

Redemption
A Multicultural Revival with Priscilla Shirer

Revival for Women

March 27-28, 2009
Friday: 7:00 p.m.-until
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Memphis Cook Convention Center
Free event - Bring your friends.
Sponsored by area churches

901-255-8222
www.Redemption2009.com

Ministry Spotlight (con't. from inside front cover)

The staff of New Church Memphis includes Pastor Rick Isbell and Teaching Pastor Gary Griffis, who had served as pastor of National Ave. Jennifer York leads the Education ministry and Julie Nutt oversees Administration. Steve Krell leads worship and Tim Vigus is Student Minister. Crisy Scroggins directs the Children's Ministry and Sarah Krell directs the Preschool Ministry. Tim and Crisy were also formerly on staff at National Ave.

Exciting days are ahead for this new model of ministry that Leclair and National Ave. Baptist Churches have embarked upon as New Church Memphis. They hope to be an example for other congregations that are facing change and opportunities in their community. By allowing God to help them think outside the box and being open to follow His direction, New Church Memphis is poised to meet the needs of their neighbors right where they are and to help them in their daily walk.



The Mid-South Baptist Secretaries will meet Tuesday, November 11, at Noon, hosted by Baptist Memorial Hospital. They will meet in Rooms A-C at the Baptist Women's Hospital. Lunch will be provided by the hospital, however, our normal \$5 cost for lunch will be donated to Operation Outreach Mobile Van Ministry to the homeless. Bring hats, scarves and gloves to be used by the ministry. Beth Turner, Director of the Women's Health Center will be the guest speaker.

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Pastor

Forest Hill Baptist Church
Mail resume to Pastor Search Committee,
3645 Forest Hill Irene Rd., Germantown,
38138

Highland Heights Baptist Church
Mail resume to 675 National St., Memphis,
38122

Union Avenue Baptist Church
Contact Mike Elkins, 183 Marrakesh Circle,
Memphis, TN 38103 or e-mail
melkins@trojungbrannen.com

Wells Station Baptist Church
Contact the church office at 901-682-2295,
or e-mail djar3435@aol.com.

Minister of Education

Covenant Baptist Church (F/T)
Mail resume to Dr. Sam Brassell, P.O. Box
1165, Collierville, TN 38027 or e-mail
office@covenantontheweb.org.

Minister to Young Adults

Eudora Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact the church office at 901-888-7800.

Music Minister

Grace Baptist Church (Music/Youth)
Contact Rev. Bill Harrald, 901-872-4294 or
901-849-0252.

Gracepoint Baptist Church (Music/Youth)
Contact Rev. Aaron Armstrong at
901-755-7660.

Keyboardist/Pianist

Balmoral Baptist Church (Sun./Wed. night)
Send resume to church at 2676 Kirby Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38119, or e-mail to
balmoralchurch@bellsouth.net, or call
901-754-2300.

Cordova Baptist Church (P/T Sun./Wed. night)
Contact Pastor Jim Muston at 901-754-1064
or e-mail at jmuston@hotmail.com.

Magnolia Baptist Church (Sun. morning only)
Contact Pastor Vaughn Denton at
662-890-0680.

Range Hills Baptist Church
Contact Allen Moody at 901-353-5213 or
the church at 901-357-5560.

Childcare

Balmoral Baptist Church
Two positions are available: Infant Class –
7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., M-F; and Three-Year-
Old Class – 6:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., M-F. Call
Connie Concklin at 901-754-2302 for
more information.

**If your church has filled a position, please call
901-373-6161 to remove it from the list.**

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

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South Baptist
November 2008
Vol. 3, Issue 10



A Word from the Executive Director of Missions
Dr. Michael Day

The Economy and the Association

Everybody is talking about the economy...and it is no secret that the U.S. economy is in a period of serious challenge and volatility. It is felt at all levels and in all arenas of our economic structure. Rising costs of living, declining home values, slumping economic indicators, and volatile investment markets create more than just a bit of uncertainty for individuals, businesses, and service providers. Even churches and associations of churches are among those entities that must manage the realities of a slumping economy.

I am joining in the conversation...with this month's *Mid-South Baptist* article, even though I am reluctant to use this space to talk about money and associational finances. God has richly blessed the churches of this association and the churches of this association have generously shared those blessings through faithful gifts that allow our Association to assist churches in fulfilling the Great Commission in their communities and around the world. **We are blessed and grateful.** So, I am not writing this article because we are fearful about finance. I am not writing because we are panicky about predictions of the financial future. I am not even writing to ask our churches to "give more" to the Association. I am joining this "economic conversation" because I believe the challenges we face as an Association should be clearly identified and talked about "out loud," so that we can negotiate and manage those challenges together.

