

WMU NEWS

by Alice Ann White, WMU Director, RRVBA

This is the last month for our emphasis on “Unshakable Pursuit.” “My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile” (1 Cor. 15:58 CEV) With the coming of a new church year this will change, but just because we are not mentioning pursuing God does not mean we should stop. Keep on keeping on!

Outreach Project: Once again, we are promoting collecting dried beans in the month of August for our outreach project for the Native Americans in New Mexico. We collected 1,006 pounds of beans in 2018 and 1,412 in 2019. I am challenging us to give even more this year. Right now, there isn’t much we can do because we cannot get out and be with people. But we can order beans and pick them up curbside and then drop them off at your church building. This is about as safe as we can be these days. Pray about what God wants you and your church to give. **Your beans need to be in the Association Office no later than Thursday, August 31, 2020.**

Women’s Retreat: September 12, 2020 is the Women’s Retreat at Love Civic Center, Paris, TX. Registration packets will be mailed to your church soon. If you are not given the opportunity to register in your church, please contact the office, pastor, or whoever gets your church mail. You can also register at the Association office. We have a wonderful day planned, but you will never know the blessing God has for you if you don’t attend.

The outreach project for the Retreat is collecting **new or gently used coats** and **dried beans**. **The registration fee is \$10.00 through Monday, August 31, 2020.** After that date, the fee will be \$15.00.



Mark your calendars to save the date and make plans to attend. Put on your mask, bring your friends and come join us!

As I said, “Keep on keeping on!”

JOY ON THE JOURNEY WITH “SEASONED” SAINTS

by Gloria Parker, Senior Adults Director, RRVBA

2020 has surely been a different experience for us all reminding us that GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE AND HAS THIS WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS! Dr. Chauncey Crandall, a Christian Cardiologist in W. Palm Beach, FL says that fear, sadness and depression affect our immune system and can make us sick. He strongly suggests we “FIGHT BACK! How to Beat the Coronavirus,” his newest book. Among his suggestions: take Vitamins A, C, D, Zinc, and Selenium, to exercise some and get good rest. I heard him on both The 700 Club and TBN, and was impressed with his genuine loving counsel.

Believing God was leading us, we have CANCELLED our 16th Year of Senior Adults VBS in August 2020 because of the Coronavirus, which seems to attack our age group more than others. The same Host Churches may Host in 2021 using the 2020 materials already purchased, which our wonderfully efficient Secretary Nancy has for us. If YOU want to Host, let me know. We had planned for our 2020 VBS Missions Offering be given to Bro. Duane Falk’s Ministry E-3 Partners, where he teaches people in foreign countries to be Missionaries in their own country. Since that didn’t happen, we are giving him \$500 which is being matched by others helping! Bro. Duane suggested that we might use August Mondays to call another Senior Adult to encourage them and let them know they aren’t forgotten! I LOVE IT - Let’s DO IT! GOD IS SOOO GOOD, AND HIS GRACE IS ABUNDANT AND FREE!

Our Red River Valley Old Fashioned Hymn Singers look forward to getting together again soon to sing and encourage each other. Some have been ill, while a few have “Flown Away” to Heaven which causes us “Left Behind” to be a little jealous at times. We Praise God for allowing us to minister to precious Nursing and Retirement Home Residents for so long. We’re trying to listen, hear and OBEY what God has for us Senior Adults to be and do daily!

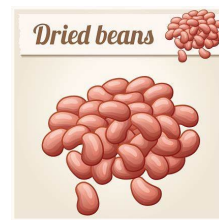
IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE EATING AT DENNY’S ON FRIDAYS, please let me know. We’ll go together wearing our masks and enjoying each other’s company in their Banquet Room whatever time we decide to go eat.

KEEP LOOKING UP FOR JESUS’ RETURN. PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM (Psalm 122:6) AND OUR BELOVED U.S.A.



MISSION PROJECT FOR AUGUST: Dried Beans

We are collecting dried beans for Native American Partnership Missions. This year they are especially needed as Native Americans are one group that has been hard hit by the corona virus.



Churches are encouraged to set up a donation box. Please deliver all the beans collected to the Association office by **Monday, August 31.**

Here’s your chance to be a blessing to those in need during these difficult times!



BSM NEWS...

Hello from the Baptist Student Ministry!

