
T H E T I E

THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Volume 49 Issue 7

Dear GWBA Family,

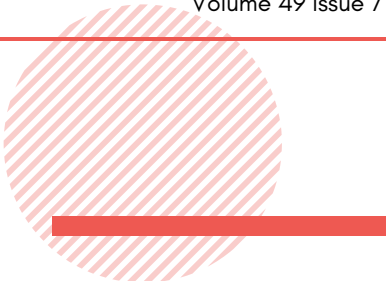
As part of my devotional time, I have been reading the parables of Jesus recently. I was reading about the parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14. The instructions that the host of the banquet gave to his servants caught my attention. The host instructed his servants to go out into the community and invite others to the banquet. They were instructed to go to the streets and alleys of their community. From those streets and alleys the servants were to bring in the poor, maimed, blind, and lame to the banquet. Later the host instructed the servants to go further out of the city into the highways and hedges to make them come to the banquet. The host had the desire to have his house full.

I had the privilege of preaching a challenge at Ellis Mound Baptist Church a few weeks ago. The challenge I gave to the Ellis Mound church family is to develop a mindset about having a focus on finding "Who is your one?" Who is your one that you can pray for, invest time and effort to introduce them to Jesus and lead them to a place where they grow in that relationship. We need to be like the example of Peter and John in Acts 3:1-10. They were on their way to a prayer meeting at the Temple. As they neared the entrance, they stopped and took time to inspect a man with needs. They interacted with him and then introduced him to Jesus. They extended the name of Jesus to him and extended a hand to help him learn about what Jesus can do for him.

We need to keep extending the name of Jesus and hand of help to others in need. We need to be like Peter and John as we are going about our regular schedules and routines of our daily lives, we need to take the time to notice the people that are in our lives. We need to take time to slow down and take notice of the needs of people around us. We need to take time to interact, invest and introduce them to Jesus. There is good news because there are many stories of our GWBA Family doing this in our communities. We need to encourage one another with stories of what God is doing in our churches and communities.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given to engage our pastors and churches to see how we are going out into our communities with the name of Jesus and help for those who are in need. I look forward to sharing these wonderful stories of our GWBA Family here in The TIE and in our churches. Let us keep going out into the communities in which we live and share Jesus with everyone!

In His Service
Jay Loucks
GWBA Interim AMS



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Baptisms

It is wonderful to see how the Lord continues to work in our churches.

Crossville Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Ron Fellows had the pleasure of baptizing five individuals on Sunday, May 31st. That was definitely something worth celebrating. Pictured are the individuals baptized: Croix, Harlan, Cheryl, Miranda, and Stella.



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

Spotlight on Two GWBA Churches

A new item we want to include in our TIE is putting the spotlight on one or two of the churches in the GWBA Family. We will be reaching out each month to ask one or two of our churches to respond with a description of their church's ministry to their members and their community. This month we are featuring Crossville Missionary Baptist Church and Ellis Mound Baptist Church.

Crossville Missionary Baptist Church

Crossville Missionary Baptist Church is located in the town of Crossville. The property features a lovely sanctuary as well as a gymnasium/fellowship space.

Ron Fellows is the pastor of Crossville Missionary Baptist Church. He has this to say about the church:

On Mothers Day we had a young man saved and decide to be baptized, adding a total of 5 decisions to be baptized on Baptism Sunday May 31st. In June we had VBS, with an enrollment of 50, 25 children and 25 workers. We are looking forward to Sunday July 5th, when we will have a special patriotic service celebrating America's 250th birthday.



Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church

Ellis Mound is a rural church, nestled among farm fields but not far from Interstate 64.

Don Evans is the pastor of Ellis Mound Baptist Church. He has this to say about the church:

Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church is a loving and welcoming church. We have services on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Our Sunday School meets at 9:30 am and Worship at 10:30 am, Wednesday evening service is at 6:30. We enjoy meeting together with two of our fellow churches on fifth Sundays. We have implemented the "Who's Your One" ministry seeking to reach out to the community. Please keep us in prayer as we seek God's direction for the church.



Let us pray for Crossville Missionary Baptist Church and Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church during the month of July!

Check out next month's edition of The Tie to learn about two more of our churches.

GWBA Family News

We want to encourage our GWBA churches and pastors to share exciting kingdom news happening in the GWBA family.

Here are some of the exciting ministry opportunities that are taking place in the GWBA family. I have been privileged to hear and experience many of these ministry opportunities in the GWBA Family this month!

Jay Locuks Interim AMS of GWBA

Samaria Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Nathaniel Trowbridge shared that Samaria Missionary Baptist church has taken a summer break from their Kingdom Kids program. The church has been reaching out to those families in these summer months. Ladies in the church have been shopping for meals to share with their families involved in their Kingdom Kids program. They have prepared the ingredients for the meals in gallon sized Ziplock backs with instructions on how to prepare the meal. The church has been delivering those meals to their families involved in their Kingdom Kids program.

