

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Michael McCoy, Director
Christine Granda,
Editor & Secretary

Central Baptist Association
(217) 428-1730
Email: CBAofficedecatur@sbcglobal.net

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1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.
Decatur, IL 62521
Website: www.cbadecatur.com

Focusing on Arthur Southern



God has truly blessed us here at Arthur Southern Baptist Church. As I write this, I am in awe of His goodness. We've undergone some changes that have challenged us, and we continue to seek His guidance as we reach out into our community with the love of Christ.

Last year we celebrated our 50th Anniversary as a church, and had the privilege of paying off our building (early). Now, we have the very good problem of needing more space in our Fellowship hall and for our children's ministry. We are embarking on a new building project which will give us a new fellowship hall, convert our current fellowship hall into nursery space, convert our current nursery into a larger food pantry area, and build an outdoor pavilion and playground equipment area. Our fellowship has grown considerably over the last year as we have

The personal growth has been extraordinary. The congregation is growing into followers of Christ who are concerned about what God would have us to do to reach out into our community,...

seen God bring in existing believers to partner with us in ministry, but also through salvations and baptisms. These blessings have taken place even while we don't have a traditionally structured Sunday School in place. Sunday nights have become a time of prayer, fellowship (yes, we eat together each week!), and Bible Study based upon the expectation that questions, comments, and testimony will be shared by many people each week. The personal growth has been extraordinary. The congregation is growing into followers of Christ who are concerned about what God would have us do to reach out into our community, recognizing that others in our area who are truly born again believers (regardless of denomination) are our brothers and sisters in Christ...not our competition. As a result, we are able to continue with the

great ministries that God has given to us (food pantry, VBS, etc) as we branch out into new areas of evangelism, ministry, and service.

This year we held what will be our first annual Blessing of the Bikes at ASBC, praying with and for local bikers. We have the privilege of ordaining Mike Rutledge (current pastor of Nebo Baptist Church) to the Gospel Ministry. Members are stepping up to teach (and preach) as God shows them that they can be used in a mighty way. Members are ministering to campers on the weekends by having song services at local campgrounds. Young people are going on mission trips to minister to foreign people groups. And, the church has been reaching out to families who have lost

loved ones by having funeral dinners for them, even if they weren't connected directly to our church.

Often when I ask my friends who are pastors how church was, they respond by telling me how many people were in attendance, or what the offering totals were. I am more thrilled that people are responding to the Lord's leading. People are responding to the invitations, with prayer at the altar every week. As a result, our attendance is twice what it was two years ago. And, God is allowing us to do more on fewer resources...amazing! I know that we are becoming a nontraditional group that proclaims a solidly traditional message.

Pray for us as we continue to reach out to the ministry field that God has given to us. All that is being done is by His grace. All that will be done is for His glory!

Pastor Doug Davis

Arthur Southern Baptist Church

Churches And *Missions:

Argenta
*Great Commission

Arthur
Atwood
Boody
Calvary
Christian Baptist

Emmanuel
Fellowship

Findlay
Forsyth

Galilee
Grace Fellowship

Hammond
Heyworth

Lincoln
Lovington

Mt. Zion
New Life

Shiloh
Sullivan

Summit Avenue
Tabernacle

Tri-Valley

The Mission of Central Baptist Association is to encourage and facilitate

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the Park & Camp
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Email me, Chris Granda, at cbaofficedecatur@sbcglobal.net

to add your address to our e-Focus Newsletter list.

Please, include your name and church name with your email address.

Churches 2012 VBS Dates

Argenta	Aug. 6-10
Arthur	July 23-27
Emmanuel	July 8-13
Forsyth	July 15-19
Heyworth	Aug. 6-11
Summit Ave.	Aug. 12-16



Worship in the Park

*August 25th, 2012, 4-6 PM

**Come Rain-(Forsyth Baptist or Church)
Come Shine- (Forsyth)**

Directions: Hwy. 51 to Forsyth-go E. on Weaver Rd.-then N. on W. Forsyth Pkwy.-to Park; church is further N. on 51 at 144 Cox St. Follow signs!

Mission Project: Shoes for Orphan Souls: Bring new or barely used (preferably athletic) shoes or socks for kids size 1-7. They will be delivered to Peru.



Free meal (eat approx. 5:30 pm) pulled pork, pork & beans, corn on the cob, chips & drinks.
Food, table service and drinks furnished.

Just bring shoes/socks for Orphans, your Talent, lawn chairs, friends and family, and a healthy appetite!

The talents we have received are not ours alone. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him and others.

