



WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Family News

— FROM YOUR DIRECTOR —

My worst cooking mistake was probably when I was a young teenager and my mom left a bowl of powdered ingredients out for me, ready to make brownies. If I remember right, the brownies were for a church meeting that evening, and she needed me to finish them up after school and have them ready to go when she arrived home from school. I followed the instructions (I thought) and they came out smelling like chocolate heaven. It wasn't until we were serving them at the church that we realized that I had mixed up the salt for the sugar. Oops! Nobody could eat them.



A community usually doesn't understand the blessings that a vibrant church brings to them every single day ... until that church is lost and replaced with a business or an apartment complex. Jesus said we are "salt of the earth." He also compared us with yeast when He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Churches are like sugar in the mix. We make it worthwhile.

As a church proclaims the Word of God, lives out love and ministers personal and community transformation every week, the community experiences that salt and that leaven. Most of the people in the community are not even aware of that influence until it is gone. Then the whole thing turns bitter and undesirable. As I travel through this portion of Central Texas visiting congregations week after week, I give thanks for His presence and His life, and I pray that each one will prosper and thrive because our world desperately needs strong, vibrant churches. That is what we strive for week after week here at the Waco Regional Baptist Association.

In His Service,
Tim

— Hunger Ministry Spotlight —

This year, the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week is a week-long event that raises awareness on topics so close to home – hunger and homelessness among youth. There are 75 young teens in Waco who are considered ‘unaccompanied youth’ who are ‘selling themselves’ online in Waco because they are hungry! What is the church’s response to this? These are the kinds of questions we hope to raise during this week of awareness November 15-22.



We are asking WRBA churches to participate by helping us provide a dinner for the Thursday night, November 17 event “Dinner and a Movie.” Would your congregation like to help? So far, we have enchiladas, rice and beans for 25 people. We need food for 75 more people. Your help with dinner for 25 people (could be a main dish, side dish or deserts) would be greatly appreciated.

The movie is free, dinner will be free and all the activities all week long are free as well. Hope you can join us!

Thank you in advance for any help you can give! Please contact John David, WRBA Community Ministries Intern at intern@wacobaptists.org or 254-753-2408 to participate!

Conway Del Conte
Hunger Ministry Coordinator
hunger@wacobaptists.org

Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 15, 2:00pm — “One-Third of a Nation” Theatre & Panel Discussion. Mabee Theatre. Tickets at www.baylor.edu/theatre.

Sunday, November 16, 10:45am — Church Under the Bridge service.

Sunday, November 16, 2:00pm — Heart of Texas CROP Hunger Walk. Bledsoe-Miller Recreation Center.

Monday, November 17 — Advocacy & Letter-Writing Campaign at various locations around Waco.

Thursday, November 20, 6:00pm — Dinner & Movie at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church.

Friday, November 21 — Food for Families Food Drive. Robinson Brookshire’s Grocery.

Saturday, November 22, 9:00am-1:00pm — Waco Downtown Farmers Market (400 S. University Parks).

For more information, visit www.mclennanhunger.org or contact Erin Payseur at 254-710-3106 or Erin_Payseur@baylor.edu, or Chelle Samaniego at chellesamaniego1@gmail.com.

-- From Your Associate Director --

I was introduced recently to a Waco-based, non-profit organization called *You See Me Free Ministries (YSMF)*. YSMF empowers transformational communities that nurture relational and sexual wholeness. It began in 2005 by Dr. Debbie Rarick who had a heart for those dealing with brokenness. Dr. Rarick, who earned her Doctorate of Ministry in Spiritual Formation from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, explains, “We do this because understanding personal identity in relation to God and expressing it through healthy relationships with one another is foundational for both personal recovery and the shepherding of those within congregations who struggle.” She continues, “We really want to be a resource for churches by providing *free* training to those who have a special heart and passion for helping those who want to overcome their hurts, hang-ups and habits.”



YSMF was created to equip people to take steps of faith beyond forgiveness into freedom – liberty in Christ from divorce, anger, eating disorders, chemical addiction, fear, alcoholism and drugs, etc. That is, any stronghold that besets individuals from becoming the person that God intended them to be. To date, YSMF has helped hundreds of clients, some of which have been through partnering directly with churches.



