

The Central FOCUS

Christine Granda,
Editor & Secretary

"Experiencing God
Together!"

Central Baptist Association
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Two Are Better Than One!

Churches And *Missions:

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

The Mission of Central Baptist Association is to encourage and facilitate Cooperation, Fellowship, Missions Awareness and Missionary Activity among our churches; and to assist and resource our churches in the areas of Church Renewal, Leadership Development and New Work!

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as·so·ci·a·tion
an organization of people with a common purpose and having a formal structure.
the act of associating or state of being associated.
friendship; companionship
connection or combination
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, ESV)

Perhaps you have heard the old cheer “2 – 4 – 6 – 8 who do we appreciate?” I’ve been asking a slightly different question these past few weeks. 2 – 4 – 6 – 8 why do we associate? Perhaps you’ve asked (or have been thinking about) the same thing. We are – together – the Central Baptist Association. What exactly does it mean to be the Central Baptist Association? Every business, entity, or organization must periodically revisit why they exist. What’s the point? Is there a purpose? If there is a purpose, is it being lived out? Does it matter to anyone? If so, how does it matter? If not, what do we do about it?

Back in the spring of 2013 our Executive Board voted on – and approved – a document titled A Proposed Way Forward. That document outlined the state, or condition, of the association and suggested that we move in a different direction with an Associational Partnership Coordinator and a streamlined organizational structure. A timeline was suggested for assessment, revision, and evaluation. One way or another, by the 2014 Annual Meeting we would need to know what our plan was for moving forward. Or, make the decision to not move forward at all. Perhaps the end of CBA was/is upon us.

It’s been interesting to talk with pastors and lay leaders over the last few weeks – especially since our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 12th. The consensus of opinions I am hearing can be summarized as follows:

We want to continue to have an association. We don’t think the association is very effective or efficient at this time.

We aren’t really sure what the association should look like moving forward.

You might be discouraged when you read the statements above. I am not. In fact, I am excited. The reason for my excitement is (1) if we can’t find (by prayer and dialogue and collaboration) a reason for our existence then we’ll all know to put our time, energy, and

Two are better than one. Three are even better! Imagine what 20+ churches could accomplish together for His sake.

resources into a different endeavor; or (2) if we can find (by prayer and dialogue and collaboration) a reason for our existence then we’ll know exactly where to put our time, energy, and resources for maximum Kingdom impact! Either way, we’ll be in a much better place than we are today.

Many of you know that I grew up Southern Baptist. I never really had a choice about it. Growing up in Gene Ratts’ home meant you were Southern Baptist. As I’ve carved out my own path over the past several years I’ve chosen to remain a Southern Baptist.

Primarily, that is because I truly believe that we are better together. There are things we can accomplish together that we simply cannot accomplish on our own. I believe that is true for persons, for families, and for churches.

Please join me in praying for God to give us wisdom and direction as we seek His path forward. Two are better than one. Three are even better! Imagine what 20+ churches could accomplish together for His sake.

Blessings,

Rich Ratts

Partnership Co-Coordinator

Important Executive Board Meeting for Nov. 16th

I am calling a meeting of the CBA Executive Board for Saturday, November 16th at 8:30 am at the Forsyth Baptist Church. We will have a continental breakfast from 8:30-9:00 am, followed by a business session from 9:00-10:00 am. (The breakfast is optional, but I hope you will be present for this time of fellowship and refreshment).

2. The specific items we will discuss and upon which we may vote include:

- Calendaring Associational Leadership Team and Executive Board Meeting Dates for 2014
- Calendaring and Determining the Location of the 2014 Annual Meeting
- Discussing the Possibility of Setting Up a "Convocation on the Association" for 2014. (This would be a "Strategy Planning" type of event where

we could set aside an entire day for everyone to have input, discussions, and Q&A about the future direction and ministries of the Association.)

- It is possible, but not certain, that we (after consultation with the Associational Leadership Team) will have a recommendation ready concerning the Office and Administration of the Association.

- We may have other details to bring up at this meeting, but, we are not currently aware of any. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or email JJ or Rich.