Although Texas has shown an uptick in Covid-19 cases, it appears that our local schools will be reopening. As of this writing, PJC plans to reopen with traditional face to face classes on August 24. This obviously left the BSM with some decisions to make concerning our student lunch ministry and how we would address the public concerns regarding the pandemic. I met with Bro. Guille and spoke individually with every member of the Association’s BSM Ministry Committee to discuss our options for serving lunches during the fall semester. As we see it, we have three options:

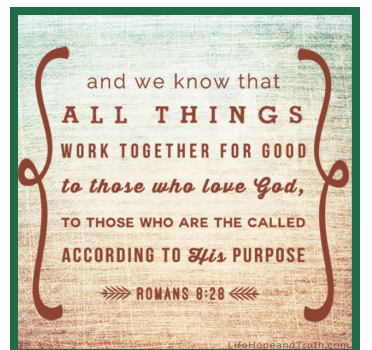
1. **Don’t serve lunches at all.** This seemed like a bad option because we have worked so hard to get students accustomed to coming over for lunch, to have a break would cause us to have to start over. Since we are no longer allowed on campus to promote BSM activities, it would be extremely difficult to regain the momentum we have achieved so far.
2. **Serve lunches as usual.** This would require someone at the door taking temperatures and making sure everyone wore a mask. We would need another person at the serving line with mask and gloves to serve the students and issue hand sanitizer to assure that every student sanitized their hands before sitting down and did not touch the utensils. We would need someone to get drinks for the students and some one responsible for making sure the students were social distancing at the tables and wiping down the tables after each student left. Since many times I am the only person working our lunches, this option would be impossible for me to pull off alone. I would need to sure I had 3 to 4 helpers each week, and that has proven to not be possible.
3. **Serve pre-made box lunches.** We all agreed this would be the best option. We can order the Styrofoam plates with lids or brown sacks, or whatever each church would like to use. Each church would bring the 40-50 pre-made lunches and the students would walk up, sign in, and take their lunch and leave. This option offers the least risk for exposure for both the students and church volunteers. Since the majority of the church volunteers falls into the higher-risk category for Covid-19, volunteer safety needs to be strongly addressed.

We plan to have our Bible study as usual on Monday nights. We can easily practice social distancing in the BSM building with up to 25 people. If we get more we can move it outside.

These are uncertain times, but God has not been caught off guard by it. We need to be safe and be smart, but not live in fear nor lose focus on our purpose on earth. Romans 8:28 says, ***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.***

Pray up! Preach out! Plug in!

Mike Clark 903-905-1336 mikeclark42@yahoo.com



JUNE 2020 Donations: \$ 8,205.36 Thank you for your continuing support of RRVBA missions & ministry!!

<i>Bounds</i>	299.25	<i>FBC Annona</i>	50.00	<i>Immanuel WMU</i>	75.00	<i>Southside</i>	769.91		
<i>Chicota</i>	201.20	<i>FBC Bogata</i>	1,151.37	<i>Maxey</i>	150.00	<i>Springlake</i>	535.37		
<i>Chisum Trail</i>	100.00	<i>FBC Clarksville</i>	100.00	<i>Novice</i>	455.00				
<i>Direct</i>	391.31	<i>FBC Cooper</i>	123.07	<i>Pacio</i>	384.60				
<i>Double R</i>	869.58	<i>FBC Detroit</i>	36.25	<i>Powderly</i>	300.00				
<i>East Delta</i>	583.60	<i>FBC Paris</i>	1,110.02	<i>Providence</i>	121.50				
<i>East Paris</i>	208.33	<i>Friendship</i>	90.00	<i>Salem</i>	100.00				



Senior Adult VBS, usually held in August, has been cancelled for 2020, due to health concerns with COVID-19. Keep on praying that God will see us through this pandemic and bring us safely together again in 2021!



Important Reminder!

Now is a good time to elect your Messengers
for the Red River Valley Baptist
Association Annual Meeting scheduled for
Tuesday, October 20 at FBC Clarksville.
Please let Nancy know who your messengers
are by October 1. Thank you!



“Something Beautiful”
8th Annual Ladies’ Retreat
Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am
at Love Civic Center, Paris
Cost: \$10 (\$15 after August 31)
Special Guests include Sandra
Wakefield as “Rahab” and comedian
Tammy Whitehurst.
Mission Project: please bring new or
 gently worn coats (all sizes)
 and/or dried beans
Registration packets are on the way to
Association churches. Everyone is
welcome, so start inviting your friends!
Call Nancy at 903-785-2890
for more information.

