

# The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association  
(217) 428-1730

Email: CBADecaturOffice@yahoo.com

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Christine Granda,  
Editor & Secretary

1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.  
Decatur, IL 62521

Website: [www.cbadecatur.com](http://www.cbadecatur.com)

## Churches:

Argenta  
Arthur  
Atwood  
Boody  
Calvary  
Emmanuel  
Fellowship  
Findlay  
Forsyth  
Galilee  
Hammond  
Heyworth  
Lincoln  
Lovington  
Mt. Zion  
Shiloh  
Sullivan  
Summit Avenue  
Tabernacle  
Tri-Valley  
Trinity

## Mission Statement

*Central Baptist Association exists to foster relationships among churches in order to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.*

*The Vision of CBA is to see churches collaborating together to build the Kingdom of God.*

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# CBA Semi-Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 11th, 2015

(the Saturday following Resurrection Sunday).

The meeting will begin at 9 AM

(coffee, fruit, and pastries available at 8:30 AM)

and will conclude at 10:30 AM.

*Please mark your calendar and plan to join together Saturday morning April 11th.*

It is our hope that you (and several from your church family) will be able to join together on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Baptist in Decatur for our Semi-Annual Meeting and fellowship time. There will be drinks and snacks available beginning at 8:30 AM. The meeting will commence at 9 AM and will be followed by a VBS Directors and/or Pastors meeting to discuss how our churches can partner and more effectively collaborate in carrying out our Vacation Bible Schools this summer.

**Here are the Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda Highlights** (as determined by the CBA Leadership Team):

Our Church Relations Team will be sharing the proposed CBA Member Churches Commitment document with us.

Our Partnership Coordinators (J.J., Will, & Rich) will share the agreed-upon theme for our focus for the next twelve to eighteen months (from now until the 2016 Annual Meeting).

Randy Johnson (new Lead Pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church) will share God's Word with us.

**Note:** Per decisions made during the previous Annual Meeting, there will be no Quarterly Executive Board Meetings moving forward. In their place will be a Semi-Annual Meeting and our Annual Meeting (see date announcement and info elsewhere in this newsletter). All Pastors, Church Staff Members, Executive Board Members, Messengers, and ALL OTHERS are welcome to join us for the gathering on April 11<sup>th</sup>.



## VBS Directors' Meeting

**Immediately following the Semi-Annual Meeting**

A Pastors and VBS Directors meeting will be held immediately following the semi-annual meeting in order to facilitate and coordinate the sharing of associational and church resources for this summer's Vacation Bible School efforts.

**VBS Webinars available from IBSA-**IBSA's Church Resources Team is providing further training for VBS leaders and teachers with a series of webinars, each starting at 7 PM. The titles and dates are: **VBS Bible study overview-April 9th**

**Decorations-April 23rd, Conquering your VBS crafts-May 7th, Connecting to unchurched families-June 4th.** To register for the webinars, go to [IBSA.org/kids](http://IBSA.org/kids) or [Facebook.com/IBSAVBS](https://www.facebook.com/IBSAVBS). Contact [CathyWaters@IBSA.org](mailto:CathyWaters@IBSA.org) for information.

**CBA CHURCHES VBS DATES:** Chris Granda needs the VBS dates & director's name with contact information, for your church as soon as you have it to give. Please send it to [cbadecaturoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cbadecaturoffice@yahoo.com) or call (217) 428-1730 and leave a message if no one answers.



## CBA Senior Adult Our God-Given Talents

May 12th, 2015  
at Calvary Baptist Church  
10 AM-Noon  
Meal Cost: \$5

Do you have a talent you could share with us? Seniors, can you juggle, do sign language, sing, play an instrument, write poetry, act in skits, puppetry, clowning, do crafting, have an interesting hobby, etc.? We'd like as many individuals, or groups, who'd like to be included in this event, to sign up by April 20th by telling us your name, contact information and your talent. At least one from each church. Pastor Mitch Flesch will share a message from God's Word with us. We'll eat in Calvary's new Fellowship Hall.  
*More information in a flyer will follow.*

## Missions Spectacular

Saturday, June 6th, 2015

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Mission Spectacular is a one-day hands-on missions opportunity specifically designed for families, youth groups, and adult groups. It can be used by the local church to help members move beyond the walls of the church and to engage one of their Acts 1:8 mission fields right here in Illinois. Families and groups can choose from a variety of mission projects.

Schedule: 9 AM-Orientation  
9:30 AM-Leave for Projects  
4:30 PM-Projects are complete

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for children under 12)

Includes a T-shirt, lunch, and some ministry supplies.

Registration will be opened on April 1st (no fooling) at [www.IBSA.org/missions](http://www.IBSA.org/missions). For more information, please contact [AlexixDumire@IBSA.org](mailto:AlexixDumire@IBSA.org) or call (217) 391-3142.

## In Need of Revitalization?

Many (if not most!) of our CBA Churches could stand a fresh touch of God's Spirit and His power.

Many (if not most!) of our CBA Churches can point to days gone by as times of greater effectiveness in fulfilling Kingdom objectives than the days we are currently experiencing.

