

## Ebenezer Baptist Church

In January we took time to glance at the happenings of the church. As you look at the calendar this month, you will see opportunities to learn about sharing your faith, to learn about missions, a time of discipleship for the youth at WinterJam, and times of fellowship. May we see hope in Jesus as He continues to use small churches like ours to advance His kingdom.

I want to personally invite you to come to the Valentine's banquet. It will be a time of great fellowship as we gather to have fun and raise money to pay toward the building. There will be a dinner mystery theater, "Death by Chocolate," where each table will get to guess who the killer was. Invite your family and friends! There will be a basket for donations to the building fund.

Next, let me share with you a recent blog post I read. Thom Rainer, former president of Lifeway and owner of [christiananswers.com](http://christiananswers.com), wrote a blog post on December 19, 2022 titled, "Five Major Developments for Churches with an Attendance Under 250." These are his findings:

1. There will likely be a migration to neighborhood and rural churches. We are certainly aware that the greater majority of attendees are in larger churches. But we are also aware that the post-quarantine era introduced a greater desire not to commute as much, as well as not to travel as much for other activities. A number of people also moved to the quieter life of smaller towns and rural areas. The opportunity is great to reach both these new residents and those willing to go to a smaller church.

2. Larger churches are growing by getting smaller. The multisite movement is a dramatic shift from church practices 20 years ago. Indeed, almost all of the largest churches in America grew by increasing their number of sites rather than growing at one location. The leaders of these churches know that growth must be horizontal rather than vertical. They understand that attendees prefer smaller congregations or, at least, smaller gatherings.

3. One person can lead a dramatic and positive change in a standard church. We are incredibly encouraged to hear about one or a few people leading substantive changes in a congregation. Here is a comment from a recent article I wrote: "I prayed for five visitors to come to church and ten came. I confess, I was shocked and so were the people in my small church. I have renewed zeal for what God calls me to do. I listen to and read everything you guys put out. I complained no one is doing anything to help our church and I heard Sam say it starts with you! So, I am knocking on doors. You said if you invite they will come. They are! Thank you, Church Answers!"

4. Standard churches now have opportunities to educate and train their own members. Standard churches in the past had to hire people from outside the church if they wanted someone with theological training. There are now many options with digital resources to provide education and training on the church field (see our fast-growing Church Answers University, for example: [ChurchAnswers.University](http://ChurchAnswers.University)).

5. Evangelism is returning to many standard churches. These churches are reaching and will reach people with the gospel as the leaders and members respond in obedience to the Great Commission. Evangelism is not the purview of a larger church only; it is the command for all churches and all Christians.

There is hope for small churches. Let's win Robertson County, TN, for Christ!

In His service,

Bro. Chad  
Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Greenbrier, TN  
(615)643-0637  
[EbenezerGreenbrier.com](http://EbenezerGreenbrier.com)

### Ebenezer Baptist Church

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Pastor: Bro. Chad Phelan

Music Minister: CathyJean Spencer

Youth Minister: Larry Cantrell

Children's Director: Bobbie Morgan

Senior Adult Directors: Vicki Clark &  
Barbara Freeman

Ministry Assistant: Brenda Kelch

Visit our Facebook page!

[facebook.com/EBCGreenbrier](https://facebook.com/EBCGreenbrier)

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2- Barbara Freeman      3- Eva Martin      3- Reed Phelan  
4- Amber Hudgins      9- Pat Benson      10- Dillon Johnson  
12- Judy May      20- Buck Oberg      27- Sarah Phelan

## CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of:

2/5 Thom & Debi Wilson  
2/12 Harvey Major, Valerie Bibee, Norma Bass  
2/19 Amber Hudgins, Sonya Henry  
2/26 Peggy Denson, Tammy Perko

## COLLECT/DISPOSE OF TRASH

2/5 Thom & Debi Wilson  
2/12 Janice & David Cohea  
2/19 Barbara McLean  
2/26 Thom & Debi Wilson

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

2/5 Bryan Suter  
2/12 Jeff Delong  
2/19 Carl Brownfield  
2/26 Eddie Suter

## EXTENDED SESSION

2/5 Thom & Debi Wilson  
2/12 Pam Orum, Janice Cohea  
2/19 Brenda Campbell, Sonya Henry  
2/26 Jenny & Rob Kaukas

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday:

Deacon Prayer Time 8:50 AM  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Morning Worship 10 AM  
Children's Worship 10 AM  
Choir Practice 1:30 PM  
Drama Troupe Practice 2:45 PM

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 PM

## EBENEZER HAPPENINGS:

February 1 Dinner 6 PM/Missions 7 PM  
February 7 Deacon's Meeting 6 PM  
February 8 Business Meeting 7 PM  
February 11 Valentine GTG Fundraiser - Meal and a play "Death by Chocolate" for entertainment  
February 14 Valentine's Day  
February 20 President's Day - No School  
February 29 Racer Derby 4PM here at Ebenezer  
February 29 Bank Sunday

