

SEKBA—Southeast Kansas Baptist Association
Director of Missions—Bro. Marty McCord
Admin. Assistant—Patty Coles

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SEKBA ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020

- 25 Christmas
- 28 BAO closed for the holidays until January 4
- 30 Deadline to Register for Beautiful Feet Mission Trips

JANUARY 2021

- 4 BAO opens for new year
- 12 Pastors' Fellowship
- 14 WBC Administrative Team Meeting
- 22-24 First Beautiful Feet Mission Trip to Fort Worth, TX

FEBRUARY 2021

- 9 Pastors' Fellowship followed by SEKBA Administrative Team Meeting
- 12-14 Second Beautiful Feet Mission Trip to Fort Worth, TX

MARCH 2020

- Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month
- 9 Pastors' Fellowship
- 12-13 Youth Girls' Ignite Retreat @ WBC
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 28 Passover



Southeastern News

Volume XV, Issue 4

December 2020

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Office Hours: 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday—Thursday

Merry Christmas



*Jesus is The
Reason for The Season*

Over 2000 years ago shepherds were tending their sheep, just like they had so many nights before. They had many things to be concerned about. Their nation and the city of Jerusalem had been conquered by the Romans. Their king of the royal line of David had been driven out and killed. Herod, half-Jewish, had been made their king, a man so evil he executed his wife and three of his own sons. It is against that backdrop that angels appeared to the shepherds and said “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). That message is just as needed for us today. Despite the condition of the world, we have cause to rejoice. We have the Savior, Christ the Lord.

Merry Christmas, Marty

The Beautiful Feet Mission Trips to Fort Worth, TX are scheduled for January 22-24, 2021 and February 12-14, 2021. Forms and details are on our website (baptistareaoffice.org) under the FORMS tab. Deadline to register is December 30, 2020.



Church News

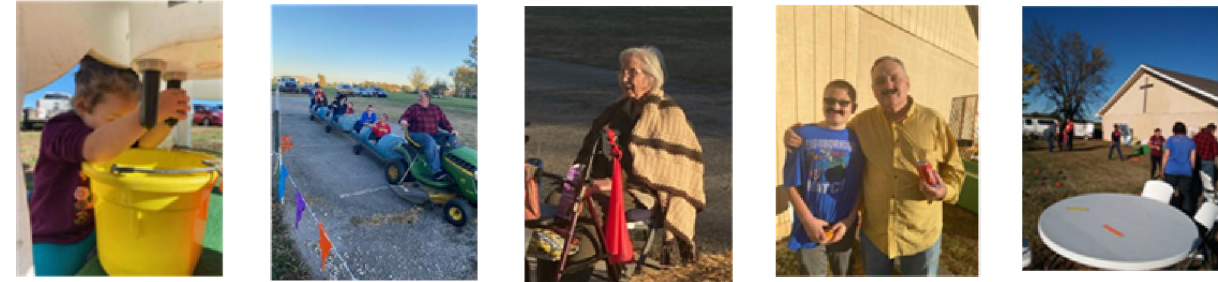


WESTVIEW SBC, CHANUTE: On October 4, 2020 Westview SBC had the blessing of celebrating 50 years. Fifty years of serving God by serving the community as well as the body of believers God has brought to the church over the years. The morning started off like any other Sunday, we had Sunday School and morning worship service. After the morning worship we moved into the beautifully- decorated fellowship hall for lunch (come on we are Baptists, what did you expect?). This gave the church the chance to live out 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” During lunch there was plenty of time for former pastors and church members to reconnect, there were also opportunities for new friendships to be forged. One of the areas that was enjoyed was the room that contained numerous photo albums allowing people to take a pictorial tour of the history of Westview. After lunch we reconvened in the sanctuary where several former pastors shared memories of their time at Westview, most shared in person and one via video. The overriding theme that the Holy Spirit brought out through the times of sharing was the tradition of love that Westview is rooted in, a tradition that I am sure brings glory to God’s name and a smile to God’s face. My prayer is that we will see God continue to move through His church here in Chanute. Yes, He may move in different ways, but move all the same. I am excited to see the living out of Isaiah 43:19, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

In the Lord’s Service
Pastor McCarthy

FBC, MOUND VALLEY: The church prepared a Thanksgiving meal for the residents of the housing center. This year was different than in years past. Instead of bringing the food to the housing, playing bingo and eating with the residents, we prepared to-go containers and delivered them to the residents. The WMW (Women Ministering to Women) collected and delivered canned goods and paper products to the homeless shelter in Parsons as part of its monthly mission projects. The group is collecting Toys for Tots in December.

EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTH COFFEYVILLE, OK, The church held a Fall Festival on November 1 from 2PM to 5PM. We had several games for everyone to play to win candy or prizes. There were about eight different games, including a fish pond, pumpkin bowling, Plinko, and pumpkin toss. We even had free hot dogs, drinks, and popcorn for everyone. We had Bull Daddy Cartoon Ministries doing drawings. Other events included a rope making machine where they could help make their own rope, a wooden cow they could milk, and even a small lawnmower-powered train they could ride. In all, we had only around 27 people in attendance, but everyone that came seemed to have a really good time. Also, one man who came showed up for Church the following Sunday. So all in all, we call it a success.



If you have news that you wish us to include in a future newsletter, please call, mail or email the information to the Baptist Area Office. It is not saying “look at us” but to show how we can reach others for Jesus and minister to them—all for God’s glory.

The next newsletter will be in March 2021



PASTOR NEWS

Each issue of our newsletter will include information from the pastors and churches in our association. This issue focuses on Kevin O’Connor, pastor of Agape’ Fellowship Church in Coffeyville. His church recently joined our association. Please keep the church, Kevin, and his family in your prayers.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

As I sit to write this Pastor’s note our church started a 30-day prayer meeting, in which we are praying every night at 6 p.m. at the church until December 19th. I had several conversations with people at the church and in the community shortly after announcing this Season of Prayer, as we are calling it. Many comments centered around expecting too much from people. Basically, the sentiment was people are too busy, and people have lives, pastor you can’t really expect people to show up every day for a month. Though to be clear only one board member and I were the ones saying we are committing ourselves to prayer every night for a month. We did invite others to join us and called for this to be a church wide time of prayer.

And as I continued over the next two days to have these conversations with people, I was realizing a disturbing trend. Nearly everyone had an excuse why they could not come and a reasoning why they could not be there. This text came to mind almost immediately, and I thought, this is in stark contrast to modern Christianity. These people it says devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Even forgetting the portion of selling all their possession and having all things in common. They attended temple daily and broke bread daily, by far this is much more devoted and committed than most Evangelical Churches today. Why is that? Was it just a different time and people didn’t have as much responsibilities as we do today? Do we truly have more responsibilities and less time?

This answer did not sit well with me. The problem with this argument is that people make time for everything else they want to do in life, the things that they deem important. When our children are in sports or band or cheerleading, we will make sure they are at every practice and we go to every game or concert or recital. And we will make sure they have all they need to do these things. We make time for hunting trips, family plans and events. We will turn our lives upside down for the things that we find important. Why, because we see intrinsic value and meaning in them. Do we place that same intrinsic value and meaning on the things of God, on our relationship with Christ or on our relationship with fellow believers? Are we truly devoted to the teachings of Christ and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers? Or are all of these things secondary to whatever I want or whatever I deem more important, or more valuable?

You see there is a far deeper problem here than just being busier, we are bordering on idolatry. When instead of Christ’s love being so amazing and divine, demanding my soul, my life, my all, we simply try to fit Jesus in where we have time for him. We are a people who are double minded, attempting to serve two masters. We are like the children of Israel in the book of 2 Kings who try to follow God but refuse to tear down the idols and high places of false worship. Oh, that we would again Survey the Wonderous Cross as Isaac Watts said and once again remember our first love! That we would remember that our richest gains should be counted as loss and pour contempt on all of our PRIDE. Oh, that we would indeed remember and be swayed to true commitment, true faithfulness and true devotion.

Pastor Kevin O’Connor
Agape’ Fellowship Church

