

THE MESSENGER

March 2025 Newsletter for Mt Salem-Wyaconda Baptist Association

A Word from Your Interim Director of Missions / Moderator Barry

There are times our churches face the loss of their pastor. This can create difficulties for that church including the lack of spiritual guidance, administrative leadership, and community cohesion. One of the immediate needs for a church without a pastor is finding someone to fill the pulpit. The problem is we are lacking in men who will answer the call.

When facing the problem of pulpit supply, the first place we look is for outside help. We call the college to see if they have a list of prospects or professors who can fill in. Then we start getting a Search Committee together. Churches are often frustrated because they are smaller and cannot find anyone willing to come there. That church begins to think small and that limits their hopes of what they believe God can do through their church.

Missouri has approximately 1,800 SBC churches. And at any given time, between 80 to 180 of these churches are without a pastor. Just recently *The Pathway* listed 25 churches without a pastor.

Recently one of our churches had a pastor who retired. Their Search Committee inquired of the Associational Office for a list of names and possibilities for a pulpit supply. The list was very small.

I got to thinking – as an association of churches working together why are we not equipping men to answer the call?

I truly believe there are men within our association who are already serving their church in some capacity that could be encouraged by not only by their pastor, but by their congregation, to help another church through this difficult transition. This is not asking them to step away from serving in their local church. It is to simply encourage them to step out in faith in an area of ministry that needs to be fulfilled.

I know many of us believe that unless they are ordained, they are disqualified. But let's not forget that a spiritual individual who we know is walking with God and who has a strong spiritual background, could simply bring a devotion or help in a Bible study within that pastorless congregation.

At FBC La Grange, I have been promoting from the pulpit that we need men preparing their hearts to answer The Call. I already have two men come to me and I have started mentoring them. They can be potential help not only to me as a pastor, but also be potential help to churches within our association on a short-term basis. I encourage all our pastors to do the same, then let me know who you have in your congregation that would be willing to fill a short-term aspect of pulpit supply.

Let's start encouraging men to answer the call to ministry. It is essential for sustaining and growing church communities.

Barry Pfister, Interim Director of Missions / Moderator

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Disaster Relief

We have a team going to North Carolina to help with the construction rebuild after Hurricane Helene. They will be leaving February 21 and return March 2 to help serve through construction and mass feeding. Please pray for safe travels and opportunities to share Jesus with this community!

Summer Bible Camp 2025 at Camp Inlow

by Barry Pfister, Camp Team Leader

As we move closer to camp, one of the great concerns is knowing who we will have as workers. The camp forms have not come out yet, but if you are interested in helping at camp as a cabin leader please let me know of your intentions. This will help us put together a proper involvement of staff, workers and leadership.

Camp fees will remain the same for this year, but be aware that the cost of everything has gone up. Shortly there will be a personal letter going out to all the churches asking if they could help by taking up a love offering for the camp program above and beyond your offering to the association. Maybe even help by sponsoring a child or two. Your love offering would help offset food cost as we have already seen that double from last year to this year.

Camp is one of the best mission opportunities we have in our association. But CAMP is working, and we need to support it. This year's camp theme will be 'The Jesus Way'.

Remember, we meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at FBC Ewing, and everyone is welcome to attend.

A Music Note

by Mike Kitch, Music Team Leader

Greetings everyone! We will be starting our 2025 Hymn Sings at Providence Church on March 11 at 7 pm. The full schedule is below. We invite everyone to come to Providence to enjoy and observe their newly constructed church. You know – the tragedy that God turned into a blessing? Hallelujah!

Feel free to invite friends to our Hymn Sings, and bring finger foods to share when we fellowship afterwards. Let's share our love for the Lord, and show it in song and praise!

March 11	Providence	April 8	Mt Olivet	May 13	Edina
June 10	Knox City	July 8	Hurdland	Aug 12	Southern Fellowship
Sept 9	Redeemer (Canton)	Oct 14	Durham	Nov 11	LaGrange
Dec 9	Ewing				

Missions Together

Kimbre Thrower and Ashley Ulrich, Co-Leaders

Come join us this month on Sunday, March 2 at FBC Ewing as we learn what God is doing in Montreal, Canada. Groups for all ages begin at 4:30 with an optional carry-in to follow. The Adult Bible study portion will be focusing on giving out of God's abundance.

Hands In Service Sewing Group (because we are HIS)

Violet Brownell, Sewing Leader

We will be meeting March 13 at FBC La Grange from 1-5 pm. We are easily meeting our goal of making 1,000 eyeglass cases a month for Vision 3:16.

Some of us who have sergers made receiving blankets for preemies in Uganda. The blankets and knit hats will go with Kimbrellyn Thrower when she and Emilee go to Uganda for their Spring Break in March. I am considering this as an ongoing ministry project (in addition to the eyeglass cases).

Ladies' Bible Study

Hey ladies! We are starting a 5 week Spring Study on March 6, 2025. There will be 2 meeting times each Thursday at 10 am and 5:30 pm. We will be taking a closer look at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions feel free to call, or better yet text Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.

Spring Ladies Lunch

Great news to share. The Lewistown Methodist Spring Ladies Lunch will be March 29, 2025. The speaker is Sharon Paris. Invite everyone!! Contact Monica Fleer at 573-406-7902 for more information.

Love Packages

Our trip to Love Packages is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th. Please gather your literature and Bibles for the trips. Please don't send your adult resource kits unless they have not been used. And, the only thing Steve wants from the children's kits are the Bible pictures and Bible maps. Packing your literature in smaller boxes is greatly appreciated. Everyone is invited to join us, so mark your calendar for this mission trip! For more information, contact Mary Ann Lillard at 660-341-0725.

