

WMU NEWS by Alice Ann White, WMU Director, RRVBA

This is not the news I want to write for the Newsletter, but I must. We have decided to cancel Children in Action Day (CIA Day) for 2021. We had made a few plans in how we thought best to keep the children safe. But, in re-thinking our plans, they didn't sound like something the children would enjoy or learn from. We will begin very soon planning for March 5, 2022, for that day to be bigger and better than ever! Pray for this team to have wisdom and direction from our Father in their planning.

We have also postponed the Outreach of collecting change for the pregnancy centers for a while. You are encouraged to ask your church to start saving their change for this mission and we will set a date later for the money to be brought to the office. If you want the baby bottles to pass out to your church people, please let me know and we will get them to you.

As of right now the Mission Study that we usually have in the spring is on hold. We have the materials, but the team has not met. We are waiting on less sickness to try to have the event. We want people to come and feel safe in doing so.

With the recent outbreak of Covid, we are thinking it is just best not to have meetings or bring people into the office. Please join me in prayer that this will soon be a distant memory. There have been so many that have lost their life to this. It is so sad. Vaccines are slowly being made available. I genuinely believe this is what will stop or slow Covid.

We must remember *"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved"* (Hebrews 10:39). We should be Relentless in our prayer life, praying for ourselves and others. *"When a believing person prays, great things happen"* (James 5:16). Please pray for your Association WMU!

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♥ JOHN 3:16



JOY ON THE JOURNEY WITH "SEASONED SAINTS"

by Gloria Parker, Senior Adult Director, RRVBA

'HEART' MONTH - We surely NEED our hearts helped with ALL that's going on in our world! Be BLESSED with me as Dr. Charles Stanley tells us how to "Purify Your Heart" on James 4:7-10: "Once we have received Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are clean in His eyes. But that doesn't mean we will never sin again (John 13:9-10). As we live in this world, we'll continue to exhibit some fleshly patterns - at times thinking wrong thoughts, making hurtful comments, having inappropriate attitudes, and behaving foolishly. That's why continual cleansing from sin is important. James gives us a process by which we can purify our hearts. When we resist the devil, mourn for our sin, and humbly draw near to God in submission, our Father is always faithful to forgive and cleanse us. Confession and repentance are like a spiritual shower that washes away the filth of sin so we can be clean and renewed (1 John 1:9) Ephesians 5:25-26 speaks of cleansing the church 'by the washing of water with the Word.' Scripture acts like a sharp sword that convicts us, reveals our hidden sins, and teaches how to live in a manner pleasing to the Lord. Let's follow James' advice today by submitting to God and renewing our minds with His truth. I pray that we can perceive and understand the Lord's ways - and be confident of our salvation and eternal security despite our failures."

Everyone I talk to about getting together to SING TOGETHER again is all for it. We are just still trying to be SAFE for others and ourselves with so many ill. (Thank you for your prayers for all our ill! Keep them going up!) But don't give up on it, or GETTING TOGETHER (those are WONDERFUL words) at Denny's for 2:00 p.m. "LUPPER" real soon, too. You know, August is getting closer, and the LORD WILLING, we will have Senior Adults VBS again!

KEEP LOOKING UP FOR JESUS' RETURN, PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM (PSALM 122:6) AND PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED AMERICA!

UPCOMING EVENTS... (All events are subject to change and/or cancellation due to Covid-19!)

Sunday, Jan 24: CWJC Free Workshop - #2 WORDS ARE POWERFUL, *Immanuel*, 3:30 pm

Thursday, Feb 4: Secretaries/Support Staff lunch, 11:30 am, RRVBA

Feb 8—14: WMU Focus Week

Thursday, Feb 11: RRVBA Tax Seminar @ *Springlake*, Pastors: 9:00 am;
Treasurers/Financial officers: 1:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

Monday, Feb 15: PRESIDENT'S DAY



BSM NEWS...

