



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

———— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR ————

I listened to a podcast the other day that turned my thoughts to gratitude in an unusual way. It was an interview with Thomas Thwaites, the author of [The Toaster Project: Or a Heroic Attempt to Build a Simple Electric Appliance](#). Here is a photo of the toaster that he built from “scratch”. I cannot tell his whole story here, but basically he went to an iron ore mine and brought back a suitcase of ore. He tried to smelt the ore in his backyard and then tried



to manufacture plastic from scratch and over nine months later, he had this extremely rustic “toaster” that worked for about five seconds before it shorted out with a puff of smoke. I can go to several stores within 15 minutes of my home and buy a nice functional toaster for \$15 or \$20 that will last for years ... faithfully toasting my bagel each day. The story illustrates how interconnected we are in our world. From the petroleum engineers and miners to the chemists and factory workers, and shippers, and retailers, and everyone involved with electric production and delivery, there are literally thousands of people who are working seamlessly every day so that a toaster can sit on my countertop and pop up a perfect bagel for my breakfast. Oh, I almost forgot to mention the farmers, truck drivers, mill workers and bakers who actually made the bagel possible. I was moved to gratitude for the fact that we live in a world where all of this actually “works” and makes our lives incredibly easy.

As Thanksgiving comes around, I plan to...

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

May you and your loved ones have a beautiful Thanksgiving this year!

Tim

— The Power of Partnership —

Perhaps the most powerful word in any Baptist's vocabulary is the word "partner." The concept of partnership/cooperation is as old as the New Testament: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..." (Philippians 1:3-5, NIV), and as current as the mission statement of WRBA: "The Waco Regional Baptist Association is a network of Baptist churches in Central Texas who have chosen to cooperate in order to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ." The beauty of partnership is its imitation of the perfect partnership that exists within God himself — Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the power of partnership is that we were created for relationship and were never intended to function separately from others.

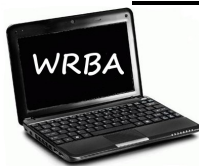


One of the most encouraging advances in the community ministries of WRBA is the way in which we are pursuing and, in some cases, serving as catalysts for partnership among the greater Christian community in Waco, McLennan County and beyond. For example, our hunger ministry is fostering growth and stability for the food pantry in Hubbard that is sponsored by the ministerial alliance there. Baptists are a significant part of the alliance, but are working in partnership with others. Our contribution to this deepening partnership is significant. Another example is the developing faith-based intermediary now known as Cornerstone Assistance Network Central Texas that is dedicated to building collaboration among and the advancement of programs and practices that promote restoration of offenders, ex-offenders, their families, victims and communities. While the Waco Regional Baptist Association serves as the catalyst for this new approach, effective implementation will require a much larger effort that may best be described as "partnership."

I am grateful to be a part of a people and an association of churches that see our work as Kingdom-sized. Please let us in community ministries know how we may assist you in connecting with others as you seek to embody and extend the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Central Texas and beyond. There truly is power in partnership.

For the Kingdom,
Dane Fowlkes
Associate Director

— Online Community —



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

Find new information on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Last Call for ACPs! The WRBA has to send the information the last week of November. Please help us by giving your church's ACP to us.

The Body of Believers

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

Started Nov. 6, 1858, FBC McGregor began its history in Coryell county before reorganizing in 1884 to its present location. Mitch Bennett, a member since 1974, put together a 100 page article about the church's history for their 150th anniversary in 2008. The town has changed since he was a child.

He said, "We are having to rethink how we can reach people. How we can reach young families."

Several churches have seen low attendance, but Bennett has hope.

"I think there's so much potential for us, especially with our new pastor, Terry Johnston. He's young and has a young family with children," he said. "I think he has a true desire to reach the family groups that are unchurched."

Bennett hopes for the future are reflections of the past.

He said, "As you read through the church history, it's so encouraging to see ... how there were financial problems and issues and the church faced different challenges ... and God brought them through all that."

Paul Stripling was the church interim pastor from Dec. 12, 2010 to Sept. 25, 2011. He said he had a pleasant experience and tried to meet their needs.

Stripling said, "I think one of the most important things we do as interim is help and prepare for the pastor when he or she comes."

He hopes for the fulfillment of the church and is excited about Johnston.

"I think he can and will do a superb job. I just have nothing but love and affirmation and support for him," the former interim said.

Stripling also asked church member Viola Mize to help him find church members who were unable to make the trip to church so he could visit them.

Leslee Hyde, a member since 2005 and church secretary since 2008, said they all enjoyed the time Stripling was with them.

"He was always interested in the well-being of our ill members and never failed to make visits and calls to them," she said.

Hyde was on the Pastor Search Committee that brought Johnston.

She said, "He's very energetic and has lots of good ideas to get members involved in our various activities."

Johnston, his wife Kim, and daughters Lydia and Audrey are enjoying the transition from Marlin to McGregor. They've met friends, found good restaurants and enjoyed their first McGregor Bulldog football game.