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

Anniversaries & Birthdays August

July

- 2-Clif Jones (Tabernacle)
- 3-Aaron Brown (Tabernacle)
- 4-Calle Hairston (Galilee)
- 9 -Bill Henderson (Hammond)
- 10-Gay McCoy (Galilee-widow)
- 12-Mitch Flesch (Calvary)
- 12-Mercy Ratts (Forsyth)
- 14-Kristin Marshall (Mt. Zion)
- 15-Doug & Leslie Davis (Arthur)
- 17-Lanny Faulkner (Atwood)
- Audrey Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 19-Rebecca Smith (Fellowship)
- Dennis & Kathy Shaw (Lincoln)
- Brandt & Jill Waggoner (Tabernacle)
- 25-Vickie Vieth (Tabernacle)
- 29-Beth Allen (Great Commission)
- Ron & Bonna Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 30-Sheri Morrow (Summit Ave.)
- Church Ann.
- 2008-Wes Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 1-Linda Flesch (Calvary)
- 2-Wes & Stephanie Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 4-Wes Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 6-Dawn Brown (Tabernacle)
- Scott & Julie Andrews (Grace Fellowship)
- 7-J.J. & Nanelle Hairston (Galilee)
- Natalee Smith (Fellowship)
- 9-Don & Ruth Ann Lusk (Sullivan)
- 11-David & Vickie Marshall (Mt. Zion)
- 12-Tom Leach (Tabernacle)
- 14-Ron Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 15-Steve Lindstrom (Findlay)
- Mike McCoy (DOM)
- 19-Hannah Morrow (Summit)
- 20-Chris Granda (Emmanuel)
- Ashlyn Grace Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 21-Darren Morrow (Summit)
- 27-Doug Davis (Arthur)
- Hannah Davis (Arthur)
- 28-Stephanie Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 31-Caleb Ratts (Forsyth)
- Church Ann.
- 2010-Brandt Waggoner (Tabernacle)

NLPC Banquet for Life

Tues., Sept. 18th, 2012

Theme: *Game On* with special guest speaker Pam Tebow (Tim's mom)

ATTENTION: 2012 SUMMER CAMPS

Theme: *Obstacles*

Register on the website:
www.cbadecatur.com, under the Summer Camp heading.

Youth Camp-July 23-26

10 AM-Monday
thru 10 AM Thursday

Early Registration Cost: \$140

Add \$10 after July 2nd

Director: Travis Brown

Children's Camp-July 26-28

10 AM-Thursday
thru 2 PM Saturday

Early Registration Cost: \$85

Add \$10 after July 2nd

Co-Directors: Stella Eads
& Lynette Wilson

Each church is responsible for transportation to and from Camp Maranatha.

See you at Camp!!

ACPs Coming Soon

Annual Church Profiles will be mailed to each church on July 9th and are the same questions as the last several years.

The *ACPs are due back to the CBA office by August 21st in order to be included in the Annual Meeting book.*

As in past years, if you need any help with them, or have any questions, IBSA's Carole Doom or I, Chris Granda, will be happy to assist you.

Please see that your Church Clerks get them as soon as possible after they arrive in the mail.

Annual Meeting Dates

CBA:

Central Baptist Association's 63rd Annual Meeting will be held at Sullivan Southern Baptist Church on Saturday, October 13th, 2012. Please assist your Clerk by voting for your Messengers before August 16th in your next business meeting.

IBSA:

Illinois Baptist State Association's 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in our Association at Tabernacle Baptist Church November 13-15. Pastors' Conference is Tuesday, November 13th and the Annual Meeting is Wednesday, November 14 through Thursday, November 15.

Senior Adult Revival

August 14th, 2012

10 AM-Noon (lunch)

at Calvary Baptist Church

1833 S Country Club Rd., Decatur

**Speakers: Rev. Frank Marshall &
Rev. Mitch Flesch**

*Association Senior Choir
led by David Coopridier*

**More information to
come in July flyer!**

Missionary's Focus:

Are YOU Ready for a Great Harvest?

As I have been traveling through-out the association area I have seen many farmers working their fields. Driving along has given me a great deal of time to think about those farmers. Farmers Need to:

Prepare

Preparing their equipment—The farmer spends his time before he even plants one seed making sure that equipment he needs is ready for those long hours of planting.

Preparing their seeds—The farmer will consider many options before he will choose the right seed he needs

to bring a great harvest.

Depending on the conditions such as climate, soil, etc. he will select a seed that will meet his needs.

Preparing their fields—cultivating & working the soil to be ready for planting.

Plant

Many long hours in the fields planting their crops

Fertilizing

Whatever is needed to get the crop in the ground

Be Patient

They wait for rain to care for their crops

More cultivating

Weed control is vital to protect those crops

Then comes the one thing they've been working for **Harvest Time.**

I believe that every one of our churches wants a great Harvest Time. I would submit we are not going to have that great harvest with our workers still in the barn waiting for the seeds to plant themselves.

Are you ready for the harvest time? Have you prepared for those who might come to your church after the harvest? Have you done the preparation for the harvest:

Do you know the field where your church is? Who lives there? What is the

best way to plant the seed of the Gospel in their lives

What if they do come to church? Do you have enough seats? Are you ready for their children? Do you have plans to disciple those new believers?

Are we willing to spend the many long hours needed to prepare, plant, cultivate, and patiently wait for that great harvest to come?

Let's get busy planting those Gospel seeds!!!

