



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

WRBA is a voluntary network of Baptist churches in Central Texas who have chosen to cooperate in order to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

July 2016

Volume 17, Issue 7

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

What is a church? Some commonly refer to it as the building with a steeple on top. Others talk of the church as a group of people who meet together locally to worship. The Apostle Paul frequently called it the “**body of Christ.**”



Last year, a group of our wonderful church leaders worked together as the **WRBA Church Strengthening Team** to assemble a resource for *your* church! This resource is in the form of a 100-page booklet. Or you can obtain it digitally.

It is intended to help your congregation see itself in a **new light**: as if it were a **human body**. It is appropriately entitled *The Body of Christ: A Church Strengthening Process*.

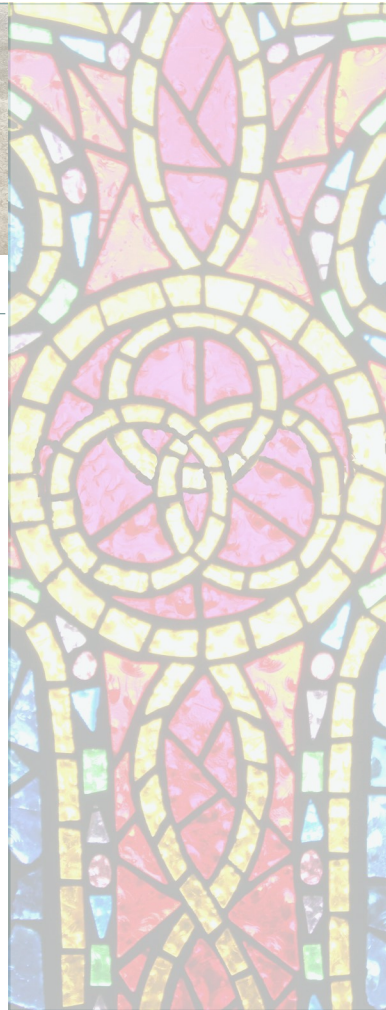
Throughout the book you will find stories of real churches here in Central Texas that demonstrate healthy and/or weak body systems. There are **40 daily devotionals** that can be shared with your entire congregation via email or printed copies. There are **sermon ideas** based on the 12 human body systems, and there are some **assessments at the conclusion** to help you and your congregation figure out which body systems in your church are working well, and which body systems might need some extra attention in the months to come.

Our desire is that every church in central Texas be a healthy and thriving congregation. None are perfect. And every church could use a little bit of a “tune up.”

Here is one example of how a human body system can be compared to a church body: The **sensory system** is the body’s connection to the outside world through sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing. This system allows the body to move and react in positive ways to external changes. In the church, the sensory system might be individuals who perceive and interpret the outside world to inside the body so timely adjustments can be made. This prophetic voice, or regular strategy planning process, or discovery process interprets what is happening in the community so the church can respond appropriately. This illustrates just one of the 12 human body systems that are also common to the church.

The Body of Christ: A Church Strengthening Process is a **free** resource to you and your church just for the asking.

In His service,
Tim



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UPCOMING CAMPS

Church	Type	Date
Columbus Avenue	Youth	July 4-8
Western Heights	Youth	July 5-9
Highland	Youth	July 10-15
Woodway FBC	Youth	July 10-15
Seventh & James	Children (Music)	July 11-16
Crawford FBC	Pre-Teen	July 16-19
Waco FBC	Children	July 16-20
Meadowbrook	Youth	July 18-22
Crossroads Fellowship	Grades 3-6	July 22-26
KIDZKamp Texas	Grade 3-6	July 22-26
Highland	Pre-Teen	July 25-29
Calvary	Children	July 28-31



“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

I John 4:11

WRBA IS HIRING!

