

November 2021

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Most of All

Thanksgiving Day brings to mind
the blessings in our lives
that usually go unnoticed:
a home that surrounds us
with comfort and protection;
delicious food, for pleasure
in both eating and sharing;
clothes to snuggle up in,
books and good entertainment
to expand our minds;
and freedom to worship our God.
Most of all we are thankful
for our family and friends,
those treasured people
who make our lives extra special.
You are part of that cherished group.
On Thanksgiving, (and every day)
we appreciate you.
Happy Thanksgiving!

By Joanna Fuchs

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *"Rejoice always,
pray continually, give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus."*



72nd Annual Meeting Synopsis

The 72nd Annual Meeting is now history. Moderator Scott Andrews called the meeting to order at 10 AM and read the opening scripture.

Forty-six messengers, and one alternate, along with 20 visitors were in attendance representing 13 of our 20 churches.

After the adoption of the agenda and minutes, a motion was made to accept the new Constitution and Bylaws. Lanny Faulkner spoke to the reason for needing a new constitution.

Pastor Davis and Kim Miller led us in singing some congregational songs. It was followed by Pastor Glenn Baker singing "An Unseen Hand" a cappella.

Richard Wall, Sullivan Southern, shared Scripture from Genesis that God Does See, He Cares and Provides for us and gives us Peace. When God makes himself known to us it becomes personal and requires a response of obedience from us.

Next we had our affiliated organizations come and speak. Mariah Bowker came to represent Baptist Children's Home and Family Services.

Jack Lucas, Illinois Baptist State Association Leadership Development Director, and Interim Pastor at Galilee, shared that he believes there has been several signs of recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A motion was made and all were in favor of the following being CBA Officers: Moderator-Scott Andrews, Asst. Moderator-Doug Davis, Clerk-Kellijo Leach, Asst. Clerk-Linda Sutton, Treasurer-Tom Leach, and Asst. Treasurer-Dawn Brown.

A motion followed to make the following the Vision Team Members: Carlton Binkley, Tabernacle; Bruce Homontowski, Forsyth; Woody White, Atwood; Keith Schmutzler, Oreana; Doug Davis, Arthur; Jane Courtnay, Emmanuel and ex-officio member Scott Andrews, Emmanuel.

Treasurer Tom Leach reviewed the financial reports and then made a motion to accept them as presented. He then presented the budget for 2022, and made a motion to accept it as presented. Both motions passed.

Associational Mission Strategist Lanny Faulkner gave his report and stated "We need to start doing the work of the Association."

Moderator Scott Andrews followed with his report and reiterated what Lanny said about doing the work. Don Lusk gave the Disaster Relief Report and Marian Blankenship gave the Sr. Adult Report. Don Lusk then read the names of church members who had died since the last October meeting and then prayed for the family and churches who grieved them.

After two more songs, Stephen Riggs played the keyboard and sang "Christ Be Magnified."

Glenn Baker brought the Annual Sermon titled, "Many No Longer Walked with Him." from John 6:66-67, and since we were running long, he kept it very brief.

We collected \$492 in the offering for the Pastor's Benevolence Fund as everyone left the sanctuary following the benediction by Carlton Binkley.

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The Recent Resurgence of Baptist Associations

By Jason Lowe, SBC.Net, Spring 2021

Covid-19 has changed so many of our association's ministries in the past year. With all of the cancellations, one might think that there was nothing for the association to do.

However, that would be a false assumption. As an associational mission strategist, I was busier during the first few months of the pandemic than ever before. As I have had conversations with fellow associational leaders, I have discovered that my experience was far from unique. Many associations were flooded with requests for assistance from their member churches. Some heard from churches that rarely (if ever) contacted the association. Many associations hosted some of their largest pastor gatherings in recent memory.

I believe the pandemic has highlighted a recent resurgence in the relevance and value of local Baptist associations within the Southern Baptist Convention. I'm pleased by this development, especially since the local association's reputation has not always been positive.

HARD TIMES FOR ASSOCIATIONS

The earliest Baptist associations were formed in 1707—that's 138 years prior to the formation of the SBC. In more recent years, Southern Baptists have questioned whether associations are still relevant to churches in the twenty-first century.

The results of a 2017 study on the perceived value of Baptist associations were not encouraging:

-When asked to describe the most exciting aspect of their association, the most popular answer among Southern Baptist church leaders was, "Nothing."

-When asked to describe the most frustrating aspect of their local Baptist association, two of the three most popular answers among church leaders were, "The association is irrelevant" and "Lack of association strategy, vision, or purpose."

-Only 65.6 percent of church leaders indicated that their local Baptist association was a strategic partner in helping their church to fulfill the Great Commission.

-Only 58.5 percent of church leaders indicated that their church would be negatively affected if their local Baptist association ceased to exist.

PERCEPTION HAS BEEN IMPROVING

However, I believe the perception of associations has been slowly but steadily improving in recent years, primarily through the efforts of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL) and its president and CEO, Ray Gentry.

In 2017, the SBCAL commissioned a study team to evaluate the role of the associational leader and offer recommendations at the 2018 Annual Conference in Dallas. I had the honor of serving on that team.

CBA Sr. Adult

Thanksgiving Banquet

November 16th, 2021

10:00 AM-Noon

At Emmanuel Baptist Church

1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.



