

ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting Provides Time of Fellowship and Worship Along with Business and Recognition

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the East Central Baptist Association was held on Thursday, March 14, at North Delaware Baptist Church in Muncie. The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with a Mexican-themed pitch-in dinner. Over 25 people were present for the dinner and meeting that followed.

The meeting began with a welcome from host pastor, Jim Marlow. Moderator, Brad Storm, led the meeting. There were 9 messengers representing 4 member churches present to conduct business.

The following reports were presented:

ACP Summary Report Status – Pat Storm stated that there were now 10 of our churches

who have reported their 2018 ACP. We are eagerly awaiting the reports from First Baptist in Eaton, First Baptist in Montpelier, Grace Community Missionary Baptist, and North Delaware Baptist churches.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer, Jon Nichols, was out of the state on business and was unable to provide a report at this time.

Team and Committee Reports – Reports were distributed at registration and are included in this newsletter. Joe Fox gave updates to the Trustee and Disaster Relief Reports. Joe stated that just that day he received a call from our realtor stating he had an person interested in

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Louise Welty Honored for 30 Years of Service to International Women’s Ministry

At the Semi-Annual Meeting of the East Central Baptist Association, Louise Welty was honored for her 30 years of service in leading the International Women’s Ministry. This ministry was established to share Christ with the wives of International students at Ball State University by hosting meetings that offered crafts, cooking, and holiday celebrations. Every Thanksgiving, Louise took joy in cooking a huge traditional Thanksgiving meal for the International women and their families. She touched the hearts of many women who still stay in contact with her even though they have returned to their native countries.



Pastor Jim Marlow present Louise Welty a clock from ECBA for her years of service.

cake denoting their appreciation during the fellowship meal prior to the meeting.

Because of health concerns, Louise had to give up serving in this ministry. She and the ECBA are praying that God will call another woman to take over this important ministry. Please contact our Association Ministry Team Leader, Sharon Armstrong, if you would like more information about serving Christ through the International Women’s Ministry.

Pastor Jim Marlow presented Louise with a picture frame clock from the Association recognizing her years of service during the business meeting. The attendees also celebrated with a



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Education Report

By Dr. Ron Ross

The SBC denominational emphasis since our Annual Meeting involved a Week of Prayer for International Missions in December. The January emphasis stressed a Winter Bible Study on the Seven Churches of the Revelation, while the February emphasis stressed the strengthening of race relations both within the Christian Community as well as throughout society. The President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, has

taken such a strong stand against the improper manner in which those of other ethnic backgrounds were treated by the early fathers of our denomination.

In each of the four months following the Annual Meeting, our Educational Coordinator has emailed articles to each ECBA pastors in hopes that the information will enhance their work in "equipping the saints for ministry." The articles have encompassed a

wide range of topics; most recently the articles have focused on high-profile pastoral leadership and the unethical issues involved in each.

Pastors and church leaders are encouraged to participate in as many denominational emphasis as possible — doing so will enable the membership to see the far reaching scope of understanding promoted by our denominational Executive Committee.

VBS/Children's Ministry Report

By Brenda Brooks

Summer is getting close and we need to get prepared for VBS. We will have VBS Training for ECBA at Redeemer on Saturday, May 18th, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with registration at 9:30. Lunch will be provided. Please let me know if your church is planning on attending and how many will be coming so that I can

plan lunch. There will also be door prizes and other giveaways.

Redeemer is having their VBS the first week of June and would like to give away our decorations and materials to another church to use. Please let me know if you are interested. We will be breaking down the night of June 7th and will have everything ready to pick up on June 8th. We may also have some leftover materials that have not been open that your church can use. Last year, North Delaware was able to purchase our unused materials and saved themselves a trip to Lifeway. This may especially be helpful this year as Lifeway is running very short on VBS materials in the store due to manufacturing problems. If you want materials, I encourage you order them thru Lifeway and have them shipped.

I am still in need of teachers from churches around our association to go with me to Highland Lakes on April 6th to be trained and, in turn, train VBS teachers in our Association at our scheduled Associational VBS Training Session. Please let me know if you have teachers who are willing to help and we can carpool to Highland Lakes.

Also, make sure if you have VBS or Backyard Bible Club this summer that you report your numbers on the SBC Workspace Webpage (the same as for your ACP), so that our Association can get credit for all of the churches in our Association that participate.

If you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help, you can reach me at brendabrooks1107@gmail.com or at 765-393-1458.



Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

Birthdays

April 6—Troy James, The Cross, Anderson

Wedding Anniversaries

April 26—Troy and Kim James, The Cross, Anderson

Pastor-Church Anniversaries

April 26—Jeremy Cowin, First Baptist Church—Montpelier, 4 years

April 27—Chris Hubler, New Day Baptist Church—Pendleton Campus, 6 years

Upcoming Events In April

April 4—10:00 a.m., Leader Lab and Pastors Luncheon at Faith Christian Church, 2515 Crystal Street, Anderson IN 46013

April 12-13—Transformed Women's Retreat, Sunnycrest Baptist Church, 2172 West Chapel Pike, Marion IN 46952

SBC Emphasis for April

April 7 —Cooperative Program Sunday

April 14 — Baptist Doctrine Study

April 21 —SBC Seminaries Sunday

WMU/Women's Ministries Share Planned Swanberg Event in Report

By Tami Hubler

We are pleased to announce an ECBA Mission Event: Mission Possible (Matthew 19:26) with comedian Dr. Dennis Swanberg. The event will be on Thursday, June 13 at 7:00 pm at New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria. This will be an evening that will encourage us to reach people for Christ as we explore how YOU can be on mission in your life. Tickets are \$30 (which includes a meet & greet time) and \$20, plus credit card/ticket processing fees. A portion of the ticket sales will cover the cost of the catered dinner and the remainder of the money will be given to missions. Dr. Swanberg's speaking fee was generously discounted for this event. Tickets will go on sale by March 15th with the first 2 weeks open to ECBA churches only.

The State Convention of Baptists has agreed to an Event Partnership with ECBA - Bob Weeks, Team Leader for Church & Leader Development, is our contact. Benefits of this partnership include:

1. SCBI will publish the event on their state website and FB (Facebook) page.
2. Create graphics for posters, handouts and web/FB using the graphic designer on their staff, and
3. Potentially handle the registration process with their event registration software (if this is not possible, we are ready to use EventBrite for registration and ticket sales).

The Mission Possible Event Planning Team consists of 15 individuals from 7 of our ECBA churches:

Brad Storm	ECBA Moderator	Redeemer/ECBA
Carol Mohler	Publicity	Kingston/ECBA
Pat Storm	Website	Redeemer/ECBA
Jon Nichols	Website/Finance	Halteman/ECBA
Tami Hubler	Key Speaker Swanberg / Venue	NDBC/ECBA
Terah Haisley, Jacqueline & Brayden Rymer	Music	Integris
Deneia Trego	Décor	NDBC - Muncie
Sherri Hughey	Admission	NDBC - Pendleton
Sheliah Gross	Catering	NDBC - Alex
Beth Weaver	Key Speaker Sales	NDBC - Alex
KeiAnna Anderson	Prayer Team	Grace Community
Daniel & Jennifer Carpenter	Mission Room Hosts	Daleville - NewPlant

Several events are under consideration for Q3 and early Q4. Please pray that God provides additional opportunities for ECBA to bring our church families together to learn how to be on mission in their lives.

Evangelism Report

By Sharon Armstrong

For the 2019-20 calendar year the Evangelism Ministry seeks to equip, strengthen, and encourage individuals in our churches to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teaching others to share the gospel is the purpose and the goal of the Evangelism Ministry. Equipping others to share their faith through small groups or on an individual basis is an excellent biblical way to strengthening the churches in our association. Scripture says "how will they call on Him in whom they have

not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher, how will they preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:14-15). I am available to assist in your endeavor to strengthening and building strong brothers and sisters in Christ in sharing their faith for the upcoming year. I look forward to working with your church and supporting your vision for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Ministry Report

By Tami Hubler

The prayer ministry will focus on praying for the upcoming Mission Event. We are pleased that KeiAnna Anderson from Grace Community Church has agreed to lead the Prayer Team for the Swanberg event. If your church is interested in being a part of this prayer team, please contact Tami Hubler at 765.356.3648.

Cleaning Day at Portland First Baptist Church/Integrus Property

At the 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting, the Association agreed to accept the Portland church building property from Integrus. Pastor Greg Haisley shared that the former First Baptist Church had been a campus of Portland for 1-2 years with no results and the church decided to close. The Association took over the responsibility of the property and listed it with a realtor. Any monies from the sale of the property will go to church planting and church health.

Just recently an offer has been made on the property initiating the need to clean up the church. All ECBA churches were notified of the clean-up day and told that they could take any equipment and/or supplies that they could use in their church or ministry. North Delaware, Old Town Hill, and Redeemer Baptist churches were able to help with the clean up and remove some of the equipment and supplies. Thanks go to all who helped with this.



Jeff Hall, Brad and Lisa Storm from Redeemer help with clean up day at Portland.

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the Portland property and that we were working with him on the offer. In regards to the Disaster Relief Report, Joe stated that the Disaster Relief team was going to help a church in Indianapolis on the 23rd of the month. He also reminded everyone of the Disaster Relief Training that will be held at Old Town Hill on Saturday, March 30th.

Under new business the Nominating Committee presented the following names as Team Leaders for 2019-20: Church Planting – Jeremiah Kinney,

Church Health – Tami Hubler, and Association Ministry – Sharon Armstrong and these nominations were approved. Brad Storm read an email from Ron Ross resigning from his ECBA positions as Vice-Moderator, Educational Coordinator, and the Nominating Committee and the resignation was sadly accepted.

Brad reminded everyone of the cleaning day at the former First Baptist Church/Integrus Campus in Portland on Saturday, March 16th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Participants were able to take items currently in the church that they could use for their church or ministry.

Brad also read a letter from the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana regarding State Missions funds totaling \$2091.64 that are available to the ECBA to be used in 3 areas: Evangelism, Church and Leader Development, and Church Planting. The Association will need to submit a request stating how these funds will be used in order to obtain them.