## Community Happenings:

February 3 Winter Jam 2023 @ Bridgestone Arena Pre-show 6 PM, starts 7 PM \$15 at the door  
February 5 Gospel Conversations Evangelism Training @ Springfield Baptist 6-7:30 PM Topic: Having Gospel Conversations Everyone is welcome!  
February 5 -May 7 Grief Share at Greenbrier FBC 2 PM every Sunday except Easter  
February 9 ACTS 2:17 Listening Session at Grace Baptist Spfld 6-8 PM  
February 15 Great Commission Conversations 11 AM - 12 PM online  
February 19 Focus on WMU Sunday  
February 24 You Lead @ Long Hollow Baptist Church  
February 25 Going Beyond Live with Priscilla Shriver @ Long Hollow Baptist Church  
March 3 Wild Game Dinner Cedar Hill Baptist 6:30 PM, Bring a meat  
March 3-4 Harvest Baptist Assoc Youth WKND  
March 4 Racer Derby Cedar Hill Baptist Church Reg. 8 AM Starts 9

During the month of **February** the church office will only be open on **Wednesday's from 9 AM - 2 PM**. The phone and email will be checked often so feel free to leave a message or send an email. Thank you for your support during this time!

## OCC for February

### Inside Play



Travel size board games, Card games  
Marbles, Dominoes, Slinky, Yo-Yo  
Jacks, Balloons, Spinning tops  
Puzzles, Building sets (Lego, blocks...)



Lacing Cards / beads, Rubber Ducks / other small animals  
Stuffed animals, Puppets

## GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS



Evangelism Training February 5  
Topic: Having Gospel Conversations  
Springfield Baptist 6-7:30 PM

## 2023 Missions Get-Together 2023

March 16-18

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, TN

Theme: Overflowing Hope

Registration began December 1, 2022

Registration closes March 3, 2023

\$100 Per Person by February 10 \$125 Per Person by March 3

Go to [TNbaptist.org/event](http://TNbaptist.org/event) to register



Grief Share, a grief support group, will meet each Sunday from February 5 - May 24 (except for Easter) at 2 PM at Greenbrier FBC. There is no charge for this program; it is a ministry of the church. For more information, call Mary Ann @ 615-643-5131 or the church office at 615-643-4507

## Racer Derby

February 26 @ 4 PM



Here at Ebenezer! Get your kits  
and get those cars ready for the Racer Derby!



## Choir News

The Scripture of the Month for February is 1 Peter 3:18.  
*Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.* 1 Peter 3:18

Coming up:

- The choir resumes presenting the Special Music in the worship service
- The Drama team will be presenting Scripture Dramas in the worship service
- The Drama team will be providing the entertainment at the Valentine's Dinner (Fundraiser for the Building Fund)
- In April, the choir will present the cantata, "He Lives!" on Easter Sunday morning.

This would be a great time to join the choir and/or drama troupe! We'd love to have you.

Blessings! CathyJean



Acts 2:17 Initiative Listening Session  
Grace Baptist Church, Springfield 6-8 PM

The great hope of the Acts 2:17 Initiative is that Tennessee Baptists will come together in unity to seek God's preferable future for our work as a network of Great Commission churches. Basically, the question on the table is: "What will be the priorities of Tennessee Baptists post 2024?"

*The thoughts and opinions of grassroots Tennessee Baptists are at the heart of this process.*





Join us for our **Valentine Fundraiser**

**Dinner** on February 11 @ 4:30. We will be serving a spaghetti dinner and dessert. We will have a



murder mystery, "Death by Chocolate" for you to participate in and win prizes!

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mop old Fellowship Hall - Vicki Clark			1 Dinner 6 PM Missions 7 PM	2 	3 Winter Jam 2023 Bridgestone Arena	4
5 Grief Share 2 PM Greenbrier FBC Gospel Conversations Spfld Bapt 6-7:30 PM	6	7 Deacon's Meeting 6 PM	8 Business Meeting 7 PM	9 Acts 2:17 Listening session Grace Bapt 6-8 PM	10	11 Valentine GTG Fundraiser 4:30 PM
12	13	14 	15 Great Commission Conversations 11 AM - 12 PM online	16	17	18
19 Focus on WMU Sunday	20 No School 	21	22	23	24 You Lead @ Long Hollow Bapt	25 Going Beyond Live Priscilla Shriver @ Longhollow Bapt  Disaster Relief Vision Mtg 9-11AM RCBA Office
26 Bank Sunday Derby Race 4 PM here at Ebenezer 	27	28				