

Mid-South Baptist Secretaries Association Changes Meeting Dates

The May and August meetings of the Mid-South Baptist Secretaries Association have been changed. Please note these changes on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Thursday, May 17 • Noon First Baptist Church, Millington

Due to the overlapping meeting of the National SBC secretaries in Nashville on May 2-4, our associational secretaries will move their meeting to Thursday, May 17. Please make your reservation by calling 901-872-2264. Deadline for reservations is Monday, May 14.

Thursday, August 2 • Noon Leawood Baptist Church 3638 Macon Rd., Memphis

Due to camp activities, this meeting will be held at Leawood Baptist Church. Please make your reservations by calling 901-324-7169. Deadline to make reservations is Monday, July 30.

The Mid-South Baptist Association Annual Meeting will be held October 15, 2007, at Whitehaven Baptist.

Would You Be Willing to Share Jesus With One of These Children?



For over 20 years, **Opportunity Camp**, a ministry of the Mid-South Baptist WMU, has shared the gospel message with hundreds of inner-city Memphis refugee children. Please consider sponsoring a child to attend Opportunity Camp 2007, from May 29-June 2. This can be done individually or by a group or church. Your gift of \$150 could make an eternal difference in these precious children's lives.

All gifts for this year's camp must be received by May 31, 2007. Any monies received after May 31, will be applied to next year's camp. Please send all donations to: Mid-South Baptist Association, 6896 U.S. Hwy. 70, Bartlett, TN 38133. For more information, call Beth Cox at 901-853-3880.



Regional Sunday School Training Conference

Monday, July 30
First Baptist Church, Millington



20th-Annual Senior Adult
Tune-Sharing Fellowship
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Audubon Park Baptist Church

All senior adult choirs are invited and encouraged to participate. Each choir may sing two selections. Lunch will be provided by Leonard's Barbecue, and reservations are required. Cost is \$6 per person paid in advance. Call 901-324-5541 for more information and to make reservations.



Mid-South Baptist
Conference Center

Two words come to mind as I think about my first two weeks on the job at the conference center – fast and furious. From meeting with business representatives, church camp directors, summer staff personnel and hosting three group events to hiring a new Food Service Manager and welcoming my new grandson (Benjamin Robert) into the world, it's been great!

I am excited about being here at the conference center. I am honored to serve Mid-South Baptists and with the Lord's help, I will do so to the best of my ability. Dr. Mike Day has expressed confidence in me, and I am determined to not let him down, or the Lord, or the Mid-South Baptist Association.

By the way, if you are running late planning your children's or youth camp this summer, I have some good news for you. We still have some room for your group during the weeks of June 4-8 and July 2-6. If these dates work for you, please call us right away. We will book these dates on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, our associational churches are getting this information first. Let us know how we can help you.

Serving Him – Serving You,

Bro. Dale Gravatt, Manager of Operations

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Pastor

Elliston Baptist Church

Contact Hugh Garner, 4179 Elliston Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38111

Hartland Baptist Church

Contact James Shivers at 901-388-2040, or send
resume to 1820 Hartland, Memphis, TN 38128

Rosemark Baptist Church

9037 E. Kerrville-Rosemark Rd., Millington, TN 38053

Wells Station Baptist Church

Contact the church office at 901-682-2295
or djar3435@aol.com.

Education/Administration

Leawood East Baptist Church

Contact Jeff Herndon at jlherndon77@yahoo.com.

Weekday Preschool Teacher

Bartlett Baptist Church

Contact Pam Crawford at 901-373-8919 or
bbps@bartlett baptist.org.

Children's Minister

Bartlett Hills Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact Leslie Tisdale at 901-386-9763 or
leslie@bartletthills.net

Labelle Haven Baptist Church

6825 E. Holmes Rd., Memphis, TN 38141
Fax: 901-547-1650 or labellehaven@bellsouth.net

Youth Pastor

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Contact Rev. Bo Grace
P.O. Box 280649, Memphis, TN 38168

Hope Baptist Church

Contact Burr Lovett at 662-890-4673 or
901-526-4573 or hope@hopeinhim.org.

