



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



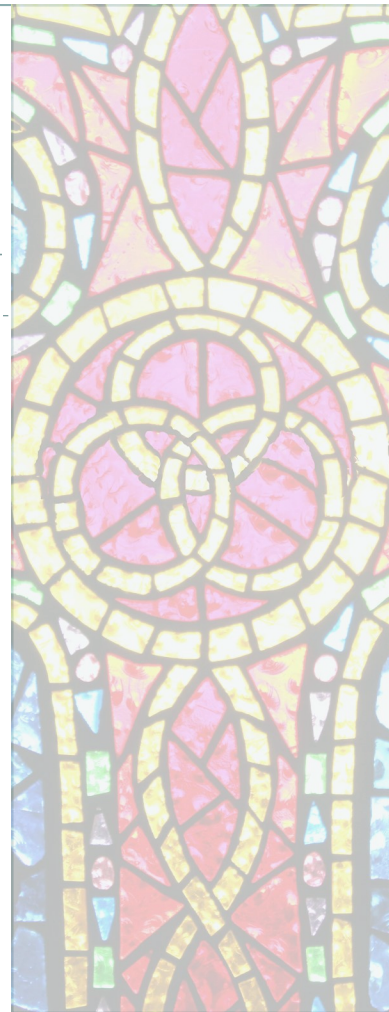
WHAT IS A COVENANT GROUP? Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, said, “By all this we are *encouraged*. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how *happy* Titus (a pastor) was, because *his spirit has been refreshed* by all of you” (2 Corinthians 7:13, NIV). Paul frequently spoke of the affection that church leaders from different cities had for one another, and the ways they *supported* and *encouraged* one another in very practical ways.

Covenant Groups consist of pastors and church leaders and are part of the ministry of the **Leadership Development Team**. I have visited a number of these groups the past few weeks, and have come away very encouraged! Some of the positive aspects are:

- * Most of the covenant groups are continuing on their own. These small groups of between four and ten pastors have become a meaningful time of mutual caring, sharing and encouragement.
- * All of the covenant groups have adapted their monthly meetings to meet their particular needs. No two groups function the same way, but they all are finding ways of being helpful to every member.
- * There is a lot of laughter. Church leaders are trusting and relaxed together. There is a genuine ease of being together. That is healthy!
- * They all are seeking to extend the Kingdom and build the Lord’s churches. I wondered if after a time some of the groups might turn to whining and griping pity parties. But nope! None of them have that character at all.
- * There are demonstrations of genuine Christian love between those who participate every month. The pastors are helping each other. That is a blessing.

My dream is that there would be no pastor or church leader in the WRBA walking alone. If you want to know more about Covenant Groups, give me a call! I’d love to visit with you about how you can participate in one.

In His Service, Tim



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TSTC COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE

There is good news and bad news regarding Collegiate Ministry (CM) at TSTC. First the bad news: Student leaders are exiting at a rapid pace. Now for the good news: Those student leaders are leaving because they are completing their studies and moving on to find their places in the work world. The bad news/good news simply means that we are always seeking new students to fill leadership roles in CM.

Due to the rigorous studies in the various technologies at TSTC, we strive to keep student leader responsibilities to a minimum. We begin by scheduling the weekly Bible study sessions to coordinate with student leader class schedules. This way we are able to safeguard the CM goal to offer spiritual support for students and

student leaders in their studies without jeopardizing class or study time. That said, we press toward the mark of ensuring that a greater number of students experience Bible study, fellowship and a closer relationship with Christ as they move toward graduation and becoming contributing members of this and other communities.



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

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on April 5 at Truett Seminary

Topic: Understanding Our Latino Neighbors
Speaker: Jesse Rincones, Convencion Bautista

RSVP by **March 29** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

THE GATHERING
 A CITYWIDE PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

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

HUNGER MINISTRY UPDATE

Hunger Ministry at the WRBA is grateful to receive funding each year from Texas Baptist Hunger Offering (TBHO) and the Missions and Ministry Fund (M+M Fund) for specific ministry initiatives. We seek to be aware of the multifaceted ways our congregations can respond to hunger and use the funding we receive to equip WRBA churches.



Bethany Busby

Through relationships with the McLennan County Hunger Coalition and the Texas Hunger Initiative, WRBA learned about an increasing number of senior adults experiencing hunger.

Through the M+M Fund and TBHO funding we have the privilege of employing a Senior Hunger Specialist, Bethany Busby. Have you had the opportunity to meet her? Perhaps your congregation already has a ministry to seniors or you have noticed a growing number of seniors in your community. Bethany can help equip your church to better understand why senior adults are experiencing hunger and find ways to respond!

Your donations to the TBHO and the WRBA M+M Fund support efforts to respond to senior hunger in McLennan County, other hunger ministries all over Texas and even across the globe! To learn more about ways to give, visit www.hungeroffering.org or www.wacobaptists.org.

Megan Byrd
Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org

Faith Community Caregiver Training March 5, 12:30-4:30pm Lorena FBC

In a day where healthcare is increasingly difficult to navigate and finance, many people in our faith communities are falling through the cracks. These people suffer physically, mentally and spiritually. Faith Community Health is a rapidly growing area of healthcare that seeks to provide preventative education as well as compassionate care and healthcare resources to the community. This training can benefit your church with help for high-risk members, congregational wellness and community engagement.

RSVP to Brittany Caldwell at 254-202-1151 or Brittany.Caldwell@BSWHealth.org.

MARCH EVENTS

March 1, 10:00am
Ministry Guidance Conference
Truett Seminary
RSVP by February 24 to Louine at 710-3739.

March 1, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary, Great Hall
Topic: Faith The Sticks
RSVP by February 22 to Louine at 710-3739.

March 3-4
African American Leadership Workshop
Truett Seminary

March 5, 12:30pm
Faith Community Caregiver Training
Lorena FBC

March 5-12
Week of Prayer & Mission Study—North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March 12, 2:00am
Daylight Saving Time Begins
“Clocks Spring Forward”

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

March 21, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA, 2911 Herring

March 26, 1:00pm
Associational Drill
Woodway FBC

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 9, 6:30pm
The Gathering
McLane Stadium

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Calvary
Hewitt FBC

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: ROBINSON FBC

After becoming Robinson FBC’s pastor, Brooks Kimmey felt it was an answer to prayer. The family was returning “home,” to a small-town community they could embrace with large-town stores nearby. The family was grateful to serve and their gratitude quickly grew.

Kimmey said, “One of the things that has really impressed me about our church is our members’ ability to care for people when adversity hits.”

Within a few months he had to be admitted to the hospital twice. The church gave encouragement, support and prayer.

“They’ve loved us so well and would do anything for us. This speaks volumes to the grace of God at work in their lives.”

Kimmey is excited to see God move and grow the faith of the church, even in circumstances where growth isn’t comfortable.

“I pray that we will surrender to His will and embrace His grace.”

One area of growth has been new small groups with church and community members. Some attendees had never been to a Bible study before. Similarly, the church works with groups like Girl Scouts and Robinson ISD. Their Wednesday children’s bus ministry is doing well, too.

“We pick them up, feed them and point them to Jesus,” said Kimmey.

He asked for prayer for their spiritual focus and unity in keeping Christ and serving Him first and foremost in their hearts.

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