Hello from the Baptist Student Ministry!

The Spring semester is underway and I am excited for the opportunity to meet some new students. Like last semester, the pandemic has forced us to cancel our student lunches. With the recent spike of over 1,000 new Covid 19 cases between Christmas and the first week of January, it was too risky to ask our church volunteers and students to attempt to gather in our small building where social distancing is really not possible. For the remainder of this semester we will be meeting for Bible study at 7pm each Monday night and serve free pizza to the students. We have been having 5-7 each week and hope to see it grow. Please pray for us to get some inroads into the college.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, we don't know what the Covid landscape will look like. Knowing that there is a vaccine making its rounds across the country, one can only hope we can get back to some kind of normalcy with our student ministry. QUESTION: Would there be any churches that would like to commit to help serve in the FALL SEMESTER, assuming the virus isn't still spiking? Obviously, I can't begin to plan to serve lunches again if I don't have volunteers to help me. I'd like to ask the churches to send Nancy (redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com) a quick email simply stating that:

1. Yes, your church can help with lunches regardless of the circumstances.
2. Yes, your church can help with lunches if the pandemic has slowed down or is trending down.
3. No, your church does not feel comfortable serving lunches at this time for health reasons.

Your responses will help me begin to think through and plan for how we will proceed in the fall. These are indeed challenging times but nothing has caught our Lord off guard.

Pray up! Preach out! Plug in!

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

DECEMBER 2020 DONATIONS TOTAL: \$22,766.05 *Thank you for your continued support of RRVBA Missions & Ministry!*

<i>Bagwell</i>	50.00	<i>East Paris</i>	208.33	<i>FBC Paris</i>	893.07	<i>Pacio</i>	653.64	<i>Springlake</i>	1,076.44
<i>Bounds</i>	195.55	<i>FBC Annona</i>	50.00	<i>Friendship</i>	458.00	<i>Petty</i>	12,000.00		
<i>Chicota</i>	169.54	<i>FBC Bogata</i>	1,150.56	<i>Leesville</i>	176.23	<i>Powderly</i>	600.00		
<i>Chisum Trails</i>	200.00	<i>FBC Clarksville</i>	100.00	<i>Maxey</i>	300.00	<i>Providence</i>	145.62		
<i>Direct</i>	421.31	<i>FBC Cooper</i>	1,163.40	<i>Mt. Olive</i>	257.00	<i>Salem</i>	100.00		
<i>East Delta</i>	422.66	<i>FBC Detroit</i>	24.60	<i>Novice</i>	1,225.00	<i>Southside</i>	725.10		

WMU 1st Quarter Mission Project:

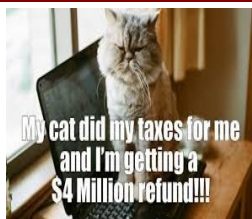
Paris/Clarksville Pregnancy Care Centers

Traditionally, our first Mission Project each year is PPCC. This year we are just collecting money (coins, bills, or checks!). Because of Covid, we will let you know the best time to bring your donations to the RRVBA office. Look for that information in the March edition of the *Voice of the Valley*. Stay safe, start collecting, & give generously!



Pastors & Church Treasurers:

Do you have tax questions?



The RRVBA TAX SEMINAR can help!

Dan Whitehurst will be here on
Thursday, February 11 for two sessions:
Pastors @ 9:00 am

Treasurers/Finance Officers @ 1:00 pm

Springlake Baptist Church

3500 Clarksville, Paris

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK!

To sign up for one or both sessions call the
RRVBA office at 903-785-2890 by
Monday, February 8.

