



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

Vol. 11

October

No. 9

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

What does it mean to be part of a Baptist Association? I have seen some wonderful examples this month.

This past Saturday, we gathered at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church finalize plans for **Glorieta on the Brazos**. These ministers of education have met together over the past year to pray and plan for this **top-notch training** event.

The evening of September 19, several thousand Waco residents (and beyond) were blessed with a wonderful time of worship through the **Community Hymn Sing**. This event was the fruit of various music ministers who meet monthly to fellowship, encourage one another, share ideas and plan events like this that disseminate the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole region through music.

Even now, children's ministers and Sunday School leaders are meeting to plan the **Kidz Camp** for next summer at Latham Springs. Others are planning **VBS** and **Bible Drill** events.

Youth ministers gather to plan **D-Nows**. RA leaders are gathering to plan the **Pinewood Derby** and **camp** experiences.

These (and many other terrific ministries) are happening all around us all the time! Most of these events are not driven or initiated by us at the Association office. We often are just witnesses, encouragers and reporters of these activities. These ministries happen because the leadership of our churches see the power of joining forces and doing things together. They understand and embrace the spirit of what it means to be an association!

What a joy and privilege it is to be allowed to be a part of all of these things! All of our churches have the potential of being blessed through events like these.

In His Service,
Tim

WELCOME

Welcome to two new church staff members
in our Association

Jack Bodenhamer—Pastor, FBC Elm Mott
Steven Hill—Youth Minister, Western Heights



GIVE ONE MEAL,
ONCE A MONTH for
TEXAS BAPTIST
OFFERING FOR
WORLD
HUNGER

Give Texas
something to say
grace over.

Come to the table. The food is being served. Enjoy the feast. Texas Baptists are working hand-in-hand with Baptists at home and around the world to meet hunger needs and to share the hope of Christ. We are having a real impact on hunger, and all we need now is to strengthen the effort.

It's your chance to step up and make a difference.

The Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger provides funds to purchase food for the hungry and to help people escape from poverty. The Offering functions as a network of care connecting resources from individuals, churches and organizations with ministries that provide critical hunger and poverty relief services. Ultimately, the Hunger Offering is a way of following Jesus, who ministered to the whole person as He proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed (Luke 4:18).



Take an offering for World Hunger on 5th Sunday World Hunger Emphasis Day, October 31.

Send checks payable to "BGCT Hunger Offering" to Christian Life Commission, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, TX 75246.



World Hunger Reusable Bread Bank

WMU Product Number: W094103
 Availability: Currently in Stock
 Price: \$74.49 (for pack of 50)
<http://www.wmystore.com/product.asp?sku=W094103>

WRBA Financial Summary as of September 17, 2010

By becoming members of WRBA each church has pledged to support the ministry efforts of the Association with their time, talents and financial resources. During the first six months of 2010 WRBA has received financial support from 75 of the 130+ churches that are members of our Association.

Year to Date Contributions 160,864.22
 Year to Date Budget Needs 211,264.20

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

Just a reminder ACPs are due now!!!
 These documents are more important than ever in the implementation of the WRBA's new strategic plan for ministry.

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Christian Women's Job Corps Baskets Of Hope

First Baptist Church Woodway
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
at 6:30 PM

For more email elaine@cwjcwaco.org
Or call 254-757-0416

Pastors' Conference November 3rd!

Great Hall at Truett Seminary.
The cost for the meal is \$5.00.

Please RSVP by **Oct 27th**

To register contact the WRBA office at
admin@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org or call 753-2408

A Note About Parking

The Ivy Square Shopping Center is gone along with our parking lot that was behind the center!! Fortunately, Baylor has made arrangements for the WRBA Pastors Conference attendees to use the Old Main Best Western parking lot directly across Dutton Street from our Paul Powell chapel from 11:30 - 1:30 on the Wednesday's when we have our lunches.

Continue to Pray for WRBA Pastorless Churches

Oak Grove, El Calvario, Downsville, Harris Creek, Seventh and James,
North Waco Baptist Church



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Waco Regional Baptist Association will observe its 150th Anniversary on Tuesday, October 26 at First Baptist Church, Waco.

Noted Christian humorist and Baylor graduate Dennis Swanberg headlines the event. Kurt Kaiser, renowned pianist and composer, will provide music.

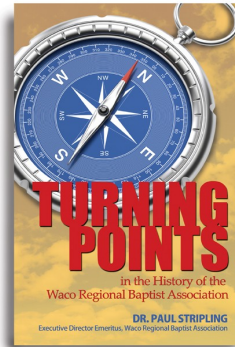
The celebration service begins at 7:00 pm and is free and open to the public. A brief business session begins at 5:00 pm. A reception will follow at 5:30 with the sesquicentennial supper held at 6:00 pm.

Paul Stripling will release *Turning Points in the History of the Waco Regional Baptist Association, 1860-2010* at the event. The former WRBA executive director will be available to sign his book during the reception.

