

# The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association  
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## 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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## Central Baptist Association Continues

The Central Baptist Association Annual Meeting Messengers voted unanimously to continue the Association with the radical changes that were purposed and presented by the Task Force in the town hall meetings.

What this means is that there will be three of our CBA Pastors taking three different areas of ministry as coordinators, and each of those men will be asking four people from our CBA churches to be part of the four teams, with one of those chosen being the Chairperson.

The Church Relations Ministry Team will be led by Pastor Will Ferguson, Argenta, and his focus will be on Cooperating Churches and includes alignment/covenant, credentialing, and discipline; Strengthening Events & Inter-Church Communications.

The Missions Ministry Team will be headed up by Pastor J.J. Hairston, Galilee, and his focus

will be Evangelism, New Works, and Acts 1:8 Strategy among the churches.

Pastor Rich Ratts, Forsyth, will oversee the Pastor's Encouragement Network (P.E.N.) to encourage and equip our pastors, to have fellowship among the pastors and families, and develop leadership in our churches. Pastor Rich will also be responsible for the Administrative Team, and the day-to-day aspects of running the CBA.

The Leadership Team will consist of: The three (3) Coordinators, the four (4) Team chairpersons, Trustee Chairman, Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer, and the Clerk, for a total of 11.

The Executive Board will no longer be and instead we will have our church messengers come to the Annual Meeting in Oct. and a Semi-Annual Meeting in April.



## Welcome Heyworth's New Pastor

Chris & Julie Baker, along with their three children, Evelyn, William and baby Hudson were welcomed at the CBA 65th Annual Meeting. Pastor Chris was raised in Arrowsmith, IL (a village of 300) until 2nd grade, then his family moved to Normal, IL. He attended Normal Community High School, then Heartland Community College and Illinois State University where he studied Special Education. He attended the first half of seminary at Maranatha Baptist University and continues working on a MATS degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be licensed by Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Urbana in the month of December (tentatively), and one year later will be ordained, also by Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church.

He and Julie met while he was a teacher in Champaign and she was in a Master of Social Work program at U of I. She is from the southwestern suburbs of Chicago but now lives in the deep south (to a Chicagoan, that includes everything south of I-80). Chris says, She is an only child so watches their three children interact

like Jane Goodall watches monkeys (she stays home now). They were married Aug. 8, 2009 and every day she becomes a better friend. She enjoys coffee, Pintrest, British drama-The Gettys, Kohl's, and reading.

About three years ago Chris clearly had God's call on his life to preach the Gospel. They were extremely active in ministry of their local church and through one of the ministries of that church went into vocational ministry as house parents at a Christian academy. After working there for a year he began school online and went back to secular work to help pay for school and their growing family. He worked as the Awana Commander and in several teaching ministries of the church, as well as filled in the church's pulpit and for their association. He'd been praying that a bi-vocational opportunity would present itself so he could develop pastoral experience while attending seminary, and soon after he filled the pulpit at Heyworth when Brother Tom was out and they asked if he would candidate. He felt this opportunity was the exact thing he'd prayed for, and after several conversations, time in prayer and fasting, and a few more visits to preach at the church Chris was called and began Oct 5th, 2014. They are very happy to be part of this association.

Central Baptist Association sponsored  
**Senior Adult**  
**Thanksgiving Banquet**  
**November 18th, 2014**

**10 AM**  
**Emmanuel Baptist Church**

**Cost: \$ 6**

**Traditional Thanksgiving Meal:**

Turkey, Dressing & Gravy  
Green beans  
Roasted Glazed Carrots  
Cranberry sauce  
Rolls  
Pumpkin or Apple Pie



Sign up at your church or contact Chris at the CBA office by phone (217) 428-1730, or e-mail CBAOffice@comcast.net, by November 12th.

# CBA Office Updates

Please make note of the new office hours for the CBA beginning November 3rd, 2014:

**Monday through Thursday,**  
**9 AM-1 PM**

(Chris will be out of the Office on Wednesday, Nov. 5th after 11 AM until Tuesday, Nov. 11th at 9 AM. Going to SC to see her 7 yr. old granddaughter baptized.)



**Note:** The office phone number was temporarily changed until our old number was ported to the new server for the last two weeks of October. I apologize for any inconvenience this caused. It is all working correctly now.

