

Association Offers Training and Free Materials in Preparation for VBS — “Game On!”

By Brenda Brooks, ECBA Children’s Coordinator

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is the biggest event churches have each summer that reaches not only children who attend the church but, more importantly, those in their community who do not attend any church or those who go to a church but have not accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Some children go to VBS at several different churches throughout the summer. But, we never know when God will use a particular lesson or a particular time to speak to a child and they make that all-important decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior at our VBS.

At Redeemer, we have VBS the first week of June every year. Some years we may not see any children make a decision for Jesus, but last year we had 5 that accepted Christ. I want to encourage every church in our association to have either a VBS or a Backyard Bible Club. VBS doesn’t have to be held for 5 days. Some churches hold VBS for 3 days. Backyard Bible Clubs teach the same lessons but can be held at a someone’s home or in a park for as few or as many days as you’d like. Backyard Bible Clubs can also be held one day a week for a set number of weeks.

Lifeway’s VBS program for this year is “Game On.” The theme verse is “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3. The motto is “Gear up! Get ready! Game On!” Daily content includes:

1. Jesus Cares About Me (The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:1-7),
2. Jesus Gives Me Hope (The Resurrection of Lazarus - John 11:1-44),
3. Jesus Helps Me Believe (Thomas Believed - John 20:19-31),

4. Jesus Loves Me (John Wrote About Jesus - John 13:1 - 35 ; 19:25 - 27 ; 20:1-10, 21:1-14) and

5. Jesus Gives Me Joy (Paul & Silas in Prison - Acts 16:23-34).



We want to help you! Our Association is providing **training for VBS and Backyard Bible Club teachers** on **Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Redeemer Baptist Church**, 3230 Lindberg Road, Anderson IN. There will be a drawing for free decorations and materials plus snacks will be served. If your church or church plant plans to attend this training, please send me an e-mail with the name of your church, how many will be attending and when you plan to have your VBS or Backyard Bible Club so that I can have enough materials and food for everyone. Any church or church plant that needs help in planning or holding your VBS or Backyard Bible Club, please let me know; we will be happy to help you. You can email me at brendabrooksa1107@gmail.com or call me at 765-393-1458.

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The EDUCATION COORDINATOR shares...

As we all know February is the “Love Month” with the emphasis on lovers of all ages. We have seen the advertisements from flowers to candies to delectable meals—anything that promotes the image of love, but is there more to this thing called love? After all, we have heard the familiar slogan, “I love baseball, ice cream, hot-dogs, and Chevrolets,” and though an interesting combination, does one’s love for any of these items compare with one’s spouse or relationship with God. At this juncture, we have to admit our English language fails us at times, especially when expressing love.

To differentiate the distinctions with “love,” the ancient Greeks devised at least seven words to denote variations in this concept. They set the word **eros** denoting “*sexual passion*,” a passion that saw a loss of control as expressed by the term “*falling madly in love*.” The world’s view of Valentine’s Day might be best categorized with this Greek word or it may be combined with a second word, the word **ludus**, which is a playful love involving affection between children or young lovers.

A third word was developed to describe love; the word **philia**, a *deep friendship or brotherly love*, from which we get our U.S. city name, Philadelphia, “*the city of brotherly love*.” Closely associated with this word is a fourth word, **storge**, describing the “*love between parents and their children*.” Wow, what a neat concept in family life.

The word **agape** is the fifth word denoting “*love for everyone*.” It is a “*selfless love for others...it never expects*

anything in return.” This type of love appears in the Bible and characterizes a dimension of who God is. This word is listed as one of the nine “*fruit of God’s Spirit*,” a characteristic of the Spirit-controlled follower of Jesus Christ.

Sixthly, the word **pragma** describes a mature love, a deep understanding love, developed between long-married couples. This love grows as the participants grow in patience and faith in their commitment to God. This love is so needed in our society of “throw-away marriages,” as about one-third of first time marriages end in divorce...we truly need **pragma**.

Lastly, the Greeks formulated the word **philautia** to denote “*love of one’s self*.” They understood this word could be used in two ways - self-obsession or in completion of satisfied living. As believers, we are urged to seek contentment in our relationship with our Heavenly Father; it becomes an important discipline in seeking Christ-likeness.

In this Love Month, could we determine to seek the One who is always seeking us? Could we allow our God, who is love, to permeate every fiber of our being? If we make that determination, rest assured, He will provide those opportunities to share the message of the gospel with clarity and authority. Have a great Love Month!

Dr. Ron Ross
Educational Coordinator for ECBA

Plan Now for MAC Camp

By Brenda Brooks, ECBA Children’s Coordinator

Mission Adventure Camp will be held at Highland Lakes Baptist



Camp the last week of June, June 25 – 29, for those who are completing the 3rd thru 6th grade this year. I plan to take girls from Redeemer and would be willing to chaperone girls from other churches in our association, as needed. Boys are also able to attend this camp but we would need a male chaperone if there are boys that would like to go. We have to provide one chaperone for every 5 children. If you

have children that would like to go to this camp or if you would be willing to help chaperone, please contact me at brendabrooks1107@gmail.com or at 765-393-1458. Participants must be registered by June 11. We are currently working on the possibility to provide financial help to pay for part of the camp cost and will provide this information as it develops. Additional information on the camp is available at <http://www.scbi.org/events/children/mission-adventure-camp>.

