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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Volume 47 Issue 5

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## Briefs from Brent

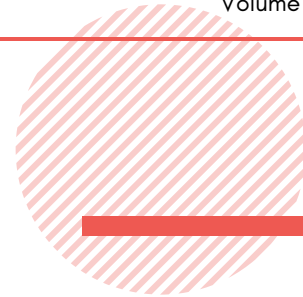
Jeremiah lamented the physical demise of Jerusalem and the spiritual demise of the Jewish people. Describing the depth and severity of the situation he wrote "The elders have left the city gate. The young men their music" (Lamentations 5:14).

In every city there are places where people congregate. The degree to which people assemble in these places serves as a barometer of that society's health. In ancient cultures the wise and learned elders would gather at the city gates to ponder and discuss what was occurring in the world. Their thoughts were not considered mere opinions. Rather, their expressions were built around the lessons of history and years of street-smart observations. They may not assess everything correctly, but when they spoke people paid attention because what they said was the result of careful thought. Young leaders respected these elders. Being less experienced they gathered at the city gates with them and listened to what they had to say. If they were wise, they would add the lessons gleaned from these aged and wise elders into the equations that determined what they would do moving forward.

It is a sad day when the elders no longer frequent the city gates. Perhaps they stopped coming to the city gates because the news and the happenings around them is depressing. Maybe they stopped gathering because the young have stopped coming to sit amongst them to listen and to learn. When that happens, society is deprived of the lessons and advice of days gone by. This results in errors in the days to come.

The city gates were also a place for gaiety and entertainment. The gathering places were a fun place to be. But in Jeremiah's day this was not true because the young men no longer came to make music. Their horns were silent. Their stringed instruments gathered dust in the corner. Rhythm no longer tapped in their souls. Life had become so difficult that there was nothing joyful to sing about. Worried people can write and sing worried songs, but crowds do not gather at the city gates to hear that kind of music.

What do we do when the gathering places are empty and silent? Where, and to whom do we turn when joy has left our hearts and dancing has turned to mourning? We do what Jeremiah did. We turn to the Lord asking him for help. We own the fact that at least part of our problem is that we have distanced ourselves from God because of our sinfulness. Thus, we cry out to God in desperation and repentance "Lord, bring us back to yourself" (Lamentations 5:21a).



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# ***Baptisms***

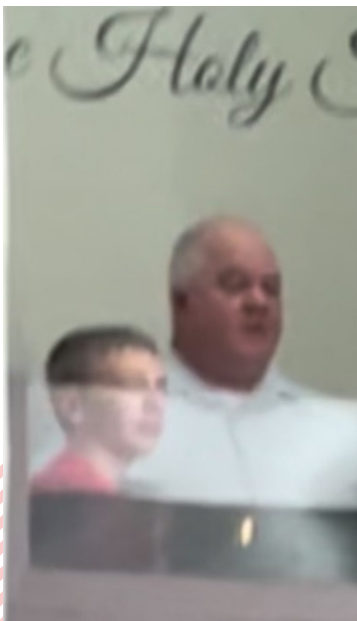
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## **First Baptist Church, Carmi**

First Baptist Church of Carmi celebrated the baptisms of Austin Brown and Braylen Miller. It is always wonderful to see how the Lord is working in drawing people unto himself.



## **Northside, Grayville**



Northside Missionary Baptist Church in Grayville had the joy of celebrating another baptism. Pictured is Pastor Dennis Seidel baptizing Landon Bowling.

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If your church has baptism pictures to share,  
please send them to us so we can rejoice with you.

# GWBA Happenings

## GWBA Camp

GWBA Camp Registration Forms are now available.

Junior Camp (July 6-9) forms can be found --> [HERE](#).

Senior Camp (July 9-13) forms can be found --> [HERE](#).

Camp Staff forms can be found --> [HERE](#).

This year the Junior camp will operate under the theme of "Under Construction." The theme for Senior Camp is "Drought Tolerant Once Established."

## FBC Fairfield Centennial Celebration

On May 6, 1924 First Baptist Church of Fairfield and the Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfield came together and took the name First Baptist Church of Fairfield. On May 4 and 5 the church will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. At this time the church became a part of what was then the Mt. Erie Baptist Association and began identifying with the Illinois Baptist State Association, and the Southern Baptist Convention.



The theme of the 100th anniversary celebration is "Looking to Jesus Yesterday, Today, and Forever" based on Hebrews 11:39-12:2.

The celebration will begin on Saturday May 4 at 3:30 with a worship service in the old sanctuary followed by a carry-in meal, a time of testimony, and an ice cream social.

