

## BAMA MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2010

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at North Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Present were host pastor Jody Baker, Roger Norton, Duane Hennen, Ryan Hetzer, Ron McIlvaine, Rich Whipkey, Jim George, Dale Briggs, Tal Lewis, Jim Gardiner, and Fred Keener.

Host pastor and BAMA president Jody Baker opened the meeting with devotions about the importance of integrity in our lives as leaders, as exemplified by Daniel, who purposed in his heart not to defile himself.

Following prayer, the minutes of the November 11, 2009 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George reported that we had \$2,453.37 in the treasury as of the end of the year. There seemed to be a discrepancy concerning the amount of the Thanksgiving offering. Jim reported it as being \$580, while Tal and the people at Wildare had counted it as \$844.73. Tal is checking into the situation.

Jim George, who has asked to be part of the area Salvation Army team that meets 3 times per year, reported the amounts of money taken in for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive held at several locations in our area. Roughly \$7,300 was contributed. He said that the Cleveland regional office of the Salvation Army keeps 10% of the proceeds, and sends the remainder back for use in our area. He reminded us that the number of the Cortland Area Salvation Army unit, headquartered at Bazetta Christian Church, is 330-637-6239, and is answered by either Delores or Eleanor.

BAMA meeting locations were set for the latter months of this year, and are as follows:

September – Bristolville U.M.C.

October – Wildare U.M.C.

November – North Bloomfield U.M.C.

December – Christmas banquet at Greene Community Church

It was mentioned that this past year's Christmas banquet held at Greene went well, and appreciation was expressed to host pastor Duane Hennen for being willing to hold the event.

Regarding our discussion in November about developing a BAMA page on Facebook, Dale Briggs reported that there would be no problem in doing this. It was felt that this would be a good thing to do, as it would provide another way to connect our congregations, as well as be a witness to the community. People in the congregation could join as "fans." It was moved, seconded, and passed for Dale to get this project off the ground.

Regarding the offer Jim George made in November about taking old computers and computer-related equipment for refurbishing in Cleveland, Jim said that he has been unable to find his contact's name, but will continue to pursue this possibility.

There was some discussion on our approach to meeting needs of people who come to us for material aid. Dale encouraged us not to be hardened to people, but to always be willing to give the "cup of cold water" in Jesus' name. Duane emphasized the

importance of reaching out to peoples' spiritual needs as well as material needs. He encouraged us to make it a priority to speak God's Word into peoples' lives. We agreed that there is a need to be good stewards of the funds God has entrusted to us, but to also have the compassion of Christ in being willing to help those who are in need.

Regarding school outreach assemblies, Jody mentioned a Dan Smith from the Cleveland area who had been recommended to him by someone in Youth for Christ. Dan has a reputation for doing a good job with school assemblies, and encourages an evening event at which a pizza party can be held and an evangelical message shared. Jody is awaiting word from him as to what dates he might have available this April or May for a 3-school assembly in our area, as well as an evening pizza party/concert at Maplewood. We talked about what our price limit would be, feeling that \$1,500 would be very reasonable. Jody will contact us with more information as soon as possible. In the meantime, Dan's website can be accessed at [whiteboydj.com](http://whiteboydj.com), including the "Baby Got Book" video.

This year's Lenten services were discussed, and the following schedule of locations and speakers was developed:

February 21 – North Bristol Christian – Jody Baker

February 28 – West Mecca U.M.C. – Fred Keener

March 7 – North Bloomfield U.M.C. – Ron McIlvaine

March 14 – Greene Community Church – Chris Furl

March 21 – North Bloomfield Assembly of God – Duane Hennen

April 2 (Good Friday) – West Farmington U.M.C. – Tennebrae service coordinated by Jim George

Just as a reminder, the Sunday evening services begin at 6 p.m., and the Good Friday service at 7 p.m. Host churches are asked to provide the worship service and special music, and refreshments afterward. As always, it's up to the Good Friday host church as to whether or not to have refreshments.

Several events being hosted by our churches were mentioned. Jody mentioned that the clothing ministry on Park Ave., run by the North Bloomfield U.M.C., is still going strong. The clothing ministry is open on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 11 – 2.

Some prayer requests were mentioned, and closing prayer was offered by Ryan Hetzer.

Our next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10 at West Mecca U.M.C., with Ron McIlvaine as host pastor. Those who can meet for prayer at 8:30 a.m. are invited to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Keener, Secretary