

Linn-Livingston Baptist Association
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April 2021

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Happy Easter!

Below is a list of things that need to be done at Grand Oaks before camping season begins:

- Repair cracks in cinder block wall of Hilltop cabins & bathhouse
- Repaint Hilltop bathhouse back wall
- Paint fascia boards on Nurse cabin
- Cover soffit with siding on Nurse cabin
- Power wash Retreat Center, re-stain exterior
- Cut dead trees
- Clear around trees & shrubs with mulch-re-mulch
- Frame a new 9th hole on the mini golf course for concrete
- Clean Hilltop, Riverview, Nurse cabins & Pierce Hall
- Clean Dining Hall kitchen
- Restock Nurses Cabin with medical supplies.

Contact Grand Oaks at 660-646-1906 to see how you can help.

The Pathfinder

April 2021

Volume 46 Issue 4

Guest Column

I came across an article a couple of weeks ago from the website of *The Irish Times* that indicated that the word "hope" was among the top few words searched on Google in both Ireland and the United Kingdom in 2020-- the first time that word had been so prominent. So I did a little research of my own and found that all over the world, "hope" was searched for more and more as the COVID-19 pandemic exploded in March 2020, and it peaked in late September and early October, right around the time the worldwide death toll from the pandemic reached 1 million and as the fall surge roared across Europe and North America.

Certainly I've been hungry for hope this past year myself. Like many of you have seen in your churches, we've lost about a third of our attendance from where we were before this crisis began-- and that's better than where we were at one point! I've lost people I knew well and loved, including people in our congregation and other pastors, to this disease and seen many, many more flicker in faith, dive into despair, or accede to the anger that's marked every corner of American life in this past year, or really, past twenty. I remember distinctly, shortly after we closed down the first time last March, sitting in my office late one night, wondering how I was going to hold it all together-- in the church and in my personal life. I was uncertain about the future, fearful, and, yes, even tearful in that moment, even while praying.

What got me through the lowest point there was Easter. In some ways, it feels like it's been two years since we had Easter. But it hasn't, because the Easter story is the gospel story. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day. And because Christ conquered sin at the Cross and death at the empty tomb, there is truly and honestly nothing else beyond His power. So the verse I've held on to in this past year, more than anything is Colossians 1:17: "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (NASB) The Spirit put that verse in my mind on that darkest night, and I haven't forgotten it: It's not my place to hold anything together-- Jesus is already doing quite a marvelous job of that. Truly, "an empty grave is there to prove that Jesus lives."

This Easter isn't completely back to normal, but it's getting there. As a weary world rocked by death, division, and injustice comes to our doorsteps and websites, let's not forget we have the hope they long for so desperately. We have Good News that hasn't expired. Jesus has lived and reigned through

it all. As the psalmist said, He was King at the flood, and He'll be King forever. Rest in His constancy-- in a God who never has highs or lows, but is eternally great. And go tell the world just how great He is.

I'm here for you if you have any pastoral care needs or simply a desire to talk in the days ahead. Our associational secretary, Donna Zell, is truly doing marvelous work in these days and I appreciate her now more than ever. We truly are in this together, and I'm so thankful to be in this-- this Kingdom, that is-- with you.

Grace and peace to you all.

Brian Baker

Pastor, FBC Marceline

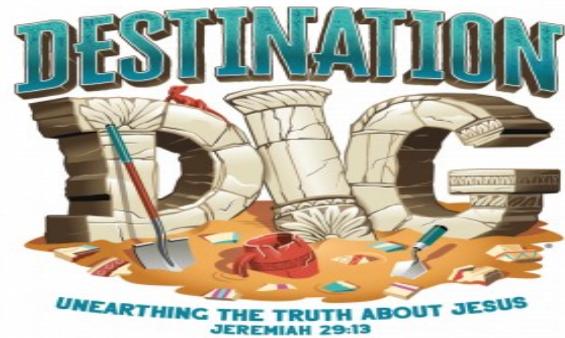
Moderator, LLBA

LLBA Board Meeting

The Executive Board Meeting will meet on Monday, April 12, at the Meadville First Baptist Church at 7 PM.

Pastor's Prayer & Breakfast

The Pastor's prayer time will be on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 AM at the office. Breakfast will follow at 8:30 AM at the Eagles Nest Café at the Meadville junction. Hope you will plan to join in for prayer, food and fellowship.



VBS Dates:

- June 21-25 Meadville
- Marceline FBC
- June 21-26 Highview
- July 5-9 Chillicothe FBC
- July 11-15 Bethany

With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to Merlyn Bolin and family and the God's Garden Church at the death of Rev. Frank Bolin.

DOM Search Committee

Your Joint Director of Missions Search Committee is making serious progress! We have interviewed our three finalists for the DOM position by Zoom and will be meeting soon to prepare final arrangements to offer a candidate. We hope to present this candidate to you later this month! Watch for announcements to come very soon.

Income/Expense by Category 2/1/2021 through 2/28/2021

INCOME	
Bethany	58.93
Browning	126.08
Calvary	625.00
Calvary Chapel	175.00
Chillicothe	1,486.67
Dawn	1,157.78
God's Garden	121.45
Highview	301.89
Int Inc	3.67
Linneus	145.84
Meadville	879.00
Park	990.51
Pleasant Grove	1,266.20
TOTAL INCOME	7,338.02

EXPENSES	
ADMIN Team	280.00
Misc Exp.	48.50
Missions	974.99
Office	595.02
Pers.	1,038.31
Programs	80.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,016.82

OVERALL TOTAL 4,321.20

Acc't Bal. as of 3/22/2021

Checking:	\$ 9,805.08
MMA Balance	\$ 48,012.43

Income/Expense by Category 1/1/2021 through 2/28/2021

INCOME	
Bethany	114.27
Browning	290.76
Calvary	1,250.00
Calvary Chapel	350.00
Chillicothe	3,074.89
Dawn	1,490.66
Faith, Utica	476.24
Freedom	50.00
God's Garden	228.94
Highview	301.89
Int Inc	7.30
Laclede	462.86
Linneus	275.78
Marceline	1,000.00
Meadville	1,901.00
Misc. Inc.	-100.00
Mt. Olive	89.75
Mt. Pleasant	250.00
Park	2,172.64
Pleasant Grove	1,266.20
Pleasant Ridge	50.00
Rothville	131.76
Utica	221.73
Wheeling	27.43
TOTAL INCOME	15,384.10

EXPENSES	
ADMIN Team	522.49
Misc Exp.	209.00
Missions	995.16
Office	1,274.96
Pers.	2,418.68
Programs	80.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 5,500.29

OVERALL TOTAL 9,883.81

