



## WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### Family News

#### ———— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR ————

The Apostle Paul attempted to teach the church at Corinth about the nature of a church body by using the metaphor of the human body. Pushing that analogy, he said, “if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be a part of the body” (1 Corinthians 12:16 NIV). I can’t know what your mind conjures up when you think of the Waco Regional Baptist Association, but if for some reason it thinks that your church is *different* from the rest of the churches, you are right! But if you think that because your congregation is different that you don’t really fit or belong, you are dead wrong. The larger body of Christ is vastly diverse by *design* and *intention of the Founder of the Church*.

This year the theme of our Annual Celebration is “A Tapestry of Faith”. A tapestry is intentionally woven to include many colors and textures because that is the source of its beauty. We have traditional Baptist churches, contemporary young churches, cowboy churches, large churches and small neighborhood churches, and churches that worship in various languages. One of the highlights of our Celebration on October 18 will be a choir comprised of a few people from all of these *different* churches, singing praise to our God *together for His glory*. This is an event you won’t want to miss because it will be, without a doubt, a small preview of Heaven (details inside).

See you there!

Tim

## — Hunger Ministry Spotlight —

From March through November, Park Lake Drive Baptist Church hosts a potluck lunch every third Thursday of the month for senior adults from local Waco retirement and assisted living centers. Each month, church members welcome the residents for a time of food, fun and fellowship with one another. All things that Baptists are typically great at! What also makes this ministry so astounding is that this November will mark the beginning of their 40th year in continuous operation of ministry. That is no easy feat considering there are few, if any, ministries like it in the Waco area, and there is a wait list for retirement and assisted living centers who want to be a part of it!



This is what Park Lake Drive is doing, BUT the Hunger Ministry Team also wants to know what hunger/food ministries your church is doing! If you would please send an email with the who, what and when information to Jenny Hodge, the Hunger Ministries Coordinator, at [hunger@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:hunger@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org), we'd love to know what our churches are doing to meet the hunger needs of their community. Thanks!

Jenny Hodge

### *Introducing...*



Hi, my name is Patrick Linstrom and I am excited to become part of the wonderful WRBA staff. I am a 2009 graduate of George W. Truett Theological Seminary and currently serve as the Youth Pastor at Bruceville Baptist Church. I am also in Air Force Reserves where I serve as a Chaplain at Randolph AFB. And now, I have the privilege to serve you as the WRBA Jail Coordinator.

Our jail ministry team that serves at the McLennan County Jail is a group of people passionately preaching and teaching the Word of God to those who have lost their way. We concentrate on the growth of the individual's spiritual walk by nurturing and revitalizing their personal relationship with God. It is an exciting time for the WRBA and the Jail Ministries.

If you have a passion to see lives transformed by God's mercy and love, this is the ministry for you. We are rapidly expanding our ministry arm and would love to have you as part of the team. Remember that Christ came that you may have life and have life more abundant. Through our service to one another, we gain abundant life. I invite you to share your story and make a lasting difference to those who need you. God bless.



When most people think of college students in Waco, their thoughts automatically turn to Baylor University, but did you realize that almost half of the student population in the Waco area is enrolled at Texas State Technical College and McLennan Community College? I'm Jon Polk and in my new role as Coordinator of Collegiate Ministry for the WRBA, I will be seeking to connect churches in our association with ministries on the campuses of TSTC and MCC. We are working to develop a new method of student ministry by using churches to directly impact the diverse populations of these two schools. Just a bit about me – I am a native Texan and my wife, daughter and I have been in the Waco area for the past six years. I am a recent graduate of Truett Seminary and also serve as the associate pastor of Stonegate Community Church in Hewitt. Email: [college@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:college@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org)

# The Body of Believers

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

In the past 34 years, Pastor Mike Toby has seen many changes at FBC Woodway, including nine building programs and ministry growth.

He said, “We initially had one full time staff member and two part time staff. We now have twelve full time ministry staff, eight administrative assistants, six part time ministry assistants, a Christian school with over two hundred students, and dozens of custodial, Ministry Activity Center, Mother’s Day Out, and childcare workers.”

He’s happy about Discipleship Ministry complimenting Sunday School.

Toby said, “The focus on missions, both international and local, has certainly transformed our fellowship and is one of the most important developments over the last fifteen years.”

The following are excerpts from various ministries’ plans for the month.

Discipleship Minister Chris Sammons said, “One of the ways First Woodway is seeking to fulfill the Great Commission is by providing classes and small groups for people to grow in their relationship with Christ.”

College Minister Michael Criner is preparing for a Fall Retreat called “Salt and Light: Living on Mission in College” Oct. 21-22. Cost is \$10.

He said, “During our time together, students will be presented with opportunities to serve on the campus, participate in local missions and learn about global trips First Woodway is sponsoring.”

International Missions Ministers Brett Gibson and Michelle Telg are looking forward to the morning services on Oct. 2, which will focus on the impact of hunger on the world and ways in which the church can respond.

On October 30, they will begin a Week of Global Celebration, featuring international partner missionaries and local ministry partners. They are also planning many mission trips to Chile, India, Cuba, Morocco and Mexico.

Children’s Minister Barbra Smith said, “We will be having a Faith Foundations class for our church members who have a child under the age of 3. We will be providing those parents with resources and books about Spiritual Growth in children, as well as having a parent panel for questions and answers. Our big October event will be our annual Fall Festival, 6:00-8:00pm, Oct. 28. This event is open to the public and the cost is only \$2/per child, plus a bag of wrapped candy per child.... Come join us!”