First Baptist Church of Mt. Carmel

Pastor Steve Freels and members of First Baptist of Mt. Carmel are preparing for another mission trip to Bosnia later in the month of July. They will be engaging the population of a Bosnian city with English classes. Please pray for them as they prepare for this foreign mission opportunity. We look forward to hearing about their experience in the future.

First Baptist Church of Grayville

Pastor David Smith and members of FBC Grayville have been meeting on Sunday nights for evangelism preparation courses. Once a month the church designates a location in Grayville and spends time grilling pork burgers to give away to the neighbors that they are engaging in ministry. On Sunday June 7th, the church met in the parking lot of an apartment complex. They began to grill pork burgers and then go door to door in the apartment complex to engage the residents in a gospel conversation. After connecting with the apartment residents, the church began to meet the neighbors living near the apartment complex offering them a burger and a gospel presentation.

Northside Grayville Baptist Church

Pastor Dennis Seidel and members of Northside Grayville met on Wednesday night June 17th at the community pavilion in the center of Grayville. The church provided a selection of hamburgers, hotdogs, and pork burgers to the members of the community that came by the pavilion. They spent time engaging the community members in conversation and extended an invitation to join them at Northside Grayville. They are looking for opportunities to share Jesus with them. Northside Grayville is also starting an outreach on Sunday nights to Young Adults in their twenties. The outreach is designed to reach out to young adults and engage them in a relationship with a time of fellowship, Bible study, and ministry.

GWBA Family News Continued

Sims Mission Baptist Church

Pastor Daniel Bradley and members of Sims Missionary gathered at the Fairfield Walmart on Saturday June 20th to engage families as they came to shop at Walmart. They were there to look for the opportunity to engage families and share with a new ministry initiative that they are developing. Their new ministry initiative is Father's in the Field which is a mentoring program for young men with no father figures. The members engaged families at Walmart and invited families to join them in worship at Sims MBC and for their upcoming VBS.

Keenes Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Matt Barner and members of Keenes Missionary Baptist Church have recently purchased a van to be used in bringing in young people for their new children and youth ministry that is held on the first and third Wednesday evenings. Pastor Matt reported that the van is being filled each week with young people being brought to learn more about Jesus.

Liberty Baptist Church of Burnt Prairie

Pastor Tim Collins and the congregation of Liberty Baptist Church have established an outdoor food pantry cabinet located near the sidewalk of the church. The church stocks the cabinet with food items so families in the community of Burnt Prairie can use the items for their families. The cabinet is used by families on a regular basis.

First Baptist Church of Fairfield

Pastor Bennie Tomberlin and the members of First Baptist of Fairfield engage in a weekly outreach to families in the Fairfield community. Twice a week, the church offers an opportunity for families in need to come to their garage and parking lot to receive needed groceries. In recent weeks, the church has seen an increase in the number of families looking for assistance. The church engages in creating relationships with the families in need and looking for opportunities to remember those families in prayer.



Please let us know of your church's upcoming mission trips/projects so we can pray for you.

New Contact Information for the Loucks Family

We recently moved into the parsonage of North Side Baptist Church. We are thankful for the church's extension of this opportunity to our family. Our new address is 103 Sluder Avenue Fairfield, Illinois 62837. Feel free to stop by the home or by the GWBA office if you are in the Fairfield area. I have been trying to keep regular office hours at the GWBA office. I am normally there 9 am-1 pm Monday through Thursday.

Upcoming Vacation Bible School Dates in GWBA Churches

Albion – June 28 - July 2

Northside, Grayville – July 12 - 16

It's ACP Time

ACP's have been sent out, and we want to encourage all our churches to fill them out and return them to the GWBA office in care of our Association Clerk, Keri Mosson. Thanks for your participation.

Update on the GWBA Search Committee

The Search Committee is currently receiving resumes for the role of Associational Mission Strategist for our Association. Please be in prayer for the Search Committee members as they prayerfully process the information about any potential candidates and be in prayer for the individuals who are being considered for the role. May we follow the Lord's direction as He leads us to the man He has chosen to be our next AMS.



GWBA Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be here in a few months. Please put the date on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Greater Wabash Baptist Association Annual Meeting

September 20, 2026

begins at 3:30 p.m.

Host Church: First Baptist of Carmi

More information coming in future editions of The Tie.

For the Youth

July 4-11th GWBA Camp week at Lake Sallateeska.

