

Joint Associational News

Acadia, Louisiana & Mt. Olive Baptist Associations

Vol. 2, Issue 4

May 2012

FROM MY DESK TO YOURS



Let's Talk Sunday School and Small Groups is for all three Associations!

Our first "Let Talk" session will be held May 8th beginning at 6:30 PM. We will meet together with Sean Keith at North Eunice Baptist Church. Sean is part of our Louisiana Baptist Convention

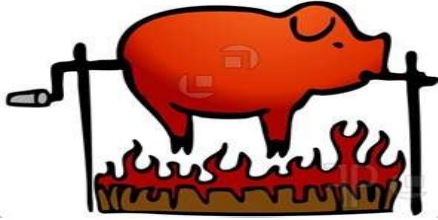
Church Growth Department specializing in Sunday School and Discipleship strategies. This "let's talk" session will be a time for pastors and any other staff to come and share ideas, ask questions, and grow together in the area of Sunday School and Small Group ministries. Sunday School and Small Group ministries are important for all of our churches. Each church is different but basic principles work in all churches whether it does its discipleship and outreach through traditional Sunday Morning Sunday Schools, or Small Group ministries throughout the week. Most use a combination of both. Bro. Sean is a great leader and he has his finger on the pulse of what's happening out there. Come and join us for a great evening. If you have questions, just give me a call.

"Thriving Churches"

I have used the phrase "thriving churches" several times in our newsletters over the last few months. I want to flesh out that word just a little bit today. What do I mean by the term "thriving church"? When I visit a church (and we have been in over 70 in the last 14 months) I see specific things that indicate that it is a "thriving church". The following characteristics are apparent at what I call a thriving church: 1) I see participants of all age groups. That means, children, youth, young adults, middle adults, and older adults are all a part of what is going

on. This means that all age groups are not just there but **participating!** 2) There is evidence of an active deacon body that is fully supportive of the pastor and other staff present. For instance, we visited a church recently. In that church the deacon body leads out in ministry. Deacons are taking leadership and leading in outreach visitation, evangelism, and hospital ministries. In this church Deacons are on the forefront of the ministry in the church. They are biblical in that they free up the pastor and staff to administer the Word. They do not serve as a board that oversees the church; they lift up the pastor in a biblical way letting him set the pace and direction of the fellowship. 3) The third thing that is evident is an acceptance of the needs of one another. No one worship style is dominant. Services are well blended with a focus on meeting worship needs of all involved. For instance in a recent visit the church was singing blended with a lean toward contemporary. The praise team was made up of three men, one in his mid-forties, one in his upper fifties and one over sixty. All singing praise and worship as well as traditional hymns. The important thing was the fact that the worship was well done, upbeat, and everybody participated no matter what the style of music. There was no boring worship in that church. 4) And the fourth thing that is evident in thriving churches is the evidence of youth and children ministries. We need to understand that youth and children change from generation to generation. They will never dress or act exactly as any previous generation. There needs to be a focus upon reaching the children and youth of our fellowships. This list is certainly not exhaustive but is just a beginning point. As I have visited church after church, it is evident that there are thriving churches getting things done for God's kingdom. There is the evidence of the transformation of lost souls. Small churches as well as bigger churches can give evidence of thriving ministry. Just where is your church in its ministry? What can you do to make your church a thriving ministry for Jesus Christ? We need to quit blaming everyone else. It's up to us as we serve Him. Let's make transforming lives in thriving churches our goal.

ROAST PIG



Cuchon de Lait

Saturday, May 12th

- **9:00 a.m.**.....meet at Mansura Care & Hope Center to prepare to go along the parade route and distribute tracts and tickets for people to come to the center and get a free hot dog, giving us an opportunity to witness or minister to them.
- **10:30 a.m.**.....parade begins
- **2:00 p.m.**.....finished but you can leave earlier if you need to
- Needed.....bottled water, little hugs drinks, tracts and New Testaments

Summer Youth Camps

Your youth need to attend Summer Camp. We have two great camps in our area that are willing to work with you to see that your youth have an opportunity at camp this Summer. Call either Dry Creek Camp at 337-328-7531 or ABC Camp at 337-457-9047.

Evangelism Trailer Project

We are still working on purchasing an Evangelism Trailer for the three Associations. Everyone seems to be on board with this project but we still need to raise the \$3000 to make it possible. Talk to your association leadership. Some are taking up collections in the churches, others are taking it out of the Association Funds. As soon as we receive \$3000 toward this project we will then receive \$8000 from the state to help us make this ministry equipment a reality. As one pastor said "this is a no brainer". Let's get it done before summer gets here. Let us know if you have any questions.