Debbie Rarick, MDiv, DMin
Founder and Director
You See Me Free Ministries

In January 2013, YSMF started working in partnership with Acts Church to offer Celebrate Recovery to the Waco community. In September of this year, YSMF began its one-year *Celebrate Recovery* Leadership Training. Participants are required to attend the weekly recovery meetings and the monthly training sessions. At the end of training, they will be able to start a *Celebrate Recovery* program in their own church.

If you are interested in starting a *Celebrate Recovery* program at your church, or sponsoring a trainee, please contact Dr. Rarick at 254-741-1970 or freedom@youseemefree.org. The cost to trainees is free, but they have to pay about \$25.00 for training materials. More information on *Celebrate Recovery* can be found at www.actswaco.com/celebrate-recovery.

Evelyn Ofong
Associate Director/Director of Community Ministries
associate@wacobaptists.org

— Community News —

Continue to pray for WRBA churches seeking a Pastor:
Hilltop, Lake Shore, Lorena FBC, Old Time, Pleasant Olive MBC,
Woodway FBC

— Upcoming Events —



You are invited to be

In Step with the Spirit Through the Fruit of the Spirit, KINDNESS
“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25



Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

12 Spanish Oak, Waco, 76710

Off of Hillcrest at Lake Shore Drive

Home of Carey Hobbs

(Bible Study/Devotional by Cindy Hobbs Janecka)

For directions call Kathy Hillman at 749-5347

Brunch at 9:30am

Program and Prayer Time at 10:00am

Focus on the Plight and Promise of Latin American Women



Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week: November 17-24 Waco drop-off center: Highland Baptist Church

Visit www.samaritanspurse.org or contact
Jane Smith at 254-772-6667 for information.



Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting

Waco Convention Center

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

Don't forget to stop by the WRBA booth and to say hello.

RA Pinewood Derby

Going to the RA Pinewood Derby on
Feb. 8 at Columbus Avenue? Order
supplies now at www.royalracers.com.



Annual Church Profile — Last Call

Thank you to everyone who has turned in an ACP!

If you have not finished it, please do so as soon as possible.

The deadline for us to mail them to the state is November 30.

Contact us at 254-753-2408 if you have questions.

— The Body of Believers —

New youth and energy have come to Western Heights Baptist Church. The congregation looks forward to what God has in store.

Pastor Bruce Worley said, "They're ready to move forward, to work in the community and see what God will do through them."

Since coming to Western Heights on May 25, Worley has watched 20 Nigerian students and adults join the church, baptized seven people with two more ready, engaged the neighborhood and planned a mission trip for 2015.

He said, "Our goal is to move the church outside the walls.... Instead of bringing people to church, we want to take the church to them."

The older Anglo group is becoming a microcosm of the community.

Worley said, "We are an elderly congregation that's making decisions about how to reach the younger population, young families.... We're already making decisions to add an extra service starting Easter Sunday.... We know that we can't keep doing what we've been doing for 50 years."

Some of the longest members have seen what the church is capable of. The sanctuary was built in 1958 to seat 500 people. By the 1980's extra seats had to be added during Easter Sunday services and membership reached 1,667.

Mary Willis said, "Under (Worley's) leadership we see a future for the church, drawing a more diversified membership for the church."

Children's Minister Marcy Smith said the church is trying to find ways to reach the children and parents in the neighborhood. One way is through the anticipated Operation Christmas Child Box Stuffing Party. The church prepares 400 boxes and challenges member families to provide one extra box.

Smith said, "There's something special about making your own box where you're picking out items yourself."

From Christmas boxes to exercise classes, choirs to mission trips, the church is active.

Worley asked for prayer for Western Heights, that God would guide the church's sphere of influence and the church would be faithful to the task.

Other November Events

Sunday, November 2 — Daylight Savings Ends. Clocks fall back.

Tuesday, November 4, 9:30am — Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.
12 Spanish Oak, Waco.

Wednesday, November 5, 12:00pm — Ministers Roundtable. Truett.

Tuesday, November 11, 4:00pm — Administrative Team. WRBA.

Tuesday, November 11, 6:00pm — Vision Dinner. Baylor Club, McLane Stadium.

November 16-19 — BGCT Annual Meeting. Waco.

November 17-24 — Operation Christmas Child Collection Week.

Thursday, November 20, 12:00pm — Networking & Missions. FBC Waco.

Saturday, November 22 — WRBA Church Tailgate Party.
Pavilion, McLane Stadium.

November 27-28 — WRBA Office Closed. Thanksgiving.

Sunday, November 30 — Annual Church Profile Deadline.

Sunday, November 30 — BGCT Hunger Sunday.

