



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

“And let us run with *perseverance* the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1-3



This scripture was selected by Marcy Smith, children’s minister at Western Heights Baptist Church and the Moderator of our Association, as the theme for this year’s Annual Meeting.

One of the characteristics of ministries which truly make a difference in the life of a church and/or association is *perseverance*. There are many bright ideas for good ministries, but most of them end up in a field of discarded and forgotten good intentions without ever touching many lives.

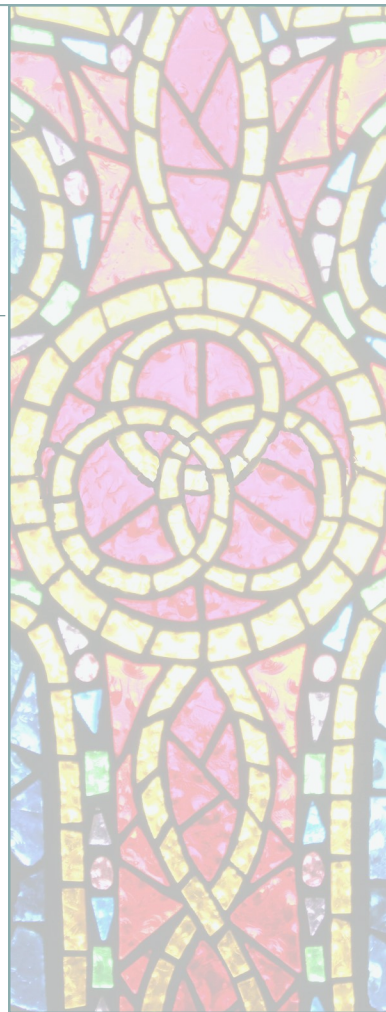
Our walk with God must be characterized by *perseverance* if we desire to be part of that ‘great cloud of witnesses’ that have gone before us and shown us the path of living by faith.

By *persevering*, the Baptist Student Ministry on the TSTC campus is seeing some wonderful breakthroughs. By *persevering*, the WRBA Hunger Ministry has become a voice for excellent community ministry in our county. By *persevering*, the Networking and Missions Team has nudged and trained and inspired mission partnerships all around the world. None of these happened in a vacuum. But they are a beacon, a light, of what God is doing and can do in the churches of this Central Texas region.

What ministry has God called you to? What community of people has He called you to serve? Where has he placed you to announce the Good News of Jesus? The secret to *perseverance* in ministry according to the author of Hebrews is “*fixing our eyes on Jesus.*” He is the one who, “*For the joy set before Him He endured the cross ... and endured ... opposition from sinners.*” If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will not grow weary and lose heart.

As we gather for our 158th Annual Meeting, we must know the *value of persevering* and not losing heart. That is how we are called to walk.

In His Service,
Tim Randolph



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Director’s Article.....1
- Upcoming Events2
- Annual Church Profile.....2
- New WRBA Intern.....2
- Upcoming Events3
- Calendar of Events.....3
- Churches without Pastors.....4
- New Church Staff.....4
- Church Spotlight.....4

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS
and the MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING®

www.wmutx.org/mary-hill-davis

SEPTEMBER 10-17, 2017

STATE GOAL: \$3,600,000

Together we can win Texas for Christ!

October Ministers Round Table
12:00pm on October 4 at Truett Seminary
Topic: Women in Baptist Life
Speaker: Dr. Todd Still, Truett Seminary

RSVP by **September 27** to admin@wacobaptists.org or 753-2408.

“But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”
Luke 15:32

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE

Each church should have received their Annual Church Profile (ACP). Not only is completing the ACP a requirement to be a part of WRBA, but the information is vital for recording historical data, helping with staff hires and building decisions, and updating WRBA’s church directory.

Please submit ACPs by Sept. 15 in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

NEW COMMUNITY WELLNESS INTERN

Meg Wallace is an MSW student in the Communities concentration at the Garland School of Social Work. Before moving to Waco in 2016 and returning to school, she was a freelance book editor and indexer raising her children in Chicago. When her youngest went off to college, she did too, finally consolidating households with her husband of several years, Baylor musicology professor Robin Wallace.



Her professional goal is to support wellness in congregations because people often turn to their faith communities for assistance with and accompaniment in the challenges and joys of their lives. She is also learning about public deliberation and other dialogue strategies to help communities grapple with complex issues.

Meg Wallace
Community Wellness Intern
intern@wacobaptists.org

SEE YOU AT THE POLE FIX OUR EYES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

HEBREWS 12:2

WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT 6:00PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WOODWAY

Surrounded by Witnesses: Running the Race

DINNER IS \$5. PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION BY OCTOBER 3
AT 254-753-2408 OR ADMIN@WACOBAPTISTS.ORG.

"...LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES. AND
LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS..."

HEBREWS 12:1-3

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 4

Labor Day
WRBA Office Closed

September 6, 12:00pm

Ministers Roundtable
Truett Seminary
Topic: The Nones
Speaker: Dr. Byron Johnson
RSVP by August 30

September 6-8

National Boomer & Senior
Adult Ministry Conference
Dallas, TX

September 10-17

Texas Missions & Mary Hill
Davis Offering

September 15

Annual Church Profiles Due

September 19, 4:00pm

Board Meeting
WRBA

September 20, 12:00pm

Networking and Missions
Team Meeting
Waco FBC, Conference Rm

September 26, 6:00pm

CWJC Baskets of Hope
Woodway FBC

September 27

See You At The Pole

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray
for WRBA churches
seeking a Pastor:

- Chalk Bluff
- Elm Mott
- Emmanuel
- Faith Temple
- Lakeview
- Westwood

Congratulations to:

Hewitt FBC and their new
pastor, Chris Sammons!

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: DOWNSVILLE

Within the last year, Downsville Baptist Church has restructured and started to reach out into their community again.

Pastor Roy Marshall said, "Beginning at the basics of organizing the church for outreach and for growth, the church now has developed a vision about who Downsville wants to be. We are moving forward to accomplish that with the Lord's guidance."

Marshall pastored Hewitt FBC for 40 years. After retiring he was a supply preacher, including at Downsville. The church asked him to be their part-time pastor. Praying through it, he felt he could help the church reach out.

"I love the family-friendly atmosphere of the church, and how the people are genuinely concerned about each other and

about reaching out to others in Jesus' name."

The church is mission-minded and ready for "hands-on" work.

"Just this year, they have been involved with a hunger ministry, Compassion Ministry, Mission Waco Backpack ministry, Bounce and several other missions," Marshall said. "At the same time, at their urging, the church has increased its mission giving to the Waco Association to five percent of their undesignated receipts."

They're upgrading facilities and creating a blended worship.

Marshall asked, "Pray that Downsville would discover a way to reach a community that is quite different from the church and be an influence in the work of the Kingdom."

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Waco, TX

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