



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

Several of our WRBA churches are entering a time of transition of their pastoral leadership this month. Some of these congregations have not had to go through the pastor search process for many years. We have been blessed here in this Central Texas region with long, stable pastoral leadership. We are also blessed with many helpful resources and people who are experienced and very capable of assisting churches through this transition time. Nevertheless, losing a pastor and working for 10 months to a year to find a new one is inevitably a stressful experience on a congregation. It is stressful due to the fact that it is always a major change in a church. The fact that a congregation feels anxiety and stress during this time is not unusual, nor is it a sign that “things are bad”. It is simply an indication that pastoral leadership is important in the life of the congregation.

In light of that, I would like to extend a word of encouragement and an offer of assistance. Through the Association, we have some great resources: a manual and a book for the search committee; relationships with many highly qualified interim pastors and supply preachers; a commitment to pray for these churches; and an open offer to help train and consult with the pastor search committee. I frequently meet with pastor search committees, not to suggest who they might pick, but rather to help them think through the process and their options and to make them aware of helpful resources.

There are a few bits of advice that I offer to the congregation as a whole when they are searching for a pastor: (1) Pray! This is a great time to commit to seeking the Father together in humility and faith. (2) Be patient! The process takes time (very often up to a year). Asking the committee to hurry up is not usually very helpful. (3) Step up! The interim period is a great moment to include new leaders in new roles, for committees and teams to get proactive, and for individuals to step into new ministries that previously everyone was waiting for the pastor to fill. (4) Discover and affirm your values as a church. Values are those unique qualities that mark your church. Knowing what your values are as a church will help the search committee find someone who shares those values and will build on them when they come. (5) Trust the Lord! Faith is how we walk, right? Faith is how we move forward together in church.

In His Service,
Tim

— Transforming Communities —

Mother Teresa is quoted as having said, "Christ appears in many distressing disguises." Her thoughts echo the statement of Christ himself in Matt. 25, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you've done it unto me." Your Community Ministries Team is actively engaged in enlarging our efforts to reach out in Christ's name and in his character to the "least" in our communities. Beginning next month,



WRBA will employ a Coordinator for Hunger Ministry who will be an invaluable resource for churches desiring to eradicate hunger in their communities. Rather than operate one central food pantry that duplicates what Caritas does so effectively, we will work to empower churches to establish ministries in under-served areas.

Resources will include training and, in some cases, grant money. In addition to these efforts in addressing hunger, we are intentionally implementing a new strategy for reaching the approximately 20,000 students on the campuses of MCC and TSTC. This bold new approach moves away from a traditional director of Baptist Student Ministries and, instead, uses coordinators who will serve to facilitate local church involvement in ministry to college students. We are currently prayerfully seeking to fill coordinator positions for each of these campuses. If interested, you will find the job descriptions online at www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org under "Positions Available." Finally, we are finding new ways to address the complex mosaic of reaching out to offenders and their families as well as ex-offenders who are struggling to re-enter society rather than returning to prison/jail. This larger effort falls under the category of 'Restorative Justice', emphasizing that we seek recovery and restoration through relationship. One part of this effort is seeking to enhance the Jail Ministry of McLennan County. We are looking for the right individual to assist us in that effort (please see the job description posted on our website).

If you have questions about any of these efforts or would simply like to know how to become involved, please write to me. Thank you for allowing me to work with you as we work together to reach "the least of these." Please seriously consider attending the No Need Among You conference to be held Sept. 15-17. For more information, please go to www.nnay.texasbaptists.org. You will note that the Waco Regional Baptist Association is one of the conference sponsors this year.

In Him,
Dane Fowlkes, Ph.D.
Associate Director
associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org



Mission Arlington Ministry Training Conference

August 5-7

There is no charge for the weekend, but reservations are required and donations are appreciated. For information and reservations, contact Matt Hart at 817-704-6145 or matt@missionarlington.org.

The Body of Believers

A glimpse of how God is at work in the Waco area.

With a roof that won't leak, working bathrooms and freshly painted walls, Park Lake Drive Baptist Church is on the cusp of updates for its future.

Pastor Amos Humphries said, "There's so much going on right now, but it's really about we've got a future."

The church has grown and seen 19 baptisms in the two years Humphries has been pastor, only two of which were children. Located in an older neighborhood that has declined through the years, Park Lake Drive is looking at new ways to sustain the church and buildings.

Administrative Pastor Clint Brown said, "Our congregation is primarily older and they're really seeing it as passing on a legacy. Not just something that used to be, but something that is going to be and is going to continue to be a meaningful part of this community."

Park Lake hopes to start a new campus in the next year or so. The two campuses will each have a pastor and will share an administrative pastor, a youth pastor and eventually a women's pastor.

Humphries said, "We want to create a ministry that's not driven by one person's personality. So having (two campus pastors), the plan is that we'll rotate preaching responsibilities.... So it's not one person, it's the ministry itself."

Once both campuses are stable, they can start another extension campus.

Humphries said, "Initially, the historic location supports the extension campuses. Hopefully in ten years that trend reverses."