McLean Baptist Church (P/T)

815 N. McLean, Memphis, TN 38107

Providence Baptist Church of Bartlett (P/T)

4351 Germantown Rd., Arlington, TN 38002

Range Hills Baptist Church (P/T)

2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127

Richland Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact Dr. Jerry Paul or Laurie at 901-683-2451
or richlandbaptist@comcast.net

Music Minister

Forest Hill Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact Rev. Tommy Snyder at 901-754-7455 or
tommysnyder@foresthillbc.com.

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

Hope Baptist Church (Worship Leader)

Contact Burr Lovett at 662-890-4673 or
901-526-4573 or hope@hopeinhim.org.

Oaklawn Baptist Church (P/T)

Personnel Committee
5714 Benjestown Rd., Memphis, TN 38127

Pianist/Organist

Merton Avenue Baptist Church

Contact Lee Carter at 901-458-4469

Secretary

Covenant Baptist Church (P/T)

Contact the church office at 901-853-0700

Second Class Postage Paid at Memphis,
Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist

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Mid-South Ministry Profile

Pastor Tim Cox and Brinkley Heights Baptist Church and Ministry Center by Stuart McCollough

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. – Isaiah 43:19

This verse exemplifies what God is doing at Brinkley Heights Baptist Church and Ministry Center. Located in inner-city Memphis, Brinkley Heights is reaching out to the community around them and providing a safe place for area children, youth and families to learn about the love of Christ.



Above: Brinkley Heights Baptist Church Family gathers in front of the Neighborhood Outreach Center.

Right: The Kindergarten class at Brinkley Heights Urban Academy takes time out for a picture.



Following the June, 2002 death of three-year-old Jessica Borner and the wounding of four other neighborhood children in a gang-related shooting right down the street from the church, members decided it was time to reclaim the streets of their community. With the help of the community, area businesses, other churches and countless volunteers, the result was the construction of a 13,000 sq. ft. Neighborhood Outreach Center and a neighborhood school committed to intervening in the lives of at-risk children and their families.

Brinkley Heights Urban Academy began holding classes in the Fall of 2006. Presently 55 students meet in classes for Pre-K 3 (three year olds) through second grade. An additional grade will be added annually until all grades through twelfth are offered. Parents are encouraged to be involved and can earn

assistance with tuition and purchasing school supplies by volunteering and serving at the school. The Lord is using Brinkley Heights Urban Academy to raise up a new

generation of Christian families and leaders for the local community.

Church members are already planning to purchase vacant properties around the building to be able to expand the school in the coming years. A former crackhouse next door has already been purchased and renovated as a "Kidz Kingdom House."

Bro. Tim Cox and Brinkley Heights Baptist Church have a vision to "reach families with the gospel, to make disciples and to plant them in our community through a home ownership program and economic literacy training." They are looking for volunteers to tutor, to commit to pray for an individual student on a daily basis and financial sponsors to provide scholarships. If you or your church would like to be involved, you can contact Bro. Tim at 901-324-3022 or at pastortim@brinkleyheights.com.

Pastor Tim Cox and his wife Karen are Mission Service Corps Volunteer Missionaries with the North American Mission Board. He and Karen have been married for 29 years and have four children. Bro. Tim has served as pastor of Brinkley Heights Baptist Church for 17 years. Prior to his pastorate at Brinkley Heights, Bro. Tim served as associate pastor at Southcrest Baptist Church in Southaven, MS.

Members of Brinkley Heights Baptist Church established Brinkley Heights Ministries, Inc. as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization on June 30, 2000 and began offering programs for families and youth on a year-round basis. The church not only wanted to minister to the spiritual needs of their community, but also to the physical, social, educational and economic needs that so many members of the community experienced.

The Mid-South
Baptist





A Word from the Executive Director of Missions

Dr. Michael Day

Happy Birthday Baptist Association!

Over the next several months, Southern Baptists will be celebrating in various ways the 300th Anniversary of the Baptist Association in America. There will even be a special event at the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio to commemorate the birth of the association and celebrate cooperative ministry. You are invited to join the party!

The first Baptist Association in America was birthed by a small band of Particular Baptist churches in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 1707 at Pennepek, Pennsylvania. Known as the Philadelphia Baptist Association, these Colonial Baptists acted upon their concern for doctrinal unity, their need for fellowship, and their zeal for evangelism, to form the body which set the stage and became the model for future associations, state conventions, and national entities. Better still, this young association "got it right" from the outset in terms of where the attention of Baptist associations must be focused.

