



Regional VBS Clinic  
March 29, 2007  
6:30-9:30 p.m.  
Bartlett Baptist Church



Make plans to attend and preview the new 2007 VBS literature.  
Contact Dr. Greg Spears at 901-373-6161 for more details.

### In Sympathy

The staff and churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association offer their deepest sympathy to the family and congregation of Reverend Robert Wagner Sr. Before his death on January 10, Bro. Robert served as pastor of New Song Baptist Church and was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 38 years Karlin Wagner, sons Robert Wagner, Jr. and Roy Wagner.

National Conference  
for Ministry Assistants  
May 2-4, 2007

It is not too early to mark the date on your calendar if you are a ministry in one of our churches. LifeWay is hosting the event at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, TN, on May 2-4, 2007. To learn more about this event or to register online, visit the website at [www.lifeway.com/ministryassistant](http://www.lifeway.com/ministryassistant). You will receive a discount for registering on or before February 15, 2007.



Mid-South Baptist  
Conference Center

Contact the MSBCC Office to schedule Spring and Summer camps, retreats, activities and events.

The Mid-South Baptist Conference Center exists as a ministry resource of the Mid-South Baptist Association of Churches as a place of Evangelism, Spiritual Growth, Missions, and Christian Fellowship.

The amenities, facilities and grounds of the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center provide a relaxed atmosphere and environment that allows groups and individuals the opportunity to escape from the hectic routine of everyday life.

At the Mid-South Baptist Conference Center, groups and individuals are given the freedom to plan and organize their events and activities in a way that will most effectively challenge, encourage, assist, and strengthen their group.

We look forward to serving you and your group as you use *your* Conference Center.

In Christ,

David Rouse,  
Manager of Operations

## MID-SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE



Hosted and Sponsored by  
Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, TN  
Contact us at [www.kwbc.org](http://www.kwbc.org) or call 901.682.2220

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2007  
REGISTER NOW!

Cost is \$30 per person.

### Opportunities Within Our Churches

#### Pastor

Elliston Baptist Church  
Contact Hugh Garner, 4179 Elliston Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38111  
Hope Baptist Church  
Contact Charles Hall, 6800 Center Hill Rd.  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
Iglesia Labuena Esperanza  
1304 N. Graham, Memphis, TN 38122  
Contact Marvin Fitts at 901-377-1855  
Rosemark Baptist Church  
9037 E. Kerrville, Rosemark Rd., Millington, TN 38053

#### Children's Minister

Bartlett Hills Baptist Church (P/T)  
4641 Ellendale Rd., Bartlett, TN 38135  
Contact Leslie Tisdale at 901-386-9763 or  
[leslie@bartletthills.net](mailto:leslie@bartletthills.net)  
Labelle Haven Baptist Church  
6825 E. Holmes Rd., Memphis, TN 38141  
Fax: 901-547-1650 or [labellehaven@bellsouth.net](mailto:labellehaven@bellsouth.net)

#### Youth Pastor

Highland Heights Baptist Church  
675 National St., Memphis, TN 38122  
McLean Baptist Church (P/T)  
815 N. McLean, Memphis, TN 38107  
Range Hills Baptist Church (P/T)  
2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127

#### Music Minister

Forest Hill Baptist Church (P/T)  
Contact Rev. Tommy Snyder at 901-754-7455  
Gateway Baptist Church, Atoka, TN (P/T)  
Contact Rev. Billy Skinner at 901-837-8087 or  
901-840-4309  
Grace Baptist Church (Music/Youth)  
Contact Rev. Bill Harrald, 901-872-4294 or  
901-849-0252  
Oaklawn Baptist Church (P/T)  
Personnel Committee  
5714 Benjestown Rd., Memphis, TN 38127  
Providence Baptist Church (P/T)  
901-837-6924 or 901-734-6330

#### Secretary

Covenant Baptist Church (P/T)  
Contact the church office at 901-853-0700

#### Intern in Student Ministries

Bartlett Baptist Church (P/T)  
Contact Mark Vigus at [info@bartlett baptist.org](mailto:info@bartlett baptist.org)