This may lead to new outreach possibilities. The church is already active with ministries like VBS. June 12-15, the fellowship hall became a biblical scene of colorful tents with teachers in period garb.

Park Lake has also ministered to nursing home residents for 37 years with Busy Beavers. Once a month, vans transfer 100 or more elderly patients from at least six nursing homes to the church for lunch and entertainment. Donald Highfill organizes the amusement and welcomes anyone wanting to give 20 minutes of entertainment to call him at 254-754-2231.

He said, "I have become acquainted with some of the residents. It's a blessing to see some of the same ones come back that would not have another opportunity to come (to the church)."

One church group goes to Jeffrey's Place for service each week while another visits Waco Children's Home every other month for birthday parties.

Humphries said, "When you've got a group of people like that, you don't have to work on their hearts. You just have to give them opportunities."

This led to the church working with Waco ISD and the McLennan County Hunger Initiative to offer a summer feeding program July 5-Aug. 17. Children who receive free lunches during the school year often do not get the same benefits during the summer. Park Lake is looking forward to the opportunity to reach so many children and families by serving meals.

Humphries said, "As a church, all we have to do is provide space and volunteers. And get this ... they were like 'If you want to do a Vacation Bible School, teach them stories, play games, do anything you want.'"

Fourteen people volunteered to help before the sign-up sheet was made.

Humphries said, "My people are hungry for that kind of stuff. I think that's one of the reasons why we survived is because we've got such a solid, core group of people who love ministering to people."

He asks others to be "praying for discernment, patience and protection."

Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School

Several churches in Waco are offering Vacation Bible School. Listed below are a few churches to remember in prayer as they minister to children this month.



<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kendrick Lane Baptist Church	July 10-14
FBC West	July 11-15
FBC McGregor	July 18-22
Western Heights Baptist Church	July 25-29
Shiloh Baptist Church	August 1-5

*If your church would like to add a VBS week to the summer prayer list, please contact Katelyn at 254-753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

The *Discover! Waco* packets are ready for pick up!

The information packets are available to be picked up at the WRBA office.

Rod Lindsey can meet to discuss the information when you contact him at 254-339-6663 or rklindsey6@gmail.com.

Executive Board Meeting — All Churches Invited

Wednesday, July 6 at 11:00am in the HBMC Garden Room.

Dutch-treat lunch in the cafeteria afterwards.



Courageous Movie Screening

July 27th at 10:00am

FBC Hewitt

For more information, visit www.courageousthemovie.com,

call 254-666-2741 or email michelle@fbc-hewitt.org.

*This is only open to pastors, church staff and their spouses.

RA Camp

August 3-6

Latham Springs

Cost: \$160

Contact Brad Blanchard at 254-640-0219 for more information.



Childhood Ministry Summit

August 12-13

Dallas Baptist University

Cost: \$35 for one day, \$60 for both days (no returns after July 30).

Register at <http://texasbaptists.org/events/childhood-ministry-summit/>.

Online Community



To receive this newsletter only by email, contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Other July Events

Monday, July 4 — Independence Day. Office Closed.

Wednesday, July 6, 11:00am — Executive Board Meeting. HBMC Garden Room.

July 8-10 — Annual Small Church Conference. University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
Contact Rev. Ray at 432-202-1526 or brother_ray@juno.com.

Tuesday, July 12, 5:00pm — Community Ministries Meeting. WRBA.

July 13-16 — WMU Blume. Orlando, FL.

Sunday, July 17, 3:30pm — Unity Day. Koinomia Worship Center.

July 18-23 — World Changers. Waco. Contact Brian Miller at 417-631-8717 or mchriste91@gmail.com for more information.

July 21-25 — Kidz Kamp. Latham Springs.

Community News

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Emmanuel, FBC McGregor, FBC Riesel, Highland, Shiloh, West Robinson

Congratulations to Harris Creek Baptist Church and their new Lead Community Pastor,
Brian Horn!

Congratulations to Columbus Avenue and their new Minister of Recreation and Singles,
Jason Phillips!

Congratulations to Columbus Avenue and their new Associate Pastor of Music and
Worship, James Kimmel!

Church Mission Trips

Several churches in the Waco Regional Baptist Association have organized mission trips for this month. Please pray for our church groups as they minister to others in our state, country and world.



<u>Church</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chalk Bluff Baptist Church	McAllen	July 16-23
FBC Hewitt	Arlington	July 17-22
Lake Shore Baptist Church	St. Louis, MO	July 18-23
World Changers	Waco	July 18-23
FBC Lorena	Austin	July 24-29

*If your church would like to add a mission trip to the summer prayer list, please contact Katelyn at 254-753-2408 or admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.

We are taking a number of overseas mission trips this summer. As well, we have youth going to Super Summer and several members leading Christian camps outside the state of Texas. —Calvary Baptist Church

Financial News

WRBA Financial Report as of June 24, 2011

Year-to-Date Budget Needs – 113,959

Year-to-Date Church Contributions – 111,925.78

If you have questions about the financial support of our ministries or our budget needs, contact us at finance@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org.