The good news is...the economy of the association is not "broken" as evidenced by the continuing generosity of participating churches and the fact that our "receipts" or "contributions" are still slightly higher than our "expenses." For the last three months, however, church contributions to MSBA are approximately \$37,000 (24%) below budget projections. Year to date, church contributions are running 11.42% under budget and approximately \$19,000 behind last year's actual receipts. Fortunately, these church contribution shortfalls are offset by contributions from investment accounts held by our Mid-South Baptist Foundation. This is a blessing for the Association, but merits a watchful eye given the ups and downs of a volatile investment market.

The best news is...The "bottom line" for our associational economy is that we are committed to and trusting in God's economy. We believe God will provide what we need, when we need it. His blessing is not controlled by existing economic conditions and our ultimate trust is in His provision. We, as an association of churches believe, "Our God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." We also believe that "much is required of those to whom much is given." Therefore, we will seek to honor God by exercising the best possible stewardship over what God provides.

Our commitment to the churches of MSBA...is that we are prepared to practice the best possible stewardship of associational resources. Here are the ways in which we will live out that commitment:

- (1) We will continue to *meet our obligations while controlling our fixed expenses* as much as possible. That could mean that we will delay some facility improvement and staffing plans. It may mean that we renegotiate some of the service contracts necessary for operation of the Association. It does mean that we manage our expenses carefully.
 - (2) We will stand by our commitment to *operate according to cash flow*. As we face economic challenge we will make necessary adjustments on a month-by-month basis and work hard to be sure that "we do not spend what we do not have."
 - (3) We will *maintain a "church first" philosophy in our spending*. We will prioritize our expenses and work hard to minimize any impact on the Association's ability
- (con't. on inside back page)



Mid-South Ministry Profile

New Church Memphis by Stuart McCollough

There's a new church in town. New Church Memphis is the new church plant/rebirth of two existing congregations that officially began ministering together on May 4, 2008. It all began in the summer of 2007, when a group of pastors and leaders from approximately 15 churches within the I-240 Interstate loop in Memphis began meeting to pray and discuss the changing dynamics and church membership decline in their community. At the end of these discussions, Leclair Baptist Church and National Ave. Baptist Church united to begin a ministry to reach the unchurched and lost in their neighborhood by setting out to change the way things had always been done.

Leclair Baptist Church had seen a slow decline in membership over the last 20 years, but over the last five years has seen a resurgence by adding 215 members with 72 of those by baptism. Attendance has grown over the last five years from 80 to 180, but because of the number of transient families moving in and out of the neighborhood, it was becoming more difficult to minister. Increased crime and changing economic status were also barriers that Leclair faced.

National Ave. Baptist Church had also faced the same membership decline over the last 20 years. They were reaching out and ministering to neighborhood children through an AWANA program. They also faced the challenges of a changing neighborhood and downward economics.

After much prayer and planning, the two churches both dissolved in order to relaunch as a new church plant/restart in May of this year. The leaders of New Church Memphis didn't want to be another church in Memphis that closed its doors and sold its property, but wanted to be the ones that God used to change that trend. Pastor Rick Isbell put it this way, "Most of the churches within our area of the loop were established 50-100 years ago. Although the culture has changed every way imaginable, our churches have remained virtually unchanged through the decades. Though we know the Gospel is unchanging and forever sufficient for all of mankind's ills, our local churches have been deemed obsolete by a culture that grows less and less interested in what we have to say." So New Church set out to build a new model of worship and ministry to meet the everchanging needs of their respective congregations.

New Church Memphis meets in the former site of Leclair Baptist. The desire of the church is to be a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic church that makes an impact on their community and beyond. They offer both a classic and celebration worship service each week, as well as additional opportunities for Bible study for all ages and a disciple-making student ministry. They are using VBS, AWANA and other related ministries to reach children and are averaging over 100 in AWANAs each week including 30 children that are being bussed in from the old National Ave. neighborhood. Plans also call for Evangelism Explosion training to enable their members to share the Gospel of Jesus with those they come into contact with everyday. The church held a block party on a Saturday in September with over 400 in attendance. A Halloween alternative and a Biker's Rally are also planned to meet the community and to reach more people that may not normally visit a new church on their own.

