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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Volume 49 Issue 2

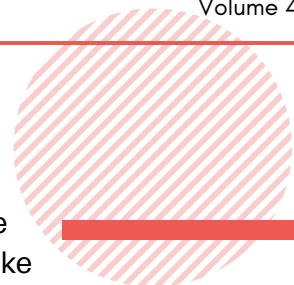
Briefs from Brent

The weather professionals kept telling us that a huge storm was coming but I really did not believe it was going to happen. Or maybe I just hoped they were wrong. At any rate I did not make any special preparations for the storm or make any contingent plans if it happened or not. I was scheduled to preach, and I prepared and went over my sermon several times even after all local metrics indicated that it really was going to happen. I did buy a new snow shovel but that was on Saturday of the expected storm and since I reasoned that I needed one since the one I had was ancient and bent.

I went to my home office on Saturday night, which is in a finished room in a detached garage that I call my cabin. There was only an inch or two of snow at that time and I was still holding to hopes that the storm might fizzle. But when I went back into the house after midnight, I had to trapse through snow that was well up over my ankles. Once inside, I sat down on the sofa and peered out the large picture window and watched the snowplows roll by. I guess there is something to be said about the beauty of the snow, but all I could think about was all the inconveniences it was going to cause.

Sunday morning came. We watched an online worship service of a congregation I know well. The one preaching did an excellent job. Brock dressed in his "church clothes" and got his Bible even though we had told him that church was closed and we would go to church on the computer. He is a creature of habit, and I think there are some important habits we should keep. But otherwise, I hardly knew it was Sunday. Most of my thoughts centered around how this storm was going to mess up a lot of my plans this week. The snow continued to fall, and I took a survey of the damage. I am not sure of the accumulation but well over a foot and the drifts were 3 feet in some places. I began calling around to find someone to plow out my driveway. I have places to go and things I need to do but the snow is preventing it!

My mother used to say that when plans get interrupted it might be the Lord protecting us from something. Can it be that all the cancelations and rescheduling is the hand of God forcing us to slow down and recalculate and rest? I don't know, but I do know that insurance companies call storms and disasters "acts of God". God did make the snow. He determines the temperatures. He directs the wind. I believe that what the Lord gives us He gives for a purpose so I am trying to decide not to waste a good snowstorm.



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Baptisms

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

There were no baptisms reported this month. Let's pray that the Lord will draw people to Him and they will be obedient to follow Him into baptism.



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

Camp Information

February Is Camp Month

The single biggest annual event we do in our association is our GWBA Youth camp that takes place each July at Lake Sallateeska. It is also the most expensive. That cost is largely covered by the camp fees paid either by the individual campers or the churches those campers are affiliated with. Even people who serve on our camp staff either pay their own way or their churches pay their way. The cost of doing camp will undoubtedly rise along with the rest of our economy. However, we believe in the mission of our camp ministry and want to make it possible and affordable for anyone who wants to attend to do so. Our hope would be that any increase in the fees charged to campers would be small and that we could do some extra things to make camp a better experience. To accomplish that we will need funding from different sources.

We are asking our churches and/or individuals to consider making a special gift to our camp ministry. This gift would not take the place of any fees charged to individual campers or staffs but would be used to undergird our entire camp ministry and hopefully allow us to keep any fee increases charged to campers at a minimum. We are making February of 2026 Camp Month and are encouraging people to give to this important ministry during this time. Those wishing to give can make checks payable to GWBA and mail them to GWBA, 101 NE 7th Street, Fairfield, IL 62837. Please make a note that the gift is for camp ministry and our treasurer will handle the funds accordingly.

Glorious things happen at our GWBA camp every year. Last year 18 young people were saved during our Junior and senior camps. We saw young people make commitments that will change the trajectory of their lives as they determine to live right and to serve the Lord through His church. We believe we are seeing young leaders emerge from our camp ministry who will one day lead our churches. Will you please consider making a gift to this important ministry?

Please click [HERE](#) to download a flyer that can be used as you promote Camp Month.



Upcoming Events

Ordination of Ben Foote

Ben Foote, pastor of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Fairfield, will be ordained Sunday February 15. The ordination will take place during the 10:10 AM service at First Baptist Church of Carmi. First Baptist Carmi is Ben's home church.

Gathering with the New IBSA Executive Director

At 2:00 on Sunday March 1 at First Baptist Church in Fairfield our association will have a meet and greet time for incoming IBSA Executive Director Scott Foshie. This is an opportunity for the people of our association to speak informally with Scott. We will also give Scott some time to share his heart and vision for the future of IBSA. Our own AMS Brent Cloyd is retiring on March 31 so this gathering will also serve as a retirement reception for Brent.