Association Bowling Night

All association churches are invited for a Bowling Night on Friday, March 7 from 7 pm to 10 pm at Casino Lanes at 1201 N 20th St, Quincy. The Association will pay for 2 games of bowling and the shoe rental; any other activities will need to be covered by the child's parents. Churches are to pre-register with Bro Barry no later than March 2. Each church is to supervise their group – do not drop off children unattended. Bro Barry can be contacted at 660-734-2080.

Mission Opportunity at HLGU

We had a good day on Thursday, February 6th when five of us helped HLGU's School of Nursing. They are expecting a state inspection soon, and we helped by doing some housecleaning in some of their rooms. They greatly appreciated our help. If you would like to help with this project next month, please call Mary Ann Lillard at 660-341-0725 and let her know.

Association Mission Trip to Montana

The Mission Team 2025 for our Association has planned a mission trip to Apsaalooke Baptist Church on the Crow Agency Indian Reservation in Crow Agency, Montana. The team will depart on June 15th and return on June 22nd. They will be sharing Jesus through Adult VBS, Bible Club, Block Party, and Construction Work as Missouri and Montana work together. The application forms are to be turned in no later than March 31, 2025 and can be found on the association website at www.mswsba.org.

WMU Annual Meeting

The 2025 Missions Celebration will be meeting at FBC Kirksville. For more information about the meeting and registration, go to mowmu.org. Early registration deadline is March 15. Contact: Connie Handyside 660-342-0642.

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2025

Check back to the mswsba.org website for latest updated information throughout the month

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
Mar 1 Sat		DR trip to North Carolina	DR team home from North Carolina. Pray for safe travels.
Mar 1 Sat	9:00 AM	Pastors and Wives Meeting canceled	Pastors and wives monthly Prayer Meeting canceled for March. Contact: Moderator Barry Pfister at 660-734-2080.
Mar 2-9		Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	Week of Prayer for North American Missions. Go to www.anniearmstrong.com for more information.
Mar 2 Sun		Registration Deadline for Bowling Night	Association-wide bowling on March 7; preregister with Bro Barry at 660-734-2080.
Mar 2 Sun	4:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Missions Together	Learn what God is doing in Montreal, Canada. Age-level missions classes for all ages from Missions Friends to Adults on Mission, followed by themed carry-in. Meet at FBC Ewing. Contacts: Kimbre Thrower 573-288-4759 and Ashley Ulrich 573-288-4734.
Mar 4 Tue	7:00 PM	Camp Meeting	Camp Planning Meeting at FBC Ewing. Contact: Barry Pfister 660-734-2080.
Mar 5		Ash Wednesday	First Day of Lent
Mar 6 Thu	10:00 AM	Ladies Morning Bible Study	Starting a 5 week Spring Bible Study meeting at FBC Ewing. There will be 2 meeting times each Thursday - 10 am and 5:30 pm. We will be taking a closer look at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 6	5:30 PM	Ladies Evening Bible Study	Starting a 5 week Spring Bible Study meeting at FBC Ewing. We will be taking a closer look at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 7 Fri	7:00 PM	Association Bowling Night	Meet at Casino Lanes, 1201 N 20th St, Quincy. Association will pay for 2 games of bowling and the shoe rental; other activities to be covered by child's parents. Churches to register with Bro Barry no later than March 2. Contact: Bro Barry 660-734-2080.
Mar 7-8		DR Training	To be held in Raymore, MO. Go to https://modr.org/dr-training/ for more information. Contact: Jill Feldkamp 573-470-1132.

Mar 9 Sun	2:00 AM	Daylight Saving Time Begins	Time changes from 2:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Mar 11 Tue	7:00 PM	Hymn Sing	Hymn Sing resumes at Providence Baptist Church. Contact: Mike Kitch 660-956-5591.
Mar 13 Thu	10:00 AM	Ladies Morning Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 13 Thu	1:00 PM	Hands In Service Sewing Group	Meet at FBC La Grange from 1-5 pm. Focus on eyeglass cases. Contact: Violet Brownell 573-248-8870.
Mar 13 Thu	5:30 PM	Ladies Evening Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 15 Sat		Early Registration Date for Missions Celebration	Meeting at FBC Kirksville. Go to mowmu.org for more information.
Mar 16-22		DR Masscare Feeding	1-2 volunteers needed in St Louis the week of March 16 to cook meals for DR volunteers working on homes affected by 2024 flooding. If able to go please contact Jill Feldkamp at 573-470-1132.
Mar 18-19		DOM Spring Conference	DOM Spring Conference to be held in Jeff City.
Mar 20 Thu	10:00 AM	Ladies Morning Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 20 Thu	5:30 PM	Ladies Evening Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 27 Thu	10:00 AM	Ladies Morning Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 27 Thu	5:30 PM	Ladies Evening Bible Study	Looking at Deborah and how she served the Lord. Contact: Ashley Ulrich at 573-288-4734.
Mar 29 Sat		Spring Ladies Lunch	The speaker for the Lewistown Methodist Spring Ladies Lunch will be Sharon Paris. Contact: Monica Fleer 573-406-7902.
Mar 31 Mon		Registration Deadline for Montana Mission Trip	There will be a mission trip to Apsaalooke Baptist Church on the Crow Agency Indian Reservation in Crow Agency, Montana on June 15-22. The application form and deposit of \$25 are to be turned in by March 31; form can be found on the association website at www.mswsba.org .