Red River Valley Baptist Association

2320 Clarksville St., Paris TX 75460
903-785-2890

Regular Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 8 am to 2 pm

E-Mail Address: redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

Web Address: www.redriverbaptist.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

2	Charles Shouse, spouse	Mt. Olive
5	Shelley Adams, spouse	Maxey
5	Duane Falk, pastor	Novice
8	Anne French, secretary	His Place
9	Guille Seigler, DOM	RRVBA
10	Josh Kirby, youth	His Place
12	Ronnie Aubrey, pastor	Trinity
14	Sherry Moody, pastor's wife	East Paris
15	Kye Rieff, pastor	Double R
15	Darlene Shouse, secretary	Mt. Olive
17	James Kennedy, spouse	Bethel
21	Jay Smith, music	FBC Annona
22	Steven Kelley, music	Direct
25	James McLeod, pastor	Chisum Trails

February Wedding Anniversaries

18	Dennis & Carol Pearson, 43 yrs	Pacio
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February Church Anniversaries

1	Sheri Wharton, secretary, 8 yrs	Bounds
9	Jake Vaughn, pastor, 23 yrs	East Delta
11	Billy Norris, pastor, 14 yrs	Southside
12	Chuey Potter, music, 8 yrs	FBC Roxton
18	Steven Kelley, music, 3 yrs	Direct
21	Lance Westbrook, youth, 5 yrs	Mt. Olive

Secretaries & Support Staff Lunch

Thursday, February 4,

11:30 am @ the RRVBA office

Bring your lunch &

let's fellowship ~

socially distanced & with our masks!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Minister @ Leesville Baptist Church: Intern or part-time. Call 903-674-5782, or email the Pastor at nwseaborn@leesvillebc.org

Part-Time Youth Minister @ FBC Blossom: Call 903-982-5212 or Pastor Mike Shupp at 903-491-5103.

Music/Youth Leader @ Novice Baptist Church: Contact Pastor Duane Falk at 903-732-7711.

Song Leader @ FBC Deport: Contact Pastor Michael Flatt at 903-703-9347.

Voice of the Valley

The Mission is the Message

The monthly publication of the Red River Valley Baptist Association Volume 17, Issue 2 (February 2021)

What's Our Focus?

2020 has finally departed and 2021 is here to offer challenges, opportunities and hope for something better than last year. Our world has been shaken up a lot by the Covid-19 virus and is still with us, increasing in our association at an alarming rate. Because of this many of our churches have experienced a decrease in attendance, and a few have endured multiple closures due to the virus. However, this I have seen and heard: our churches have remained faithful and resilient in the face of adversity regardless of the trials that beset them. Pastors and faithful members have held to God's promise, *"And the Lord said, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not be afraid nor be dismayed."* Deut. 31:8 (NKJV)

With this assurance, the church has the opportunity to come back even stronger as we trust God to work His will in us. I believe there are two things the church can do to become the fearless and dynamic church the Lord intended it to be. First, continue to reach out to those who have sequestered themselves out of fear of the virus. Many of our churches are reaching out by letters, emails and phone calls to those members who have chosen to absence themselves. The church must let them know they are not forgotten and are needed. Remind them that this unusual time will not last forever and when it is safe in their mind to return, they will be welcomed back with love.

Second, the church must focus on reaching the unchurched and lost ones. If nothing else, this plague has shown us how frail and vulnerable we are and how certain death is. People are frightened and seeking some kind of assurance for their lives. The church has the answer they need – *Jesus*.

The good news out of all this is that many of our churches have seen an increase in baptisms, which equates to people coming to Christ in faith. There has been an increase in visitors who express an interest in the faith. It is my prayer that 2021 will be the start of a wonderful harvest of souls for the Lord.

This office is here to help every church in the association to fulfill its mission however it can. A pastor recently told me, "We have only one way to go – Straight Ahead."

Blessings to you all -

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."*

Director of Missions: Guille Seigler

bgseigler1@yahoo.com

Baptist Student Ministry Director: Mike Clark

mikeclark42@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Redus

redrivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

Congratulations on

50 years of marriage or more!

Ronnie & Dean Aubrey (Trinity)

53 years on February 5