

## **CLUSTER AREAS UPDATE**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

Once again I come to you concerning Cluster Areas. I am hoping this time to get them off the ground and running. Over the winter months I have thinking on ways the Cluster Groups could build up our Baptist Churches and also get us enthused about our denomination and the witness that we can be in the Annapolis/Digby areas.

The idea of the Cluster areas when first announced were to bring small churches together in an area and provide ministry, fellowship and training that they may not be able to do on their own. A church in a given area could stay in their church building for worship, but come together with the other churches in the local area for training, fellowship and witnessing. Also since the original intent, I have been thinking that the Cluster Areas could be also a catalyst for bringing new life into our denomination and a support group for the pastors and lay workers.

Every area of our Association is unique and has its own challenges. I am suggesting that we meet together in early March in each Cluster area and discuss ways that an area can get together for fellowship and worship, but also be a support for one another and provide training, and ministry that will benefit the churches in the area. I have combined a couple of clusters areas together for this first meeting to save time and travel. I am hoping the pastor and a representative or two from each church will attend. Churches without a pastor please send a couple of representatives to the meeting in your area.

### **TWO MEETINGS ARE SET UP:**

**Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.m. at the Smith's Cove Baptist Church the Digby and Weymouth Area Clusters will meet.**

**DIGBY AREA** --- Acaciaville, Digby, Culloden, Smiths Cove, Hill Grove, Bear River, Deep Brook / Clementsport, Clementsvale, Bear River East

**WEYMOUTH AREA** ---- North Range, St. Mary's Bay, Plympton, Ashmore, New Tusket Weymouth Falls (Mount Beulah)

**Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Inglewood Community Hall, 2:00 P.M. Bridgetown and Annapolis West Cluster Areas will meet.**

**BRIDGETOWN AREA** --- Bridgetown, West Dalhousie, Centrelea, Inglewood, Paradise, Lawrencetown, Inglisville, (Port Lorne and Hampton), Clarence

**ANNAPOLIS WEST AREA** --- Annapolis, Granville Ferry, Granville Centre, Granville Beach, Port Wade, Port Royal, Victoria Beach, adding (Lakebrook, Hillsburn and Parkers Cove

I am working on setting up meetings with the Middleton Cluster Area and the Digby Neck Cluster areas and will contact these cluster areas when a date is finalized.

Some of the questions we could discuss in the upcoming meetings together are:

What are the needs for your cluster area and what ways may we together fulfill those needs?

What are the needs for you as a pastor?

What can we do together to make our churches grow and feel part of the denomination?

Also you may have ideas that we could discuss and what we can do to revive the work in your area of the Annapolis/Digby Baptist Association.

For the churches that do not have a pastor at this time, you are encouraged to send a representative or two from your church to the cluster meeting in your area.

In His Service

Rev. Fred Bigelow