

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Originally Calvary Baptist's children's minister (and a brand new Truett Seminary student), Pastor Mary Alice Birdwhistell began her commitment to serve back in 2009.

"We pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place," are words spoken to new members at Calvary when they join. *"I love the beautiful sense of family we share within this place with people we might otherwise never know in our day to day lives," says Pastor Birdwhistell.*

Calvary is in an exciting place! With Advent among them, they have an incredible Advent devotion series written by diverse members within the church and several upcoming events. One in particular is their annual Service of Consolation (Thursday, December 6th at 7:00PM) that creates

space for those that are grieving. *"Advent is my favorite time of the year at Calvary. I love the traditions, music and hope that the season brings."* Advent is different at Calvary this season for they will be considering how, as a church, they might celebrate the coming birth of Jesus in unconventional, unexpected or newly imagined ways.

For the upcoming year Calvary, asks for prayer in their associate pastor search. They want to find the hand that fits in the glove.

For more on Pastor Birdwhistell and Calvary Baptist Church, visit ethicsdaily.com for a beautiful documentary by the Baptist Women in Ministry.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:

Downsville BC, Emmanuel BC
Harris Creek BC, Lakeview BC,
Old Time BC



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WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONNECT, SUPPORT, TRAIN

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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

This morning, as I write these words, my heart has been drawn to Psalm 95 verse 7. "For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. Today, if only you would hear his voice."

There is so much to meditate upon in this verse, but I would like to make a few brief comments on two concepts found here:

- There is a "we" in the Scriptures that is very broad but it is distinctive. "We are His sheep" indicates there are many of us in this beautiful pasture. Whenever I hear pastors speak on unity, (think John 17) it is almost always limited to *this congregation*. But in Scripture, the "we" is always larger than one community of faith. It is all of those who fear, trust and love God. Our vision of His flock really needs an adjustment of perspective.
- As sheep in His pasture, we are *"under His care."* Our health, our security, our very *lives* are in His hands. He is a *good shepherd*. He wants us to thrive. I understand that He is concerned about our total wellbeing. The fact that many of us are very sickly should grab our attention. The Church Health Reader has published a *Guide for Clergy Health* that helps us assess our total wellbeing. I would encourage you to click on the [document](#) and take a few days to work through the questions to discover where you might be cooperating with our *good Shepherd in your own wellbeing, and where you might be resisting His care and provision*. We raised goats for several years while we lived in Gatesville, and I observed that despite our vigilance to provide fresh water and healthy feed, some of the goats regularly chose to leave the fenced in pasture and go do their own thing. As a metaphor, I think that works to see us as goats in His pasture, and our best interest is in staying within His pasture and accepting from His hand the good things He is delighted to give us.

Are you enjoying the blessings of being a sheep under His care today? I pray you are.

In His Service,
Tim Randolph, Director



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CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENT SCHEDULE

Christmas Events			
December 2nd, 11:00AM Riesel FBC Special Hanging of the Greens Srv.	December 16th, 6:00-8:00PM Golinda FBC Christmas in the Country Cantata	December 24th, 7:30PM Crawford FBC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 7:00PM Park Lake Drive BC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 8th, 6:30PM Chalk Bluff BC Christmas Cantata	December 16th, 11:00AM Riesel FBC Christmas Children's Play	December 24th, 6:00PM Crossroads Fellowship Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 5:00PM Riesel FBC Christmas Eve Service
December 8th, 7:00PM Calvary BC Christmas Coffeehouse	December 19th, 7:00PM Viento Fuerte Church Christmas Program & Fellowship	December 24th, 6:30PM Downsville BC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 5:30PM Top Hand Cowboy Church Christmas Eve Service
December 9th, 11:00AM Chalk Bluff BC Christmas Cantata Continued	December 23rd, 5:00PM Columbus Avenue BC Service of Consolation	December 24th, 6:00PM Golinda FBC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 6:00PM West FBC Christmas Eve Service
December 9th, 5:00PM Columbus Avenue BC Christmas at Columbus	December 24th, 6:00PM Brazos Meadows BC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 6:00PM Hewitt FBC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	December 24th, 6:00PM Western Heights BC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 9th, 11:15AM Western Heights BC Christmas Cantata	December 24th, 6:00PM Calvary BC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 5:00PM Highland BC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 4:30PM & 6:00PM Woodway FBC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 10th, 5:45PM Highland BC Christmas Caroling	December 24th, 5:00PM Columbus Avenue BC Christmas Eve Service	December 24th, 5:00PM McGregor FBC Christmas Eve Service	