The *Minutes of the Philadelphia Baptist Association* remind us that the Association was organized to meet annually "to consult about such things as were wanting in the churches, and to set them in order." As Baptist Historian Walter Shurden asserts, "In the first half of the eighteenth century the Philadelphia Association focused on the needs of the churches and the ministry." This pioneering association of churches was clearly focused upon knowing the needs of the churches, cooperatively meeting those needs, and assisting the churches in their tasks of education, evangelism, and missions. They got off to the right kind of start and set a high standard still worthy of emulation.

The Mid-South Baptist Association is one of 1,200 Southern Baptist associations that share the heritage of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. It is appropriate that we should share in the celebration of the rich history of Baptist associations in America. It is also appropriate for

us to work hard to faithfully emulate the example set by the first association in supporting the work of the churches. I believe we are working hard to become an association with *strategies* that are driven by the churches, *priorities* that are based upon biblical mandates, *resources* that are made available to support the churches, and a *consciousness* that our work is not about associations or denominations, but about the growth of the Kingdom through the work of the churches. With God's help, we can stay on this path and continue to grow as an association that faces into the realities of Southern Baptist life, builds the relationships necessary for cooperative ministry, and maintains the relevance of associational work to the ministries of the churches.

The longer I live, the more chronologically-mature I become, and the more senior citizen benefits I enjoy, the more I am drawn to an assessment of the aging process popularized by a television commercial in the 1990's—"You're not getting older, you're getting better." The premise of the commercial message, apart from the intent to sell older people a magic potion, is that the accumulation of years can and should result in a richer, fuller, and more meaningful life. Every year that passes prompts me to personalize the question: "Is my *body* just getting older, or am I getting better?" It is helpful, and revealing, to ask a similar question of our own local Baptist body as we approach the 300th anniversary of the Baptist Association in America. "Are we just getting organizationally-older or are we getting cooperatively-better at supporting the work and ministry of the church?" We share with other Baptist associations the responsibility for getting better as we get older. May God grant us His blessing, His help, and His strength for the journey. *May God grow us older...and make us better...for His Kingdom's sake.*

— Bro. Mike



Bellevue Baptist Church to Host Evangelism Explosion Clinic

What: Evangelism Explosion Leadership Clinic

When: July 23-27, 2007

Purpose: To equip church leaders with the tools necessary to implement an effective, intentional and proven evangelism training ministry and to train new teachers for churches that currently have an EE ministry in place

Who should attend: Pastors, ministerial staff and key lay leaders

For more information: Evangelism Explosion International – 888-567-3543 or www.eeworks.org
Bellevue EE Ministry - 901-347-5210

Important Dates for May

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 4 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary
Baptist Women's Hospital - 10:30 a.m.
- 7 MSBA Staff Meeting - MSBA Office
8:30 a.m.
- 7 Pastors' Conference
Bellevue B.C. – 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Administrative Leadership Council
MSBCC - 7:30 a.m.
- 8 Sr. Adult Tune Sharing - Audubon Park B.C.
10:00 a.m.
- 8 *Mid-South Baptist* articles due
- 10 Foundation Board Meeting - MSBA Office
8:30 a.m.
- 13 Mothers' Day
- 13 Mothers' Day Offering for Children's Homes
- 14 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C.
11:30 a.m.
- 14 Ministers' Wives Fellowship Luncheon
Bellevue - 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Associational Secretaries Luncheon
FBC, Millington - Noon
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Retreat - MSBCC
- 21 Pastors' Conference - Bellevue B.C.
11:30 a.m.
- 28 Memorial Day - No Pastors' Conference
- 29-6/2 Opportunity Camp - MSBCC

Berclair Baptist Calls Pastor

After months of prayer and searching for God's man, Berclair Baptist Church is happy to announce that they have called Rev. Michael Jones as their pastor. Bro. Jones and his wife Sallie, have two adult children, Michael and Marci and five grandchildren, all who live in the Memphis area.

