

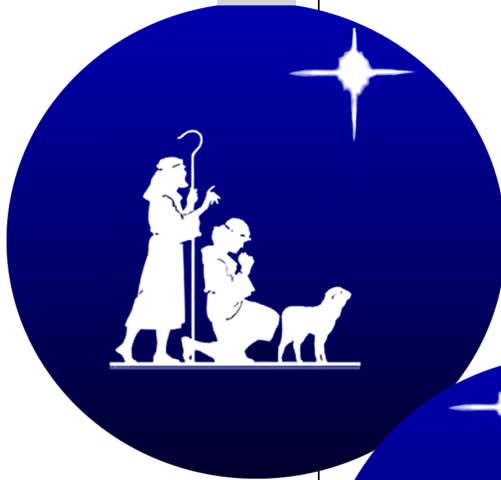


WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

*Therefore the Lord himself will give
you a sign: The virgin will be with
child and will give birth to a son,
and will call him
Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14



Tim Evelyn Hayley Katelyn John Jewel Stephen Conway

— From Your Director —

I am very proud of the churches and leaders of the Waco Regional Baptist Association. You showed Texas-sized service and hospitality last week during the Annual Meeting of Texas Baptists. Those who volunteered, organized and worked throughout these past weeks helped make this a very beautiful time of celebration and connection. We will have another opportunity to host our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Fall of 2016! To everyone who showed up, thank you! And may the Lord encourage and bless you through the relationships that you forged during these busy days. We are also very proud of our “own” Kathy Hillman upon her election as President of the Texas Baptists Convention. I am confident that she will lead well. Gracious hospitality has always been important for the people of God. All the way back to Abraham in the Bible, we see that people of faith are consistently openhanded to the travelers and strangers.



On a different note, we will be looking for ministry projects that teenagers can do when the state-wide Congress comes to town on Friday, April 3, 2015. This group of Hispanic teens are always eager to serve when they come to Waco. Churches could put them to work fixing up the building, or the property, or delivering flyers, or conducting block parties, or ministering to shut-ins at nursing homes. If you would like to schedule a group to come and work with your church, please let us know at the Association office.

Also during that week prior to Easter, there will be a community-wide worship service at the Baylor McLane Stadium on Palm Sunday evening, March 29, 2015. The leaders of this effort are encouraging us to bring one friend from church, and another friend who is not currently attending church. Dr. Tony Evans will be the speaker that evening.

I am praying that the Lord will continue to make us into a community of strong churches collaborating to transform communities through the Good News of Jesus.

In His Service,
Tim



— Hunger Ministry Update —

As part of the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness week activities in Waco, WRBA Hunger Ministry helped coordinate a one night activity called 'Dinner and a Movie' in collaboration with the McLennan County Hunger Coalition, Baylor University Community Engagement and Service, Superior Health Plan and the Texas Hunger Initiative. WRBA purchased the movie "Motel Kids of Orange County" for a viewing of 60-70 participants. Dinner was prepared by WRBA Hunger Ministry and churches, Second Missionary, Carver Park, Highland, Meadowbrook and Primera Iglesia Bautista de Waco. Delicious homemade enchiladas, southwest salad, rice and beans, chips and salsa, and home made deserts topped the tables! (Special thanks to St. Albans Church for hosting the event.)



Cheryl Pooler, homeless liaison for Waco ISD Homeless Outreach Services, spoke to us after the documentary on the homeless plight of youth. Her voice cracked as she fought back tears and said, "Right now, tonight, there are 40 children living in motels and shelters in Waco because their parents either can not or will not provide for them." She stated that more than 1,400 children, almost 10% of the children in Waco ISD schools, are considered unaccompanied youth under the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. When asked what the churches could do to help combat this hunger and homelessness so close to home, she said, "We have some church members who volunteer to be on call to pick children up and take them where they need to go, to school and sometimes where they will sleep at night. Church members could become volunteers in the school system to provide these children with a stable mentor, hope of a better life and occasional companionship."

Churches can also collect non-perishable snacks for children who get to school hungry. Although schools provide a good breakfast and lunch, many of these children still need extra nutrition. If your church would like to collect snacks, contact the WRBA Hunger Ministry Coordinator who has a working relationship with C.I.S. counselors and will pick up your snacks and deliver them to the schools. Counselors make the snacks available to the children they know are in need.

