

CCSBA Focus on Church Growth

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Leadership Summit. During that time I learned that there are nearly 47,000 Southern Baptist churches in the U.S. Of those churches, almost every one of them is declining. Statistically, the average SBC church has about 66 active members and experiences only 3 baptisms annually. In fact, over 80% of SBC churches (over 37,600) experience 9 or fewer baptisms annually. This leads leaders to estimate that most SBC churches are declining, and many will close their doors this year. Across many denominations, this week 100-200 churches will close – while nearly 10,000 churches will close within the U.S. this year. Current research shows that over 2/3 of American churches need to experience revitalization in order to become healthy once again.

Dr. Thom Rainer, President of LifeWay Christian Resources, reminds us with five basic principles the church must follow if they want to be healthy and experience growth.

1. The church must remember its purpose. It is the body of Christ - meant to glorify God through proclamation of the Word, praying for and loving its members, and loving the lost through service and sharing the gospel.
2. The church must remain prayerful and dependent upon God to powerfully move.
3. The church must be willing to selflessly sacrifice its comfort and stability through changing its methods and approaches for reaching its community – risking much to meet the needs of those they are called to reach.
4. The church must emphasize and remain obedient in evangelism and discipleship.
5. The church must be externally focused if they are to reach, win, disciple, train, and grow.

Church revitalization is a necessity for a plateaued or dying church, and when it happens – and a church goes from poor health to good health – then lives are changed, communities are changed, and the world is changed.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS

Westside Baptist



Mike Pope, Pastor

Broseley First



Steve Mayo, Pastor

Pleasant Valley



Roy Davis, Pastor

Fairview



Ralph Mayes, Pastor

PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

**Trinity
 Northside Bernie
 Emmanuel**

**Harviell FBC
 Center Hill
 Black River**

**SPRING REVIVAL AT FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
 WITH KIM BRIDGES
 MARCH 4-7 6:30 PM NIGHTLY**

Calendar for February & March
Feb. 12-18 Focus on WMU Week
Feb. 22-25 Great Commission Conference
March 4-11 Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
March 8 CCSBA VBS Training at Dexter FBC
March 13 CCSBA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 23 VBS Directors Training
March 20-21 DOM Spring Conference
March 29 CCSBA Office Closes 12:00 PM
March 30 CCSBA Office Closed

CCSBA Office Hours
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday –Thursday
 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday

Web: www.ccsba.com
 Facebook: @CaneCreekStoddardBaptistAssociation
 Address: 2090 Three Rivers Blvd.
 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
 Phone: 573-686-1115 Fax: 573-686-1116

Ministry Team
 Jim Gentry, DOM (ph: 870-219-2355)
 Daniel Bray, BSU Director
 Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant

For urgent and up-to-date prayer requests, news, and other information please visit our site at www.ccsba.com.

CCSBA Financial Status
 Sept. '17- August'18

Budget to date	Contributions received
\$ 48,333.35	\$ 49,724.44

We gratefully appreciate your continued support!

TUESDAYS · 7PM · TRC BSU
VARSlTY
 WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

CCSBA Focus on BSU

The spring semester has started after almost a week off for snow! This semester we are starting a new night for worship and Bible study on Tuesday nights. For the next 12 weeks we'll be studying the theology found in the Apostles' Creed. Be praying that this new venture will reach new students and bring glory to God.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6 FREDa BOYER
 6 JUSTIN MILLER
 9 KATHY KIRKLEY
 26 BARBARA WARD

Upcoming Disaster Relief Trainings

March 16-17

April 20-21

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192



WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting

April 6-7, 2018

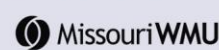
South Gate Baptist Church, Springfield

5701 S. Farm Rd., Springfield, Mo.

Registration cost is \$30 until March 21, then \$40 after.

Student fee (Grades 7– Collegiate) is \$10.

Saturday box lunch is \$5 each.



Register online at www.mobaptist.org/mc

Get the Trumpet and other announcements by email by adding your contact info at www.ccsba.com.