

JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

- 2 New Year's Day Observed (Office Closed)
- 7-9 National WMU Board Meeting
- 10 Executive Board, 7:00 PM, Mt. Olive
- 15 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CLC)
- 16 Martin Luther King Day
- 22 Baptist's Men's Day

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Month
- 2-3 State Evangelism Conference
- 3-5 SBU Church Music Workshop
- 11-18 Mission Construction Trip
- 6-12 Focus on WMU Week
- 11 Children's Ministry Day
- 13 President's Day

MARCH

- 4-11 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
- 4 Wood Car Races, Bolivar 1st
- 7 VBS Workers Meeting, Springfield
- 12 Daylight Savings Time (Begins)
- 21-23 DOM Winter Retreat, TBA

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." 1 John 2:28

Praying For the Association

Month of JANUARY 2017

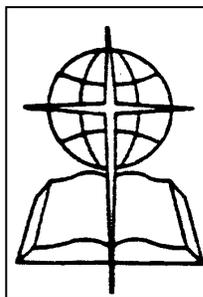
We are asking you to remember the Association in prayer and lift up the following needs:

- >Praise for the pastors of MLBA churches
- >Pray for the Disaster Relief Ministry
 - *Wisdom
 - *More Trained Volunteers
 - *Finances to fund the ministry
- >Pray for the Shuttle Ministry
- >Pray for the churches and leaders.
- >Pray for the Missions Committee
- >Pray for the needs of those struggling with Cancer
- >Pray that we will see more people saved.
- >Pray that our Sunday Schools will experience growth.
- >Pray for the finances of the churches
- >Pray for the work of MLBA
- >Pray for Camp Committee

NEWSLETTER

MID-LAKES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



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JANUARY

2017

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



January 10, 2017

7:00 PM
at

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

4 Miles North on Highway D
Bolivar, MO

(A Copy of Annual will be distributed for each church to proof and get back to office and update on Mission Trip)

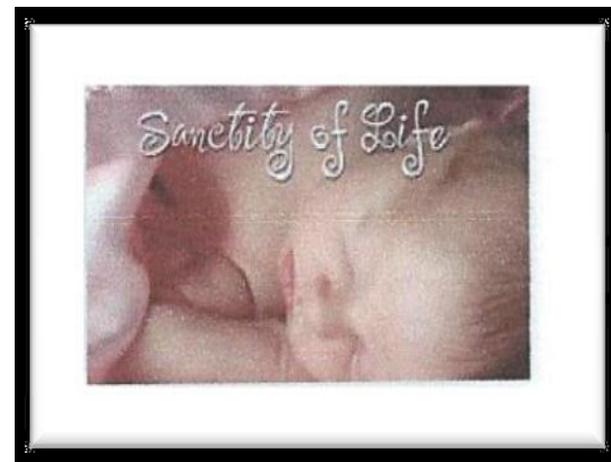


The Story Lives On!

2016 was full of travels and trials. February mission trip had its share of trials. Traveling to California and helping my daughter's family move to Iowa had its share of trials. Served at kid's camp. Was home, and two days later I broke a toe. Early November I was back in Iowa, listening to 2 surgeons, one surgery a mere 2 days later, on my daughter. What should've been an easy surgery, had a couple trials. Despite these vivid trials, I never once despaired, or lost focus on the One who has been in constant control. All year I was relying on Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. I did my share of helping, for sure! I consider it a joy that I could witness to the surgeon. I never looked for grace, but it was always abounding.

On the threshold of 2017, I look anxiously for what God has in store for us. Amongst the trials, look for His awesome grace!

Barbara Studt, WMU Director



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

National Sanctity of Human Life day is celebrated on January 15, 2017. It is in observance declared by several United State Presidents who opposed abortion.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

NEW CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP

Dates: February 11 -18, 2017

Cost: \$ 175.00

Planning Meeting
at
Association Office

722 E. South St
Bolivar, MO

January 25th 6:30 pm

(Please be praying for the plans for this trip)

More information as it develops
Bastrop, LA

Great Commission
CONFERENCE
Evangelism **CONFERENCE**

(formerly the MBC Evangelism Conference)

When: Feb. 23-25, 2017

Theme: Transform

Where: Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief

2017 Training Date

Pleasant Valley March 10-11

In Liberty, MO

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief

800-736-6227x317 disasterrelief@mobaptist.org

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb.11:6, NIV).

“... the older our trust the greater our confidence” (-Calvin Miller, The Christ of Christmas, 2002).

The New Year is quickly approaching, begging the question: “What will 2017 bring our way?” Prognosticators can say what they will about our life and times, but this I know: God is pleased and rewards those who seek and trust Him! No matter what the future holds, the better question for us is: “How will we seek and trust God in the New Year?”

The Spirit-inspired author of the book of Hebrews explains our faith is rewarded when we come to God, believing Who He is, and pursue an active relationship with Him. Such a seeking/finding, believing/trusting paradigm yields the affirmation and blessing of God.

Living in this Way, no matter our given future circumstances, positions us for God’s reward in whatever form He chooses to reveal it to us. A wise man I read at this time of year has well-said (paraphrasing): the longer we practice this life-rewarding faith the greater our confidence in God will ultimately be.

In 2017, let us seek and follow Jesus. Let us walk by faith, not by sight. Let us trust God’s wisdom and providence, believing He will guide, provide, and reward us as we seek Him. Let us continue to Live Beyond Us, loving and serving the Lord with every talent, gift, and resource we have for His Kingdom’s purposes. May the Lord continue to establish the work of our hands for His glory, the growth of His Kingdom, and our good together!

Walking by faith together into the New Year,

Prayerfully with love,

Billy Russell, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Bolivar

(Used by Permission Pastor Billy Russell)

My prayer is that we will move forward by faith and not see God’s hand at work in our midst only; but we will work together so that all the churches of MLBA will be blessed.



DIRECTOR’S NOTES:

The New Year is off and running! Christmas and New Year’s following on Sunday was challenging for the reason that the Holiday moved to Monday each week. It was like having 2 Holidays with Sunday and Monday. (Not complaining just was different.) In fact the services I was a part of were exciting and uplifting with much joy for the special day.

I was so encouraged by Pastor Billy’s article in FBC Newsletter I asked to reprint here and he was very gracious in giving us permission. My prayer is that it will bless and encouraged you as well. Bolivar First is facing some big changes in 2017 and this requires faith and I am sure the association will face some changes in the New Year. May we face all of them with the assurance that God is on His Throne and in control.