



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.

November 2015

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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



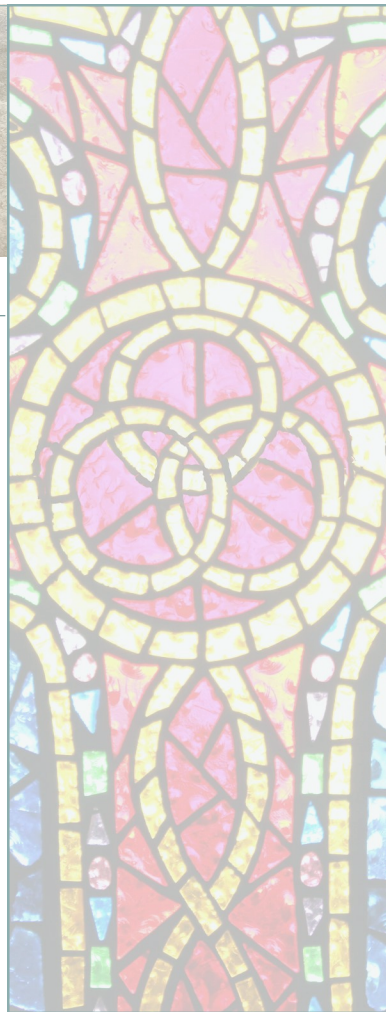
Church leaders are “stuck” sometimes because of diminished resources. The resource I’m speaking of in this instance is *not* money. Actually, in my experience with church work, money is usually the least needed resource.

Resources includes *people* with expertise in areas of ministry you are working in. Resources includes *materials* to get the job done. Resources includes *partners* and *encouragers* who can deliver exactly what is missing when you need it. **You have more resources than you know to help your church.**

As a member of the **Waco Regional Baptist Association**, you have a direct connection to experts of all kinds in the other churches in the region. A call came yesterday asking if we had an annual Association Sunday School Training event. I replied that we do not. We had that for a number of years and it was very good, but because of a lack of attendance it was ended. But that doesn’t mean your church cannot have a great training event for Sunday school workers (or small group leaders). **By participating in an association, you have friends in 94 other churches who know how to train teachers, outreach leaders, care coordinators and life group leaders. They are in your neighboring churches!**

A cooperative approach to any training event requires building some relationships; but how valuable is that over the next five years? What if five churches decided to pool all of their best workers and leaders and put on a workshop for new workers and potential new leaders in all five churches? They could easily pull off a conference that would top the list of best events in the year. Besides those experts in neighboring churches, you have access to highly qualified and experienced people through the Texas Baptists Convention, Baylor University and Truett Seminary. Instead of being frustrated because nothing is growing in your church, reach out and ask! **You have more resources than you can possibly imagine.**

Blessings and Peace, Tim



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SENIOR SNAP MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

“Let’s Love Seniors” ministers to seniors at-risk for hunger and isolation by providing companionship and fellowship. WRBA church members, families or Sunday School classes adopt seniors from Senior SNAP Outreach to continue care for that senior after he or she has gone through the SNAP application process. Volunteers visit the senior to check on their well-being, deliver a food box from a food pantry and offer assistance with small household tasks that might be difficult for the senior.

One of our volunteers realized the need for repair on one of our senior’s homes and connected her to NeighborWorks to get the much needed repairs. This volunteer also regularly delivers a food box and stays to visit, read a devotional and pray with her senior. Her senior is legally blind so her volunteer reads her mail to her and writes her bill amounts in large print outside the envelopes, an easy task for a volunteer that hugely impacts the life of this senior.

Many of our seniors live alone and have great difficulty getting out of their homes. A visit from a friendly face with a hug and a prayer can transform the senior’s well-being and counter the negative effects of isolation, such as depression and anxiety.



How can you help?

- Pray for fruitful ministry to seniors
- Let us know of any seniors in your church or community who need help applying for SNAP or who need adoption
- Volunteer to adopt a senior

Rachel Tate, Senior SNAP Outreach
seniorhelp@wacobaptists.org

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:17

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE—DUE NOV. 30

Annual Church Profiles are due. It helps your congregation in pastor research, future planning and historical data. ACPs also updates the WRBA Directory so we can connect leaders to resources that are relevant to their ministry. If you have questions, call Katelyn Kasper or WRBA’s ACP Intern Justin Downey at 254-753-2408.



Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week November 15-21

This year’s local NHHAW theme is “Caring Never Gets Old: Responding to the Needs of Seniors,” focusing on senior hunger and homelessness.