*Lots of singing, preaching,
eating, and being
extremely grateful!*

*O come, let us sing unto the LORD;
Let us make a joyful noise to the
Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence
With thanksgiving,
And make a joyful noise unto him with
psalms.
O come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*

Psalm 95: 1,2,6

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Menu: Turkey, Ham,
Dressing, Mashed
Potatoes, gravy, mac &
cheese, green bean
casserole, corn, pumpkin
bread, rolls & butter.
Tea & coffee.
Pumpkin, apple pies &
sugar-free dessert.
Catered by Bob Evans



Deadline is November 8th.
office@cbadecatur.com
or text (217) 521-2420

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

*From: Lanny Faulkner
and Chris Granda*

After a year of quantitative and qualitative research, the study team offered a list of seventeen proficiencies that were "most helpful for an associational leader to be successful, regardless of context." In addition, the study team offered a new descriptor for associational leaders, the associational mission strategist (AMS). After adopting the study team report, the SBCAL formed a vision team to implement some of these recommendations. One of the products of the vision team's work was a new book titled *The Baptist Association: Assisting Churches. Advancing the Gospel*.

Through these and other efforts, I have started to notice a renewed emphasis and interest in associational work. A small resurgence of the Baptist association has begun.

December Focus will continue this article with the Reasons for the Resurgence.

Jason Lowe is associational mission strategist for the Pike Association of Southern Baptists in Southeastern Kentucky.

Our big Baptist family is getting together this Fall.

The 115th IBSA Annual Meeting theme is "Thrive."

Illinois Baptist State Association's Annual Meeting is November 3-4, 2021 at Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

The convention will feature special gatherings and events, including:

Association leaders	Ministers' Wives
Church Planters	New IBSA churches
Disaster Relief team	Second chair leaders
Evangelism coaches	Small church leaders
Hispanic leaders	Student ministry leaders
Illinois Baptist Women	Young leaders

*Make plans to attend.
Help your church THRIVE.
Visit the Exhibit Hall.*

***IBSA Pastors' Conference is November 2-3, 2021**

***Ministers' Wives Luncheon on Nov. 3rd at 8:30 AM
and includes a program before the luncheon,
which ends at 12:30 PM**

Register today at IBSAannualmeeting.org



**Annual CBA
Christmas Party
For Pastors, Staff, and
Spouses**

**6:30-8:30 PM
Friday, December 3rd,
2021**

**Emmanuel Baptist's
Fellowship Hall
1255 Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur**

No charge for the meal.
Meal: Beef Pot Roast, potatoes,
carrots, gravy, corn, rolls,
and of course-dessert.

**>RSVP's needed by noon
Monday, Nov. 22nd<
Text Chris at (217) 521-2420
or email to:
office@cbadecatur.com**

Meet Our Pulpit Suppliers

We're continuing our piece each month on one of our CBA Pulpit Suppliers so you can get to know them better. This month we're focusing on Jacob Kimbrough.

Jacob Kimbrough is the Manager at Streator Baptist Camp. He and his wife have been there since July of 2020, and have really seen God move in Illinois. They look forward to seeing how He continues to work there at the camp and through them.

Jacob grew up on a Southern Missouri farm. He has five siblings--four brothers and one sister. He's been married to his wonderful wife Katie for just over 2 years. No kids, but they do have a dog, and 3 cats including the camp cat.

He says he's still a little new to preaching. He's assisted in youth ministry for 7 years and led in children's ministry and college ministry for one year. Along with all that, he's done some guest speaking for the church he attended when the opportunity arose. He prefers expository preaching; in most cases he tends to go with a topical expository preaching style.

He has two Associates degrees and a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He worked for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home for over a year and then spent some time working for child protection services in Missouri as an investigator. During his time doing social work the Lord called Katie and him to ministry and led them specifically to the job at Streator Camp.

Jacob says, "We love what we do and feel like it's a good fit for us. I am however looking at different seminary courses and hoping to go to seminary at some point sooner rather than later."

His hobbies are sports, fishing, hiking, web design, and here lately-carpentry.



What's Happening?

Arthur Southern has been made a drop-off place for Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Oreana Baptist, Argenta Baptist, and Forsyth Baptist are doing a joint Christmas cantata. 6 PM on Fri., Dec. 17th at Forsyth; Sat., Dec. 18th at Argenta, and Sun., Dec. 19th.

Important Notice: The CBA website is up and running again. Hope to have it back totally, by mid-November.



Pastor's Breakfasts

For CBA Central
Pastors
8 AM-Sat., Nov. 13th
at
Diamonds in Decatur
Email Lanny at
cbacircuitrider@gmail.com
to say you're coming.

"Helping Hands at Home"
A Free Piano concert to support the services of
the Salvation Army
Featuring **Julie McClarey-Smith and Friends**
Sunday, November 14th at 2 PM
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Also: Silent Auction and Red Kettle
Blend Coffee for sale
Other guest include: Chris Gregg, Ryan McClarey, Bill Cunningham, Elizabeth Barnabe, Brittany Buetow, Wayne & Leslie Kent, and Pastor Ted Smith. Plus-three groups: Broken Brogue, Kidd Kaddilac and the Continentals, and the Salvation Army Student Band.



Churches:

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

Mission Statement

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

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

Coming Events

November

3rd & 4th-IBSA's Annual Meeting at Springfield
14th at 2 PM-Salvation Army's fundraiser with Julie McClarey-Smith and friends piano concert at Tabernacle
16th at 10:30 AM-Sr. Adult Thanksgiving Banquet at Emmanuel; Cost: \$8

December

3rd at 6:30 PM-CBA Pastor, Staff, & Spouse Christmas Party at Emmanuel

Central Baptist Association

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