MAC Camp Tracks

- Archery/Riflery
- Art Studio
- Build It
- Canoeing
- Drama
- GaGa Ball
- Incredible Investigations
- Just Dance
- Kitchen Concoctions
- Outdoor Games
- Outdoor Survival
- Photography
- Scrapbooking
- Splish Splash

**East Central Baptist Association Profit and Loss
Statement for January 2018**

| | <u>Jan 18</u> | <u>Dec 17</u> | <u>\$ Change</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Income | | | |
| 4000 · Church Receipts | | | |
| 4060 · New Day | 480.66 | 830.22 | -349.56 |
| 4120 · Halteman - Muncie | 686.21 | 366.30 | 319.91 |
| 4140 · Kingston - Anderson | 178.86 | 127.46 | 51.40 |
| 4160 · North Delaware - Muncie | 232.70 | 164.95 | 67.75 |
| 4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie | 1,772.00 | 987.00 | 785.00 |
| 4180 · Redeemer - Anderson | 0.00 | 1,347.41 | -1,347.41 |
| 4190 · First - Montpelier | 100.00 | 95.00 | 5.00 |
| 4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship | 0.00 | 140.00 | -140.00 |
| 4230 · Integris | 320.73 | 0.00 | 320.73 |
| 4240 · Remedy City | 0.00 | 38.71 | -38.71 |
| 4250 · Muncie Chinese Christian Fellow | 182.96 | 0.00 | 182.96 |
| Total 4000 · Church Receipts | 3,954.12 | 4,097.05 | -142.93 |
| 6990 · Church P & H Endowment Income | 0.00 | 653.90 | -653.90 |
| 6999 · Misc Income | 0.00 | 1,610.87 | -1,610.87 |
| Total Income | 3,954.12 | 6,361.82 | -2,407.70 |
| Expense | | | |
| 66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.99 |
| 7000 · Administrative Ministry | | | |
| 7010 · Other Expense | 0.00 | 816.87 | -816.87 |
| 7021 · Insurance | 0.00 | 583.00 | -583.00 |
| 7090 · Payroll | 697.70 | 378.33 | 319.37 |
| Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry | 697.70 | 1,778.20 | -1,080.50 |
| 7300 · Associational Ministry | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 |
| Total Expense | 748.69 | 1,778.20 | -1,029.51 |
| Net Income | 3,205.43 | 4,583.62 | -1,378.19 |

East Central Baptist Association Balance Report for January 2017

| | <u>Jan 18</u> | <u>Dec 17</u> | <u>\$ Change</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1000 · ONB | | | |
| 1010 · General Budget | 36,805.79 | 33,599.37 | 3,206.42 |
| 1011 · Discretionary Admin Team | 9,233.69 | 9,233.69 | 0.00 |
| 1015 · BCM Rent Deposit | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1016 · BCM Capital Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund | 4,137.93 | 4,137.93 | 0.00 |
| 1035 · Church P&H Fund | 6,297.89 | 6,297.89 | 0.00 |
| 1040 · OMC | 1,307.84 | 1,307.84 | 0.00 |
| 1051 · ECBA Endowment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1055 · Funds Temporarily Restricted | 2,599.78 | 2,599.78 | 0.00 |
| 1000 · ONB - Other | -0.99 | 0.00 | -0.99 |
| Total 1000 · ONB | 60,381.93 | 57,176.50 | 3,205.43 |
| 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation | | | |
| 1110 · ECBA Endowment | 9,866.01 | 9,866.01 | 0.00 |
| 1111 · Church P&H ROI | 1,132.40 | 1,132.40 | 0.00 |
| 1120 · Church P&H Fund | 17,978.09 | 17,978.09 | 0.00 |
| 1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted | 146,996.00 | 146,996.00 | 0.00 |
| Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation | 175,972.50 | 175,972.50 | 0.00 |
| | 236,354.43 | 233,149.00 | 3,205.43 |

Upcoming Events

March 1—10:00 a.m. Leader Lab and Pastors Luncheon at New Day Baptist Church, 202 W Tyler, Alexandria IN 46001

March 15—6:00 p.m. ECBA Council Meeting at New Day Baptist Church, 202 W Tyler, Alexandria IN 46001

March 15—7:00 p.m. ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting at New Day Baptist Church, 202 W Tyler, Alexandria IN 46001

SBC Emphasis for March

March 4- 10—Youth Week

March 4- 11—North American Mission Board (NAMB) Week of Prayer & Mission Study & Annie Armstrong Offering

March 18—Church Planting Emphasis & Substance Abuse Prevention



None of our pastors nor their wives have a birthday or anniversary in March. Please remember all of our pastors and their wives and families in your prayers this month.

Transformed Women Retreat

April 6—7

**Northside Baptist Church
Indianapolis**

Registration Deadline:

Friday, March 23rd

For information:

<http://www.scbi.org/events/adults/transformed-4>



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Semi-Annual ECBA Meeting

Speaker: Chris Hubler

Thursday, March 15, 2018

7:00 p.m.

New Day Baptist Church—Alexandria

202 Tyler

Alexandria IN 46001

ECBA Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.