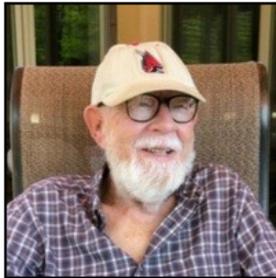


# ECBA Loses 2 Pillars of the Association

During the past couple of months, God has called home two people who were pillars in our East Central Baptist Association; Mary Fullhart and Amos Rodgers. We are sad that they are gone from our presence but rejoice that they are in the presence of our Lord and Savior.

I (Pat Storm) asked a few people who knew them and served with them to share some remembrances. Briefly, from myself, I cannot remember a time, as an adult, that I did not know Mary Fullhart. Most likely, I also knew her when I was a teen in GA's and Acteens, too. She was always "the WMU lady" for our association. I first remember serving with her when we took GA's and Acteens to a state retreat. Later, there were many, many association and state WMU meetings and retreats where we were together. She was always planning and encouraging others to be involved. I didn't get to



Amos Rodgers served faithfully as a pastor, deacon, teacher, ECBA trustee and on several ECBA committees.

know Amos Rodgers until the last few years; such a kind and humble man; funny, too. He was the pastor of Gaston Baptist Church, which has since closed, and also served as an ECBA Trustee. He was always so appreciative of anything I did that was helpful to him and he was so encouraging. Mary Fullhart once wrote, "As always it has been a joy and privilege to serve the Lord through the Association." It has been a joy and privilege to serve the Lord in our



Mary Fullhart, during the 2010 On Missions Celebration, with a photo of Annie Armstrong, whose namesake offering she so effectively championed every year.

(Continued on page 3)

## Register Now for Virtual VBS Training Paid for by ECBA

All of our Vacation Bible School training will be virtual this year due to Covid. Lifeway is offering training for \$49.00 per person and our East Central Baptist Association has decided to pay for anyone who would like to participate in this training. So far, we have 5 people who have signed up; this includes 2 churches that have never had VBS before. If any others would like to take this training, please let Brenda Brooks, our VBS and Children's Ministry Coordinator, know and she will get you registered.

Our plan is to take part in the preview on January 23 from 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM and then participate in the over 20 breakout sessions that you can choose and watch at your convenience. If interested, please call Brenda at 765-393-1458 and provide your name, phone number, and an e-mail address so she can get you registered. If at all possible, she would like this information before Christmas so that she can sign everyone up at the same time and have just one invoice for the registrations. If your church has never had VBS before, Brenda will be glad to help you get started and to answer any questions you may have.

## BSU Student Ministry Continues thru Remedy City

It started with a bonfire hosted by Remedy City Church in Muncie last September. How appropriate that this "spark" from the fire continues to grow and reach students at Ball State University. Since that "spark," Pastor Jeremiah Kinney has held a weekly men's discussion group, delving into the scripture and discovering God's truths. They are averaging around 15 men attending each week but have had about 25 different guys involved.

For the past 6 weeks, they have developed a smaller group do a "deep dive" into Scripture. This group is comprised of men who lead Bible studies at CRU, so it was more like a "train the trainers" session. It started when one of the men asked about a particularly hard verse in Hebrews. Rather than just give a quick answer, Pastor Jeremiah suggested that they study the entire book and see how that verse fits into context and see if they couldn't discover together

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Dr. Ron Ross

# The Katecheo

As we approach Christmas Day, individuals and churches are decorating and preparing for family and friends to celebrate the greatest time of the year. For many churches, they are focused on musical presentations, while others are poised for assisting those in need; the worship services often follow the liturgical themes of Advent, and they may be involved in a combination of all or some of the above. There remains little doubt that churches and Christian society has no lack on ingenuity, while so many church-attenders have little insight into the reason for Christmas.

Both the gospel of Matthew and Luke share the details of Jesus' birth and early childhood and often these selections paint the picture for those attending Christmas programs or services. But have you ever thought of another gospel that takes the origin of that baby in the manger back to His eternal setting? The gospel of John does just that and perhaps we can take just a few moments to consider the insights presented in that record.

The gospel of John begins with similar words of Genesis 1.1; this was due to the purpose of the writing itself. You see, when John was penning these words, the "Church" was about fifty-five years old and to compound other challenges, the Church at Ephesus (who would receive this gospel) had experienced the influx of Gnostic thought which was causing some to stray from the truth — much like today. Gnosticism possessed inaccurate views of the Son of God and this gospel was intended to counter those inaccurate views.