## Did You Know?

### Celebration Stories from CBA Member Churches

Pastor Don Lusk shared about needing help with the cookie booth at the Octoberfest in Sullivan.

Brother Tim Carr of Forsyth BC, expressed praise for the auditorium changes that were just finished.

Pastor Tracy Smith, FBC, Mt. Zion, shared that they've been able to hire a full-time Worship/Student Minister, and that they had a total high of 201 individuals on campus for AWANAS, and 150 children as high attendance for VBS this year. He offered an invitation to every church represented to attend their *Man Up Conference* being held Oct. 24-25, 2014.

Brother Dave Traxler, Hammond MBC, shared how they helped with Fellowship Baptist Churches Vacation Bible School this past summer and how much he enjoyed it.

Pastor Will Ferguson, Argenta BC, told how he had challenged the kids at their VBS each night to invite more kids to come and their high was 65 kids, and one of the kids got to pour chocolate pudding over the Pastor's head. Brother Will also shared about the miraculous stories the missionaries shared that came and spoke and how it encouraged them to reach out to the lost.

Pastor Doug Davis, Arthur, having a Women of Faith conference next summer for the women of the Association to be able to attend.

**Mike McCoy, former DOM of Central Baptist Association, has accepted the unanimous call to serve as the Associational Missionary of Black River Baptist Association in Hoxie, Arkansas. Our best wishes and prayers to him!**

### Hannibal-La Grange University Band performing Christmas music

**6 PM on Sunday, December 7th, 2014**

**Emmanuel Southern Baptist Church**  
**1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.**

The University Band has approximately 20 members; our own Keith Schmutzler is in it. The director is John Francis and this is his first year at Hannibal LaGrange.

**FREE! and Everyone is welcome to attend.**

### IBSA Pastor's Conference

**Nov. 4th-5th, 2014**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield**

#### **Arise: For Awakening and Renewal**

This annual event just prior to the IBSA annual Meeting offers spiritual refreshment for pastors and spouses and other church leaders. President Michael Allen of Uptown Baptist Church is planning an exciting line-up of speakers and worship leaders. Look online at [www.IBSA.org](http://www.IBSA.org) for more details and make plans to be there.

#### **Mission Illinois: A concert of prayer at the IBSA Annual Meeting**

**Nov. 5th-6th, 2014**

**at Crowne Plaza, Spgfld.**

The 108th IBSA Annual Meeting will feature a season of prayer for spiritual awakening in Illinois. The convention sermon will be by Dewayne Taylor, pastor of Dorrisville Baptist Church in Harrisburg. Come early for worship events, and stay late for the reception. It's a wonderful time for renewing old friendships and making new ones.

# 65th Annual Meeting Highlights

Held at Forsyth Baptist Church  
October 11, 2014

**MORNING SESSION**-Called to Order by Lanny Faulkner, Moderator at 10 AM.

A quorum was present.

Scripture Reading (Romans 11:33-12:3) by J.J. Hairston, Galilee.

Reading of By-laws 1-6, 8-9, and a motion to accept the adoption of the program by Chris Granda, Asst. Clerk were accepted.

**Task Force Presentation of Proposal & Recommendations** by Co-Partnership Coordinators: J.J. Hairston and Rich Ratts. Rich brought everyone up-to-date on how the Association got to where they are now, and J.J. went through the Task Force reports and the reasoning behind the diagrams and recommendations presented. Also that the hope is that someone from every church in our Association will be represented on the various teams listed.

Rich then discussed the proposed budget and made the remark that if the churches increased their giving to the CBA of at least 2% in order to meet the proposed budget and enable the three teams to be able to have funds to use. He made the point that the expenses proposed in the budget have changed the balance from a 95% / 5% to 50% / 50% with hopes to make the outward focus percentage to continue to grow larger and keep the office/administrative expenses the same.

*Motion to accept the proposal and recommendations as stated in the Task Force reports on pages 13-15 and shared by the Partnership Coordinators passed unanimously.*

Rich Ratts, Co-Partnership Coordinator, thanked the Task Force members and handed out thank you cards with a gift card to the six members-Scott Andrews, Will Ferguson, Don Lusk, Dennis Blankenship, Dale Granda and Mark Lash.

