



He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; Acts 1:7

*But it is perfectly okay to know what's coming up in the Association!*

- ◆ **August 27-28**
  - ◆ *State-wide Prayer Gathering for Pastors & Ministers (Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock)*
- ◆ **September 9th**
  - ◆ *"Hello" Church Launch at ATU!*
- ◆ **September 17th**
  - ◆ *ARVBA Executive Meeting*
- ◆ **September 22nd**
  - ◆ *WMU Annual Gala*
- ◆ **September 29-30**
  - ◆ *Teach 28:20 Conference*



### Congratulations to Rev. Ira Taylor

*And best wishes on the next leg of your journey together!*

After nearly 50 years of serving churches, Bro. Ira and Mrs. Jo Taylor are retiring from pastoral ministry. Their last Sunday with First, Hector was August 26, 2018.

We were late getting the Newsletter out this month but we know the Taylors, the Thomases and their churches would love for you to write a letter or card letting them know how their ministry has blessed you.



### Best Wishes to Rev. Gary Thomas Rev. Eldon Thomas

*Enjoy your next adventure!*

After many years of combined ministry, Bro. Gary & Bro. Eldon are both retiring from Crestview Baptist Church on August 26th, 2018. Godspeed good and faithful servants!



Churches Doing More Together

## GoodNews Letter

August, 2018



## September 29th & 30th!

### Two Sessions, One great ARVBA Event

#### Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**The Great Commission...** So often, in our zeal to fulfill the first part of Christ's forever directive to the church, we overlook the importance of the second. Our Lord was quite specific in His intention that we should be as zealous in our teaching as we are in our evangelism. In fact, the Great Commission is not fulfilled until 'teaching them' becomes a part of the church's DNA.

Through the **Teach 28:20 Equipping Ministry**, your Association aims to provide quality, practical training that will help equip teachers and small group leaders better impart the great truths of scripture to their respective classes. This year's event is going to be one that will set the standard for years to come.

Three sessions on Saturday will set the stage for an awesome, Association-wide worship/preaching finale' that will not be soon forgotten. Conference leaders from across the state will lead the breakout sessions on Saturday and Dr. Greg Addison will bring a kick-in-the-pants message on Sunday evening that will almost certainly motivate our churches to greater disciple-making efforts than ever before!

#### Teach 28:20 Teaching Conference Sept. 29th, FBC, Dover

- 8:30-9:00: Donuts & Fellowship
- 9:00-9:15: Opening Assembly (Sanctuary)
- 9:15-10:30: Session 1
- 10:30-10:45: Break
- 10:45-12:00 Session 2
- 12:00-1:00: Lunch (Family Life Center)
- 1:00—2:00 Session 3 Round Table Discussion

- The 1st & 2nd sessions will feature the same content in each of the ministry areas to allow participants to attend two breakout sessions of their choice.
- The third session will feature a panel discussion with all the presenters from the morning sessions and will be guided by questions from the audience.
- Lifeway's regional representative, Rusty Richardson, will also have curriculum resources on display in the Family Life Center.

#### Teach 28:20 Super Celebration!

Sunday September 30th at FBC Russellville at 6:00

#### Dr. Greg Addison

*Assoc. Executive Director of the State Convention*

**All ARVBA Churches** are invited to come together to celebrate what God will do through your teaching ministry!

“Churches Doing More Together!”



**The Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association**  
801 East 16th Street  
Russellville, AR 72801

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# Missionary's Heart

## There we went again!

I had great plans for the week of the 19th. I wanted to enjoy a stay-at-home working vacation while I took care of my bride after her chemo port was removed. Perhaps work in the yard, visit with family, finish some shelving at the office and help my love take it easy toward the end of the time off. And then it happened...

Wednesday the 15th found me back in the hospital with terrible abdominal pain. (Thank you Mrs. Tena for your awesome ambulance driving skills!) Pancreatitis was the culprit but, luckily it was not an exceptionally severe bout. A couple of days in St. Mary's and a weekend of bland diet and limited activity and I am back on my feet again. Gotta watch some things for awhile but hopefully that experience will not repeat itself! But enough about me...