The Association began with nine congregations in 1860, including Blue Ridge; Bold Springs (later First Baptist, West); Bosque (later Bosqueville); Caddo; Cow Bayou; First Baptist, Marlin; First Baptist, Waco; Union Springs; and White Rock (later Chalk Bluff).

Today, the group of voluntarily cooperating churches numbers more than 135. The goal remains to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

The meal costs \$7.00, and places must be reserved in advance. For reservations or additional information, call 254-753-2408 or visit <http://www.wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org>



Get to Know the Early Churches of the WRBA



First Baptist Church of West

First Baptist Church of West is one of the oldest churches in the Waco Baptist Regional Association. The church is 152 years old and was one of the nine founding churches in our association. West is a Czech community. Since Catholicism is a big part of the Czech culture, most of the people in West who claim a church affiliation are Catholic. It has not always been easy to be a Baptist in a Catholic community, but over the past twenty years or so, the people in West have enjoyed working and worshipping together.

Today, First West is a healthy church that has been blessed in some wonderful ways in the past few years. They outgrew their building in the 90s and started a second worship service. In 2002 they built a new sanctuary and renovated the old one into additional Sunday School space. Financially speaking, the million dollar project was the largest undertaking in the church's history. They sold church bonds to raise the necessary capital funds. The goal was to pay off the bonds in 15 years, but by God's help, they were able to accomplish that goal in half the time.

West is experiencing an exciting season of growth this year. Since January 1, 2010 they have welcomed 30 new members, 13 of whom joined by baptism. On most Sundays there are 250-275 people in worship. There is a good spirit in the church and they have a strong fellowship. There is an active women's ministry and they are beginning to organize a men's ministry that will have a number of different opportunities for growth and service. Teenagers and children are always a priority at First West and they reach a number of kids each year.





Chalk Bluff Baptist Church was established in 1870 as White Rock Baptist Church by the White Rock community who saw the need for a Baptist church in the vicinity.

The Church was officially accepted by the Waco Baptist Association in 1871, and the congregation met at the Union Grove School until 1878. By May of that year the group had erected its own structure. In 1908 materials from the White rock structure were used in the construction of a new church home at Chalk Bluff. With more than 350 members Chalk Bluff Baptist Church continues to serve the Waco area with programs of worship and spiritual growth. Their goal is to reach out to the community and to the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ and bring glory to God. You will find CBBC to be a loving and exciting family of believers who value the Scriptures as living instruction and seek to grow continually deeper in their relationship with God.



They believe there are five purposes for believers and their churches which promote spiritual health and seek to promote them in all their activities. They are: Discipleship, Worship, Fellowship, Ministry, and Evangelism.

Bosqueville Baptist Church is one of the oldest rural congregations in McLennan County. It was organized by the Rev. S.G. O'Bryan in 1854, and has worshipped without interruption since it's beginning. We began meeting in an old log schoolhouse and later at Bosqueville College. In 1887 the Bosque Masonic Lodge and the church jointly built a meetinghouse that burned



within four months. The first sanctuary was completed in 1895, but the present sanctuary was built in 1917.



In 1953 Bosqueville experienced a period of growth and our membership skyrocketed to over 150 in Sunday school. As a result, we entered into an ambitious building program and added additional Sunday school classrooms, a fellowship hall, a kitchen, and restrooms on the north side of the auditorium. We



also built a parsonage for the pastor and his family in 1959.

“Reaching out in love to one another and our community” that is the vision God has given Bosqueville Baptist Church as they move into the future trusting that God will continue to do great things among his people.

They enjoy wonderful fellowship together and are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. They believe their church has a rich history and a very exciting future. These are special days at Bosqueville Baptist Church!





FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

You will quickly notice that this handout contains information concerning upcoming events designed to assist you as you demonstrate the love of Christ in tangible ways in our communities. October affords amazing opportunities for world-class training right here at our own doorstep. In this insert you will read about Baylor University's "Hungry For Justice" conference designed to help us learn how our churches may alleviate poverty in Waco and surrounding areas. You will also learn about an excellent opportunity for single parents and low-income couples that you may wish to promote. Volunteers are also needed to help with the event. You will also see that the month of October concludes with the significant "No Need Among You" conference sponsored by Mission Waco, Texas Baptists (BGCT), Baylor University School of Social Work, and Crestview Church of Christ. The regional conference will help all those who want to know more about how to help the needy, unchurched, and

marginalized, and will be an incredible opportunity to begin or enhance Christian community development ministries in your church, all at a very affordable cost. You will hear from Steve Corbett, author of *When Helping Hurts* about the difference between relief ministry and empowerment models. Noel Castellanos, the national Executive Director of Christian Community Development Association, will talk about what God is doing across our nation. Larry James, Executive Director of Central Dallas Ministries, will share their amazing work in Dallas, alongside Pastor Chris Simmons in South Oak Cliff, who is a leading church model. There will be workshops on numerous topics, from sex-trafficking to working with at-risk children and youth to the nationally recognized Ruby Payne Training ("Bridges Out of Poverty"). And there will be ministry booths offering their resources and expertise to help you be ready to serve better when you return home to your own church and community. There are also "on site" visits to a homeless shelter and a Friday morning breakfast. On Saturday there will be a block party and concert in North Waco, a formerly blighted neighborhood that has emerged as a new urban community with diversity and change. Register online now at www.texasbaptists.org/noneedamongyou and pass the word on to other interested persons in your church.