Local Missions Minister Doris King said, “We are partnering with *Bastrop Christian Ministerial Alliance* to assist those affected by the wild fires.”

They are hosting the *Christian Women’s Job Corp* Annual Banquet on Oct. 4, as well as author, speaker and musician, *Kelly Minter*, for a women’s conference Oct. 7-8. The local ministries provide meals and help with repairs for shut-ins on Wednesday evenings. *Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)* ministers to mothers in the community. *Women’s Night In* is a night of food, fun and fellowship for church women. Men’s BSF is on Monday evenings.

Senior Adult Minister Jim Gray said, “We have a very active Senior Adult Ministry who meet to fellowship once a month.”

The group also goes to conferences and have a Family Caregiving leadership team. The following lessons are on Wednesdays at 6:45pm: Oct. 5 - “A Physician’s Perspective” on caregiving, Oct. 12 - “Dealing With Memory Loss”, Oct. 19 - “Understanding & Finding Community Resources”, Oct. 26 - “Choosing Long-Term Care”, Nov. 9 - “Financial and Legal Planning”.

Music Minister Chris Wommack said, “Oct. 9, our music ministry will be presenting an entire morning service of music from ‘Where Praise Begins.’”

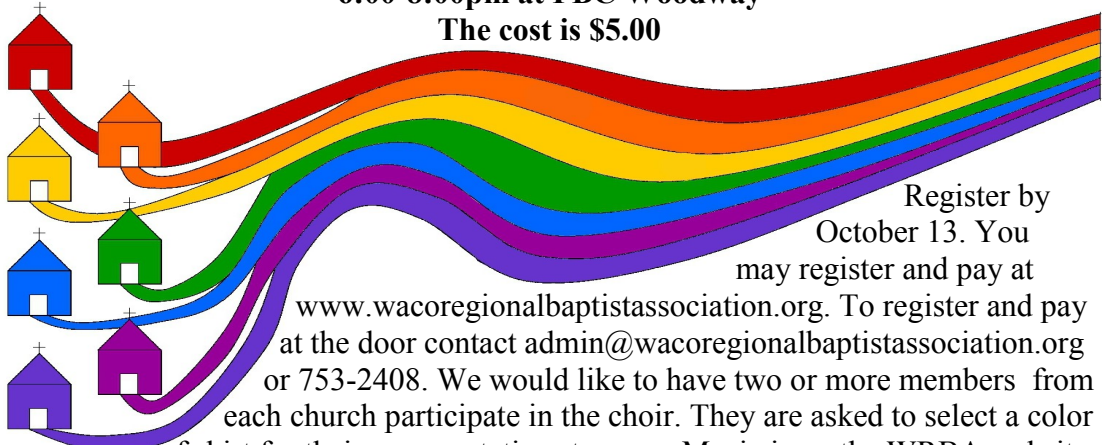
For more information about FBC Woodway, visit [www.fbcwoodway.org](http://www.fbcwoodway.org).

## Upcoming Events



October 10-12, 2011  
Arlington Convention Center  
Register online at <http://youth.texasbaptists.org/conclave/>

**WRBA Annual Meeting: A Tapestry of Faith**  
October 18, 2011  
6:00-8:00pm at FBC Woodway  
The cost is \$5.00



Register by October 13. You may register and pay at [www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](http://www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org). To register and pay at the door contact [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org) or 753-2408. We would like to have two or more members from each church participate in the choir. They are asked to select a color of shirt for their representatives to wear. Music is on the WRBA website.



**IGNITING Hope**  
BGCT Annual Meeting is Oct. 24-26 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

**Pastors' Conference**  
12:00 noon on November 2  
Truett Seminary  
\$7.00 for the meal  
Speaker: Kerry Berkley  
Pastor of Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Please make a reservation by October 27. Contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org). **-OR-** Avoid a long line by pre-paying at [www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](http://www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org).



WRBA will observe Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on Tuesday, November 15, at 10:00am with a brunch and prayer time at Kathy Hillman's home, 8505 Oakdale (Woodway). Prayer Guides and flyers will be mailed to each church. For more information, call 753-2408.

## Other October Events

**Tuesday, October 4, 6:30pm** — CWJC Baskets of Hope. FBC, Woodway.

**Wednesday, October 5, 12:00** — Pastors' Conference. Truett Seminary.

**Tuesday, October 18, 5:30pm** — WRBA Annual Meeting Choir Practice. FBC, Woodway.

**Tuesday, October 18, 6:00-8:00pm** — WRBA Annual Meeting. FBC, Woodway.

**October 24-26** — BGCT Annual Meeting. Amarillo Civic Center. For information and registration, visit [texasbaptists.org/annual-meeting](http://texasbaptists.org/annual-meeting) or call 888-244-9400.

## Community News

**Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:**

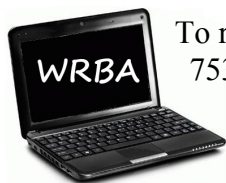
Columbus Avenue, Emmanuel, FBC Riesel, Highland, Hilltop, Shiloh, West Robinson, Western Heights

Congratulations to McGregor FBC and their new pastor Terry Johnston!

Let the WRBA know if your church is trying to fill a position. We can post it online. We also have a resume file available.

The fires in the Bastrop area have left many without homes. There are several needs, but the largest are for gifts cards and finances. The Bastrop Christian Ministerial Alliance is the established contact for donations to the victims. Go to [bcmatx.org](http://bcmatx.org) for more information.

## Online Community



To receive this newsletter only by email, contact Katelyn at 753-2408 or [admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org](mailto:admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org).

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.