We finally had to bite the bullet and cancel this year's **ARVBA Day** One Day Missions Event. Because of the weeks of planning/promotion lost during my earlier cancer surgery and extended hospital stay, we just did not have the time to get the event as organized as it needs to be. I do apologize for letting you guys and Bro. Johnathan down but promise to get us back on schedule for next year. We are even considering a pre-Easter ARVBA Day to minimize the time between events and would appreciate your input during the next few weeks.

I can't begin to express how excited I am about our upcoming Teach 28:20 Conference. At the end of this month, the churches of the ARVBA will come together to something that "ain't never been done like that before".

On Saturday the 29th, our Sunday School teachers, Small Group leaders, pastors, church leaders, and other interested church members will meet at Dover's First Baptist Church for a day of practical teacher/leader training. After the two morning breakout sessions we will enjoy a catered lunch and time of fellowship. The last session will feature a round table question and answer time with all the presenters being available to address any thoughts or questions participants might have. The conference will conclude at 2 p.m.

Sunday, the 30th, is when we bring it all together! On that day we are asking all the ARVBA churches to join together at Russellville's First Baptist Church for a joint Associational Worship/Preaching/Commitment service. Please understand, I am not asking you to dismiss your evening service! I am asking you to consider moving your service to join with your sister churches in lifting our voices from one location as we celebrate what we have learned, hear what God's preacher has to say, and commit ourselves and our churches to using what we will learn on Saturday to do a better job of fulfilling the second part of the Great Commission, "and *teach them all that I have commanded you...*".

Some will remember that we have come together in this way before. Years ago we came together as the Association under the banner of 'Operation Jericho'. At the grand finale of that church partnership we, as an Association came together for a Sunday evening Worship/Celebration service at Tucker Coliseum. For five years after that joint Association effort, the churches of the ARVBA saw a steady rise in baptisms and church attendance.

We have not engaged in anything like that in a long time. We have not seen such a steady harvest of souls on the Associational level in an equally long time.

Would you consider a spiritual experiment for you and your church this year? Would you consider attending the conference on Saturday and then coming together with your sister churches on Sunday evening?

After all, as Jesus told the woman at the well, it's not really where you worship that matters... but how and why you worship.

Hope to see you all soon,



**Ethel Lee Yates**

*January 25, 1945 - August 21, 2018*

Bro. Danny, Mrs. Tena and the ARVBA family want to extend our greatest condolences to Bro. Joe Yates and family as they mourn/celebrate the homegoing of this wonderful lady.



## 2018: Russellville, Arkansas

Looking for a student missions experience? Join us for a weeklong mission trip experience packaged into a single weekend. CONNECT helps to engage students in and equip them for the mission by:

- Connecting them to Christ
- Connecting them to other Arkansas students
- Connecting them to associations, local churches and ministries
- Introducing them to various ministries provided through the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program

**When & Where:** October 12-14 in Russellville

**Who:** All students in 7th-12th grade and their student ministers/adult leaders

**Cost:** \$25 each for lodging, Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast, and program expenses

Once again, **CONNECT** is returning to the ARVBA. Association churches are providing ministry projects for students from all over the state with the goal of ministering to our neighbors and showing our young people how to live 'missionally' every day of their lives.

Bro. Travis McCormick is coordinating the event and, as a former Second Baptist Church staff member, is looking forward to spending time 'back home' with the folks. He has issued a personal invitation for all ARVBA churches to join this real-life missions weekend.

More information can be found at

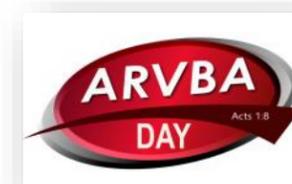
<http://www.absc.org/ministries/connect>

and/or through the links on the ARVBA website:

[www.thearvba.com](http://www.thearvba.com).

**Let's Jump All Over This!**

## We're Gonna Need To Reschedule!



*Sometimes things just don't work out!*

2018 has been an eventful year for the ARVBA and especially for the Associational Missionary. Because of illness, hospital stays, and other such distractions, we have not been able to put as much focus into planning our yearly One-Day-Missions event as we would like. So, rather than trying to push something through, we have decided to reschedule ARVBA Day 2018.