Your church can help educate everyone on the plight of youth living with hunger and/or homelessness by planning a 'Dinner and a Movie' for your congregation, life group, Sunday school class or youth group. A speaker from the Texas Hunger Initiative and the WRBA Hunger Ministry Coordinator will be happy to bring the movie and promote discussion with your group. Call us to further discuss how your church can help. Don't hesitate to respond to the way God calls you to 'GO'. Someone's life could depend on it, someone with no other advocate than you.

Conway Del Conte
Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org

— Upcoming Events —

**Missions Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
November 30-December 7**

“One Sacred Effort—Find Your Place in God’s Story”
Visit www.imb.org/main/lottie-moon for more information.

Christmas Celebrations		
Church	Celebration	Date & Time
Oak Grove	Children’s Christmas Musical	Dec. 7, 5:00pm
Western Heights	Children’s Christmas Musical	Dec. 7, 5:30pm
Columbus Avenue	Christmas and Keyboards	Dec. 7, 6:30pm
Lorena FBC	Children’s Christmas Program	Dec. 7, 7:00pm
Highland	Shane & Shane/Phil Wickham	Dec. 8, 7:00pm
Woodway FBC	Steven Curtis Chapman Tour	Dec. 11, 7:00pm
Meadowbrook	Christmas Musical	Dec. 12, 7:00pm
Hewitt FBC	Christmas Marketplace	Dec. 13, 5:30pm
Calvary	Christmas Coffeehouse	Dec. 13, 6:30pm
Crawford FBC	Christmas Musical	Dec. 14
Lake Shore	Christmas Music	Dec. 14, 10:45am
Meadowbrook	Christmas Musical	Dec. 14, 8:30/9:45/11:00am
Lake Shore	Service: Light in the Darkness	Dec. 14, 3:00pm
Columbus Avenue	Christmas at Columbus	Dec. 14, 5:00pm
Highland	Carols & Candlelight	Dec. 14, 6:00pm
Seventh & James	Messiah Sing-Along	Dec. 14, 6:00pm
Lorena FBC	Christmas Cantata	Dec. 14, 7:00pm
Lake Shore	Caroling and Chili Supper	Dec. 17, 5:15pm
Seventh & James	Cookies, Carols & Christmas	Dec. 17, 6:00pm
Lorena FBC	Trail of Lights	Dec. 21, 4:00pm
Columbus Avenue	Carols & Candles	Dec. 21, 6:30pm
Lake Shore	Christmas Open House	Dec. 21, 4:00pm
Highland	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 5:30pm
Bosqueville	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Brazos Meadows	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Hewitt FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Lake Shore	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Meadowbrook	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Seventh & James	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Waco FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Western Heights	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:00pm
Lorena FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 6:30pm
Crawford FBC	Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 24, 7:00pm

**January Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on January 14 at Truett Seminary**

Topic: Missions When Helping Hurts
Speaker: Jim Coston, Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church

Please make a reservation by **January 8**.
Contact Katelyn at admin@wacobaptists.org or (254) 753-2408.

— Farewell to Audrey Wauson —

A year ago, Audrey Wauson joined the Community Ministries team as the Coordinator for the Restorative Justice/Jail Ministry. I remember that I had been praying for the right person to assign to this ministry when I received an application from Audrey, not for a staff position, but to be a volunteer at the McLennan County Jail as one of the 20 plus volunteers who teach and preach the Word of God each Sunday. While interviewing her and listening to how God called her to ministry, I knew that she would be a great asset to our team. I was right. As



Audrey Wauson

the coordinator, she improved the volunteering reporting procedures and developed the “passport recruitment strategy,” but more importantly, she made the volunteers and officers feel appreciated. Also, it was not unlike Audrey to show up at the jail with a bag of goodies for the officers and those who worked in the mail room, just to say “thanks.” Audrey resigned in November. Her bright personality and smile will be missed, but she is not far away. You can catch her singing in the choir at Highland Baptist Church. Audrey, we wish you all the best!

Evelyn Ofong
Associate Director
associate@wacobaptists.org

— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:
Amistad, Downsville, Hilltop, Lake Shore, Lorena FBC,
Old Time, Pleasant Olive MBC, Woodway FBC

Other December Events

**November 30-December 7 — International Missions Week of Prayer/
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.**

December 9 — CWJC Fall Graduation.

December 24-26 — WRBA Office Closed. Christmas.

December 31-January 1 — WRBA Office Closed. New Year’s.