



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



Every week I hear of wonderful innovations and creative ministries that our churches endeavor to do in the name of Jesus. If your perspective of the Kingdom of God is only from within the walls of one church, perhaps you don't get to hear of these beautiful expressions of the love of Christ. That is one reason we publish a newsletter — to deliver to you glimpses of what God is doing through His people all across this region. Here is a sampling of what I have come across just this week:

- Highland Baptist Church is ministering to children of soldiers in Killeen through a Patriot Kids ministry.
- Dayspring is organizing an “Open Table” to minister to a family caught in the web of poverty.
- Pastor Edward Green of Macedonia Baptist Church in Hubbard is looking to open a food pantry to serve the families that don't have enough to eat.
- Calvary Baptist Church is forming intentional relationships between church families and families in the neighborhood.
- Western Heights is seeking to develop personal relationships with everyone in the blocks around their church.
- First Baptist Church of Waco began a 6:00 p.m. worship service on Sunday evenings to encourage their members and to give Truett Seminary students an opportunity to preach. They also participate in an orphanage in Guatemala.
- First Baptist Church of Woodway is helping rebuild church buildings in Chile that were destroyed by the earthquake last year. They are participating with Seminary Training and rebuilding churches in Haiti, and they are also doing mission work in Cuba.
- The Bridge gave 10 bicycles to children in the neighborhood.
- Pastor Victor Lyons of Shiloh Baptist Church is teaching eight Hispanic church leaders about pastoral ministry.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of what the churches of this region are doing in the name of the Lord. These are only things that have come across *my* path this past week!

How cool is it to be a part of what God is doing in central Texas to redeem lives all over the world?

We are blessed!

Tim

———— The Body of Believers ————



First Baptist Church of Hewitt has a special anniversary this month. It is Roy Marshall's 35th year as the pastor, having started Feb. 15, 1976.

He receives joy "whenever I see the growth in our people."

Marshall has had the opportunity to see babies being born and to later watch those children get married and start their own family. He enjoys getting to see the church members' spiritual growth throughout their lives.

Associate Pastor of Worship/Music Boyd Connally, a member for 19 years, said, "You grow with the folks, but you get the opportunity to minister to them as they grow."

Minister of Childhood Education Susan Malone, a member for 10 years, said, "It's impressive that secretaries and ministers alike have been here so long."

Pastor's Administrative Assistant Cynthia Stuart has been a member of FBC Hewitt for more than 35 years. She says Marshall loves the people.

"He's a real social person. He never meets a stranger. He's a good servant," Stuart said.

God put a few lasting goals on Marshall's heart. They were to love the people, build the church and reach out to the community.

"(I) made a commitment that I wanted to go and stay at a place where I could grow a church in a community," Marshall said. "I made a commitment to love people and to work with them."

In 35 years, FBC Hewitt has gone from 85 people in attendance to 1,700 on roster. They've transitioned "from a rural church to a suburban church."

Marshall said, "It's changed in the way we do ministry."

FBC Hewitt is not the church on the corner where people gather to congregate. The church goes out into the community, taking the church to the people. One way they have tried to do this is through their life groups, several of which have people who are not church members. This is also where they hope to engage with young adults who typically have a busy lifestyle.

Music/Children Administrative Assistant Gayle Terry, a member for 15 years, says the church has a "loving and caring atmosphere."

While Marshall feels God is continuing to have FBC Hewitt reach out to the community, he thinks missions outside of Waco is also important.

"We've gone all over the world on mission trips," he said.

They continue to do hands-on projects. The church is planning a mission trip to Alaska in July.

Marshall said to pray for and support the churches in the Waco area. He asked for prayer on new ways to reach the community and stressed that churches need to pull together to reach communities for Christ.

For more information on FBC Hewitt, call 254-666-2741.

— From the Associate Director —



FOCUS on Community Ministries

My sister once sent me a list of probing questions including the following:

- Why you never see the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- Why it is that lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?
- Why it is that the man who invests all your money is called a "broker."
- Why there isn't "mouse-flavored" cat food.
- And my personal favorite: Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

If we're not careful, we practice something very contradictory in the way we "do church." In last month's newsletter, I offered my best understanding of the nature of what it means to be church: *A church is a prophetic community of faith.* By prophetic I mean existing as an agent of transformation both outside and within the church. If that is true, a church that fails to elicit transformation is living contradictory to its own nature. In the best sense, Christianity is a verb, not a noun. In Matthew 5:7, Jesus proclaims "blessed" are the merciful. The basic meaning is to give help to the afflicted and to rescue the helpless. ***It is compassion in action.*** Another way of thinking of it is that mercy is love that does something. Jesus is not speaking of detached or powerless sentiment that is unwilling or unable to help those who are in need. This is not some passive, silent concern, which, though genuine, is unable or unwilling to give tangible help. Compassion in action is the church being true to herself and her Lord.