John 1.1 (NASB) begins with the message, "In beginning was the Word." Note the absence of the definite

article, just as is the case in the Hebrew of Genesis 1.1. It continues, "and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The author purposefully states "the Word;" which indicates a philosophical thought progressing down through the years that has now come to enter humanity in a physiological sense. That unknown thought is now in present tense presence. John states, that One, the Word, "was with God" and furthermore, He "was God." Jesus has always existed. He is eternal. He is the Creator. He is the One who would be identified with the animal clothing of Adam and Eve in the Garden. He is the One who was typed in Abel's animal sacrifice. He was the One who was imaged in the pitching of Noah's Ark as well as the conveyance of safety inside that vessel. He is the One who appeared to Moses in the "burning bush," and on and on one could go. After all the numerous references of His presence, He came in the form of an infant, a baby. Consider John's words found in verse 14 — "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Some of the saddest words of this first chapter of John is found in verse 11, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" — very sad words, and words that describe many today; however, there is a great message shared in verse 12, BUT as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (this is the word better translated "authority") to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

In summary, some people, chosen by God are given the authority to respond to the Spirit's conviction and call on their life, while the vast majority of earthlings haven't yet and many more never will. That Baby came, grew up, died on a cross as the sacrifice for sin, was buried and rose the third day. He ascended back to the presence of His Father

where He makes intercession for the saints and awaits that moment when His Father says, "It is time," at which He will descend in the air to bring every believer to Himself for great reunion. Until then, focus on "the WORD."

Something to ponder as we celebrate His entrance physically as a baby in the manger!

*January*

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

**Birthdays**

**None**

**Anniversaries**

**January 23**—Jim & Jama Marlow's 40th anniversary (North Delaware—Muncie)

**Church Anniversaries**

**None**

was the Word." Note the absence of the definite

**Upcoming Events In January**

*SBC Emphasis for January*

**January 3-10** —January Bible Study

**January 19**—Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

*(Continued from page 1)*

association with both of them. They will be missed.

Following are part of their published obituaries followed by remembrances of them by Dr. Ron Ross, Bruce Reynolds, and Jama Marlow.

### **Amos Rodgers**

Amos Marion Rodgers, Jr. of Eaton passed from this life into eternal life at the age of 86 on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at Morrison Woods Health Campus in Muncie, Indiana. He was born in Muncie, Indiana on January 25, 1934 to the late Amos Marion Rodgers, Sr. and Grace (Huntzinger) Rodgers.

Amos was an ordained deacon and taught Sunday school at North Delaware Baptist Church in Royerton, Indiana for forty years. He later pastored Gaston Baptist Church in Gaston, Indiana for 10 years and worked in quality control at Borg Warner for 44 years. He married Frances (Hollingsworth) Rodgers in Upland, Indiana on July 5, 1954, and together they raised their children. He was a loving father, husband, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. He was a big jokester at heart.

Amos is survived by his son, Richard "Brad" Rodgers (Shelli) of Eaton, Indiana; daughters, Mitzi L. Thames (Steve) of Eaton, Indiana and Karen D. Lewis of South Carolina; sisters, Jean Neal of Pendleton, Indiana and Elaine Young of Frankfort, Indiana; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

### **Mary Fullhart**

Mary Helen Fullhart, age 77 of Smyrna, died Thursday November 19, 2020. She was born in Sewanee, TN. Mrs. Fullhart was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest Pack and Beulah Mae Gilliam Pack; son; Phillip Fullhart, granddaughter, Natasha Joe Palmer; son-in-law, Carl Watson; siblings, James Pack, Anthony Pack, Steve Pack, and Carol Blackburn,

She was a member of Christ Life Community Church, and Old Town Hill Southern Baptist Church in Muncie, IN. Mrs. Fullhart was a

Trustee for the International Missions Board, she was past President of Women's Missionary Union. Mrs. Fullhart lived a very Christian life.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years Phillip Fullhart; daughters; Debbie (Danny) Watson of Smyrna, Rhonda Watson of Smyrna, and Katrinka (Dustin) Stiner of Arkansas.

### **From Pastor Bruce Reynolds**

There are times you meet people and you just never know how they will impact your life. I guess that is what comes to mind when I think of Mary Fullhart. I met Mary when she was a member of Creekwood Baptist church. I was a member of Creekwood's church plant, Westbrook Baptist church. The pastor that was there had just resigned and we were looking for a pastor to come and lead this baby church plant. The pastor of Creekwood, at that time, was a guy by the name of Jeff Langley. Jeff had met a man he thought might fit the bill. The process was then to take this poor guy by the name of Rick and bring him in front of Creekwood's board, and yes, Mary Fullhart was on that board. I remember sitting with Rick as the board asked him questions. The questions as you can imagine varied from easy ones to some deep theological questions. The toughest tiger on that board was this little woman with a southern accent by the name of Mary Fullhart. Mary showed no mercy as she grilled Rick with questions that, to this day, great theologians struggle with. Finally, at the end of the meeting, poor Rick wringed out his shirt from the sweat that had been pouring out of his pores from the intense grilling. His first question

was, who was that woman again and what did I do to her. I still laugh to myself as I remember that day.