**Financial Report** was given by Tom Leach, Treasurer and passed.

**Presentation of Proposed 2015 Budget** by Tom Leach, Treasurer. Discussion led by Rich Ratts as to how the amount of projected income was arrive at by the Task Force. A motion to accept the 2015 Budget was made by Tom Leach, and passed unanimously.

**Election of Officers for 2014-2015** by Lanny Faulkner, Moderator.

There was a motion from the floor to nominate *Lanny Faulkner as Moderator*. All voted in favor.

This will be Lanny's second term.

A motion was made from the floor to nominate *Glenn Baker as Asst. Moderator*, all voted in favor.

A motion from the Associational Leadership Team that *Chris Granda, Summit Ave.*, be *Clerk*; *Tom Leach, Tabernacle*, remain as *Treasurer*; & *Dawn Brown, Tabernacle*, remain as *Asst. Treasurer for the 2014-15 year*.

No second needed and the motion passed.

A motion to accept all other printed reports as written and contained in the Annual Meeting Reports book passed. Next on the agenda was **Greetings from Partner Agencies**. From Illinois Baptist Association was representative Mark Emerson who shared a video of IBSA's Director Nate Adams reviewing the year and thanking Association and churches for their part. Pat Pajak is our new Zone Consultant from the IBSA. From the Baptist Children's Home & Family Services was representative Paula Joy who shared about the impact of the churches in the Central Baptist Association on the BCH&FS. Worship in Song led by Chris Vieth, Tabernacle, singing "How Great Is Our God."

## **Recognitions**

Chris Baker, Heyworth's new pastor and his family were recognized and welcomed.

A framed certificate recognizing Argenta Baptist Church's 40th Anniversary was accepted by Pastor Will Ferguson.

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

Called to Order by Lanny Faulkner, Moderator, at 12:50 PM.

Jeff Yandell, Southern, Sullivan, along with his small ensemble of musicians led in a medley of old hymns.

An offering was taken up for the CBA Pastor's Benevolence with the amount coming to \$225.

## **Miscellaneous Business**

Lanny Faulkner, Moderator, brought out the need for some motions needed

since we passed the Task Forces recommendations.

1. Tracy Smith, FBC, Mt. Zion, made a motion-The structure from the Task Force that was passed in the first session be implemented begin November 1st, 2014 including hiring Will Ferguson on board as the Church Relations Ministry Team Leader and the office hours changing to 16 hours per week; it passed unanimously.

2. Will Ferguson made a motion to hold the 66th Annual Meeting for Central Baptist Association on October 10, 2015 with the location and speakers to be decided and brought to the next Executive Board meeting and the motion passed.

3. Dennis Blankenship made a motion to have the Constitution Revision Team be recommended by the Associational Leadership Team and appointed by the Moderator. The motion was adopted.

## **Ministry Reports**

Partnership Coordinator, J.J. Hairston, Galilee, spoke to the changes that the Association has already made and about the changes coming. He's excited about the churches collaborating together to further God's Kingdom. He talked about becoming involved in what's going on at our churches whether local, state, North American or international missions.

Partnership Coordinator, Rich Ratts, Forsyth, thanked the Worship Leaders Brother Chris Vieth and Brother Jeff Yandell; and Forsyth for hosting the Annual Meeting. Rich went through the calendar events for the remaining 2014 year. He was excited about the North American Mission Board's Midwest Leadership Summit which will be in Springfield this year at the Crown Plaza hotel on January 20-22, 2015. There are 10 spots and 5 hotel rooms available for the Central Baptist Association's churches at no cost to attendees.

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## 65th Annual Meeting Highlights

**Annual Message** "The 12 Rs of Transformation" was delivered by Pastor Don Lusk, Southern, Sullivan, from Romans 12:1-3.

**Worship in Song** led by Jeff Yandell, Southern, Sullivan

### Praying for One Another

Brother Rich Ratts drew three names at a time, one of each church represented, and asked the representatives from those three churches to huddle together in small groups to share prayer needs and pray for each need and for the churches. There were 15 churches represented which made 5 groups praying around the room.

### Attendance Report

Sister Chris Granda, Clerk, presented the attendance report.