#### Maintenance

Kirby Woods Baptist Church (P/T)  
6325 Poplar, Memphis, TN 38119

#### Nursery

Life Church at Schilling Farms  
901-850-0012 or [lgreen@findlife.org](mailto:lgreen@findlife.org)

#### Financial Secretary

Leawood East Baptist Church (P/T)  
Contact Ray Scott at 901-827-5183 or  
[rayscott@eaglemphs.com](mailto:rayscott@eaglemphs.com)

The Mid-South  
Baptist



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The Mid-South  
**Baptist**  
January/February 2007  
Vol. 2, Issue 1

### Mid-South Ministry Profile

Grace Church by Stuart McCollough

"Glorify, treasure, spread...guide, grow, go." That's the two-pronged vision and mission of Grace Church. They strive to "Glorify God by treasuring Jesus Christ and spreading His eternal joy; and to guide people to faith in Jesus Christ, grow in biblical maturity and go to our neighbors and nations with the gospel."

Grace Church first began meeting together in September, 2006, after three years of praying, seeking God's direction and planning. Planting pastors Jordan Thomas, Nathan Sawyer and Bryan Smith all grew up in the Memphis Metro area and felt called to plant a church here. They began meeting and praying together with a handful of others in September, 2003. The Lord continued to pull their hearts toward downtown Memphis. Then the Lord provided an opportunity for

Jordan to go to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN for a year as their first Treasuring Christ Together (TCT) Church Planting Resident. After returning from Minnesota, Jordan knew God wanted them to plant a church in the downtown area.

First Baptist Church, West Memphis, AR is the primary local partnering church for Grace. Both Jordan and Bryan grew up at FBC, West Memphis, and Jordan served on staff there for three years as Student Pastor. Other churches from the area and from around the country have also provided financial support, prayer support and encouragement for this new ministry.

Grace Church meets at the Bridges facility at 477 N. 5th in downtown Memphis. Bridges is a new state-of-the-art facility just five blocks east of the Pyramid.

*"We long to be a church that loves Christ and gladly embraces anything that comes with loving Jesus because He is our greatest Treasure."*

—Jordan Thomas, Planting Pastor

The church hopes to one day have their own space but wants to remain close to the river.

Even though the church held its first meeting a little over four months ago, members held their first Sunday service on January 7 of this year. They are already averaging around 100 in attendance on Sundays. They offer GraceKids during the worship service and prayer meeting for children four years

old and younger. Older children are encouraged to attend the worship services with their families to learn and participate in worship. Small group, in-home Bible studies called Grace Groups will also soon begin meeting weekly on various nights of the week.

The pastors are excited about opportunities for outreach in their neighborhood. Few churches can say that

God brings a few thousand people to their back door almost every Friday and Saturday night. They have a desire to reach out to those people who live, work and leisure in the Downtown area. With the annual Memphis in May Festival and many other Downtown events, they expect to have plenty of mission opportunities to share Jesus with their neighbors in a practical way.

Although Grace Church is a fairly new ministry, they have a huge vision that has been bathed in prayer and are seeking the face of the Lord as to the direction He would have them go. Please pray for Grace Church and their planting pastors.

If you would like to know more about Grace Church, their ministries or how you can get involved with them, visit their website at [www.gracechurchmemphis.com](http://www.gracechurchmemphis.com).



Planting pastors (l-r) Nathan Sawyer, Jordan Thomas and Bryan Smith begin praying together in September, 2003 about planting a church in Downtown Memphis.



## A Word from the Executive Director of Missions

Dr. Michael Day - Executive Director

Happy New Year! I trust 2007 is off to a great start for you. I am writing my first *Mid-South Baptist* column for 2007 during rest stops on a 1,898-mile car trip across the country to move my oldest daughter, Meredith, to her new home in San Diego, California. Last month, she was a resident of New York City. This month she resides in California. (Must be great to be young and adventurous!) She is excited by the prospects of her new job, new home, new church, new ministry opportunities, and new friends in a new place. Our trip has been punctuated (when she hasn't been sleeping in the car) by frequent conversations about "how cool" this new beginning is for her.

