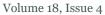


April 2017



## 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



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## **HUNGER MINISTRY UPDATE**

Senior Hunger Outreach has gone through We will be hosting an some changes in 2017. One big change is our educational forum on May name. Many of you are familiar with ministry 20 from 11:00am-1:00pm at that Senior SNAP Outreach has done since Seventh and James Baptist 2015 through the Texas Baptist Hunger Offer- Church. During this time we ing Grant. We recently celebrated 100 seniors will be discussing ways reached through our ministry! We have grown your church can reach hunand changed over the last two years, and our gry seniors in your commumission has expanded beyond simply assis- nity and how to utilize your tance with SNAP to also address many other already existing ministries needs seniors face. Studies reveal that seniors to do so. If you would like are a particular risk for food insecurities in to attend, you can RSVP by Friday, May 12 at McLennan County and this is only going to seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408. continue to grow in the coming years. Your Feel free to call or email with any questions! church can be ready to assist seniors in your community and we can help! Regardless of size Bethany Busby or context there are ways your church can Senior Hunger Specialist impact the seniors in your neighborhoods to seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org improve their physical and spiritual hunger!



"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.

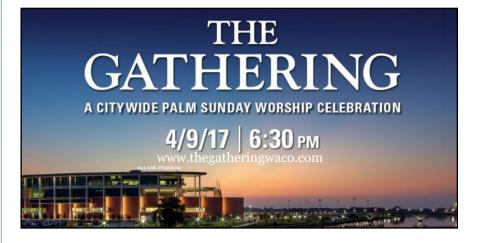
Events will be shared in the newsletter and online for others to pray and participate.

## **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.



## 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.

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 Students and Lakeview Pastor Chase Caldwell before morning Bible study.



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

Waco, TX

Permit No. 235

U.S. Postage Paid

Non-Profit Org.

#### CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: WOODWAY FBC

Woodway FBC embraces their istry to special needs families. missional focus.

"churches have beyond our complace that ministers to them." munity," and he loves Woodway FBC's missional perspective.

what they think God wants them Sands asked for prayer "that to do," he said.

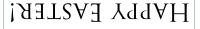
from the main campus. They also called us to do."

It's exciting to watch churches have several varying ministries impact others and embrace what to accommodate many needs and God calls them to. Like how abilities, including a vibrant min-

Sands said, "There are many Pastor Paul Sands is impressed parents who are able to come to with the reach and impact Waco church because their kids have a

Woodway FBC is focusing on three goals. First, further devel-"Not only are (the members) oping the missional culture of the committed to missions, but they church. Second, to maximize and also love each other. This is a reenergize small groups. Third, peaceable church.... It is a re- to "find innovative ways to conmarkable group of people doing nect with the wider community."

we'd be faithful.... We want to be This keeps them moving and faithful to the relatively small developing ministries to serve. tasks that the Lord's giving us.... They started a third Sunday To seize opportunities and have morning service across the street wisdom to prioritize what He's





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