Red River Valley Baptist Association
 2320 Clarksville St., Paris TX 75460 903-785-2890
Regular Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
E-Mail Address: redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com
Web Address: www.redriverbaptist.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries

<u>August Birthdays</u>		
2	Kathy Witherspoon, pastor’s wife	FBC Cooper
4	Gloria Parker, senior adults director	RRVBA
7	Stephanie Wideman, pastor’s wife	Direct
7	Jamie Martin, children	East Delta
9	Danny White, music	Mt. Olive
10	Debbie Hindman, treasurer	FBC Roxton
13	Joe Rose, spouse	FBC Bogata
18	Darren Braddy, children	FBC Cooper
19	Gary Lynch, music	FBC Clarksville
21	Ralph Pickerill, spouse	East Paris
22	Greg Cunningham, spouse	FBC Paris
28	Boyd Harmering, treasurer	Leesville
31	Scherlene Shupp, pastor’s wife	FBC Blossom

<u>August Wedding Anniversaries</u>		
1	Mike & Misti Clark, 28 yrs	BSM
12	Shane & Melinda Oats	Bethel
17	Jay & Lori Smith, 35 yrs	FBC Annona
18	Ronal & Debora Kennemer, 30 yrs	East Delta
28	Duane & Kristy Falk, 38 yrs	Novice
30	Kye & Kasey Rieff, 6 yrs	Double R

<u>August Church Anniversaries</u>		
1	Donna Houchins, clerk, 8 yrs	East Delta
1	Nancy Redus, admin asst, 9 yrs	RRVBA
1	Johnny Witherspoon, pastor, 17 yrs	FBC Cooper
1	David Williams, pastor, 5 yrs	Friendship
9	Paula Hutson, secretary, 10 yrs	FBC Bogata
10	Gary Reed, pastor, 12 yrs	Embersen
10	Rocky Burrow, pastor, 12 yrs	Chicota
15	Mike Clark, director, 2 yrs	BSM
20	Zach Barton, music, 3 yrs	Southside

Happy (Belated) Birthday on July 28 to Annie Ausburn, secretary at Providence. Her name was inadvertently left off last month’s list. Hope you had a great day, Annie!

Happy Anniversary- 50 years or more!

Thedus & Norma Kelley (Glory)
54 years on August 26

Jimmy & Bobbie Preston (Howland)
57 years on August 26

Troy & Juanita Gordon (Glory)
64 years on August 28

Mike & Tena Segleski (Bounds)
51 years on August 30

Voice of the Valley

The Mission is the Message

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association Volume 16, Issue 8 (August 2020)

MINISTRY AND COVID-19

This is a difficult time for our churches to accomplish ministry; Covid-19 has halted about 90% of our normal Association and church activities – VBS, Children’s and youth camps, revivals, conferences, mission trips and the usual Sunday worship schedule. However, our work has not stopped, though it has been inconvenienced, because of the virus.

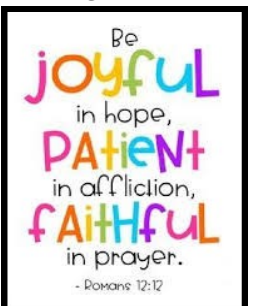
Following are some things that we have been doing in the last 11 months and some that are planned.

- ★ Visited 34 of our 46 churches and hope to finish the visits this year.
- ★ Participated in a prayer rally with black and white pastors on July 9, 2020.
- ★ Supplied for some pastors and churches – Springlake, Emberson, Lamar Point, Chicota, Glory, Blossom and Annona.
- ★ Made it a practice to contact our pastors through encouragement cards and phone calls.
- ★ Tried to text the pastors on Sunday morning to encourage them before they preach.
- ★ Sent important information to our pastors via e-mail/text that impacts their church and ministry.
- ★ Plan to meet with pastors from the northern part of Lamar County at Chicota BC on July 22 to have lunch and discuss their ministry challenges.
- ★ Plan to have a 2nd meeting with pastors from Red River County on July 23 for lunch at FBC Clarksville to talk about their ministry needs and focus.
- ★ Plan to meet with pastors from the eastern part of Lamar County on July 30 for lunch and discussion of ministry needs and challenges.

With Covid-19 ramping up it is difficult to make plans for the future ministry of the Association. Many of our churches are meeting again in-house but some congregations are at about 40-50% of the normal attendance. However, it is encouraging that the giving has been sufficient and in some cases even increased to maintain the churches ministries. I am encouraged that many of our churches are continuing to use online media to spread the Gospel and reach outside their walls.

We do not know what the future will be or what ministry will look like when the pestilence is subdued, we can only continue to do what the Lord has shown us to do – reach the unsaved and minister to the saints. Let us be found faithful in what we are called to do.

Bro. Guille



RRVBA Mission Statement: *Help each other become healthy “Great Commission” churches.*

RRVBA Vision Statement: *We are a family of churches who are committed to sharing ourselves, resources, and expertise with one another for the purpose of fulfilling the “Great Commission.”*

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