



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

May 2024

From Your Director of Missions (D.O.M.):

May is the month that is in between Spring and Summer. A month of graduations, making plans for the family trip this summer and a time when it seems that life really begins to get busy.

During all of this hustle and bustle, remember what our Father tells us in His Word. "Be still and know that I am God." Please do not get so busy that you begin to place things of life ahead of God's plan for you. Your church family and your pastor need you with them each Sunday.

I want to congratulate all of those that are graduating from every level of education this month. Whether you are in kindergarten or college, you have reached and completed a major milestone in our life. All of us throughout all of the church families in the Richland Baptist Association are proud of you!

Just a reminder that the Senior Day At The Lake will be May 3, 2024 at Poverty Point Reservoir. The hours will be from 10AM through 1PM. There will be Music, Food and Door Prizes. This is for all Seniors. Invite your friends and enjoy the Day At The Lake.

May is the month that we set aside to recognize a very precious lady. One that we call Mother. Ladies, women of the Lord, thank you for being the Christian mothers to your children and the children of your church family. You will never know this side of Heaven how you have touched the lives of the children that our Lord has placed in your path.

Please check out the calendar of events. I encourage you to participate alongside us as we serve our Lord together.

Pray for our Mission Team as they prepare to travel to Honduras to share the Love of Christ to people that really need to experience Christ in their lives.

Thank you for the Joy of serving you as your Director of Missions. I love you all.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of May 2024

- May 02: National Day of Prayer
- May 03: Senior Adult Day at the Lake (Hosted by the Sheriff's Dept)
- May 04: "Down By The Creek Bank" @ FBC Delhi 6 PM (Presented by Children's Choir)
- 05: "Down By The Creek Bank" @ FBC Delhi 10:45 AM
- May 05: Gideon Pastor Appreciation Lunch @ FBC Rayville
- May 09: Pastor/Staff Conference @ Big John's 11AM
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 18: M-Jam @ First Community Antioch, Lucher
- May 24-31: Mission Team to Honduras (Lift them up in Prayer)
- May 27: Memorial Day

Upcoming Events for the month of June 2024

- June 02: Disaster Relief Sunday: Chainsaw Ministry Offering
- June 03-06: Kid's Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
- June 10-13: Kid's Camp 2 - Tall Timbers
- June 11-12: Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, IN
- June 16: Father's Day
- June 20-22 Breakaway Youth Camp 1 - Tall Timbers
- June 24-28 Breakaway Youth Camp 2 - Tall Timbers

Due to the Summer Camps and the Southern Baptist Convention, there will not be a Pastor/Staff Conference this month.*

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Opportunities to Serve

- Pastor: Bethel Baptist
Cedar Baptist
Lone Cherry Baptist
Newton Baptist
Westside Baptist
- Music Minister/Leader: Westside Baptist
Zebedee Baptist
- Pianist: Westside Baptist
Zebedee Baptist

**If you have a need in your church, please let us know and we will post it in the Monthly Newsletter.*

Something to Think About...

What does it mean to be a LOCAL church? A quick pull of the internet “define: local” yields

“belonging or relating to a particular area or neighborhood, typically exclusively so”

So, in one sense, it means that it is in a particular area or neighborhood. This is what we typically mean by that adjective before the word church which literally is referring to the gathering of believers (not the actual building).

So when we think of local as “in a particular area or neighborhood”, we typically think of the building more than the gathering. Buildings stay put as a general rule while groups of people do not.

What happens when the local area of the building or property isn’t local to the gathering? Communities and neighborhoods are living collections of organisms that are birthed, grow to a point, then decline and fade or die one day. The same could be said of buildings that these communities and neighborhoods live within but they definitely don’t go through life cycles at the same pace or speed. With proper upkeep and care, a building or physical location may “outlive” numerous different communities or neighborhoods that find shelter within it.

Many times when a church as a gathering of believers may have migrated out of the immediate local neighborhood or community in which the physical building is located, it leaves that group of believers with a hard choice to make: do we set up a new physical location to meet that is more “local” to our neighborhood or do we try and transition our outreach and ministry to the community or neighborhood that is now “local” to the physical location of the church.

Many opt for moving the physical meeting place to somewhere more “local” to where their community now finds themselves living. It is an honorable thing but rife with challenges to try and redirect and target the neighborhood or community that has started to grow up around the physical location of the church. I do not posit to say that either decision is more holy or correct within a given situation. That is between that gathering of believers and the Lord. He directs the sheep and shepherds where He wills within His many pastures.

Another facet of this discussion is how does the gathering of believers reach and be a community to those with which nowhere seems to be local. Many a shot has been fired on social media about how people need to be physically present in church and not just watching a streamed video or doing church digitally. Do we sometimes assume that everyone is just like us and everything is just how it’s always been? There are workers that are on shifts where they are not able to be physically present apart from half or less of each month. Some of these can almost seem like the traditional ministry of the shut-in where they are not able to be physically present except on rare occasions. Others, while their weekends are free for being able to physically be in Sunday worship, find themselves unable to be a part of anything during the week because of long commutes for their job such that they really don’t feel a locality to the place where they lay their heads at night. As churches consider things like VBS are we still assuming life is the nuclear family of 2.5 kids in which the father is the only one that works outside the home in our planning?

Jesus is quoted in Luke 9:58 and Matthew 8:20 as saying, “**Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.**” This was in response to a scribe desiring to follow Jesus. This is followed by the chilling “**let the dead bury their own dead**” and “**none that put their hand to the plow and look back are fit**”. Notice the connections to compassionate ministry: -a stranger in your midst(the homeless), -those caring for elder members of their family or grieving them, -those tilling the soil ultimately to feed or clothe from their reapings. While the cost of following Christ is great indeed, should we heap extra burdens onto those who already feel alienated and a stranger in the midst of our community of faith? How are we bringing the ministry and service to the members of the body of Christ that are stretched out into a cold world far from the core where things are being kept warm. (Toes and fingers are usually the first things to succumb to frostbite in harsh environments if not given attention.)

- Jonathan Young

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