The Central FOCUS
Central Baptist Association
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1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.
Decatur, IL 62521
Website: www.cbadecatur.com

April 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting Results

The April 22nd Semi-Annual Meeting of CBA was held at Summit Ave. Baptist Church in Decatur with an attendance of 25 messengers and 12 visitors, representing 12 of our 20 churches.

After taking care of the business of minutes and financial reports, and Mark Lash leading the meeting with prayer, here’s some of the results.

—Chris Granda read her letter of resignation effective June 1st, 2017 from the position as Ministry Assistant to the CBA. A reception in her honor will be planned and announced.

Applications/resumes for the Ministry Assistant position are being accepted.

Will Ferguson’s report:

—Church Planting opportunities around Decatur: A significant Indian population around the Forsyth area; We need to plant an African-American church; The members of the Christian Baptist Church want the property on Wood Street in Decatur to stay in the CBA; opportunity to start a mission in the Wilder Haven trailer park; Tabernacle is looking into planting a church in Maroa and Macon.

—Church Revitalization/Replanting: Will just returned from an IBSA conference on Church Revitalization and replanting, or Legacy planting led by Mark Clifton. IBSA’s Sylvan Knobloch is available for coaching churches interested in replanting or restarting.

—Meet the Nations: Held event this last winter at Tabernacle and he’s planning to hold another one this year.

—Pulpit Supply: Contact Will Ferguson if you’d like to be on the Pulpit Supply list or if you need Pulpit Supply for your church.

—Pastor’s Prayer Meetings: Will thanked Mark Lash for the Prayer Meetings he spearheaded. He’d like to see that continue.

—Stimulus Package: Passed and the application forms are available on the CBA website www.cbadecatur.com, and in the Ann. Mtg. Minutes handed out at the meeting Saturday and sent to the churches not in attendance.

—Will shared that he will be available one Sunday a quarter to be in a CBA church, if someone would like him to come; otherwise, a Church Relations Team member will visit the churches.

Randy Johnson’s report:

A recommendation from the Leadership team to move the CBA office to Tabernacle Baptist Church from Emmanuel, where it’s resided for the past 10 years. Tabernacle has agreed to cover the cost of utilities and equipment, and charge no rent. CBA will be charged for the cost of copies, postage and any officially related expenses.

Randy addressed the concern that if he’s (Randy Johnson) no longer in the picture at Tabernacle or the CBA, will the office then have to move again? Randy assured us that the Deacons of Tabernacle are all for the move and the CBA may stay as long as they want.

—Randy then made a motion to move the CBA office to Tabernacle by the end of June which passed unanimously.

—Recommendation from the Leadership Team to open up the position for a third Co-Partnership Coordinator to oversee Missions Team. No vote needed. The money freed up from moving the office will more than cover the additional payroll.


Miscellaneous Business:

—Mark Lash discussed the Unsung Heroes recognition that at letter went out to the Pastors on March 31st and the winner will be read at the October 21st, 2017 Annual Meeting. Nominations from churches need to be submitted to the CBA Leadership Team by August 5th.

—Pastor’s Luncheons: May 11th, 2017 is the next Pastor Luncheon date.

—Chris Vieth offering services to CBA churches: Pastor Chris is stepping down as Music Minister at Tabernacle and he’s offering his assistance to any of the CBA churches who would like his help in their worship services.

—Trips to Israel: Randy is following in Pat Pajak’s footsteps in leading groups of Pastors to tour Israel and this next trip is March 13-22, 2018.

In This Issue:
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Pastor Glenn Baker has been in the Central Baptist Association for most of his life in one way or another. He’s pastored several of our churches including Forsyth for 12 years and presently the pastor at both Hammond Missionary and Lovington First.

Here’s what we may not have known about him:

**Chris:** Where were you raised?
**Glenn:** All over Central Illinois. I’m the youngest of three sons. We moved many times in my early years. Looking back, I see the Lord’s Sovereignty in it all.

**Chris:** Who influenced you the most in coming to Christ?
**Glenn:** The two people who loom the largest are a faithful Sunday School teacher and my Dad. My dad, because he’d just come to Christ himself. Although he didn’t speak to me outright about my need for Christ, I saw the Lord do a work of grace in him. My dad was changed and the family was now complete in Christ—except for me. Of the many, many times of relocation my family made, one was to Heyworth Southern Baptist Church. My dad became a “hired hand” for Orville Seitz of Heyworth. Mr. Seitz was a godly man and a faithful deacon of Heyworth Southern Baptist Church who took an earnest interest in his employee (my father) and our family. We lived in a little house owned by the Seitz’s on the farm they owned. My dad had no interest in church or “church people,” but Mr. Seitz was persistent in prayer and lovingly pursued our family. He gained my father’s trust. And in time, Dad came to Christ.

The other influence that I mentioned was a faithful Sunday School teacher in that little church. One time in particular stands out. She was teaching her boys and girls the Ten Commandments, as I recall. She made an application appropriate to our age level. I would guess that we were a class comprised of first through third grade children and I was about seven. Although a child is not going to commit adultery, she focused on things like stealing (“Have you eve taken anything that did not belong to you?”), honoring our parents (“Have you ever ‘sassed’ your father or mother?”), and false witness (“Boys and girls, have you ever told a lie?”). The Lord used her application of His Commandments to pierce my young heart. I understood my guilt and that I needed a Savior. She boldly told us we needed Christ!

**Chris:** How did you meet your wife?
**Glenn:** Susan and I have been married for 42 years. Susan has been the longest-employed full-time staff member in the history of Tabernacle Baptist. In many ways she is better known than I am. If anyone has called the church in the nearly 29 years of her employment there, they have likely heard her smiling voice. I am very proud of her. We have one child, Sarah, born in Texas while I was going to seminary. She and her husband are members of Tabernacle.