JJ Hairston: (217) 412-2230

Email: pastorjj@att.net

Rich Ratts: (217) 855-8541

Email: rich@forsythbaptist.org

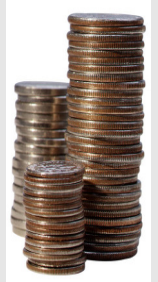
Sincerely

Lanny Faulkner,

Moderator of the Association

FINANCIAL REPORT CBA BUDGET ACCOUNT Sept.-Oct. 2013

Argenta (3)	121.27	(1)-means how
Arthur	726.00	many checks were
Atwood	734.00	received during
Boody	141.82	months reporting.
Calvary (1)	67.39	The rest gave 2.
Christian	105.65	
Emmanuel	666.23	
Fellowship	332.00	
Findlay	58.00	
Forsyth	786.65	
Galilee	162.15	
Hammond	399.21	
Heyworth	338.12	
Lincoln	1003.51	
Lovington	629.51	
Mt. Zion	1091.07	
Sullivan	616.00	
Summit Ave.	409.07	
Tabernacle	1342.91	
Tri-Valley	429.66	
Trinity (1)	50.00	
	10,210.42	



**Thank
You
For
Your
Support**

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...



Birthdays

November 2013

- 5-Ruth Ann Lusk (Sullivan)
- 6-Bill & Lois Henderson (Hammond)
- 7-Tracy & Renee Smith (Mt. Zion)
- 8-Kaedan Smith (Fellowship)
- 11-Darren & Sheri Morrow (Summit)
- 16-Glenn & Susan Baker (Hammond/Lovington)
- 19-J.J. Hairston (Galilee)
- 22-Dennis & Marian Blankenship (Tabernacle)

G Anniversaries



December 2013

- 8-Glenn Baker (Hammond/Lovington)
- 10-Lanny & Lin Faulkner (Atwood)
- 13-Lin Faulkner (Atwood)
- 13-Brandt Waggoner (Tabernacle)
- 15-Pauline Miller (Forsyth)
- 24-Noah Smith (00) (Mt. Zion)
- 24-Bob & Jane Hickman (Tab)
- 27-Jessica (Jill) Waggoner (Tabernacle)

**CBA Christmas Party for
Pastors, Staff, CBA Officers
and spouses in the works.
More information to come!**



HEARTCALL COUNSELING

Heartcall exists to provide Christ-centered Biblical counseling for individuals, couples, families in a confidential, comfortable setting. We provide encouragement, education and support in a way that is consistent with scripture.

For more information, contact Pastor Doug or Leslie Davis at 217-543-4171. Heartcall is a ministry of Arthur Southern Bapt. Church.

Merry Christmas



Ladies Retreat Day at Galilee Baptist Church

"Fulfill Your Ministry"

February 1st, 2013

9 AM-4 PM

At Galilee Baptist Church

3470 Christmas Tree Rd.

Decatur, IL

Cost: \$15

Includes: Continental Breakfast, Workbook, Tote bag, and Lunch

For ALL Ladies of the Central Baptist Association

"Fulfill Your Ministry" is a study based on **2 Timothy 4**, designed to help strengthen the call of ministry for the women in our CBA churches. Whether it's in the church, at home, at work, or wherever we are at, God has something for us.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY
JANUARY 15TH, 2013
(217) 875-7558**

www.galileedecatur.com

Highlights-CBA 64th Annual Meeting

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Central Baptist Association was held at First Baptist Church, Mt. Zion, on Saturday, Oct. 12th, 2013.

First Baptist Church opened their doors to their new Fireside Room at 8:30 to those who wished to come early for the Continental Breakfast of doughnuts, pastries and fresh fruit, juices and coffee.

The Annual Meeting got started at 9:30 AM with Moderator Tracy Smith calling the session to order. Clerk, Jane Hickman, Tabernacle, read the messengers from the 21 CBA churches for seating and 50 messengers were in attendance with one alternate, all representing 16 churches, and 12 visitors.

Sister Diane Peterson, Heyworth, read the scripture from Philippians 2:1-4. The Financial Report was presented by Brother Tom Leach, Tabernacle, and then presented the proposed budget. The motion from Leadership was made to change the Associational fiscal year from the current Oct. 1-Sept. 30 to Jan.1-Dec. 31. Which also made it necessary to have 2 budgets. One for the remaining 3 months of 2013 and one for the 2014 new year. The motion was discussed and then passed.

The new Moderator for CBA is Brother Lanny Faulkner, Atwood, and the Assistant is Brother Tom Miller, Forsyth. We think these two will work well together. We thanked Brother Tracy Smith for serving as Moderator during a difficult time and for Brother J.J. Hairston who served as Assistant. Our other officers remained in place and are Jane Hickman, Clerk; Tom Leach, Treasurer and Dawn Brown, Asst. Treasurer. We are still in need of an Assistant Clerk.