I, on the other hand, must confess that I am not "totally" excited about "how cool" this trip really is. I have been more prone to think about and dwell upon "how hard" this trip really is. I have been daunted by the specter of winter storms, potential car trouble, heavy traffic, and traveling almost 1,900 miles in two-and-one-half days with three people, five suitcases, six large, framed pictures, and a box of lampshades in a Jeep Liberty. Then, I get tired and unenthusiastic just thinking about how much work we have to do to get Meredith settled into her new apartment when, or if, we ever finally arrive in San Diego. When I am able to clear those thoughts from my troubled mind, I generally turn to thoughts of how totally "uncool" it will be to return to Memphis next week and leave my "firstborn" 1,898 miles away. I guess I would have to admit I am not handling all these "new opportunities" very well.

New beginnings are exciting...and challenging. There seems to be something in most of us that works against accepting change and getting comfortable with new opportunities. The knowledge of how hard new things can be sometimes thwarts our enthusiasm for new

things that will be good things. While we smile and greet one another at this time of year with "Happy New Year," there is still the possibility that we can get less than excited about what a new year might bring. Scripture encourages us to welcome and embrace new opportunities and new beginnings. The Apostle Paul said, "...but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things." (Philippians 3:12b—15, NIV) Paul cuts right to the "bottom line" and reminds us that our journey with Jesus is not complete until we receive the "heavenly prize" He has for us. And...he reminds us that the essence of our journey with Jesus is to refrain from holding ourselves captive to the past and allow God to guide us to and through all He has in store for us in the future.

What "new thing" does God want to do in you in this new year? What "new opportunities" for ministry, evangelism and Kingdom growth is He showing to your church? What "new steps" of faith and obedience is He asking you to take in your journey with Him? What "new blessings" does God have in store as you faithfully engage in "new beginnings" and new opportunities? These are the questions I am asking of myself as I walk into 2007. I hope you might apply them to your own life and your particular church. I am praying for myself, and for you, that we will not allow the toughness and challenge of change to dissuade us from embracing and enjoying the "new things" God wants to do in us and through us. TO HIM BE THE GLORY!! And to you...Happy New Year!!

— Bro. Mike

### Mid-America Seminary

### March Mission Madness

March 31, 2007

Cost: \$10 before March 10; \$15 at the door

Mid-America Seminary is hosting a youth conference, March Mission Madness, at their new campus located at 2095 Appling Rd. Cordova, TN on March 31. Area youth ministers and students are invited to be a part of this event. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Gordon Fort, Vice President of the International Mission Board. Music will be provided by the Hillside Worship Band. For more information, contact Alan Birchfield at 662-645-0396.

## Important Dates for January/February

### January

- 22 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 29 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.

### February

- 1 MSBA Secretaries' Luncheon - MSBCC
- 2 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary Baptist Women's Hospital - 10:30 a.m.
- 5 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 8 *Mid-South Baptist* articles due
- 11-18 WMU Focus Week
- 12 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Administrative Leadership Council MSBCC - 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15-18 WMU TEL Training Shocco Springs, AL
- 17 RA Pinewood Derby Race Trafalgar Village B.C. - 4:00 p.m.
- 19 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Ministers' Wives Fellowship Bellevue B.C. - 11:30 a.m.
- 20 WMU Open House and Lunch MSBA Office - 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Senior Adult Rally - MSBCC - 10:30 a.m.
- 26 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C. 11:30 a.m.

### Resources/Needs

Elliston Baptist Church has two pianos (one an antique) and an organ for sale. All are in good to excellent condition. Contact Don Erwin at 901-743-4250 for more information.

Peterson Lake Baptist Church, Collierville, TN would like to borrow an accompaniment tape for the Dottie Rambo "Down by the Creek Bank" musical for children. If you have a copy of the original soundtrack that was produced in 1978 and are willing to loan it to Peterson Lake, please call Janece Barron at 662-893-4084 or 901-263-8044.

