

THE MESSENGER

Thousand Hills Baptist Association, 1701 Jamison, Kirksville, Missouri 63501

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INSIDE...

From the DOM

Bro. Richard Nations' monthly column is on page 2.

Revival in Lancaster

The Lancaster Baptist Church invites area church members to attend their revival with Willie McLaurin, of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee speaking. Page 3.

Photos of recent events

Photos of some recent events are pictured on page 3.

New Pastors

Open Arms Baptist Church, Macon and Chariton Ridge Baptist Church, Atlanta have called men to serve as pastor/ interim pastor. Details on page 4.

THBA Calendar

Calendar of Events is on page 4.

VBS TRAINING

APRIL 24 - 9 AM - NOON - FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Training for church VBS workers will be offered by the THBA VBS team in Kirksville on April 24th at 9 AM to noon. The Fellowship Baptist Church, 1701 Jamison, welcomes all to come and experience a preview of both last year's and this year's VBS curriculums. "Destination Dig" (VBS 2021) and "Concrete and Cranes" (VBS 2020) will be featured. There will be training for workers with preschool, children and adults and there will be many other skill development breakout sessions. Crafts, snacks and decorations will be featured. So churches that saved back last year's curriculum can get trained as well as those using the 2021 curriculum.

More info. will be sent to each church in late March. Contact VBS Coordinator Bobbie Bansal with questions at: 660-665-0633. A list of the VBS trainers is on Page. 3.



The Broadlawn Baptist Church will have a cake reception in honor of Pastor Walter Griffen and his wife, Kathy, for their 15 years of faithful service to the church and community of Unionville. Pastor Griffen is retiring on April 4th.

It will be held on Saturday, April 10th at 2:00 pm.

The church is located at 419 S. 19th St., Unionville



From the Director of Missions Richard Nations

Nine years ago I began my work among you as your director of missions. We moved here from Iowa where I had been serving on the state Baptist convention staff. Since then our daughter has graduated from college, married and now lives in St. Louis. Our son is working in the Des Moines area and is getting married next month.

Rachel and I became empty nesters about the time we moved here.

One of the roles I had up in Iowa was to be the state Sunday School Director. I had additional roles as a consultant for discipleship, stewardship, pastoral ministry and editing the state Baptist newspaper.

I was reminded of my role as chief Sunday school champion earlier this week when one of my colleagues passed away. Bob Mayfield was the Sunday School/Small Groups Specialist for Oklahoma Baptists. I never met a more enthusiastic Sunday school promoter than Bob. We were together on some affinity groups (in particular we were both officers of the State Sunday School Director Fellowship). We developed some blogs and professional websites for the fellowship.

One day Bob called me really excited (as usual). We were going to be at a meeting in Nashville at the LifeWay building and Bob wanted to have some t-shirts printed with the phrase "Arthur Flake is my

Homeboy." Arthur Flake was the man who developed "Flake's Formula For Sunday School Growth." More about that later. So we had the t-shirts printed up and all the state convention Sunday school directors wore them into LifeWay chapel that day to make a point of how much importance we thought Sunday school should be in the life of the churches we served. It was a fun day. LifeWay noticed our enthusiasm by the way. The t-shirts led to a coffee mug the next year. I still have mine and it is a treasured reminder of two things:



1) Bob Mayfield, my friend and colleague, who enthusiastically cheered on Sunday School ministry.

2) How much value the ministry of Sunday school (often now called small groups) is to the life of a church.

A lot of Sunday schools/small groups missed some time together this past year during the pandemic. As we begin to get past that, let's really encourage people to participate in SS/Small groups again. Some churches Zoom in or Facebook Live their classes and even if people cannot be there in person they can participate.

Now back to Arthur Flake. He taught that to grow your Sunday school:

- 1) Know the possibilities
- 2) Enlarge the organization
- 3) Enlist and train leaders
- 4) Provide space
- 5) Go after the people.

Flake taught all this during his ministry with the Sunday School Board in the 1920-50's. The principles really haven't changed. If you want to talk with me further about this, I'll be glad to visit with you. Call me.



Willie McLaurin, VP for Great Commission Relations and Mobilization at the SBC Executive Committee will be the preacher at revival services at Lancaster Baptist Church, located at 111 S. Green St., Lancaster. He will preach on Sunday and Monday, April 18 & 19. The services are at 10:45 AM on Sunday morning, 6:30 PM on Sunday and Monday evenings. The theme is “Christ for the Crisis.”

He will also be the speaker at a luncheon for pastors on Monday, April 19 at 11:30 AM at La Pa Restaurant, 2216 S. Baltimore St., Kirksville.

The Vacation Bible School Training Team for the April 24th training:

- Directors & Pastors: Bobbie Bansal**
- Babies-PreK: Amber Lash**
- Grades 1-4: Kenda Roberts**
- VBS (5th-6th Grade): Sunshine Williams**
- Adult VBS: Kabir Bansal**
- Decorations (Destination Dig): Alaina Faiola**
- Decorations (Concrete and Cranes): Karen McClaskey**
- Snacks: Billy and Sherry Pippin**
- Concrete and Cranes Overview: Bobbie Bansal**
- Missions: Walter Griffen**
- Crafts: Amber Lash**
- Safety: Richard and Rachel Nations**
- Children and Salvation: Kabir Bansal**



Left: Steve Sipe of the Clive, Iowa, Fire and Police Department spoke to the Men’s Initiative rally, sponsored by Hartford Baptist Church, Unionville on February 26th.



Above: Pastor Mark Drummond of Lancaster Baptist Church preached at the January 28th THBA Executive Board Meeting at Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville.

March

- 5-6 Disaster Relief Training, Calvary Baptist, Hannibal
- 6 VBS Early Training for VBS Directors/Pastors, Fellowship Baptist, Kirksville 9 AM-Noon
- 9 Camp Team Meeting, Fellowship Baptist, 5:30 PM
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 Pastors/Ministers Lunch, La Pa, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
- 23-24 DOM Retreat, Baptist Building, Jefferson City
- 28 Palm Sunday

April

- 1 Grand Oaks board meeting, Chillicothe, 12:30 PM
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 5 Office closed (Easter Holiday)
- 10 Retirement Reception-Walter Griffen, Unionville, 2 PM
- 14-18 DOM on vacation in Des Moines - Son's wedding
- 19 Pastors/Ministers Lunch, La Pa, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
- 22 Exec. Bd. Mtg., Rehoboth, Kirksville 6:30 PM
- 24 VBS Training, Fellowship Baptist, Kirksville 9 AM
- 26 DOM to MBC Historical Commission Mtg, Jackson

May

- 4 BSU board meeting, Kirksville, 7 PM
- 9 Mother's Day
- 17 Youth Camp Registration Forms Due
- 31 Memorial Day (office closed)

Pastors in the Association

Andy Needham is the new pastor of Open Arms Baptist Church, Macon. He and his wife Linda are moving to Macon from the Kansas City area. He is a doctoral student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ethan Bray, a student at Hannibal-LaGrange University, Hannibal is the interim pastor of Chariton Ridge Baptist Church, Atlanta.

We are grateful for the preachers who do pulpit supply in the association churches:

Kabir Bansal, Roger Bushnell, Tom Carpenter, Mike Jones, Alan Paris, Billy Pippin, Tom Rowland, Bob Shaffer, Virgil Stoneburner, David VanLaningham, Rich Wills and Greg Xander.

To contact one of these, contact the DOM, Bro. Richard Nations at 660-342-7658.