Now Hiring!

Community Wellness Coordinator
Visit wacobaptists.org for more information.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

WELLNESS MINISTRY UPDATE

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends and are looking forward to Christmas just around the corner. The birth of Jesus is an event like no other. His life changed the course of history and His birth brought joy into the world and salvation to all who know Him. Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Here are some highlights of the Church Health & Hunger Ministries over the last month:

We have 23 churches and 26 liaisons involved in *Faith Health Waco*. These include four Spanish-speaking churches, four African American churches and the following denominations (Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Non-Denominational, Pentecostal, and Presbyterian).

We had our first “Meet & Greet” in October where Faith Health Liaisons had the opportunity to talk with each other and with the Community Health Workers.

Referral systems are in place at Baylor Scott & White, Providence and the Health District (Community Health Workers). This system works two ways - Case Management, Pastoral Care and Community Health Workers refer patients directly to Faith Health Liaisons, or Faith Health Liaisons can directly contact their Faith Health Coordinator at each hospital and the Community Health Workers supervisor. Please contact Sarah Kranick, Faith in Action Coordinator to register for the upcoming Faith Community Caregiver Training scheduled for December 8th from 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest. To register and get more information, please email Sarah at Sarah.Kranick@BSWHealth.org.

We have already started receiving referrals!! Here is one example: A Case Manager/Social Worker referred a patient to Faith Health Waco for a transportation need. She had a patient that had been discharged from the hospital and needed a ride to their physician in Temple for a follow-up visit. The church closest to the patient’s home in the Faith Health Waco program, was contacted. The Faith Health Liaison for Western Heights Baptist Church is Libby Day and she, and Pastor Osborne, found someone to take this patient to his appointment the very next day! Hallelujah!! I just saw the social worker that referred this patient to us and she told me the patient was so thrilled and grateful and is looking forward to future contact with Western Heights Baptist. Thank you Libby, Pastor Osborne and your church member who transported this patient for truly being the hands and feet of Jesus.

On a personal note, I want all of you to know how much I have enjoyed working with many of you over this last year. It is with a heavy heart that I have resigned my position as Community Wellness Coordinator at Waco Regional Baptist Association. It has been a pleasure to work with Tim and the team at WRBA. My last day will be December 14th. I trust the Lord will continue to bless the Church Health and Hunger Team ministries. I have learned so much from each of you and one of my richest blessings has been the partnership with Baylor Scott & White, Providence and the Community Health Workers in joining efforts in building *Faith Health Waco*. The Hunger Ministry team has been small but powerful and will forge ahead in building the Faith Action Team with the McLennan County Hunger Coalition. I can’t thank you enough for your love, support and relentless work put forth in each of the ministries I have been a part of at WRBA. If I can be of any help to you during this transition time, and/or in the future, please let me know.

With gratitude and continued prayers of support,

Jen Martinsen
WRBA Community Wellness Coordinator
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254-717-2997

DECEMBER EVENTS

NO Ministers Round Table, Board Meeting or Networking & Missions Ministry Team Meeting this Month

December 3-10
International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 24-26
WRBA Office Closed for Christmas

December 30
BGCT Hunger Offering 5th Sunday

December 31
Please send in your December donations as soon as possible to be counted in the WRBA 2018 financial books.

December 31st & January 1st
WRBA Office Closed New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day