A motion from the floor by Brother Lanny Faulkner to give \$500 to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in memory of Rev. Lloyd Jackson who pastored there for 19 years; and to dedicate the Annual Meeting Minutes to his memory. Rev. Jackson passed away Sept. 26th, 2013; Shiloh joined the CBA in 1993. Motion passed.

The Resolution for this year's meeting was taken from the SBC's Resolution regarding Mental Health Concerns and the Heart of God. That report along with the Historical report, Senior Adult Report, VBS Report, Calendar for 2013-14, Baptist Children's Home & Family Services Report, IBSA Cooperative Program Report for 2012, International Mission Board 2012 Report, and the Tables of Annual Church Profiles, Annual Meeting History and Associational Giving Reports and the In Memoriam were all accepted as presented in the Annual Meeting Reports booklet. That ended the business section and we started the Celebration section.

Brother J.J. Hairston congratulated & presented a framed certificate to both Heyworth

Baptist Church for their 60th Anniversary and Tabernacle for their 75th Anniversary, which were celebrated in 2013. Tabernacle was also presented a certificate from The Southern Baptist Convention for being the top giver in Illinois to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Churches were allowed to share their most exciting activity in the past year. Many of the 16 churches represented shared something. Next was greetings from our Partner Agencies. Mark Emerson from IBSA shared a word or two and thanked us for our work for the kingdom of God in Illinois. Paula Joy, BCH&FS, shared about the work of the Children's Home and Family Services and thanked us for our participation.

Then three different churches who participated in doing missions in 2013 sent a representative to share how that trip impacted their lives. The first was Sarah Rothhaar from FBC, Mt. Zion, who went on Mission to Panama. The next was Blake Bryan, Forsyth, who went to East St. Louis. And the last one was Derek Rennert, Galilee, who went to

Guatemala. Each said they want to go on another trip as soon as they can.

This was followed by some more congregational singing as we praised the Lord of Heaven and Earth. Sister Sarah Dulak led the worship and Brother Jason Garrett played the piano as we sang.

Lastly, Brother Rich Ratts, brought the Annual Sermon titled "How to Walk Hand in Hand, When You Don't See Eye to Eye." He emphasized that in essential beliefs we must have unity; in non-essential beliefs we can have liberty or freedom; in all our beliefs we should show love/grace to everyone. He also stated that we are all equal, but not all the same. And methods change, but the message doesn't. In the section on "How is our love expressed?" he said: Love is best expressed by giving. You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving. From 2 Corinthians 8:5, "And they gave in a way we did not expect: *They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us.* This is what God wants." We can join hands and work together to further God's kingdom. Stop grumbling and start joining.

CBA Senior Adult Thanksgiving Banquet

Tuesday, November 19th, 2013

10 AM-Noon

Galilee Baptist Church

3470 Christmas Tree Rd., Decatur

Preacher-Pastor J.J. Hairston, Galilee



Special Music: Marian would like each CBA Church to have someone do a special. It can be a poem, story, testimony, song or skit. Please call Marian at 217-425-0704, if you'd like to share something.

Cost: \$ 6 per person

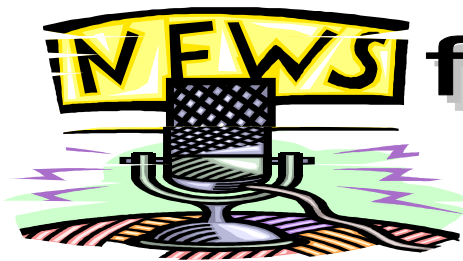
Menu: Turkey & dressing
Mashed potatoes & gravy
Green beans
Cranberry sauce
Desserts
Drinks



Please sign up at your church and have a representative call (217) 428-1730 or email-cbadecaturoffice@yahoo.com, the CBA office by Nov. 12th (the Tuesday before) to give Chris the number attending.

Please bring a canned or nonperishable food item to give to the Good Samaritan Inn to help others have a Happy Thanksgiving. Large cans preferred.





NEWS from the Pews!

of those who attend Calvary.

The bluegrass group "Macville" will be in concert on Dec. 29th at 6 PM.