Then the Lord called me to a church by the name of Old Town Hill and slowly and sadly, things at Creekwood began to come to an end. The craziest thing was that a couple by the name of Phil and Mary Fullhart began to attend as well. Now what you need to know about Mary is that she was never one to just sit and fill a pew. It wasn't long before Mary began to lead the WMU at OTH. I was impressed with the seriousness that Mary felt for missions. This was not a woman who just talked about missions, but she did missions. Mary served on the IMB board for many years and went all over the world. This woman was not afraid of anything. Mary went to places I can't pronounce let alone have a desire to go to.

Later, as I became pastor, Mary did not slow down at all. I asked her to begin to pour into others the passion she had for missions and the best way to do that was to take people with her. Mary began to plan a trip to Grenada; she took groups on two different occasions to that location. I also gave her credit for finding places with warm weather and beaches in which to serve. Funny how God worked that out.

My fondest memory was when she talked me into going on a mission trip with her and several others from OTH down to Texas near the Mexico border. As we prepared for

*(Continued on page 4)*

### **Student Ministry** *(Continued from page 1)*

what God was saying in it. He shared that "All scripture is profitable" and that we don't need to be afraid of it, but master it, in context. They studied the entire book, and it certainly did work. Right now they are on school break but plan to get together again in the spring, too.

Additionally, female students are being reached, too. Two ladies at Remedy City are discipling 2 female students from BSU. Also, Jeremiah's wife, Cassie, and some of the female students, made blankets to give the "A Better Way" women's domestic violence shelter.

Covid has hampered activities in some ways but in other ways it has helped. Several students are watching Remedy City's livestreamed services plus when they go home, parents are watching also. Please pray for this student ministry as they continue to reach out at BSU.

## **Operation Christmas Child Does Well with Changes at Redeemer**

*By Brenda Brooks*

Every year our Awana Kids fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child in October as a mission project. Because of Covid we had to shut down our AWANA program in March, so I asked our Ladies Bible Study Group, which is now meeting again, following Covid guidelines, if they would want to take on this project and they did. This year we collected 18 boxes, which is more than we normally fill. I am so thankful for the Women's Bible Study Group for taking on this mission on top of everything else we do as a church.

## Remembering Mary Fullhart and Amos Rodgers

the trip (for the record, I did not want to go), I asked Mary what exactly was it we would be doing? One of the things she mentioned was painting in a church. Mary then said that we would not be doing that because another group had already been scheduled for that project. Well, guess what? We get down there and on the second day we were painting the church that I had not packed any painting clothes for. Bless her heart. What Mary failed to tell me, also, was that while we were down there, we would be treated to the customs of that people group. This means beans for every meal, including breakfast. What was the problem with that you may ask? I slept in a bunkhouse with all men and one of those guys was on oxygen. It's a miracle we didn't blow up in the middle of the night.

The truth is that Mary Fullhart was an amazing woman. I am so excited that she is now in front of her Jesus whom she loved so much. There is no doubt that our sister has heard the words, "Well done good and faithful servant." Trust me, Mary is one of a kind and I really miss her. What a privilege to have done kingdom work with such a warrior for Christ.

### From Dr. Ron Ross

Our family moved to Muncie in September of 1978 (42 years ago). Shortly after our arrival, I met Mary and Phil and they became dear friends. Since I had the privilege of teaching for three different schools, I was so blessed to have had around fifty different students over the years. In that first class that met in the first-stage of Old Town Hill Baptist Church, we saw some thirty persons from literally all over the association and two of those were the Fullharts. As it appeared to me, Mary was always a lady that wanted to know God better and she was so very interested in missions (whether here or somewhere else) and that always struck a chord in my spirit.

Some years back, I was elected to serve on SBC's Committee on Committees meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. I was informed prior to the meeting of the slots that needed to be filled. One of those slots was the need for someone to serve as a Trustee on the International Mission Board. I called Mary and I related to her that of all the people in Indiana that I had met over the years, she was a person I felt should serve in that capacity. She made that a matter of prayer and then told me she would be honored to serve God in that area if the committee was in agreement. When we were seated in that meeting and as we progressed in

discussing the needs, it came to that area and I presented her name to those present. I shared that she had a passion for missions, both here at home and abroad and stressed that over the years that I had known her. I believed she would be honored to serve our SBC, as she had so faithfully served the East Central Baptist Association of Indiana and the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. I additionally shared some of the vital information, such as Cooperative giving and mission giving of their church. The committee unanimously agreed. I remember when I returned to Muncie, I gave her the news that her name would be presented before the Annual SBC meeting.