On Sunday May 5 at 9:00 there will be a renewing of the church covenant, followed by worship at 10:15. The celebration will conclude with lunch and a time of testimonies.

## GWBA Disaster Relief Response

Our disaster relief team was on the ground in Stonefront and Carrier Mills April 3rd.



We enjoy seeing what's happening in the GWBA churches, Please send us pictures and information about special events in your church.

**Coming Soon**

## Multiply Illinois Regional Hub

This is a gathering designed to help pastors and leaders take their churches to the next level by providing proven best-practices to accelerate a movement of growing, healthy, prevailing churches and ministries!

This event is free

Register --> [HERE](#).



Location:

Logan Street Baptist Church  
Mt. Vernon, IL

Dates & Times:

Tuesday May 21 (PM)

Registration - 5:00 PM (box meal provided)

Sessions: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

OR

Wednesday May 22 (AM)

Registration - 9:00 AM (Coffee and snacks)

Sessions: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Our theme is : MULTIPLYING HEALTHY, PREVAILING CHURCHES.

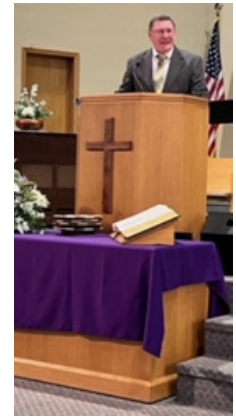
You'll be able to choose 2 breakouts:

- Lead Thy Self: Staying healthy for Kingdom advancement
- Beyond the Status Quo: How to vision cast to ignite your church's purpose
- Navigating Change Without Blowing Up the Church: Dealing with change, conflict, and toxic people
- Reaching the Unconvinced: Building a biblically healthy outward-focused Church

## FMBC Albion Deacon Ordination

Pastors and Deacons from five Greater Wabash Baptist Association churches joined the pastor and deacon at First Missionary Baptist Church of Albion on Sunday April 14 to ordain three new deacons. It was good to help the church in ordaining John Brock, Steve McMahel, and Daniel Matthes.

Pastor Christian Cullison questioned the candidates. Don Evans from Wayne City brought the charge to the deacons and the church. Nathaniel Trowbridge, pastor at Samaria Missionary Baptist Church near Albion gave the ordination prayer.



## GWBA - May Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 5 David Harl
- 8 Alyssa Caudill
- 9 Ron Fellows (celebrating 6 years at Crossville)
- 9 Christian & Faith Cullison
- 9 Keegan Ready
- 13 Troy Shook (celebrating 18 years at Mt. Zion)
- 15 Matt & Kim Barner
- 19 Thomas Rhinehart
- 20 Brock Cloyd
- 21 Debbie Collins
- 24 Vanessa & Scott Kiser
- 27 Doug & Karen Haile
- 28 Liz & Matt Rhinehart

## Did You Know?

Greater Wabash Baptist Association has a website. Have you checked it out?

[greaterwabash.org](http://greaterwabash.org)

We're also on Facebook.

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>			
<b>March 2024</b>			
<b>General Fund Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>		
Arrington Prairie Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 1,907.83
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 300.00	AMS Salary	\$ 2,885.61
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 183.61	Meeting Expense	\$ -
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ -	Office Expense	\$ 501.03
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 1,574.81	Office Supplies	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ -	Telephone	\$ 101.30
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 349.33
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ 151.31
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 258.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 308.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 207.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 615.06
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 901.20	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ 40.00
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 267.82	Leadership Development	\$ 275.00
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 325.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ (70.65)
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 496.00	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 662.07	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 188.04	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 356.08	Insurance	\$ 521.88
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,031.26</b>
Misc.Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ 30.98		
<b>Total Income - General Fund</b>	<b>\$7,075.61</b>		
		<b>Associational Missions Bank Balances</b>	
Monthly Income	\$7,075.61	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$67.86
Previous Balance	\$1,054.49	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$41,214.42
Expenses	\$8,062.24	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,282.28</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$67.86</b>		
<b>Special Gifts Income</b>		<b>Special Gifts Expense</b>	
Camp	\$0.00	Camp	\$0.00
Disaster Relief	\$1,600.00	Disaster Relief	\$30.98
Mission Fund	\$0.00	Mission Fund	\$0.00
New Equipment	\$0.00	New Equipment	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$1.73	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,601.73</b>	<b>Total Special Gifts Expense</b>	<b>\$30.98</b>

If you have used literature, please make arrangements to bring it to the office or contact Brent at 618-599-5059.

He periodically takes a load of these used materials to Love Packages where the items will be packaged and shipped to other nations that can use them.