Cordova Baptist Church is seeking caring, compassionate childcare workers for their Parents Day Out program that meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For hours of operation and more information about this position, please call Jennifer Rude at 901-755-3886 or the church office at 901-754-1064.

Arthur Crowe has an upright organ he would like to give to a church. The organ is in good condition. If your church has need for an organ, call Mr. Crowe at 901-483-2204.



Call Julie at 901-373-6161 for information about any of these events.

### Hands-On Tennessee

Hands-On Tennessee is a community service day sponsored by Tennessee WMU. Encourage your church to plan a ministry project to meet physical needs and share Christ with your community.

### WMU Open House and Lunch

Tuesday, February 20 • 10:00 a.m.-Noon  
MSBA Office – Children's Home Campus  
Bring your favorite potluck dish(es) to help feed the associational staff following the Open House.

### Daddy/Daughter Banquet

Saturday, March 10 • 6:00 p.m.  
Ellendale Baptist Church, Bartlett  
Speaker: Karen Gruenwald, FBC, Gallaway, TN  
Mission Project: birthday goody bags geared toward girls ages 4-14  
Cost: \$27 – dad and one daughter;  
\$40 – dad and two daughters (pictures included)  
Registration deadline: March 1

### Missions Get-Together and CONNECTION

March 16-18 • Gatlinburg, TN  
The associational WMU has a block of hotel rooms available and is providing a bus for transportation. Contact Julie at 901-373-6161 to register or for more information.

### Help Needed

The Church Without Doors has the following dates available for churches or groups willing to provide lunches following their service:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| February 25     | April 1, 22, 29 |
| May 27          | July 15, 22, 29 |
| August 5, 26    | September 30    |
| October 7       | November 25     |
| December 23, 30 |                 |

Call Pastor Stanley Williams at 901-870-4761 to sign up or for more information.

### Upcoming Events

- March 2-3 *Living a Worthy Life* Women's Conference  
First Baptist Church, Bolivar  
Speaker: Carrie McDonnall, author  
Call 731-658-9388 for more info.
- May 18-19 Mother/Daughter Retreat at MSBCC

## LOCAL "INTERNATIONAL" MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

No passport or plane ticket needed.

La Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza (The Good Hope Baptist Church) offers you the following opportunity to participate in its **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) INSTITUTE.**

### Goals:

- To help international immigrants adjust to the American culture through basic English classes and meaningful personal relationships.
- To serve the members of "La Buena Esperanza Church" and to enlist many others with similar needs in the community.
- To have a spiritual impact in the personal life of each student through simple Bible lessons.

### Urgent Needs:

- Teachers and workers to assist in the teaching, record-keeping, greeting, testing, promotions, refreshments, etc.

### Requirements:

- A servant-heart to minister to the "least of these my brethren" remembering our Lord said, **"I was a stranger and you took me in..."**
- A serious commitment to participate for at least three months, one night per week.
- Attend a training session one Saturday morning in January; knowledge of foreign language not necessary.

**Schedule:** Classes will begin in February; day and hour to be determined.

**Location:** Graham Heights Baptist Church, 1304 N. Graham St. (location of the Spanish Church)

### Coordinators:

- Christine Lewis: currently enrolled in University of Memphis in a specialized research project in bilingualism; graduate degrees in ESL, San Francisco State University and Intercultural Studies, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary; former IMB journeyman missionary to India and Sri Lanka.
- Jean Fitts: currently associate member of The Good Hope Church; doctor's degree in education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; retired IMB missionary, thirty years in Peru and Mexico.

**Contact:** Christine Lewis at 901-370-6363 or Jean Fitts at 901-377-1855.

**"...come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..."**

— Matthew 25:34-35



## Spiritual Formation Conference

### Topic: Biblical Worship

January 26-28, 2007

Union Ave. Baptist Church

Cost: \$12 (for materials)

Speaker: Dr. Donald S. Whitney  
*The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

Author of *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* and *Simplifying Your Spiritual Life*

Presented by: The Spiritual Formation Institute  
Union Avenue Baptist Church

Call 901-276-5421 for more information.