"Visiting with the pastor search team, driving through McGregor, and just meeting some of the people in the community, we really fell in love with them," Johnston said. "After reading through their rich history, it became apparent to me that there is a great opportunity to build upon a great foundation laid by generations before here at FBC."

He said the area is transforming as boundaries and demographics change.

"I am excited about stretching myself and our congregation into living committed and dedicated lives within these changing times," Johnston said.

He watched the congregation pull together after a death in the church family and wants to embrace the fellowship this church has demonstrated.

"As we begin to develop God's vision for the next season of ministry, I pray that we continue to keep a close and prayerful relationship with one another," he said. "There is so much potential in McGregor, and with some hard work and the Lord's guidance, we can begin to see peoples' lives being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit."

FBC McGregor partners with the McGregor Ministerial Fellowship and will host the McGregor Thanksgiving Service at 6:00pm on Nov. 20.

Visit www.fbcmcgregor.org for more information about the church.



Pastor Terry Johnston stands with his wife Kim and their daughters Lydia and Audrey.

Upcoming Events



November 11-13

Latham Springs

Cost: \$35 for RAs, \$25 for adults

Deadline is November 1.

For more information visit the RA page on www.texasbaptistmen.org or email questions to Brad Blanchard at brad.blanchard76@yahoo.com.

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week: November 14-21

The Waco drop-off center is Highland Baptist Church. November 14-21 it will be open Mon.-Sat. from 9:00am-5:00pm, and Sun. from 1:00-5:00pm.

Contact Collections Coordinator Jane Smith (709-4439), Media Coordinator Debbie Quarrels (709-0920), Prayer Coordinator Angela Padilla (903-830-6914) or Church Coordinator Ginger Ferguson (747-2869).

For more information or to follow your box, visit www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/. Go to Chick-fil-a between 10:00am-4:00pm on November 12 and 19 to fil-a-box with love.



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Local observance at 10:00am on Tuesday, November 15, with a brunch and prayer time at Kathy Hillman's home, 8505 Oakdale (Woodway). Prayer Guides, flyers and information available at 753-2408.

Ask God to grant fellow Baptists and women safety; peace from the evils of war, poverty and human trafficking; power to reach other women for Christ; and encouragement in their faith. The women of Waco Regional Baptist Association will join in a special observance where the group will have the opportunity to support the worldwide ministry of our Baptist sisters and the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department through specific prayer and a targeted offering.

Community News

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Columbus Avenue, Emmanuel, FBC Riesel, Highland, Hilltop, Shiloh, West Robinson, Western Heights

World Hunger Farm Turkeys

Buy a pastured turkey this year for Thanksgiving from World Hunger Relief Inc. Cost is \$3.50 per pound with a \$10 deposit required.

Purchases helps supply turkeys to families in need around Waco. Contact 799-5611 or turkeys@worldhungerrelief.org for reservations.



Other November Events

Wednesday, November 2, 12:00 — Pastors' Conference. Truett Seminary.
November 3-14 — Una Noche Con El Ray (Union Feminil Misionera). Corpus Christi.
Sunday, November 6 — Daylight Savings Ends. Fall back an hour.
Thursday, November 10, 12:00 — Networking and Missions Team Meeting. FBC Waco Conference Room.
Friday, November 11 — Veteran's Day.
November 14-21 — Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week.
Tuesday, November 15, 10:00am — Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (Regional). 8505 Oakdale (Woodway).
Tuesday, November 15, 4:00pm — Administrative Team Meeting. HBMC.
Thursday, November 17, 11:30am — Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fellowship. FBC Waco.
November 17-19 — IMB ethneCity. Houston. Visit ethnicity.com for details.
November 24-25 — WRBA Office Closed. Thanksgiving.
December 1, 4:00pm — Missions Development Team Meeting. WRBA.
December 1, 7:30-8:30pm — Missions Fair for Networking and Missions. FBC Waco.

— Hunger Ministry Spotlight —

November 13-19th is the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Both the McLennan County Hunger Coalition and the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition want WRBA churches to be involved! Specifically, the Coalitions wants WRBA churches to be involved Sunday, November 13th by spending a part of that Sunday talking about the hunger and homelessness needs in our community. The coalitions have created a video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G38n7_D9Yy0) that can be used during the announcements, bulletin inserts, posters, etc. There will be events all week to highlight the hunger and homeless needs our close and extended neighbors face, and WRBA Churches can be involved. For more information, please contact me (hunger@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org) or Chelle Santiago (chellesamaniego1@gmail.com).

Thanks, Jenny Hodge

Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 13 — Church Service Participation
Monday, November 14 — Letter Writing about Hunger and Homeless Needs, multiple locations
Tuesday, November 15 — "First, Last, and Deposit" documentary, Jubilee Theater
Wednesday, November 16 — Awareness/Benefit Concert, UBC (University Baptist Church)
Thursday, November 17, 7:00pm — One Book, One Waco - Author Wes Moore, First Baptist Church Waco
Friday, November 18 — Food for Families Food Drive, multiple locations
Saturday, November 19 — Grand Opening Celebration of the Downtown Farmers Market