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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Volume 49 Issue 5

Dear Greater Wabash Family,

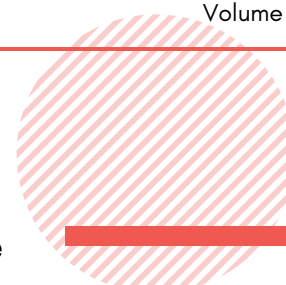
This last month has been a challenging time in a new ministry role for me. This month has brought me the privilege of serving in this new role of ministry as the GWBA Association Missionary Strategist (AMS). It has been a learning experience for me as I am looking for ways to encourage pastors, engage with churches and equip churches to extend their reach into their communities with the gospel.

In the last month and half, I have had the privilege of being in fourteen of our twenty-two churches. I am trying to be in a different church each Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday nights each week. I have enjoyed this time in meeting old friends and meeting new friends as we worship, fellowship, serve and be in bible study together. This experience has brought two words to my mind. The first word is family, and the second word is together. The word family reminds me of the importance of having healthy relationships. I think of a sermon that I preached several years ago about the need to have healthy family relationships. In our world today, we can be operating in roles and relationships that are POW's, MIA and AWOL or operating in reserve duty/part-time in nature. These terms indicate that there is a negative and improper attitude that is damaging a relationship. We need to make sure that our relationships in our GWBA family are together with strong ties of love, comfort, caring, praying and nurturing each other.

The second word that keeps coming to my mind is the word together. The word together reminds me of the importance of not operating apart from others. When we operate together, we can walk alongside to encourage and strengthen him when he is struggling. When we are together in prayer, ministry, missions, and worship, we come alongside and we are stronger than we are alone. An image in my mind when I look at the pictures of our churches on the Associational office wall is that together we can do more than we can do alone. The image I have in my mind is rope that is comprised of many strands woven together which allows greater weight to be held down and pulled in a direction.

As we move forward this summer, we need to Family Together! If I can be of any assistance to your church or ministry, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. Each Wednesday, I plan to spend time praying for every one of our churches, our upcoming camp in July, and up-coming Vacation Bible schools this summer.

Let us be Family Together
Jay Loucks Interim AMS GWBA



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Baptisms

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

Carmi, First Baptist

Pastor Drake Caudill had the joy of baptizing Brantley Hoskins on Easter Sunday, April 5th.



Wayne City Baptist

Cassidy Buchanan was baptized by Jay Loucks at Wayne City Baptist Church on Wednesday April 15th.

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

Leadership Team Report

The Leadership Team met in April to discuss the creation of a search committee for a new AMS for the association. The team will meet in their May meeting to bring the names of seven GWBA members to serve on the search team. Please pray for this process and the work of this committee.

Pastor and Wives Fellowship

On Sunday April 26th, we had five pastors and their wives meet for a time of fellowship and food at the Associational office after morning worship. Pastors and wives from North Side Fairfield, Northside Grayville, Ellis Mound, Olive Branch and Sims spent time in fellowship, getting acquainted and praying for our churches. It was great to hear Pastors and their wives sitting around tables enjoying lunch and laughing as they fellowship together. A special shout out to Theresa Bradley for doing a great job in decorating the tables for this lunch. Future opportunities for fellowship among our Pastors and Wives will be planned soon.



Pleasant Hill Closure

On April 12th, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (formerly known as the Brick Church) held its last service. The Church voted to close and move its property and assets into the control of the Legacy program of the Baptist Foundation of Illinois. Please pray for the process of this transition and for the remaining members as they look for a new church home.


Work Project at Lake Sallateeska

On April 21-22, a group from First Baptist Church of Grayville under the leadership of Pastor David Smith worked on a project at the camp. Pastor David Smith and First Baptist Church have been working each fall and spring since 2020 on projects at the camp. This spring's project is putting metal siding on the camp house at the entrance of the camp. If you are interested in joining in helping with the project, please contact Pastor David Smith (cell number (618) 518-9345). The hope is to get the work done by the end of May in time for the start of the summer season at the camp. The plan is to work one day each week to complete the project. All assistance to help in this project would be greatly appreciated.