The other part of the ministry of New Church is the New Church Ministry Center, which will be located on the old National Ave. campus. They plan to use the facilities there to provide *Celebrate Recovery* classes to minister to those suffering the effects of addiction that plagues their community. This will also involve providing education opportunities to help move people from welfare to work. They would like to provide Spanish-language classes and use the sanctuary there as a place for future new church plants to meet.

(con't. on back page)



Left: First Day of worship as New Church Memphis

Below: Neighborhood Block Party



Upcoming Important Dates in November

- 3 MSBA Staff Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
- 3 Pastors' Conference (Love in Action) Bellevue B.C. – 11:30 a.m.
- 3 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 6 Associational Secretary's Luncheon Baptist Women's Hospital – Noon
- 7 Baptist Hospital Auxiliary Baptist Women's Hospital – 10:30 a.m.
- 8 *Mid-South Baptist* articles due
- 10 No Pastors' Conference Tennessee Baptist Convention
- 11-12 Tennessee Baptist Convention First Baptist Church, Hendersonville
- 13 MSBA Foundation Board Meeting MSBA Office – 8:30 a.m.
- 17 Pastors' Conference (Dr. Mike Day, Convention Report) Bellevue B.C. – 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Administrative Leadership Council Bellevue B.C. – 7:30 a.m.
- 18 Senior Adult Rally Leawood Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Pastors' Conference Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary – 11:30 a.m.
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 27-28 MSBA Offices Closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 30-12/7 Week of Prayer for International Missions

Church Security DVDs

For pastors and church security leaders who were not able to attend the Church Security Conference in October, the MSBA has purchased three DVDs produced by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety. As with all our resources, please call the MSBA office at 901-373-6161 to reserve the DVDs. They are:

- Flashpoint (Recognizing and Preventing Violence in the Workplace)
- Shots Fired (Guidance for Surviving an Active Shooter Situation)
- Safe Passage (Gives common-sense principles and teaches travelers how to be more aware and travel safely without fear as you travel domestically or internationally)

Squire Parsons in Concert

Sunday, November 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Cherokee Baptist Church

A love offering will be taken.

Call 901-683-7344 for more information.

Tutors Needed for Bent Tree Ministry

Call Pastor James Williams at

901-494-6331 for more information.

WMU™ HAPPENINGS

2008-2009 Mid-South Baptist WMU Resource Guide Now Available

Your guide to ministry and mission involvement opportunities in the Mid-South area is now available. Please call Julie at 901-373-6161 or pick up a copy at the association office.

University of Memphis BCM Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 25, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.

WMU will provide a Thanksgiving meal for international students. The food can be brought to the BCM anytime during the day, November 25. Please contact LouAnn Bennett at 901-725-0634 or louann214@bellsouth.net if you would like to provide food. Items needed: turkey; ham; dressing; sweet potatoes; green beans; salad; desserts and rolls.



Mid-South Christian Women's Job Corps MENTORS NEEDED!

We are having a mentor training on November 8, from 9:30 a.m.-noon. If you are interested in helping provide a support network for a CWJC participant as they work toward becoming self-efficient, please contact Martha Pitts at 901-270-3994.



Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary to Host Pastors' Conference

The MABTS will host the Pastors' Conference on Monday, November 24. Lunch will be provided by the seminary at MABTS, and they will be in charge of the program. Make a note of this change of location.



Senior Adult Rally

The Senior Adult Rally will be held on Tuesday, November 18, at 10:30 a.m. at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Rd., Memphis. The Mid-South Singers will provide the program. The cost is \$7 per person. Call Glynda at 901-324-7169 by noon on November 12 to make reservations.

Conference Cost: \$30 per person
Deadline for registration is February 18, 2009.
Contact Faith Baptist Church at 901-386-4785 for information.

A Word from the Executive Director of Missions (con't. from front cover)

to provide resources to assist churches. In other words, financial challenge will not distract us from our commitment to focus on providing resources to assist churches. The work of an association is comprised of the work and ministry of the churches and we will attempt to manage our resources in a manner that supports the work of the churches. (4) Finally, and most importantly, we will *continue to pray for God's blessing upon the churches* and His guidance in our management of His resources. We will "praise God, from whom all blessing flows" and we will trust God to "supply all our needs through His riches in glory." We will honor God with prayerful stewardship and careful management. AND...we will continue to praise God for the great things He is doing through His churches in the Mid-South!

— Bro. Mike

134th Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

FBC, Hendersonville, TN • November 11-12, 2008



Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting information (including housing information) is available at www.tnbaptist.org. Click "About Us" on the left-hand side of the home page, then click on "Annual Meeting," and "Download Housing Brochure" or a link is provided from the Mid-South Baptist Association website at msbac.org.