

**CCSBA Focus on Church Health and Growth**

Last month we noted 5 basic principles the church must follow if they are to be healthy and experience growth. According to Dr. Thom Rainer, President of Lifeway Christian Resources the church must:

1. Remember its purpose.
2. Remain prayerful and reliant on God.
3. Be willing to make necessary changes.
4. Emphasize evangelism with discipleship.
5. Be outwardly focused on reaching others.

Now, I want to share with you 5 mistakes small churches make which effect church health and growth. According to Karl Vaters, author and authority on the small church, research suggests these problems are evident in the majority of small churches across the U.S.

**Holding on to stale traditions.** Small churches tend not to be creative for future growth, but rather hold onto what the church once looked like – either when it was founded or when they had the last great Pastorate. The church must remember its purpose and prayerfully be willing to make necessary changes toward being healthy. 1 Cor. 9:19-23

**Poor or nonexistent planning.** Small churches get stuck not planning well for their weekly services simply because of the time demands on their pastor and volunteer leaders. As well, they usually don't do any planning for the future. Churches must remember their purpose, and prayerfully start planning for the future. Simply spending an hour or two weekly in planning for the future will help the small church grow healthier. Proverbs 15:22, 16:3; Luke 14:28

**Not enough assessment or evaluation.** Small churches need to assess every service and evaluate every program to determine: what went right, what went wrong, why it went that way, and how can we improve it for next time? Spending just a few minutes evaluating helps a church plan for better results from their next service/event. Necessary changes help the small church grow healthier and stronger. 1 Thes 5:21

**Too much inward focus.** Even churches with great preaching, wonderful fellowship, heartfelt worship, and solid unity will not reach their community unless they are outward – rather than inward – focused. An outward focus with an emphasis on evangelism and discipleship is necessary for the growth and health of the church. Matt.28:19-20, Acts 1:8

**Depending on the Pastor instead of making disciples.** Small churches often forget that the pastor is an equipper and they are to become disciples engaged in and doing ministry. A clear vision for evangelism and discipleship will help the small church grow and be healthier. 2 Tim 2:2, Eph. 4:1-16

**CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS**

**Calvary Community**



Shelvie Stephens, Pastor

**Center Hill**



Pastor-less

**Second**



Curtis Crowley, Interim-Pastor

**Hunter**



Jim Page, Pastor

**PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES**

**Northside Bernie  
 Center Hill  
 Emmanuel**

**Trinity  
 Harviell FBC  
 Black River**

TUESDAYS • 7PM • TRC BSU

**VARSITY**

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

## Calendar for March & April

March 4-11 Prayer for North American Missions

March 8 CCSBA VBS Training at Dexter FBC

### **March 13 CCSBA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM**

March 23 VBS Directors Training 5:30-8:00

March 20-21 DOM Spring Conference

March 29 CCSBA Office Closes 12:00 PM

March 30 CCSBA Office Closed

April 6-7 MO Mission Celebration, Springfield

April 8 Cooperative Program Sunday

April 14 WMU Quarterly Meeting, Temple 10-12

#### CCSBA Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday

Web: [www.ccsba.com](http://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)

Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant

Daniel Bray, BSU Director

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 CHRISTINE COLLINS ( CALVARY – DEXTER )
- 6 EDNOR SEBAG ( FILIPINO CHURCH PLANT )
- 8 SANDRA MAYO ( BROSELEY FBC )
- 10 DAVE EDWARDS ( LEORA )
- 13 SHELVE STEPHENS ( CALVARY COMMUNITY )
- 22 PAM KIRK ( GRAND AVE. )
- 28 KEITH BOYER ( EAST CARTER GRACE )

### CCSBA Financial Status

Sept. '17 – Feb '18

Budget to date

\$58,000.02

Contributions received

\$ 57,742.12

*Thank you for giving, praying, and participating.*

### Disaster Relief Training

March 16-17

April 20-21

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192

[www.mobaptist.org/dr](http://www.mobaptist.org/dr) [disasterrelief@mobaptist.org](mailto:disasterrelief@mobaptist.org)

### SPRING REVIVAL AT FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

WITH KIM BRIDGES

MARCH 4-7 6:30 PM NIGHTLY



## By All Means

### WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting

April 6-7, 2018

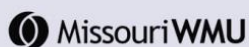
South Gate Baptist Church, Springfield

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](http://www.mobaptist.org/mc)

### REVITALIZE – Hope for the Heartland

Seeking to “restore and revive” the local church.

This conference gives you the Kingdom tools needed to regain that VITAL ministry in your community! We’ve got 4 slots open.

April 10-12 St. Louis Call us for details!

### CCSBA Focus on the BSU

March 10-15, I'll be taking a group of about 10 students to Orange, Texas to help with the ongoing rebuilding efforts from the 2017 hurricane season. We'll be traveling with BSU students from Southeast Missouri State University and joining students from around the state who are using their Spring Break to volunteer. Please pray that this will be a formative experience for these students. Pray that we will work well as a team and be a source of Christian love and compassion in these communities. - Daniel