Many (if not most!) of our Pastors and church leaders have been calling on God and seeking Him during these days – asking for an outpouring of His Spirit in us, upon us, around us, and through us!

Yes, we are in need of revitalization.

A generous gift was recently made available which allowed Forsyth Baptist Church to pay for the Thom Rainer Church Revitalization Consultation Videos. These 30-minute sessions feature Dr. Rainer sharing from his decades of research and involvement in local church ministries. Permission has been granted from the Rainer Group to make these videos available to pastors and/or leaders of our CBA Churches.

Rich Ratts has the entire set of videos as well as handouts and supporting documents from Dr. Rainer. **If you are interested in taking advantage of this information, please contact Rich at 217.855.8541 (cell/text) or [richratts@gmail.com](mailto:richratts@gmail.com).** Every effort will be made to accommodate your schedule and the best format for use within your church.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**CBA Annual Meeting Date Set  
For October 3rd  
at Lincoln Baptist Church  
Lincoln, IL  
10 AM-2:30 PM  
With Continental Breakfast & Lunch**

## eQUIP-videos for training and teaching

IBSA has videos available online

Here are just a few of them:

**Bible Storying: Making disciple-makers—Mark Snowden** What makes Bible truths stick? Learn six reasons why an oral approach is appropriate.

**Growing Generous Givers—Doug Morrow** Discover the essential nature of great Christian stewardship and some practical steps to help your church members grow in their generosity.

**SOS! Help for Parents—Ken Graham** This workshop offers biblically-based principles and practical methods for improving children's behavior while developing in them godly character and values.

# Rummage SALE



## for Missions

Sat., April 18th, 2015

8 am-1 pm

in Tabernacle Baptist Church's  
Fellowship Hall

There is parking in the rear of the church by the  
Fellowship Hall.

**\$2 entry fee**

Small items: \$5 per bag; Large items: priced

Concessions snacks available

All proceeds support 2015 TBC Mission Trips

# PRIORITY ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2015

Fri., April 24th & Sat., April 25th  
At Tabernacle Baptist Church

Cost: \$25 which includes lunch

Doors open at Noon Friday & 7:30 am on Saturday

Featured Speakers: Clella Lee and Tajuan McCarty  
Rachel Lovingood, Kim Sowell  
Chad Ozee leading worship

### Free Childcare

(provided by Disaster Relief Childcare Team)

Register at [IBSA.org/womensmissions](http://IBSA.org/womensmissions).

*Saturday they will be hosting  
a 5K Fun Run/Walk at 7:30 am.*



NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING,  
DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR  
INVITATIONAL HYMN

## Pastor's Gathering

Tuesday, April 7th, 2015

12 Noon at Casa Fuentes.

Call or email Rich to confirm attendance:  
(217) 855-8541 or [richratts@gmail.com](mailto:richratts@gmail.com)

# Worship Resource Conference

April 10th-11th, 2015

Friday Night, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.

IBSA Building, Springfield

Cost: \$10 includes lunch

Music, praise and worship leaders are invited to come add to your church's music ministry at this cutting-edge training. Our conference features quality presenters from LifeWay, IBSA and Music Ministers from across Illinois. Every participant will receive a gift full of Music Ministry resources!

## There will be specific training in:

### Theology in Worship

**Songwriting from Scripture;** Jonathan Martin

**Christ exalting Worship;** Jonathan Martin (for Pastors and Worship Leaders)

**Vocal Training for Worship Leading and Team Singing**

(one class repeated); Emily Martin

**Building a Disciple-Making (music) Ministry;** Slater Murphy (for Pastors and Worship Leaders)

**Guitar Listening Session;** (one class repeated) Grayson Lilly

**All Things Keyboard;** Slater Murphy

**B.A.S.I.C.M. Basic Instruction Specifically in Church Music;** Steve Hamrick (one class repeated)

### Friday Evening Schedule:

7-7:20 p.m. Singing Churchmen of Illinois

7:25-7:45 A Biblically Balanced Theology of Worship

7:45-8:15 Jonathan & Emily Martin

8:15-8:45 Grayson Lilly and Angela

Contact [CathyWaters@IBSA.org](mailto:CathyWaters@IBSA.org) for additional information.

# 2015 SBC ANNUAL MEETING

COLUMBUS, OHIO  
JUNE 16-17



For more information and to register for these activities, visit [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



**PRESCHOOL CHILDCARE** for children birth through kindergarten will once again be provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Childcare Teams Sunday through Wednesday. Registration for all children/youth events opened in February at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net).



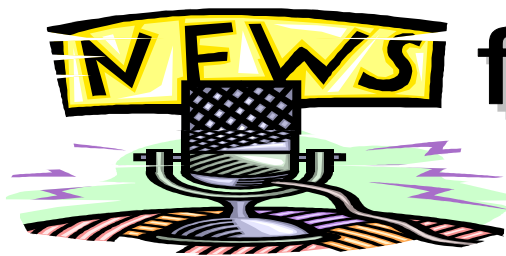
**GIANT COW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** (formerly Children's Conference International) will again provide activities for children ages 5-12 on Sunday and Monday during the SBC Pastor's Conference.

