



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

The Apostle Paul said of his own ministry, “To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. **I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.**” (1 Corinthians 9:20-23) Paul set the example for us. He accommodated to people culturally to communicate truths of eternal importance.



WRBA hosts a **Ministers Round Table** each month during the school year at Truett Seminary. Pastors, staff, retired ministers, missionaries and ministry leaders are always invited. Thanks to the generous support of the seminary, we are able to enjoy a delicious meal and an hour of warm, inspiring fellowship for only \$5. This year’s speakers and topics have been incredibly insightful and helpful for all of our churches.

Last month, Jane Wilson, a Youth Discipleship Specialist with Texas Baptists, presented on “Sticky Faith”. The insights from research that she shared were invaluable for any church wishing to **positively impact children and youth for Christ in such a way that they continue serving Him through college and beyond.** Her presentation is on the WRBA YouTube channel.

This next week, we will be enjoying a timely presentation from Jesse Rincones about “Understanding Our Latino Neighbors.” The growth of the Hispanic population in Texas is without a doubt a topic that every one of our WRBA congregations needs to be discussing. How do we present the Gospel and worship and minister together with our Latino neighbors in an effective way? **What adaptations do our congregations need to incorporate in order to be inclusive of our Latino neighbors?**

Our purpose as an association of churches is to “extend and embody the Good News of Jesus (the gospel).” We cannot be serious about this without learning about the culture of our community and adapting good ideas to make the message understandable to those who need to hear it.

In His Service, Tim



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Director’s Article.....1
- Hunger Ministry Update2
- Upcoming Events2
- Collegiate Ministry Update.....3
- Calendar of Events.....3
- Churches without Pastors.....4
- Church Spotlight.....4

HUNGER MINISTRY UPDATE

Senior Hunger Outreach has gone through some changes in 2017. One big change is our name. Many of you are familiar with ministry that Senior SNAP Outreach has done since 2015 through the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Grant. We recently celebrated 100 seniors reached through our ministry! We have grown and changed over the last two years, and our mission has expanded beyond simply assistance with SNAP to also address many other needs seniors face. Studies reveal that seniors are a particular risk for food insecurities in McLennan County and this is only going to continue to grow in the coming years. Your church can be ready to assist seniors in your community and we can help! Regardless of size or context there are ways your church can impact the seniors in your neighborhoods to improve their physical and spiritual hunger!

We will be hosting an educational forum on May 20 from 11:00am-1:00pm at Seventh and James Baptist Church. During this time we will be discussing ways your church can reach hungry seniors in your community and how to utilize your already existing ministries to do so. If you would like to attend, you can RSVP by Friday, May 12 at seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408. Feel free to call or email with any questions!



Bethany Busby
Senior Hunger Specialist
seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was powerfully at work in them all.” Acts 4:33

CHURCH SUMMER EVENTS

We are gathering information about various summer events from each of our churches.

If your church is planning to hold a VBS, church camp or mission trip, please contact the WRBA office at 753-2408 or admin@wacobaptists.org to let us know.

Events will be shared in the newsletter and online for others to pray and participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on May 3 at Truett Seminary

Speaker: Matt Rhule, Baylor University Coach

RSVP by **April 26** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

THE GATHERING
A CITYWIDE PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

4/9/17 | 6:30 PM
www.thegatheringwaco.com

TSTC COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE

In addition to sharing donuts, coffee, orange juice and fellowship, interested TSTC students are coming together on Thursday mornings for Collegiate Ministry (CM) Bible study sessions. Each week, a core group of students joins student leaders and Chase Caldwell in the atrium of the Provence Center as we slowly and prayerfully work our way through the Gospel of John. Chase, who pastors the congregation at nearby Lakeview Baptist Church, typically opens our discussions with a question that invites students to express their thoughts about the focus verses for that morning. They are encouraged to examine and express ways their faith has been challenged or strengthened. While students are encouraged to lead discussions, make comments or ask questions, participation is completely voluntary so we also welcome those who choose merely to listen.



Participation in the Bible study sessions increased following our setting up an information booth early in the semester at the “Get Connected” event held outside the Student Services Center at TSTC. In addition, students completing an assignment for their Orientation class recorded and reported information to share with the instructor and classmates about our meeting site, time and a brief description of CM. In exchange for providing information to help students complete the assignment, we asked that they take one or more of our “meeting notice cards” to hand out to other students on campus.



Students and Lakeview Pastor Chase Caldwell before morning Bible study.

God has been doing some glorious things with CM. Your help is essential for us to continue to be responsive to the ministry needs of TSTC students. Please begin by praying for the ministry. We also welcome even a minimal commitment of time and effort. Keep in mind that participation by member churches brings with it opportunities to learn more about the TSTC campus and to introduce or expand the presence of your church in campus ministry. We have an **immediate need** for volunteers to become members of the Community Ministries Team (CMT). This group meets with the Coordinator 3-4 times a year to advise, plan and promote CM activities. If you are interested in serving, please call 753-2408 or email tstc@wacobaptists.org for additional information.

Jewel Lockridge, Ph.D.
TSTC Collegiate Ministry Coordinator
tstc@wacobaptists.org

APRIL EVENTS

April 5, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary, Great Hall
Topic: Understanding Our Latino Neighbors
RSVP by March 29 to Katelyn at 753-2408.

April 6, 9:00am
50+ Senior Day
Latham Springs

April 7-8
State Bible Drill
Allen and Houston, TX

April 9, 6:30pm
The Gathering
McLane Stadium

April 14
Good Friday
WRBA Office Closed

April 16
Easter

April 18, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA (2911 Herring)

April 19, 12:15pm
Networking and Missions
Team Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Room

April 21-22
State Bible Drill
Grand Prairie and Tyler, TX

April 28-30
Congreso
Baylor University

April 29
RA State Race
Belton, TX

April 30
5th Sunday Hunger Offering

May 3, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary, Great Hall
RSVP by April 26 to Katelyn at 753-2408.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Calvary
Emmanuel
Hewitt FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: WOODWAY FBC

It’s exciting to watch churches impact others and embrace what God calls them to. Like how Woodway FBC embraces their missional focus.

Pastor Paul Sands is impressed with the reach and impact Waco “churches have beyond our community,” and he loves Woodway FBC’s missional perspective.

“Not only are (the members) committed to missions, but they also love each other. This is a peaceable church.... It is a remarkable group of people doing what they think God wants them to do,” he said.

This keeps them moving and developing ministries to serve. They started a third Sunday morning service across the street from the main campus. They also

have several varying ministries to accommodate many needs and abilities, including a vibrant ministry to special needs families.

Sands said, “There are many parents who are able to come to church because their kids have a place that ministers to them.”

Woodway FBC is focusing on three goals. First, further developing the missional culture of the church. Second, to maximize and reenergize small groups. Third, to “find innovative ways to connect with the wider community.”

Sands asked for prayer “that we’d be faithful.... We want to be faithful to the relatively small tasks that the Lord’s giving us.... To seize opportunities and have wisdom to prioritize what He’s called us to do.”

HAPPY EASTER!



Waco Regional Baptist Association
P.O. Box 1848
Waco, TX 76703
Phone: 254-753-2408
Fax: 254-755-6365
E-mail: admin@wacobaptists.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 235
Waco, TX