The GWBA camp is coming up soon! On July 4-7th, we will have 82 campers and 43 staff members on the grounds of Lake Sallateska. Pastor Christian Cullison of First Baptist Church of Albion will be the camp pastor for this portion of the camp. Shannon Ford of the Mission Department of the IBSA will be the camp missionary.

On July 7-11th, we will have 98 senior campers and 53 staff members on the grounds for this portion of the week. Pastor Tim Johnson, an elder at First Baptist Church of Mt. Carmel, will be the speaker for this portion of the camp.

Please pray for the Leadership team of Directors Dennis and Carissa Seidel, Sharon Reed and Gina Johnson as the lead this week. Please pray for the opportunities to share love with the students, to share the gospel and witness the moving of the Lord in their lives. If you are interested, you can join us for worship each evening in the chapel. We will be sharing pictures and testimonies of this wonderful week following camp, so keep an eye out for the great news!



GWBA CHURCH CAMP

JUNIOR CAMP

- XP Isaiah 41:10
- Pastor: Christian Cullison
- July 4-7, 2026
- current 3rd-7th grades
- \$125 - camper

SENIOR CAMP

- Lift Heavy
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- Pastor: Tim Johnson
- July 7-11, 2026
- current 8th-12th grades
- \$165 - camper

Camp applications are due on May 18th.
Questions - contact Dennis or Carissa Seidel 618-315-0690 or 618-315-0692

Third Annual Youth Rally

ELLIS MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH



**SATURDAY, JULY 25
AT 6:00PM**

**MUSIC: JAMEY JOHNSON
MESSAGE: NATHANIEL MARLOW**



Address:
23978 County Road 1125E
Wayne City, IL 62895
South of Wayne City / North of
McLeansboro off of the Aden Rd

**Pizza and Fellowship to
follow**
Please RSVP or Questions to
Sheila Smith
618-531-3288



If you have any questions regarding camp, please contact
Dennis or Carissa Seidel at 618-315-0690,
618-315-0692 or gwbacamp@gmail.com

Lake Sallateeska Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER



Help us show God's love in practical ways this summer

JUNE & JULY 2026

Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp

Serving at camp is a powerful way to make a difference. Whether you can help for a week or just a day or two. Your time and willingness matter. Every role helps create a fun, safe meaningful experience for campers. There is a place for everyone to serve this summer.

Contact Us

618-336-5272



JacobKimbrough@lbsa.org

IBSA Camps are made possible by the generous giving of Illinois Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program and Mission Illinois Offering.

Congratulations to the Harl Family

Felicity Verse Harl, the third daughter of David Harl and his wife Anna Grace is now a little over a month old, having been born on May 26th. Anna Grace says this of their one-month-old: *Things she loves so far are taking naps outside while her sisters play, being sat up like a big girl, getting baths, and being talked to!*

David serves on the ministry staff of First Baptist Church, Fairfield.



GWBA - July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Dennis & Carissa Seidel
- 3 Titus Freels
- 7 David & Stevi Smith
- 8 Xandar Trowbridge
- 12 Scott Kiser
- 12 Matt Barner (celebrating 6 years at Keenes)
- 14 Lydia Freels
- 16 Eliana Kiser
- 21 Kim Shook
- 22 Ron Fellows
- 24 Jim Minnick (celebrating 4 years at North Side, Fairfield)
- 27 David & Anna Grace Harl
- 30 Troy Shook
- 30 Aiden Lasswell
- 31 Sheila Tomberlin
- 31 Faith Cullison

Did You Know?

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

greaterwabash.org

We're also on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report May 2026			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 300.00	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ -
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Salary	\$ 2,601.00
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 972.03	Office Expense	\$ 59.77
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 93.67
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 145.05
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 251.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 296.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 287.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 398.58
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 710.91	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ 60.00
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 277.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Payroll Liabilities	\$ (34.50)
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 313.38	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 347.14	Investment Expense	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 124.52	Postage	\$ 32.91
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 200.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 508.88	Insurance	\$ 416.66
Miscellaneous	\$ 34.50	General Ledger Entry	\$ 34.50
Misc. Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ -	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 4,561.20
Total - General Fund	\$ 6,414.36		
		Associational Missions Bank Balances	
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 6,414.36	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 4,381.99
Previous Balance	\$ 2,528.83	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 26,932.88
Expenses	\$ 4,561.20	Total	\$ 31,314.87
General Fund Balance	\$ 4,381.99		
		Investments	
		Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 60,476.95
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 69,301.08
		Total	\$ 189,778.03
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 19,960.00	Camp	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ 100.00	Disaster Relief	\$ -
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.42	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 20,060.42	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ -

If you have used Sunday School literature to be taken to Love Packages to be shipped for reuse internationally please contact Jay Loucks at 618-599-5448 or via email at pastorjayloucks@yahoo.com