- 1st Session-58 Messengers,  
1 Alternate and 8 visitors
- 2nd Session-50 Messengers,  
1 Alternate and 2 visitors

### Closing Challenge

Brother Lanny Faulkner, Moderator, stated "The life and health and future of our association is in the hands of those who are committed to the life and health and future of our association."

**A Motion to Adjourn** was made by Brother Dale Granda and everyone stood in agreement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Granda, Clerk  
**Central Baptist Association**



# from the Pews!

raise money for TBC mission trips & the bake sale supports Woody's Warriors Relay for Life. The bake sale follows the concert.

Our Women's Ministry Annual "Celebrate Christmas" Banquet is Fri., November 21, \$12.50 per person. Call the church for tickets. Catered meal & entertainment.

TBC will have their annual Thanksgiving Lord's Supper at 6 pm on Wed., Nov. 26. The church office will be closed Nov. 27-28.

December 6, we are hosting our annual "Hands of Jesus" community party to provide gifts for area children & their families, & our Christmas Eve Candlelight service is 6 pm, Dec. 24.

**Tri Valley**-is having fall revival Nov. 1st-2nd with Denny Mallory and John Somes. Denny was our Worship leader from 2007-2012. John Somes is from Sterling, Illinois and is part of Illinois Prison ministries. Saturday, Nov. 1st will be a revival concert starting at 6 PM followed by a message. Sunday revival services are at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM on Nov 2nd. Potluck on Sunday at noon.

We have also started a Sunday night prayer meeting for prayer warriors called PUSH (pray until something happens). Pastor Ron started a new study on disciplines of Christian life on Sundays and a series on the Sermon on the Mount on Wed nights at 7:00 pm.

**FBC, Atwood**-On Friday, October 24th, First Baptist Church hosted a Fall Women's Conference with more than 220 women in attendance.

Sunday, Oct. 26th was our Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We began the day with a Fellowship Breakfast and presented Pastor Lanny and his wife, Lin, with cards, gift cards and other tokens of appreciation during the Morning Worship Service.

There will be a Dinner Concert on Saturday, November 8th to help raise funds for our Ethiopia Mission Team. Our Ethiopia Mission Team will be ministering in Ethiopia December 28th-January 3rd, 2015.

Our annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Saturday, Nov. 15th. This year's Children's Christmas Musical, "The Greatest Christmas Present, Ever!", will be presented Sunday morning, December 14th.

**Summit Ave.**-is presenting *WSAB: A Down-Home Christmas Reunion* Dinner Theater 6:30 PM on Sat., Dec. 6th, in the Fellowship Hall. Free, but Tickets required-call Chris at (217) 521-2420.

**Tabernacle**-We are hosting a fundraiser concert & bake sale on Sun., November 2 at 4:30, featuring TBC Groups: *For Souls & Three 4 One* to

## Mark Your Calendar

### November 2014

- 4th-5th-IBSA Pastor's Conference; Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- 5th-6th-IBSA Annual Meeting; Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- 15th at 8:30 AM-Pastors Encouragement Network (P.E.N.) Breakfast Mtg
- 18th at 10:00 AM-Senior Adult Thanksgiving Banquet at Emmanuel
- 28th-THANKSGIVING DAY (Office Closed)
- 30th-Dec 7th-Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon

### December 2014

- 30th-Dec 7th-Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon
- 2nd-Church Relations Team Meeting
- 12th at 6:30 PM-Pastors, Staff, & Spouses Christmas Dinner Party-Emmanuel
- 17th at 11:30 AM-P.E.N. Lunch Meeting
- 24th-25th-CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY (Office Closed)
- 31st-NEW YEAR'S EVE (Office Closed)

## CBA Pastors, Staff & families... November 2014

### Birthdays

- 5-Ruth Ann Lusk (Sullivan)
- 8-Kaedan Smith (Fellowship)
- 13-Nate Williams (Tabernacle)
- 19-J.J. Hairston (Galilee)
- 29-Jeff Yandell (Sullivan)



### Wedding Ann.

- 7-Tracy & Renee Smith (Mt. Zion)
- 11-Darren & Sheri Morrow (Summit Ave.)
- 16-Glenn & Susan Baker (Hammond/Lovington)
- 22-Dennis & Marian Blankenship (Tabernacle)

### Church Anniversary

- 2005-Jim Leischner (Boody)