



# 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.

September 2016

Volume 17, Issue 9



## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Our moderator, Chris Johnson, has chosen the theme “Together” for our WRBA Annual meeting. The theme verse is Psalm 34:3 — *“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.”*

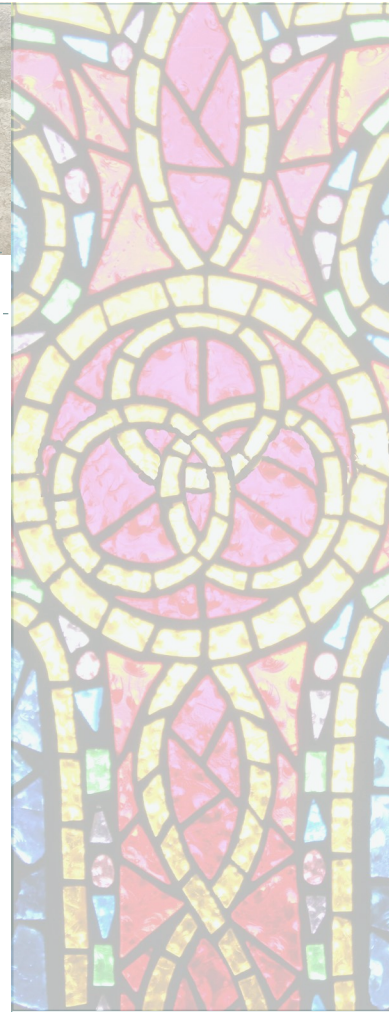


**Whenever we worship our Lord, we are acknowledging that we are part of a larger community. That community is bigger and broader than our particular congregation.** It includes other believers in Jesus Christ who bend their knees and call Him Lord. We work together with other churches of similar faith through the Waco Regional Baptist Association all year long. We do evangelism projects through the Church Evangelism Ministry Team. We speak to hunger issues in the community through the Hunger Committee. We extend the love and Good News of Jesus to students and staff at McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College month by month. But we do not have many times to gather, pray and worship together. Our annual meeting is one of those precious times to be together to “glorify the Lord” together.

Yes, we do have to do a little bit of Association business (about 15 minutes), but the main part of our time together on Tuesday evening, October 11 at First Baptist Church of Hewitt will be spent in fellowshiping around a meal and then singing and praying and worshipping together. We will have the opportunity to hear a word from the Lord from Bro. Jim Heiligman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bryan. This young man of God will surely bring a powerful message that will encourage and inspire us.

As I visit your different congregations from week to week, I realize how desperately we need this time to glorify the Lord together. Our communities and cultures are polarizing in fearful ways. The church must be that light, then the “afflicted (will) hear and rejoice.” I guess what I am trying to say is that we are most like the church that Jesus Christ died to establish when we are together. I look forward to seeing you on October 11.

In His service,  
Tim



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## ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE



Annual Church Profiles are due by Sept. 12 so the information can be included in the WRBA Book of Reports, which will be distributed at the Oct. 11 Annual Meeting! The information in each ACP helps churches with pastor research, future planning, historical data and so much more. Along with being one of the three requirements of WRBA membership, it keeps our directory up-to-date so we connect leaders to resources that are relevant to them. If you have questions, call Katelyn at 753-2408.

## NEW WRBA STAFF

It has been a wonderful summer with Hunger Ministry at the WRBA. We are partnering with Tri-Cities Ministries to have conversations about a shared food pantry in the Elm Mott community. Previously, three local churches each operated separate pantries. The pastors and a number of members from Elm Mott FBC and two other local congregations have been meeting since May of this year to consider what it would look like to coordinate a shared hunger ministry in the community. I am grateful for their careful and thoughtful consideration of how to partner in a way that would respect the differences between denominations while responding to the common goal of caring for those in their community who hunger.



This summer we have also had the privilege to welcome two new members to our Hunger Committee. In May we welcomed Rev. Ryan Busby, pastor of Bosqueville Baptist Church, to our committee. We were grateful to also have Lila Chapa, a member of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Waco, join our committee last month. Members of the Hunger Committee have worked alongside Bethany and myself this year to create a statement of purpose for hunger ministry at the WRBA, as well as, a strategy for how to best serve our congregations who have or who are interested in working to alleviate hunger.

Last, but certainly not least, we are delighted to welcome our social work intern for the 2016-2017 school year. Kelsey Miller is a concentration year MSW student serving in WRBA's hunger ministry. She formerly worked at the Texas Hunger Initiative, where she enjoyed collaborating with diverse community organizations to design common solutions to child hunger and other hunger-related challenges. Kelsey is originally from the Chicago area and first moved to Waco in 2011 to work at the World Hunger Relief Farm, where she quickly fell in love with Waco and its quirks. She loves backyard gardening, cooking, reading, exploring new places and enjoying time with her husband and dogs. We hope you have the opportunity to meet Kelsey this year and are grateful for this now five year partnership with the Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University.



If you would be interested in serving on the Hunger Committee or want to learn more about hunger ministry and how your church can respond to hunger needs in your community, please contact Megan Byrd at [hunger@wacobaptists.org](mailto:hunger@wacobaptists.org) or 254-753-2408.

Megan Byrd  
Hunger Ministry Coordinator  
[hunger@wacobaptists.org](mailto:hunger@wacobaptists.org)

## WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 6:00PM  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HEWITT  
FBC BRYAN PASTOR JIM HEILIGMAN, SPEAKER



# TOGETHER

"GLORIFY THE LORD WITH ME; LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER."  
PSALM 34:3

MAKE A RESERVATION BY OCTOBER 4. DINNER IS \$8.  
CONTACT THE WRBA OFFICE AT 254-753-2408  
OR AT ADMIN@WACOBAPTISTS.ORG.

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

**Topic: Social Media**

RSVP by **September 29** at [admin@wacobaptists.org](mailto:admin@wacobaptists.org)  
or 254-753-2408.

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**September 5**  
Labor Day  
WRBA Office Closed

**September 7, 12:00pm**  
Ministers Roundtable  
Great Hall, Truett Seminary  
Topic: Being Whole—Body,  
Mind and Soul  
Speaker: Dr. Peter  
Grandjean, Baylor  
RSVP by August 31

**September 8, 3:30pm**  
WRBA Evangelism Ministry  
Team Meeting  
WRBA, 2911 Herring

**Sept. 9, 1:30-3:30pm**  
WRBA Open House  
WRBA, 2911 Herring

**September 10-11**  
FBC Robinson 150th  
Anniversary Celebration

**September 11-18**  
Week of Prayer — Texas  
Missions and Mary Hill  
Davis Offering

**September 12**  
ACPs are due

**September 20, 4:00pm**  
Board Meeting  
WRBA, 2911 Herring

**September 21, 12:15pm**  
Networking and Missions  
Team Meeting  
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

**September 28**  
See You At The Pole

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray  
for WRBA churches  
seeking a Pastor:

Calvary  
Ecclesia  
Hewitt FBC

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#### New Church Staff:

Congrats to Downsville  
and their new pastor  
Roy Marshall!

## Waco Regional Baptist Association OPEN HOUSE

Join us at a come  
and go celebration  
from 1:30-3:30pm  
on Friday, Sept. 9  
at the new office  
space: 2911 Herring  
Avenue, Suite 212

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 235  
Waco, TX

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