She served so faithfully and was such a noble servant of the Lord, the OTHBC, the ECBA, the SCBI and the SBC. Humble yet so deeply committed.

Amos Rodgers was a very special man. I met Amos shortly after I became pastor of the Halteman Village Baptist Church in Muncie. Amos was a charter member and deacon of the North Delaware Baptist Church. Since North Delaware Baptist Church had been a mission of the Halteman Village Baptist Church, Amos would come to me on occasion to talk and gather information about various aspects of local church life. We became very good friends over the years and he would always assist in the ordination of pastors and deacons. Amos had a desire to learn, and that desire enabled him to be a part of various classes I had the privilege to lead.

Amos had a deep desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and he did so as a follower of Christ, a deacon, Sunday School Director, Trustee, and eventually as a pastor. Later in life, he sensed God's leading to leave his local church family and launch out to the pastorate of the Gaston Baptist Church. The new role was challenging, but he had a peace that He was where God wanted him to be. I can remember the Sunday he and I sat in an empty GBC auditorium and he told me he was stepping down as pastor. Unfortunately, for him and the church, this would end the ministry to the small town of Gaston, Indiana.

Amos returned to his old church home and was welcomed by old and new friends. Following that return, he experienced the death of his wife, Francis, which observers realized was taking its toll on his well-being. Following some health challenges, he was able to return to church services until additional health

factors led to hospitalization and residential care.

Amos died Thursday, December 3 at 6:05 AM with family by his side. He truly fought a good fight, he ran the course, and he certainly kept the faith. ECBA lost another faithful servant!

### From Jama Marlow

There are so many good memories that are connected to Amos Rogers. First and foremost, he truly wanted everyone to know Jesus, so he asked everyone he came in contact with if they knew Him, and if not, would they'd like to. He was such a faithful and dedicated servant to the Lord and lived that out on a daily basis. He also would help any person who was in need with whatever was needed. He was very giving.

Amos was also well known for being a prankster and a joker. He told of the many times he pulled pranks on coworkers, his children, and his wife, Francis. He also told many jokes, and some of them many times over! Even if they had been told multiple times, they would receive just as many laughs with each telling.

The first year of Jim's pastorate at North Delaware, Jim, his son-in-law, and Amos went to a men's conference in Indianapolis. On the way back, Jim bought a dishwasher and it rode in the back with Amos. There were many jokes made by Amos about his safety on the ride home, and then for 14 years later, as he knew the dishwasher had never been installed.

On another occasion, he bought a gas can and wrote on its side "gas fund for the pastor," because Jim ran out of gas more than once within a short period of time. He presented it to the pastor in front of the congregation.



Mary Fullhart, Indiana WMU President, 3rd from the right, when the WMU was awarded a Second Century Fund grant by the national WMU executive board in 2010.

## ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for November 2020

	<b>Nov 20</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>4000 · Church Receipts</b>	
4060 · New Day	500.00
4120 · Halteman - Muncie	348.30
4140 · Kingston - Anderson	144.28
4160 · North Delaware - Muncie	102.75
4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie	0.00
4180 · Redeemer - Anderson	284.04
4190 · First - Montpelier	90.00
4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship	130.00
4230 · Integris	79.00
4240 · Remedy City	53.04
<b>Total 4000 · Church Receipts</b>	1,731.41
<b>6999 · Misc Income</b>	200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,931.41</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>7000 · Administrative Ministry</b>	
7010 · Other Expense	13.95
7090 · Payroll	729.99
<b>Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry</b>	743.94
<b>Total Expense</b>	743.94
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,187.47</b>

## ECBA Balance Report November 2020

	<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
<b>1000 · ONB</b>			
1010 · General Budget	42,411.16	41,812.97	598.19
1011 · Discretionary Admin Team	7,493.99	7,493.99	0.00
1015 · BCM Rent Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00
1016 · BCM Capital Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1020 · Disaster Relief	474.28	0.00	474.28
1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund	7,052.19	6,937.19	115.00
1035 · Church P&H Fund	6,297.89	6,297.89	0.00
1040 · OMC	1,307.84	1,307.84	0.00
1051 · ECBA Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00
1055 · Funds Temporarily Restricted	19,892.33	19,892.33	0.00
1000 · ONB - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total 1000 · ONB</b>	84,929.68	83,742.21	1,187.47
<b>1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation</b>			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	10,827.32	10,827.32	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	1,179.71	1,179.71	0.00
1120 · Church P&H Fund	19,223.09	19,223.09	0.00
1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted	149,357.73	149,357.73	0.00
<b>Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation</b>	180,587.85	180,587.85	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265,517.53</b>	<b>264,330.06</b>	<b>1,187.47</b>

**EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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