



Bigbee Baptist Association

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Brother Brad's Box...

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the sun is actually shining. You are well aware that we have had more than our share of rain and stormy weather recently. And God has remained faithful. The sky may darken, the rains may come, the winds may blow, and God's voice and power may be found in all of them! Aren't you thankful that we don't have to go through life's storms without Him?!

Also as I write this, two of our area church Vacation Bible School events have already taken place with great kids, great fun, and great opportunities to spread the Gospel. VBS is an absolutely awesome way to introduce our kiddos to the Lord. Three more VBS events are scheduled for July. Pray for the leaders and especially for the young ones who will be attending and the parents who will see the results of God's work on their hearts.

We've seen other events take place fairly recently in our Association as well. Our annual Deacon/Pastor/Spouse dinner was very well attended. We enjoyed hearing some encouragement from Bro. Jim Rickles and had a great meal to boot.

We also had a great Senior Adult Rally, enjoying state-wide piano talent Bro. Frank Jones. Our fantastic crowd for that event also enjoyed a great meal and time of fellowship.

I can't help but believe that the fellowship of these type events may actually be the best part. That's not necessarily because of the food, and it certainly isn't any negative reflection upon those who present our programs. It's just that seeing God's people relaxing around a table together while engaged in conversation, laughter, and yes, food, is, as Neil Diamond would sing, a "Beautiful Noise!" Thank you for your continued support of each of these gatherings.

And speaking of gatherings, I'll briefly mention the recent gathering of Southern Baptists in New Orleans for this year's convention. You've no doubt seen, heard, or read about the "ousting" of three churches because of behavioral conflicts with what Scripture teaches. We all have our personal opinions. Let's remember to ask the Lord to guide our hearts as we form those opinions. And all else I will say is this – Examine your own role in the church you attend. What is your responsibility to the Lord, to the Word, and to His Church? How do you fulfill the charge of the Great Commission to go and make disciples?

One day, perhaps sooner rather than later, we will each stand before the Lord and give account of what we've done and haven't done according to His commands. My prayer before I preach every sermon, lead every group, or teach every lesson is that the Lord will guide my words and use me in spite of myself. I challenge you, as I've repeatedly challenged the congregation I'm privileged to lead, to study and know the Word for yourself. If you hear something said or presented that is in conflict with the Scripture, you have a responsibility to question such a thing. I don't take lightly the fact that I will have to account for every word in every sermon. I pray you won't take your responsibilities lightly either.

Our ways as individuals, as churches, and as a convention of Southern Baptists may not always be the best ways to handle conflicts, but may God continue to lead and guide His people as we strive to uphold His Word, regardless of the backlash.

As the summer progresses, how about finding a Vacation Bible School in which you can help. Many people feel inadequate when it comes to leading our kiddos, but there are many ways to help! And I'll promise you that you'll be blessed!

Associational leaders, make sure your calendars are marked for our quarterly Executive Committee meeting on Sunday afternoon July 16 at 2:00 pm.

Blessings on you, on the positions you hold, and on the ground you stand! Remain faithful.

Calendar of Events

July

- 10 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 16 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., BBA Office

August

- 5 WMU Brunch, 10:00 a.m., Siloam
- 6 Associational Sunday School, 6:00 p.m.,
Christian Valley Baptist Church
- 7 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office

September

- 11 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 24 Praise Night, 5:30 p.m., Christian Valley

October

- 9 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 17 172nd Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cuba

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Christian Valley Baptist Church—July 14-16
"Pets Unleashed"
"where Jesus cares Fur You"
Friday night, Saturday Morning and Program on Sunday!

Eutaw Baptist Church —July 10-14 from 6-8 p.m.

Livingston First Baptist Church
July 16-20 from 5-8:00 p.m.

WMU Brunch

Saturday, August 5
10:00 a.m.—Siloam Baptist Church
Speaker: Mrs. Pat Ingram

Associational Sunday School –Encouragement Event
Sunday, August 6 @ 6:00 p.m.-Christian Valley Baptist Church

Bro. Daniel Edmonds from ALSBOM's Sunday School office will be with us. This is NOT a training as such, but is designed to be an encouragement to all our Sunday School teachers and also for any potential Sunday School teacher that you may want to recruit to attend