**CHILDREN IN ACTION** for those children who have completed grades 1-6 and **YOUTH ON MISSION** for those children who have completed grades 7-12 will be provided again by WMU Tuesday and Wednesday.

**MESSENGER PRE-REGISTRATION WAS OPENED IN FEBRUARY.**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** can still be secured by going to [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)





# NEWS from the Pews!

**Argenta Baptist Church-Raising the Ceiling building project-April 27th-May 1st, 2015.** Teams of volunteers are needed to help with tearing down the current ceiling and then putting up trusses, hanging drywall and other construction work. If you or your church has a group who'd like to participate in this, contact Pastor Will Ferguson at (217) 260-7141.

**Calvary-Baptist Church's Spring Revival is April 26-29, 2015** with *Micah Creekmore, Evangelist* and *Jeff Yandell, Worship Leader*. Runs from Sun., April 26 at 10:30 am & 6 pm, Mon. & Tues. at 6 pm, Wed. at 6 pm. All are Welcome!

**FBC, Mt. Zion's Easter Weekend: April 3, 4, & 5** will be an exciting time for FBC. On **April 3**, we will conduct a **Good Friday Service** at **6 pm**. **April 4**, we will provide an opportunity for families to **Experience Easter Live, from 1-3 pm**, with a family friendly tour of Passion Week. We will conclude our celebratory weekend with a breakfast on **Sunday the 5th, from 8:30-9:30 am** followed by our **Celebration Service** at **10:15 am**, with numerous activities. The community is invited to participate.

**Tabernacle Baptist Easter Weekend: April 3rd-Good Friday Tenebrae Service** at 7pm; **April 4th-Eggstravaganza**, 12-2 pm (egg hunt, games, rides, bounce houses, prizes & more) **April 5th-Easter Worship-10 am**

**Tri Valley-** is celebrating its 20th year in 2015. Pastor Ron and Bonna have been with us nearly half of that time. We will be having an Anniversary celebration later this fall. April 22-26 we will be having a Spring Revival. The theme is "Seeking God's Face for the Next 20 Years of Ministry." We will be having speakers who were instrumental in birthing and growing Tri Valley BC. On Wed. the 22nd-Tom Miller will speak; Thurs., 23rd-Frank Marshall; Friday, 24th-Rich Ratts; Sat., 25th-Doug Davis; Sun., 26th-AM will be George Ferguson; Sun., -PM Richard Tribble. All evening services are at 7:00 PM. Sun. Morning at 10:30 AM. There will be special music nightly.

## Associational Newsletter Access

The Central Baptist Association's Focus Newsletter will be done online as an e-mail through Constant Contact twice a month to the email addresses I have been given. If you'd like to be added to this e-mail list, please Contact Chris at [cbaoffice@comcast.net](mailto:cbaoffice@comcast.net) or by calling (217) 428-1730.

In addition, one copy of the Focus will be sent monthly to the church pastor or secretary to be printed and given out to those who don't have e-mails or prefer a paper copy.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY

Is Wednesday, APRIL 22nd, 2015

Show your secretary or administrative assistant appreciation for a job well done. A little praise can go a long way.

## Mark Your Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: The CBA Office will be closed May 21-27, 2015 while Chris is on vacation.

### April 2015

- 5th-HAPPY EASTER-He is Risen! Hallelujah!!
- 7th at Noon-Pastors Gathering at Casa Fuentes.
- 10th-11th-Worship Resource Conf. at IBSA Bldg., Spgfld.
- 11th 9-10:30 AM-Semi-Annual CBA Meeting (VBS Directors and Pastors Meeting to follow)
- 12th-Cooperative Program Sunday
- 17th-18th-Disaster Relief Training, Streator Bapt. Camp
- 22nd-Administrative Assistant Day
- 24th-25th-Priority Women's Conference 2015 at Tabernacle

### May 2015

- 3rd-Senior Adult Sunday
- 10th-Mother's Day & BCH&FS Offering
- 12th at 10 AM-Senior Adults "God-Given Talents" at Calvary Bapt.
- 14th-16th-Expository Preaching Retreat at Lake Sallateeska
- 17th-23rd-Baptist Association Week
- 25th-MEMORIAL DAY-Office Closed
- May 21-27, 2015-Chris Granda's Vacation Time-Office Closed

## CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

# April 2015



### Birthdays

- 17-Sarah Grace Andrews (Emmanuel)
- 19-Chris Baker (Heyworth)
- 20-Jayme Hairston (Galilee)
- 30-Triec Lindstrom (Findlay)
- 30-Jim Leischner (Boody)

### Wedding Ann.

- 13-Mike & Diane Peterson (Heyworth)
- 14-Mitch & Linda Flesch (Calvary)

### Church Ann.

- 1997-Dennis Shaw (Lincoln)
- 2007-Lanny Faulkner (Atwood)