Waco Regional Baptist Association is seeking a part-time Financial Secretary to work in the office for 20 hours a week. The job description is on the WRBA website, just go to www.wacobaptists.org. The online notice also has an employment application. The application and your resume can be submitted to admin@wacobaptists.org. Call 254-753-2408 for more information.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

Church	Location	Date	Type
Acts	Bulgaria/Turkey	June 27-July 6	
Crossroads	Brazil	June 30-July 12	
Columbus Ave.	Denia, Spain	July 1-9	Adult/Music
Calvary	China	July 1-16	
Calvary	Lebanon	July 1-9	
Woodway FBC	Pecos, NM	July 2-9	Family
Woodway FBC	Manchester, UK	July 4-11	Family
Hewitt FBC	Pendleton, OR	July 9-15	Family
Acts	Arkansas	July 9-16	Youth
Woodway FBC	Taos, NM	July 16-23	Family
Woodway FBC	Greece	July 22-August 3	
Woodway FBC	Palmetto, GA	July 23-29	Family
Western Heights	Hidalgo, TX	July 23-30	
Woodway FBC	Belize	July 23-30	Youth
Western Heights	Hidalgo, TX	July 23-30	

UPCOMING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Church	Date	Time
Western Heights	July 6-10	9:00am-12:00pm
Cornerstone	July 10-16	6:30-8:30pm
Columbus Avenue	July 11-15	9:00am-12:00pm
Western Heights	July 11-15	9:00am-12:00pm
Carver Park	July 11-15	
West FBC	July 11-17	9:00am-12:00pm

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Were you aware that of the students who enter community and technical colleges in any semester, approximately 70% of them fail to maintain a sense of community through attending a local church? It is also unfortunate and alarming that students enrolled in potentially lucrative technical programs leave before graduating. Their departure is often unrelated to ability to master the specific technological skills or the curriculum that supports that technology. Instead, they are leaving due to a variety of other real-world challenges. Frequently marital, family, housing and/or employment issues are the barriers to program completion.

Research shows that students are far more likely to overcome those challenges and go on to complete postsecondary studies if they are active participants in extra-curricular activities.

Through the Waco Regional Baptist Association (WRBA) Collegiate Ministry, students have many and varied opportunities to connect with faculty and classmates in the campus community; to serve alongside members of the community in and near the campus; and to grow spiritually through connecting with mentors from local churches.

Specifically, students are invited to attend and participate in Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) programs that include Bible study, lunches provided by member churches, and periodic worship and fellowship. In addition, BSM is the gateway to a host of other community resources including childcare, counseling, housing and employment assistance, to name just a few.

This is an exciting time to minister at TSTC and your church can be a part of it. We need churches to lead Bible Study, worship and fellowship, host lunches, and provide avenues to church and community resources.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of the network to ensure that a greater number of students graduate and become contributing members of this and other communities you will find additional information at www.wacobaptists.org or by calling the WRBA office at 753-2408.

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Left: TSTC students and local church members gather for a cook-out. Right: Lakeview Baptist Church pastor Chase Caldwell cook hotdogs for a student cook-out.



JULY EVENTS

July 4
WRBA Office Closed
Independence Day

July 19-22
Alleluia: Annual Music and Worship Conference
Baylor University
www.baylor.edu/alleluia

July 22-26
WRBA Office Closed
Moving to new location
(2911 Herring, 2nd Floor)

July 31
BGCT Hunger Offering
5th Sunday

August 11-12
Global Leadership Summit
FBC Temple
www.willowcreek.com/summit

August 12-13
Childhood & Family Ministry Summit
FBC Arlington
www.texasbaptists.org/events/childhood

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville
Primera Iglesia

New Church Start:

Congratulations to
Robinson FBC and their
new pastor Brooks Kimmey!

Congrats to Lorena FBC
and their new pastor
Heath Kirkwood!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: CONCORD

Most churches have a personality and focus. Concord Baptist Church is no exception. Ever since Billy Schulz became the pastor in 2014, he's enjoyed the "love they have for others."

He said, "I felt God's call to ministry, and the people there at Concord are loving, real inviting and willing to be patient with me."

The church's focus has been shifting during the past few years. They now have more outreach activities and the desire to do outreach has grown. The ministry and growth opportunities are exciting to Schulz.

"Starting my second year, there've been four salvation and baptisms since October."

These new believers are active

in the church and have a desire to be discipled and learn more about this new life in Christ.

Along with their standard Sunday and Wednesday church activities, Concord has various outreaches during several holidays as well as working with Helping Hands in the Tri-Cities area. They've found that by joining with other Bellmead churches, the small church has a larger impact in the community.

Schulz hopes to continue growing the church's presence in the community and to "seek, equip and empower the next generation to fill God's calling of ministry in the area. He asked for prayer that the church would have wisdom and clear direction for the future.

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