- Sunday, November 15, 10:30am** — Kick-off, Church Under the Bridge breakfast and worship service.
- Sunday, November 15, 2:00pm** — Registration and Heart of Texas CROP 5K Hunger Walk. Bledsoe-Miller Park (300 MLK Blvd.).
- Monday, November 16** — Letter-Writing Campaign at various locations around Waco. TBA at www.mclennanhunger.org.
- Thursday, November 19, 6:00pm** — Dinner and a Movie at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church. Documentary on hunger among seniors.
- Friday, November 20, 8:00am-6:00pm** — Food for Families Food Drive, a collection of food for local pantries. Area grocery stores.
- Saturday, November 21** — Altrusa Turkey Trot 5K/10K. More information at www.mclennanhunger.org.

Sponsored by the McLennan County Hunger Coalition and the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition. For more details, go to www.mclennanhunger.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ARISE, SHINE
When we rise up, He shines through
"Arise, shine; for your light has come!" Isaiah 60:1

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
Women of the World: Shining Lights
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

12 Spanish Oak, Waco, 76710
Off of Hillcrest at Lake Shore Drive
Home of Carey Hobbs, Hosted by Cindy Hobbs Janecka

For directions or to volunteer to bring food, call Kathy Hillman at 749-5347 or email kathy_hillman@baylor.edu

Brunch at 9:30am, Program and Prayer Time at 10:00-11:30am

Baylor University Associate Vice President of Human Resources Cheryl Gochis will give the Bible Study/Devotional.

Truett Theological Seminary students Joslyn Henderson and Candace Allen will lead music.

Women's Missionary Union of Texas Executive Director Sandra Wisdom-Martin will be the special guest speaker.



Operation Christmas Child
National Collection Week: November 16-23
Local Drop-Off Center: Highland Baptist Church
Visit www.samaritanspurse.org for more information.

Local contact – Jane Smith, jsmith39@sbcglobal.net or 254-772-6667.
The Heart of Texas Area gave 17,748 boxes in 2014. The 2015 goal is 19,523 shoe boxes. This year, tallying shoe boxes brought to Highland since 1997, we will celebrate the 200,000th donated shoe box.

BGCT Annual Meeting
November 8-10, 2015
Dr. Pepper Arena, Frisco, TX

For more information, please visit
www.texasbaptists.org/annual-meeting.

Colossians 2:6-7

DEEP ROOTS
LIVING LEGACY

RA Pinewood Derby

Going to the RA Pinewood Derby next spring? Don't forget to order your supplies now at www.royalracers.com.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 1
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Clocks "Fall Back"

November 4, 12:00pm
Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: Divorce & Church Leadership
Speaker: Van Christian, FBC Comanche
RSVP by Oct 29

November 6-7
BGCT Hispanic Leadership Conference
Dallas, TX

November 8-10
BGCT Annual Meeting
Frisco, TX

November 13-15
RA Campout/Missions Mania
Latham Springs

November 15-21
National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week

November 16-23
Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

November 17, 9:30am
Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
12 Spanish Oak, Waco

November 17, 4:00pm
Board Meeting
WRBA

November 19, 12:00pm
Networking & Missions Team Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

November 26-27
WRBA Office Closed
Thanksgiving

November 29
BGCT Hunger Sunday

November 30
Annual Church Profiles Due

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville
Lorena FBC
Marlin MBC
Old Time
Primera Iglesia
Robinson FBC

New church staff:

Congratulations to Liberty Hill and their new pastor, Marc Lambert!
Congrats to Bruceville and their new youth/children ministers, Edward and Gina Davis!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: LAKE SHORE BAPTIST

Lake Shore Baptist Church is engaged with the community and needed a pastor with the same desire and mindset.

Kyndall Rothaus said, "I started talking with the search team in the spring, and I was really impressed with Lake Shore's commitment to the community ... also their spirit of hospitality in welcoming anyone."

The church called Kyndall Rothaus to be their pastor this summer. After the relocation from Covenant Baptist Church in San Antonio, she stepped into the role on September 1.

She said, "So far it's been great. It's a really fun place to preach. Everyone is really engaged in worship and the congregation, and I've felt at home since the beginning."

Rothaus admires the church's

"commitment to justice" and "their openness to ask all sorts of questions and not feel threatened by diversity and doubt."

"There's a true equality here with men and women, and that's truly refreshing," she said.

Rothaus wants to "partner with (the church) in figuring out how to do meaningful work in the world. I think we're like-minded and well suited for each other. I'm excited to see how that unfolds in an organic way."

Poetry influences how she preaches. You can see examples of her outlook in her new book *Preacher Breath*, published by Smyth & Helwys.

Join them for "Worship and Pie" on Nov. 25 and a "Light in the Darkness" service, for people who are grieving during the holidays, on Dec. 13 at 3:00pm. Anyone is welcome to come.

Waco Regional Baptist Association

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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