Results

Sometimes even though the farmer faithfully goes forth and plants the seeds and does all the

necessary work to prepare for a great harvest, come harvest time he reaps a very small crop. Some things such as weather, insects, drought, etc. are beyond the farmer's control.

The only way we will see a Great Harvest of Souls is to see a great effort by all of us planting the seeds of the Gospel. We are responsible to sow the seeds but it is up to the Lord of the Harvest to bring the Harvest we need for His Kingdom.

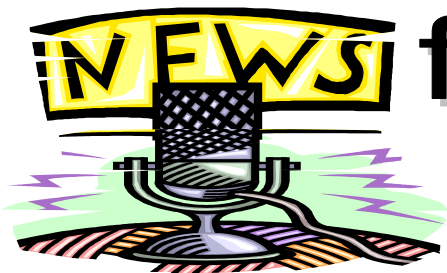
Mike McCoy

Director of Missions

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



***CBA office will be closed
Thursday for the holiday!***



from the Pews!

Argenta Baptist-Ended our TeamKids year on a high note with a Carnival. Honored our three 8th grade graduates with a continental breakfast and gifts. Excited about and preparing for VBS in August.

Arthur Southern-Mike Rutledge has just recently accepted the call to be pastor at Nebo Baptist Church in Nebo, Illinois. The Arthur Southern Baptist Church is going to ordain him at his new church in Nebo at 2 PM on Sat., July 14th, 2012. The ordained men in our association are invited to be a part of this blessed day, and any ordained men who would like to be included may be part of the ordaining council for Mike. Also, any of you who know Mike are also invited to share in this special day by being in attendance. Anyone who would like to be part of the council should contact me, Pastor Doug Davis at (217) 972-5867 or at ddavis@arthur.k12.il.us. The church is

located on the corner of Park and Carroll in Nebo, Illinois.

First Baptist Atwood had their VBS from June 4-10, and several new families attended the Family Day Service on Sunday! We have elected Tim Walker and Joe Wolfe to serve on our Deacon Ministry Team. We have several members taking part in the CBA Summer Camps in July. Roger Ellsworth of Jackson, Tennessee will lead our Fall Spiritual Renewal Weekend on Sept. 8th and 9th.

Calvary Baptist Church will be building a new fellowship hall in the very near future. Water has already been ran and the sewer will be in by next week. Macon County will be building an 8-foot-wide bike path in front of Calvary and the entire length of our location. Sunday School is increasing with new people coming to church. July 15th-18th we will be in revival with Micah Creekmore from Murfreesboro, TN. Services will be 10:30 Sunday and 6 pm. Then Monday through Wednesday at 7 pm. Also, VBS will start July 16th-19 at 9 am till noon and all children ages 5-12 are invited. Thursday evening will be

family night with a cook out. The youth group from Murfreesboro will be leading our VBS.

Hammond Missionary Baptist-All are invited to the upcoming concert by Don & Dona Mohl, July 8, 2012 at 2:00 PM. They are a folk mountain gospel duo featuring dulcimer and zither. Come join us for a great musical event.

Sullivan Southern Baptist Church had VBS June 4-8. We had an average attendance of 78, with 2 saved and 23 prospects. We have had several of the prospects coming to Sunday School for the last two Sunday's. We are hopeful to have more come soon. We had an "Appreciation Cook-out" on June 22 for all the workers in VBS.

Summit had a Revival June 1-14 with a different speaker each night. You have heard of a 7 course meal. We had 2-7 course meals. We so appreciate all our speakers and all the guests who came. Some only missed a night or two. Thank you so much for supporting us.

July 4th, 2012, Marge Meisenheimer celebrates her 100th Birthday and her family is having a get together at Summit Ave. on the Saturday before.



July CBA Leadership Meetings

Leadership Team Meeting
6 PM-July 17th, 2012
At Emmanuel SBC/CBA Office
Light meal available at 5:45-6

Executive Board Meeting
7 PM-July 17th, 2012
At Emmanuel SBC/CBA Office

CBA's 63rd Annual Meeting
October 13th, 2012
2-7 PM
Southern Baptist Church of Sullivan



Mark Your Calendar 2012



July 2012 Vote for your Annual Meeting Messengers
4th-INDEPENDENCE DAY-HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
5th-Office Closed for Independence Day
9th-Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) mailed out
9th-12th-Summer Worship University, Hannibal, MO
17th at 6 PM-Associational Leadership Meeting at Office
17th at 7 PM-Executive Board Meeting at Office
23rd-26th-Youth Summer Camp at Camp Maranatha
26th-28th-Children's Summer Camp at Camp Maranatha

August 2012
14th at 10-Senior Adult Revival
21st-ACP's due into the CBA office
24th & 25th-Youth Ministers and Wives' Retreat, Spgfld.
25th-at 4 PM-Praise Fest at Forsyth Park
28th at 7 PM-Budget Meeting (Need Team Requests)

Murphy's Laws: Law of Results-When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.