PLEASE PRAY...

for Pastors Traveling to Merida Mexico this Month.

Three pastors will be traveling with me to Merida Mexico May 23-28. Bros. Kevin Colson, Jason Hoychick, and Gary Dardar will be taking a vision trip to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico seeking God's vision in the development of Mission ministries to that area. Please pray for these three pastors as they seek God's vision for their churches involvement in the Yucatan mission field. God is doing great things there through the faithfulness of Louisiana Baptists. Please consider giving donations to help support this mission ministry. Simply send donations to the Association Office designated to the Merida Mission Work.

Don't Forget...

Important Meetings in May and June

May 1 - Louisiana Executive Board, FBC Dupont, 6:00 PM (meal) - this meeting will be a time for all Association leaders to share and encourage our churches for the coming year. Come prepared to share you plans and ideas for the 2012-13 year.

May 3 - Mt. Olive Semi Annual Meetings, FBC Pine Prairie, 6:00 PM (meal) - this meeting will be a time for all Association leaders to meet with individual church leaders to plan the 2012-2013 year.

May 15 - Acadia Calendar and Budget, ABC, 9:00 AM - This is our annual planning meeting to set new calendar and budget.

May 22 - Mt. Olive Calendar and Budget, FBC Pine Prairie, 6:00 PM(meal) - This is our annual planning meeting to set new calendar and budget.

June 26 - Louisiana Calendar and Budget, The Church, Marksville, 6:00 PM(meal) - This is our annual planning meeting to set new calendar and budget.

5 Weekends
of

Church Renewal Journey

- * Lay Renewal
(Acts 3:19)
- * Lay Ministry
(1Peter 4:10-11)
- * Evangelism
(John 20:21)
- * Prayer
(Luke 11:1)
- * Sending
(Acts 1:8)

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EVENTS TO REMEMBER

MT. OLIVE ASSOCIATION

May 2012

- 3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**
- 3 Semi-Annual Meeting 6:00 PM FBC Pine Prairie
- 22 Calendar & Budget Meeting 6:00 PM FBC Pine Prairie
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED**

June 2012

- 11 Men's Meeting 6:00 PM
- 17-18 WMU Annual Meeting New Orleans
- 19-20 Southern Baptist Convention New Orleans**
- 23 Women's Enrichment
- Leadership Training Time: TBA Tall Timbers

ACADIA ASSOCIATION

May 2012

- 3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**
- 8 "Let's Talk About Sunday School
With Sean Keith 6:30 PM North Eunice
- 10 WMU Planning Meeting 10:00 AM FBC Eunice
- 15 Calendar & Budget Meeting 9:00 AM ABC
- 17 Acadia Minister's Conference NOON FBC Crowley
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED**

June 2012

- 8 Bi-V0/Smaller Church
Pastors & Wives Fellowship 7:00 PM FBC Chataignier
- 19-20 Southern Baptist Convention New Orleans**
- 23 Women's Enrichment
- Leadership Training Time: TBA Tall Timbers

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION

May 2012

- 1 Executive Board 6:00 PM Dupont
- 3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**
- 5 WMU Quarterly Meeting
- 12 Cuchon de Lait Outreach 10:00 AM Refuge in Echo
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED**

June 2012

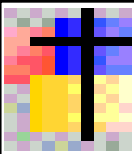
- 19-20 Southern Baptist Convention New Orleans**
- 23 Women's Enrichment
- Leadership Training Time: TBA Tall Timbers
- 26 Calendar & Budget Planning Mtg 6:00 PM The Church
At Marksville

Vacation Bible Schools Emphasis

Our VBS Training Sessions are complete. Thanks for all who worked so hard to put these together. If your church needs help with VBS please let me know. There are groups out there that are willing to help you have a VBS at your church. Don't be shy, let us know. VBS is very important in the life of our churches. Kids get saved at VBS!

Men's Ministry Opportunities

Over the last few weeks Community Needs have surfaced that Men's groups might want to be involved in. We have several needs. Some folks need construction help like wheel chair ramps or room repair. Others need transportation to doctors or home from the hospital. We even have a need for someone to lead ministry events in low income housing areas. Give us a call if you are interested.



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VISIT US ON THE WEB!!!

www.acadia-association.org

www.mtolive-association.org

www.louisiana-association.org

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NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER

May 3, 2012

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

YOUTH
MINISTRY

New Hope Baptist Church

Of Oakdale

Is looking for a Youth Minister

If interested call:

Pastor Kenny Blackwell

318-335-8200