On behalf of the ECBA, Jim Marlow presented a clock to Louise Welty recognizing her 30 years of service to the ECBA's International Women's

Ministry. Louise had to give up this ministry that she loves due to health reasons. Please pray that God will call another ECBA woman to take over this ministry that shares the gospel not only at Ball State University but around the world.

Following the business meeting the group celebrated with a time of praise and worship. Dennis Ross, accompanied by Lisa Storm on piano, led in congregational singing. Dale Trego shared a testimony followed by several others who shared about what God was doing in and through their lives and their churches. Jim Marlow preached on Revelation 2 and how we need to return to our first love and to seek God first in all we do.

The next meeting of the ECBA will be held Thursday, May 16th, at Grace Community Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie.



Louise Welty and her daughter, Bonita Byrum, view the cake made in Louise's honor



Women who helped Louise Welty with the International Women's Ministry came to honor her work in this ministry.

Church Planting Report

By Jeremiah Kinney

Planters

Daniel and Jennifer Carpenter have arrived from North Carolina to plant True North Church in Daleville. They have attended assessment and are currently working on gathering support, prayer partners, and a core. You can pray for their four children's transition to new schools and for Daniel and Jennifer to be led by God's Spirit to persons of peace who can help them get connected to the Daleville/Chesterfield/Middletown areas in vital ways.

Team

A dedicated team has begun to meet on a nearly monthly basis. The team is composed of Whitney Bousman, Amanda Smith, Joni Thornburg, and Jeremiah Kinney.

The team has drafted a budget and is working on a calendar for utilizing that budget. The budget includes allowances for the following: supporting 6 church planters at \$100/month, subsidies for prospective planters to have some of assessment costs deferred, library help, wedding

anniversary remembrance.

The team has drafted an application for receiving support. The application asks planters about intentions to give back to the ECBA and CP as well as to provide a resume, doctrinal statement for the church plant, and progress toward becoming a self-sustaining church.

The team has been praying for 6-8 couples who are planters or are serving at a new work.

The team is hoping to launch an Adopt-a-Planter-Family ministry, whereby our member churches—or, especially, groups within the churches, like Sunday school classes, small groups, youth groups, etc.—can regularly pray for and correspond with our planters.

If you would like to know more about these plans or would like to volunteer your group to get connected to one of our church planter families, please email [Jeremiah Kinney at leadership@remedycitychurch.org](mailto:Jeremiah.Kinney@remedycitychurch.org)

Disaster Relief Report

By Joe Fox

Our Disaster Relief team went back to Warsaw, NC to rebuild homes in February. We took 9 people. While there, we worked on two homes hanging 115 sheets of dry wall, 40 sheets luanne on subflooring, installed 2 kitchens,

3 bathrooms, two water heaters, 1 furnace air unit, and put insulation under the floors. This enabled two families to move back in their homes after being forced out since the storm hit at the end of September.



There are still over 300 homes that need to be rebuilt before the families can move back into them. It will be a 3 to 5 year process.

They all need our prayers. We are planning on going back.

Just a reminder of the Disaster Relief Training at Old Town Hill on Saturday, March 31st. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Trustee Report

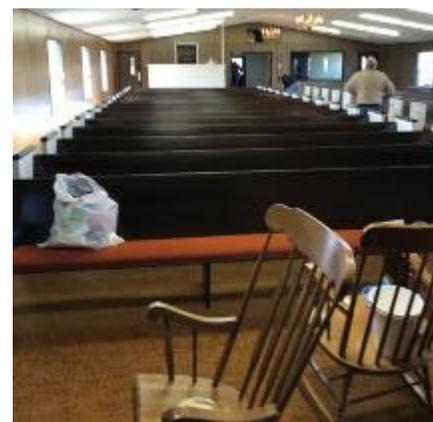
By Joe Fox

Portland church sale report for the Semi-Annual Meeting: We renewed our agreement with Century 21 for another 6 months. The price was dropped to \$250,000. At the end of month, the Mayor of Portland is supposed to propose a motion to make the property a business zone. Hopefully this will help with the sale of the property.

On Saturday, March 16th, we had a cleanup day at the Portland property. Churches coming to help

were welcome to take any furniture or supplies which they could use.

On the day of our Semi-Annual Meeting, Joe received a call from the the realtor saying he had an interested party who wants to put on offer on the Portland property. This would be good for 90 days with the understanding that if another purchaser was interested during this time, he would need to match the offer or forfeit his claim.



Cleaning day at the Portland property.

EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Follow us



Disaster Relief Training

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Old Town Hill Baptist Church, Muncie IN

Contact Joe Fox josephfox1960@yahoo.com

Disaster Relief (DR) training are for individuals who are at least 18 years of age. Anyone in the state can go to any of the Orientations. They are not limited to people who reside in the region.

ALL DR VOLUNTEERS are required to have a DR background check and up-to-date DR Photo ID according to FEMA regulations. Also, if your orientation is over 3 years old (including intro to SBC Disaster Relief) you MUST be recertified according to NAMB requirements.