years of watching this young man flourish spiritually, and develop into the man of God and leader he has become!

Rev. Willett Vess Battling Cancer

Dear friends for many decades, Mr. Alvin Hodge and Rev. Willett Vess pose for a picture recently when Bro. Vess was officiating at his sister-in-law's funeral in Jasper, AL. Bro. Vess needs our prayers as he battles a very serious cancer. He has served our conference in many capacities, and remains a beloved and highly esteemed mentor and advisor to so many of us. Thank You for praying for him.



Heath Brothers Recording

Sons of Pastor Jonathan Heath, of the Alabama Conference, now pastoring in Thomasville, NC, are blessing thousands of people through their music ministry! We are enjoying their beautiful harmony and vibrant spirits! Check out their new Recording.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

BLAKE JONES | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Dawn Valley Bible Methodist Church

On March 18, the Dawn Valley church hosted a “Family Worship Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt.” Our goal was to have whole families worshipping our Lord together. The morning began with Sunday School choruses, Bible stories and Bible verses. About half way into the service we had a “recess” for an Easter Egg Hunt and then met back in the sanctuary for congregational singing and a shorter message about Jesus coming close and walking with us. The service ended with Hans the puppet making an appearance to give out two quiet seats to the adults (Tim Horton’s gift cards and boxes of Oreos). We thank the Lord for a good attendance and for the parents that came with their children to worship together as a family.



Greenville Bible Methodist Church

Despite the rain, 99 people participated in the Easter Egg hunt outreach. Pastor and Mrs. Phillip Mills’ son, Landon, helped lead the singing. Please note the white circle in the bottom, right picture.



Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church

Missionary Paul T. shared a brief update in a monthly missions service at Rock Lake. On the same evening, Lisa Janofski who attends the Rock Lake church shared her work as an online teacher. Lisa is regularly at her computer at 5 a.m. teaching oriental students. The delightful point of the evening presentations was that Mrs. Janofski was coordinating a meeting of two of her students with the T. family and their students at a convention in Asia. Our missions leader, Mrs. Amber Jones, has been highlighting our own church people’s outreach ministries.



Evart Bible Methodist Church

Bundled warmly and gathered around a bonfire, the Evart Bible Methodist Church celebrated the Risen Lord early on Easter Sunday morning. Rev. Timothy Slavens, assistant pastor, lead the devotions.



Vandercook Lake Bible Methodist Church

Over the past few months, the Vandercook Lake church has been undertaking several projects. We accomplished our goal of installing a projector in the church sanctuary. We also remodeled our sound booth and upgraded some of the sound equipment. In the process, we also repainted the sanctuary. Most recently, we were able to purchase the property beside the church. Obtaining this land will give us the space we need to construct a fellowship hall at some point. We are excited about the progress and can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for our church's future.



HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

CHRIS CRAVENS | CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Around the Conference

(Clockwise from top, left) President Cravens preached in the chapel service at Union Bible College and then met with area Heartland pastors, Mike Mater and Duane Quesenberry and UBC ministerial students; Great Sunday at Auburn with Pastor Steve and Melissa Gresham; Pastor Jeff Moore is supervising the construction of a new parsonage at Community Bible Methodist at Gas City, IN; Fellowship with some of the men at Water of Life, Newport News, VA.



Work at Beulah Grove Camp

Working on the wells in anticipation of campmeeting time.



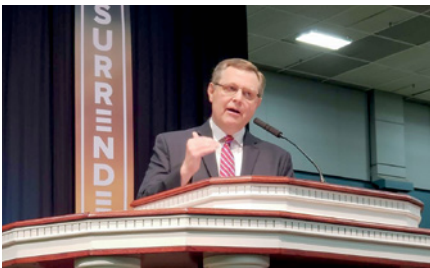
Pastoral Installation

Pastor Cravens officiated at the installation of Pastor Brian and Beth Wardlaw at the Franklin Bible Methodist Church.



Dayton IHC 2018

The Heartland Conference was well represented by the preaching of Pastor David Crosley and Pastor Duane Quesenberry. The conference was also well represented in the GBSC Legacy Quartet.



2018 Bible Methodist Camp Meetings

Heartland

BIBLE METHODIST Camp Meeting

June 19-24, 2018



Daniel Stetler
EVANGELIST

Aaron McCarty
SONG EVANGELIST

Wesley Holden
YOUTH MINISTER



RG Hutchison
BIBLE TEACHER

Angela Marriott
CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Alabama

BIBLE METHODIST Camp Meeting

July 2-8, 2018



Tim Keep
EVANGELIST

The Edwards Family
SONG EVANGELISTS

Dwight Crosley
YOUTH MINISTER



James Keaton
EVANGELIST

Priscilla Vernon
CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Rock Lake

BIBLE METHODIST Camp Meeting

July 13-22, 2018



Nathan Purdy
EVANGELIST

**The Emery &
Wetherald Families**
SONG EVANGELISTS



David Fry
EVANGELIST