**Chris:** How long have you been married, and how many children do you have?
**Glenn:** Susan and I have been married for 42 years. Susan has been the longest-employed full-time staff member in the history of Tabernacle Baptist. In many ways she is better known than I am. If anyone has called the church in the nearly 29 years of her employment there, they have likely heard her smiling voice. I am very proud of her. We have one child, Sarah, born in Texas while I was going to seminary. She and her husband are members of Tabernacle.

**Chris:** Have you traveled? If so, where was your favorite place you’d go back to if you could?
**Glenn:** We are not “travelers” as such. Susan refuses to fly and neither of us have a desire to be on a ship. But of the places that I’ve lived in as an adult, Texas holds dear memories for me. In fact, I refer to Texas as My Adopted Home State.

**Chris:** What do you do for fun?
**Glenn:** I’m an avid reader. I like to get in the kitchen and bake. I find riding my road bike pleasurable and relaxing. In the warmer months, I am often on my bicycle. I have several Christian brothers that I regularly ride with. Additionally, it is a means to make friends and build relationships with those who are not believers.

**Chris:** Why did you become a teacher?
**Glenn:** I’m a Teaching Assistant for Macon-Piatt Special Education. I work with Severely Emotionally Disturbed school children. I like the challenge of finding ways to communicate and teach them, especially the challenge of finding ways to communicate essential truths to them.

**Chris:** How do you want to be remembered?
**Glenn:** I have no “control” over how people will evaluate and “remember” me, so I really don’t spend time dwelling on that. Most of us live fairly non-descript lives. I’m not so sure it is all that spiritually healthy to pre-occupy ourselves with our “legacy.”

**Chris:** What have you learned since becoming a pastor that you’d like to share with other pastors? With laymen?
**Glenn:** A pastor’s priorities are in this order: the Lord, your wife, your children, and then the church. My wife is NOT Mrs. Pastor. And I never expected our daughter to conduct herself in a certain way just because she was a Preacher’s Kid. I expected her to live as a Christian.

Being “Daddy” was a responsibility that I took—and take!—seriously with Godly trembling and gladness. Sarah was a delight to rear “in the fear and of the admonition of the Lord.” In some ways, congregations come and go, but the love and trust of my wife and child matter most.

For laymen: conduct yourself with integrity. Be the person that God made you to be.
Birthdays
4-Sylvia Jackson-widow (Shiloh)
   Ian McDevitt (Mt. Zion)
5-Bonna Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
11-Josiah Garrett (Mt. Zion)
   -Lauren Crowther (Forsyth)
18-Emmaline McDevitt (Mt. Zion)
19-Peyton Williams (Tabernacle)
   -Nathan Crowther (Forsyth)
29-Kelli Jo Leach (Tabernacle)
   -Mallory McDevitt (Mt. Zion)
31-Jennifer Williams (Tabernacle)

Wedding Ann.
7-Chris & Alyssa Merritt (Tabernacle)
13-Chad & Jennifer Williams (Tabernacle)
23-Steve & Triece Lindstrom (Findlay)

Church Ann.
2006-Darren Morrow (Summit Ave.)

Happy Mother’s Day!
May 14th, 2017
Give generously to the BCH&FS Offering!

Block Party Trailer

SIGN UP TO USE
THE BLOCK TRAILER
We’re taking reservations for using the Block Trailer this year.

Call the CBA office at (217) 330-7593, or go to the website www.cbadecatur.com, or go to your 67th Annual Meeting Book of Reports pages 45 & 46, to get a usage form to fill out and return with your date requested and the guidelines for using the trailer.

It’s on a first come basis, so get your dates in now.
May 2017
1st-4th-Life Conference at 7 PM at Forsyth
7th-Senior Adult Sunday
14th-MOTHER’S DAY & Christian Home Emphasis Week
11th (11:30-12:30) Pastor’s Gathering Lunch at Emmanuel FH
21st-28th-Baptist Association Emphasis
25th at 9 AM-Operation Saturation class
25th-28th-Motorcycle Ride to Nashville, TN
28th-Life Commitment Sunday
29th-MEMORIAL DAY
29th-July 1st-Super Summer at Greenville College

June 2017
3rd-Missions Spectacular
5th at 6 PM-Church Relations Team Mtg. at CBA office
10th-Crossover, SBC in Phoenix, AZ
12th-13th-SBC Pastor’s Conference in Phoenix, AZ
13th-14th-SBC Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
9th-10th-Father/Son Camp at Streator Camp
18th-FATHER’S DAY & Baptist Men’s Emphasis
25th-Mission Dignity Sunday
27th-July 1st-Super Summer at Greenville College

FOCUS FUNNIES
"Every couple needs a song. Ours should be ‘You'll Never Walk Alone’.

ATTENTION:
NO Senior Adult Event for May.
The next Senior Adult Event will be the Revival in August.

The Next Pastor’s Gathering Lunch
Thurs, May 11th, 2017
11:30-12:30

TOPIC: Church Planting
BBQ Lunch will be provided,
if you contact Randy at (225) 315-7905
before noon on May 10th.

Greater Decatur Chorale
Cookin’ with the Chorale
6 PM-May 27 & 28, 2017
Fairview Park Pavilion #1 in Decatur
FREE concert
Picnic in the park and enjoy The Great Outdoors by the Greater Decatur Chorale and special guests Christine Smith and the Millikin’s Children Choir! Directed by Ted Hesse and accompanied by Anita Gifford, the Chorale celebrates over 30 years and features over 70 talented vocalists. This event is free and open to the public. Concessions and hot grills for cooking will be available at 5 p.m. (You’ll recognize some of the singers)

National Day of Prayer
May 4th, 2017

Mark Your Calendar