Bro. Jones is a graduate of Dallas Bible College and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to Berclair, Bro. Jones pastored five churches, the last being Mountain Terrace in Frayser. He also served as a church planter for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Bro. Erba Butler Passes Away

Rev. Erba A. Butler went home to be with the Lord on April 17, 2007, at the age of 96. Bro. Butler served as Pastor at Brighton Baptist Church in Brighton, was an interim Pastor at Big Creek Baptist Church in Millington and served as Director of the Memphis Campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home from 1956 to 1976. Bro. Butler is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lena Sue Butler, and several nieces and nephews.

Thank You

The family of Sandra Ann Spears acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy. Your love, prayers and support over the past year has meant so much.

— Greg and the girls



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

Mother/Daughter Retreat *Precious Moments With Mom*

May 18-19, 2007

\$55 – mom/daughter

\$80 – mom/two daughters

Great fellowship • Music • Bible study

Contact Titus Mason at 901-377-6866 or Julie Binford at 901-372-3898.

Christian Women's Job Corps and webs

Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) assists women with a hand up through Christian mentoring. webs (Women Empowered to Become Self-Sufficient), a CWJC site in Memphis, witnesses to women behind bars. A transition house for women coming out of prison is part of their ministry plan. Can you provide furnishings, help with one month's rent or mentor a woman? Please call Pat Culp at 901-281-1717 to offer to help or arrange for someone to talk to your organization about this need.

Girls Adventure in Missions (AiM) Camp

Molded by the Master

June 11-15, 2007 • MSBCC

Cost: \$51 for overnight campers

\$155 for weeklong campers

Books Needed

We are in need of new or gently used children's books (up to young teen) for our Summer Celebration at First Baptist Church, Gallaway, TN on July 17, 2007. The books can be delivered to the Associational Office during normal business hours.



Statewide Goal: \$2,000,000

The Mother's Day Offering provides homes for children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Gifts from the offering provide approximately 25% of the funds needed each year to give innocent children a safe home.



Multiplying Leaders for the 21st Century Harvest

Dr. Greg Spears - Leadership Development Strategist

Reading Contextual Leadership Clues

Does the background, setting or demographic terrain of your church context matter? Which contextual features affect your leadership decisions the most? Leaders can find clues of many sorts all around them. Leaders must have an acute awareness of the contextual clues concealed within their environments. Leaders must be able to accurately interpret those clues and then develop an appropriate approach and a series of responses for effectively sharing Christ in that context.

Contextualization is a word first used by linguists involved in communicating the translation of the Bible into relevant cultural settings. It was adopted formally by a gathering of scholars in the Theological Education Fund (TEF) in its mandate to communicate the Gospel in cultures which had not previously experienced them. The Apostle Paul stated, "I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some." I Cor. 9:22.

What Paul meant was that he would adapt himself and his way of putting the gospel message to the context of the audience - so that they could see it and grasp it. It's what any teacher or preacher should be trying to do. If you don't, what is the point of opening your mouth? Know to whom you speak!

If we are trying to catch fish it makes sense that we will want to know something about the fish. What type of fish are we looking for? What are his feeding characteristics? Is it better to use nets? Will the fish be found in a lake, river, or stream?

— Bro. Greg

Baptist Women's Hospital Seminars

Like Mother, Like Daughter – Not Always!

Friday, May 4 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Kami Wolfe, M.S. Genetic Counselor

Baptist Centers for Cancer Care

LifeBlood Hematocrit Screening/Lecture

Tuesday, May 8 • 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

LifeBlood Staff

Reservations Required – 901-227-8478

Coping With Breast Cancer

Tuesday, May 15 • Noon-1:00 p.m.

Glenn Ann Martin, PhD

Skin Cancer Screening

Thursday, May 24 • 1:00 -3:30 p.m.

Dr. Rex Amonette, Dermatologist

Memphis Dermatology Clinic

Please call 901-227-8478 or 800-4-BAPTIST

for reservations between 9:00 a.m.

and 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

www.baptistonline.org



Church Resources

Providence Baptist Church has 20 washable, cream-colored choir robes they would like to give away. Call Sarah at 901-837-6924.

An individual has a Thomas, four-pedal organ to sell for \$300. Call the association office at 901-373-6161 for more information.