October holds the promise of equipping us to be agents of transformation in our communities.

Dane Fowlkes
(254) 753-2408 or
associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org



Join in Baylor's social justice conference this October to learn how your church can change Waco poverty.

Baylor University will join with the hunger relief organization Campus Kitchens to host Hungry for Justice: Social, Economic, Environmental, a national conference on poverty elimination. On October 8-10 church members and leaders, non-profit organizers, students and faculty from Waco and around the country will gather to join in a dialogue to increase poverty awareness and encourage action.

The hope is that at least one representative from your church will take this opportunity to learn about Open Table, a designated best practice project of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative that is spotlighted at the conference along with Campus Kitchen. Open Table is a model that churches across the southwest have found ideal for mobilizing the resources already available within their congregations to alleviate poverty in their communities, one family or individual at a time. Because the Open Table presentation is only one part of the summit, those attending only the Open Table group do not have to pay the summit registration fee. For those joining the rest of the summit the \$40 registration fee includes meals, coffee around the clock, and a gift of fair trade goods.

Summit participants will engage challenging issues that face Christians today like how to take a proactive stance against hunger and human trafficking. The keynote speakers include Robert Egger, a founder of Campus Kitchens, and Shannon Sedgwick Davis, a prominent anti-human trafficking advocate. Her work includes global human rights endeavors working with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela and President Jimmy Carter. Breakout sessions include presentations by OasisUSA, Texas Hunger Initiative, Urban Gardening Coalition, TOMS Shoes, Feeding America and Compassion International.

To hear more about Open Table or if you are interested in attending the poverty summit, please contact [Paige panter@baylor.edu](mailto:Paige_panter@baylor.edu).

Single Parent?
Low Income Family with Children?

Need Help?



Parent Support Workshop

The semiannual **Workshop** will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9th, at the Activities Center of First Baptist Church of Waco, Fifth

Street and Webster Ave. (Waco Transit, Route 2).

The workshop provides a "one stop shop" for assistance and is geared for single parents and low-income couples with children. Attendees can complete applications for child support, TANF (welfare), food stamps, Medicaid, and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) with the assistance of agency representatives and trained volunteers.

Guests also can get information and make appointments with twenty government agencies and local nonprofit groups for various types of assistance, such as GED classes, public housing, job training, prescription drug cost assistance, and much more.

Guests may learn more about tenants' rights by attending a free class entitled: "Tenants' Rights in Texas: An Overview."

Free childcare will be provided for children up to 12 years old. Call 752-3000 M-F from 9 a.m. to noon to learn more and to pre-register for childcare.

The Parent Support Workshop is hosted by First Baptist Church of Waco with the assistance of other local churches, community volunteers, and the Baylor University School of Social Work.

If you would like us to deliver posters and

The team planning this event is in need of volunteers! Hundreds of folks are expected to show up, and they want to be ready to help in a timely and courteous fashion. The greatest need is to have volunteers ready to help fill out the cumbersome applications for benefits. Training is necessary for this and will be provided on Wednesday, Septem-



19 students and 2 instructors on the MCC campus gathered around the flag pole on September 22nd to pray for their school and for each other. This annual participation in the national See You at the Pole event was organized by a student, Michael Holt, who is a member of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church and actively involved in the Association, and WRBA's Associate Director, Dane Fowlkes.

A similar gathering took place at TSTC under the leadership of James Duhon, the volunteer BSM Director on their campus.

If you are interested in knowing how you can support the ministry to MCC and TSTC students and be part of the reorganization of this vital ministry email Dane at associate@wacoregionalbaptistassociation.org or call 254-753-2408.

**Including the
Excluded Conference
October 28-30, 2010**



The annual "No Need Among You Conference," to be held this year in Waco on October 28-30, has just confirmed our best group yet of national speakers addressing Christian community development. Co-sponsored by Mission Waco, Baylor School of Social Work, Texas Baptists (BGCT), and Crestview Church of Christ, the Texas "regional conference" brings churches, faith-based organizations and other non-profits who work among the poor together to learn how to be more effectively serve, include and empower the lower-income and marginalized of our cities.



Questions?

Elizabeth Martinez

888.244.9400 214.828.5285

Special Friends Retreat

When: Oct 1 – 2, 2010

Where: Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment, Cedar Hill, Texas

Description: This retreat is for the mentally challenged 12 years of age or older, their parents, chaperones, and workers with the mentally challenged.

Contact: Bethany Frisch, 214.828.5205 or bethany.frisch@texasbaptists.org

News from the BSM