By the time you read this, our A.M. And Local Missions Coordinator will have met to begin planning for ARVBA Day 2019.

**We will have updates for you soon!**



**Sixth Annual Gala!**

*Sept. 28th, 2018*

*Havana's First Baptist Church*

*10 a.m.—2 p.m.*

**“GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”**

*Ephesians 3:17-18*

**Guest Speaker: Christy Renfroe**

*Exec. Director of Choices Pregnancy Clinic*

For more info and to register contact Tena Herren at 479-289-1739 or [arvba@suddenlink.net](mailto:arvba@suddenlink.net)

**Lunch will served and door prizes awarded!**

**Donations of the following will be accepted for the clinic**

Mommy's Hospital Goody Bags ..... Baby Layette Baskets  
Gift Cards (small increments) ..... Hooded Towels  
Hand sanitizer & Tissue packs ..... Baby Nail Clippers  
Shampoo, Soap, Lotion ..... Infant Thermometers  
Laundry Baskets .... Burp Rags & bibs ..... Bottle Brushes

And more...



# 2018 Conference Leaders

## Preschool

### Darlene Jernigan

*Director of Preschool Ministries at First Baptist, Russellville*

I joined the staff of First Baptist Church in September 2006. My husband Jay and I have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. We're most definitely blessed.

I came here from First Baptist Church Rogers, AR after serving as Children's Choir Coordinator, Children's Ministry Director, and Director of Preschool Ministries. I am originally from Newport News, Virginia and Jay is from Paragould, Arkansas. It's an awesome feeling to know you're doing exactly what the Lord designed you to do.



## Children

### Shay Caldwell

*Pastor of Kids at First Baptist Rogers*

Shay Caldwell is a graduate from Mid America Seminary and the Kid's Pastor at First Baptist Rogers. Shay was in the corporate world for 11 and His managerial experience has helped him be more effective the last 15 years in ministry. Shay is a seasoned camp pastor and conference speaker, sharing Gods truth all over the world. Shay's ministry is to lead people to fall madly and passionately in love with God, and teaching others to do the same.



## Students

### Rev. Tad Moore

*Young Adult Pastor, Hot Springs Baptist Church*

Tad Moore serves as the Pastor to Students at HSBC and he also previously served as the Student Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church Benton before joining the HSBC staff. Tad earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries from Ouachita Baptist University in 2003 and is currently working toward his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



## Adults

### Jeff Ivey

*Teaching/Discipleship Pastor, First Baptist, Greenwood*

Jeff joined the FBC staff in March 2001 and provides leadership for EDGE Worship and Adult Life Groups.

Jeff's passion is to lead people to genuinely love God and each other and because he believes this happens best in life groups, the focus of his ministry is connecting everyone in our church with a life group.

Jeff is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served at the First Baptist Church of Norman, Oklahoma and the First Baptist Church of Ponder, Texas.

## Pastors

### Danny Bryson

*Education/Outreach Minister, First Baptist, Hot Springs*



Danny's career in ministry began in 1978 in Clinton, MO, as Minister of Youth & Activities. After marrying his wife, Connie, while earning a degree in Religion and Church Recreation from Southwest Baptist University, Danny went on to earn his Master's degree in Religious Education. He served for 12 years as the Minister of Education and Administration at FBC, Sedalia, MO before joining FBC.

## Celebration Event Speaker

### Greg Addison

*Associate Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention*



Dr. Greg Addison currently serves as the Associate Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He served as the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cabot from February, 2007 until August, 2014.

## J. Russell "Rusty" Richardson

*Area Representative (Arkansas and Northeast Texas)  
LifeWay Christian Resources*



I served as minister of education at churches in Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Arkansas for 18 years before starting at LifeWay in 2005 as a church consultant. I am currently a member of Beech Street First Baptist in Texarkana, AR. My wife Sandy is a practicing PA at a family practice clinic in Texarkana. We have two daughters and a son-in-law.