2026 GWBA Camp

Please pray for our camp that is in July. Please pray for our leadership team as they prepare to start to organize the many details that still need to be done after the applications of staff and campers are turned in on May 18th. Please send in those applications so we can promptly start on the work that needs to be done, as camp is two months away! Please pray for the workers that are needed and planning on being at camp. They play such a great and important role as we minister to the next generation. We have heard from some of our returning campers, and they are excited about this summer's camp.

A promotional graphic for GWBA Church Camp 2026. The background is yellow with a sunburst pattern. At the top, the text "GWBA CHURCH CAMP" is written in large, blue, bubbly letters with white outlines. Below the text are three photos: a group of people in a canoe on a lake, a group of people on a stage at night, and a group of people playing a game on a sandy field. Below the photos are two columns of text, each with a blue header. The left column is for "JUNIOR CAMP" and the right column is for "SENIOR CAMP". At the bottom, there is a blue wavy banner with white text providing application details and contact information.

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

The camp registration packet can be found -->[HERE](#).
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.

2026 Priority Women's Conference

Priority Women's Conference took place on April 24-25. One conference. Two days. Three locations. Several women from Greater Wabash Baptist Association attended; some of them at the Troy/Bethel location and others at the Decatur/Tabernacle location.



Alyssa Caudill of First Baptist Church of Carmi said she *loved spending the weekend with amazing women who love Jesus!*



Sheila Smith of Ellis Mound Baptist Church has this to say about this year's Priority Women's Conference: *As a first-time attendee, I didn't know what to expect. I found the keynote speakers to be very interesting, and there seemed to be a breakout session that appealed to everyone. Time together with the ladies from our church gave us a chance to get closer. More importantly, connections were made with new friends from other churches that touched hearts in a special way.*



Joann Loucks, wife of Interim GWBA Associational Mission Strategist also attended as did Jeanette Cloyd. According to Joann, her purpose for attending Priority was *for healing, spiritual growth, and belly laughs, lots and lots of belly laughs!!!* Jeanette has attended Priority for several years and is one of the many volunteers involved behind the scenes. Her responsibilities at the Decatur location this year included serving as the Exhibit Hall Coordinator as well as leading the *Write Your Story* breakout.

Cullison Family Welcomes Tate David

Albion First Baptist Church Pastor Christian Cullison and his wife Faith welcomed their second child and first son on April 6th. Big sister Ellie Faye looks smitten with her baby brother, too.



GWBA - May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5 David Harl
- 8 Alyssa Caudill
- 9 Ron Fellows (celebrating 8 years at Crossville)
- 9 Christian & Faith Cullison
- 9 Ellie Faye Cullison
- 13 Troy Shook (celebrating 40 years at Mt. Zion)
- 15 Matt & Kim Barner
- 19 Thomas Rhinehart
- 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

We're also on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report			
March 2026			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 300.00	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,051.17
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 584.15	AMS Salary	\$ 2,842.27
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 915.82	Office Expense	\$ 113.67
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 198.51
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 440.19
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ 109.70
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 974.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 389.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 325.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 171.55
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 538.84	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ -
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Gray	\$ -	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 315.00	Leadership Development	\$ 813.69
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ 35.99
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 1,102.22	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 460.10	Investment Expense	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 222.28	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 153.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 340.04	Insurance	\$ 534.94
Miscellaneous	\$ -	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 8,065.24
Misc. Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ 437.05		
Total - General Fund	\$ 8,748.50	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
		General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 2,753.21
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 8,748.50	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 5,539.66
Previous Balance	\$ 2,507.00	Total	\$ 8,292.87
Expenses	\$ 8,502.29		
General Fund Balance	\$ 2,753.21	Investments	
		Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 59,354.31
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 69,301.08
		Total	\$ 188,655.39
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 1,809.00	Camp	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ 350.00	Disaster Relief	\$ 437.05
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.20	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,159.20	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ 437.05

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 pastorjayloroucks@yahoo.com