There is an infinite distance in the word "like." There will always be an infinite distance between who God is and who I am, otherwise He would cease to be God and I would become God. However, we are all called to be like Him, to imitate Christ. We honor Christ most when we display an unmistakable resemblance to Him. I know from experience that if we're not careful, our time and energy can be so consumed with meeting our own needs that there is nothing left for doing what Jesus did — giving ourselves for the needs of lost and hurting people. But it is in practicing mercy that we most clearly identify with Christ: feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick, minister to the offender (Matthew 25:31-40). In community ministry we demonstrate a heart of mercy, and, in so doing, the heart of Christ.

If our Community Ministries Team may assist you in any way as you seek to identify with Christ in a prophetic way, please feel free to contact me.

Dr. Dane Fowlkes
Associate Director

Upcoming Events

Science and Faith: Breaking Down the Wall

February 5, 2011 9am-4:30pm
FBC Waco

A seminar co-sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas and the Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership, Baylor University. Speakers include Gerald Cleaver, Phyllis Tippit, and Barry Harvey. For more information contact Julie Covington at julie_covington@baylor.edu

Mission Waco Annual Banquet.

February 8, 2011 6:00pm
Waco Convention Center

Individual tickets \$38, church or ministry/non-profit tickets \$350. For more tickets and information, call Mission Waco at 254-753-4900.

March Pastors' Conference March 2, 2011

Great Hall at Truett Seminary. 12 noon.
The cost for the meal is \$5.00.

Guest Speaker

Glenn Moore, BU Softball Coach

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

Please RSVP by **February 26th.**

WILD Camp

March 11-13, 2011
Latham Springs

A camp for leaders and Challengers. Contact Murrie Wainscott at mwain-scottsl@yahoo.com for more information or go to www.texasbaptistmen.org.

Men's Conference — Leap of Faith

April 30, 2011. 8:00am-12:45pm
Midway ISD-Performing Arts Center

Tickets are \$39.00, students are free with registration.
Register at www.menatthecross.org for tickets.

Community News

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Seventh and James, Emmanuel, FBC McGregor, Third Street

Other February Events

Tuesday, February 1, 12 noon — Networking & Missions Team Meeting. HBMC Cafeteria.

Wednesday, February 2, 12 noon — February Pastors' Conference.

Truett Seminary.

Saturday, February 5, 10:00am — Baylor Sacred Harp Singing. Truett Seminary.

February 10-12 — Winter Pastors' School. Truett Seminary.

February 14-20 — Focus on WMU.

Tuesday, February 15, 11:45am — WRBA Music Minister Lunch Fellowship. Uncle Dan's Bar-B-Q on Lake Air.

Tuesday, February 15, 4:00pm — WRBA Administrative Team Meeting. HBMC-Green & Gold Room.

Thursday, February 17, 12 noon — WRBA Retired Ministers & Missionary Fellowship. FBC Waco.

Sunday, February 20, 2:00pm — RA Pinewood Derby. Registration begins at 1:00pm. Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

Monday, February 21, 4:00pm — Center for Christian Music Studies at Baylor guest speaker Alison Adam from the Iona Community of Scotland. Waco Hall East Room 113.

Wednesday, February 23 — Texas Christian Women's and Men's Job Corps Day of Prayer.

February 25-27 — YouthCue Festival. Concert Sunday night.

Saturday, February 26, 9:00am — OASIS: A Day with Jill Briscoe. Columbus Avenue Church. Tickets \$15. Contact OasisWaco@yahoo.com.

Discover! Waco

Discover! Waco has begun! WRBA has introduced this to Waco pastors and made scheduling arrangements. *Discover! Waco* consist of three parts:

- 1) Interviews of Civic Leaders of Waco
- 2) Neighborhood Observations
- 3) Final Reports

The first scheduled event is the training for all the volunteers that will be conducting interviews. It will be Feb. 18th at 6:30pm and will include dinner. Our goal is to have 40-50 volunteers conduct interviews. After the training, the volunteers will have four weeks to complete their interviews.

The second scheduled event is the Neighborhood Observation Weekend. We will meet Apr. 1st at 6:30pm for dinner and training. The following Saturday morning, we will take groups of 6-8 to make our observations. These groups will report back and brainstorm during lunch. I believe that this portion of *Discover! Waco* will be a very important and productive part of this whole procedure.

The third part of this process is the final reports, which will be given to participating churches the first week of May.

I am excited about what God wants do through *Discover! Waco*. I am praying that you are beginning to catch this vision with me. May God bless our efforts to reach the lost and unchurched of Waco.

Rev. Rod Lindsey
Discover! Waco Project Director