Emmanuel-will hold meetings for the purpose of seeking God for Revival November 10th-13th 6:30 PM, M-W, with guest preacher Brother Larry Sauvageot, of Kokomo, IN. Brother Larry has been burdened for revival since 1969 and has been traveling the world as an itinerate preacher since 1995. His passion and prayer is taken from Isaiah 64:1, "Oh that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down?"

In addition, we are hosting a prayer "brown bag" luncheon with Bro. Larry, for anyone who would like to come on Mon., November 11 at noon.

We will present the Christmas Cantata "All Through the Night" on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 7 PM; with a meal provided at 6 PM. The program also includes narration and shadow scenes.

Forsyth-will be holding their annual Thanksgiving Worship Celebration and Church-Wide Pie Fellowship on Tuesday evening November 26th at 6 PM. The church family recently approved a plan to renovate the auditorium as well as the nursery and preschool areas. The work will be done throughout the winter months. In December a month-long missions emphasis will be conducted focusing on how the church

family can engage in missional living locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. A combined children and youth Christmas Dinner Theatre will be presented the weekend of December 6th-8th (Friday evening and matinees on Saturday and Sunday). All proceeds will assist children and youth who will be participating in camps, retreats, and mission trips throughout 2014. Tickets for dinner and the play are \$7.50 each. For more info or to reserve tickets please call 877-0302.

Galilee-is gearing up for Fall & Winter. We are doing some exciting Bible studies on Wednesday nights and are looking to engage in several missional opportunities as well. We are looking to expand our relationship with Manna Worldwide and may have some opportunities for other CBA churches to join us in that endeavor as well. All in all, we are looking forward to what God has for us in the near future.

Summit Ave.-is struggling due to several factors, but God is blessing with several new people coming regularly.

The choir is excited about presenting the Christmas Cantata "All Through the Night" with Emmanuel's choir on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 6 PM; with dessert afterwards. The program also includes narration and shadow scenes.

First Baptist Church of Atwood-The First Baptist Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall.

We will be taking a break from AWANA from November 27 through January 1, 2014, so that "Operation Transformation" can take place. We will be renovating our Chapel into a Children's Ministry Center.

The year's Children's Christmas Musical, *The Christmas County Spelling Bee*, will be presented on Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 am.

Calvary-has been running in the 80s on Sunday mornings and we are thanking the Lord for them. The concrete's been poured in the new Fellowship Hall addition and the electric is being installed. Please pray for continued progress.

In December we have two special events planned. On Dec. 8th at the 6 PM service we're hosting a Dinner Theater and Christmas program. The name of the program is "The Christmas Card" and highlights some of the Christmas memories

107th IBSA Annual Meeting

The 107th IBSA Annual Meeting is November 13-14, but messengers don't have to wait until they arrive at the Hilton in Springfield to register – they can pre-register online now.

Information about online pre-registration was mailed to IBSA churches in early September. Church members planning to serve as messengers should contact their church office to get the information needed for online pre-registration if they have not already received it. Pre-registration will close November 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Messengers also may register in person at the Annual Meeting with a signed messenger card from their church. E-mail CaroleDoom@IBSA.org or call (217) 391-3113 to request blank messenger cards or for registration assistance.

North American Mission Board Midwest VP, Gary Frost, will join IBSA Executive Director Nate Adams for the Wednesday evening session. The theme of the 2013 Annual Meeting is "Mission Illinois: Churches Together Advancing the Gospel." Messengers may submit proposed resolutions to the IBSA Resolutions Committee prior to the Annual Meeting. Send resolutions to Committee Chairman Wesley Hahn at pastorwjh1961@hotmail.com or to IBSA at SandyBarnard@IBSA.org.

Childcare will be provided by IBSA Disaster Relief childcare volunteers during Pastors' Conference and Annual Meeting sessions. To pre-register, contact Kendra Jackson at (217) 391-3111.



Mark Your Calendar

November 2013

December 2013



12th-13th-IBSA Pastor's Conference at Hilton, Spgfld.
13th-14th-IBSA's Annual Meeting, Hilton, Spgfld.
19th at 10 AM-Sr. Adult Thanksgiving Banquet at Galilee
28th-HAPPY THANKSGIVING-Office Closed

Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Off.
24th-Christmas Eve
25th-MERRY CHRISTMAS-Office Closed until Jan. 2nd.
27th-28th-Youth Encounter, Prairie Capital CC, Spgfld