Associational Training Event

At 6:00 PM on Thursday March 12 we will have a training night. We will have training in two areas. Kaleb Collard will help us discover ways to better use church media both in our buildings and in our on-line presence. Jay Loucks will be helping us to implement ways to better minister to youth and children in our churches. This meeting will be held at North Side Baptist Church in Fairfield. The Church is located at 905 N. First Street in Fairfield. This training time will begin with a light meal.

Deacon Training

On Saturday March 21 from 8:30 until 10:30 we will have a Deacon Training. Bob Dickerson, former pastor at First Baptist Marion and current IBSA Zone Consultant will be leading this training. Bob will be teaching us about "What is a Deacon to Be and What is a Deacon to Do." The location of this meeting is yet to be determined.





LISTENING SESSION

An opportunity to meet Scott Foshie, the new Executive Director Elect of IBSA, share your perspective on ministry as Illinois Baptists, and ask questions.

**GREATER WABASH BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION INVITES
YOU TO JOIN US**

**Sunday, March 1
2 PM**

FBC Fairfield Fellowship Hall
308 South First Street
Fairfield, IL 62837



**SCOTT
FOSHIE**

**Executive Director Elect
Illinois Baptist State Association**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE GREATER WABASH ASSOCIATION OFFICE**

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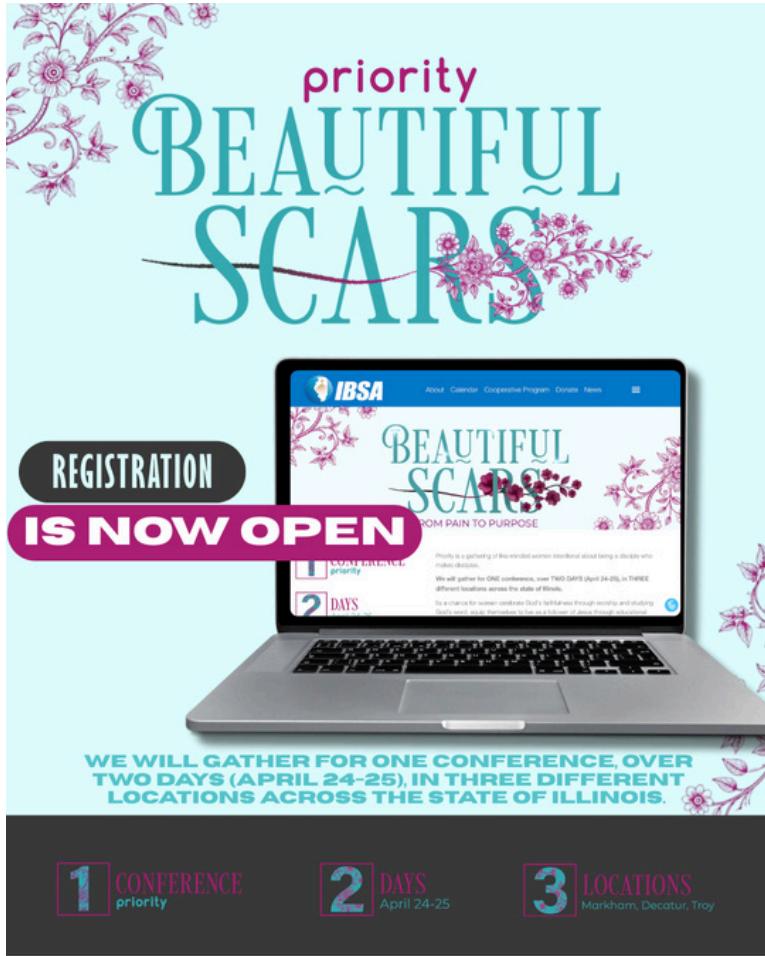
Priority Women's Conference

This year's Priority Conference is like no other.

1 CONFERENCE
priority

2 DAYS
April 24-25

3 LOCATIONS
Markham, Decatur, Troy



Priority is a gathering of like-minded women intentional about being a disciple who makes disciples.

We will gather for ONE conference, over TWO DAYS (April 24-25), in THREE different locations across the state of Illinois.

It's a chance for women to celebrate God's faithfulness through worship and studying God's word; equip themselves to live as a follower of Jesus through educational breakout sessions and leave ready to return to their area of ministry reminded that they are not alone on their journey. Priority is planned with you in mind. You are our community.

There will be live worship, breakouts, and expo halls at all locations, and the main teaching sessions will be broadcast from Decatur to the other 2 locations.

Check out the schedule and the biographical information about the speakers [HERE](#).

Plan to attend this outstanding Women's Conference.

Mt. Carmel FBC Annual Week of Prayer

Pastor Stephen Freels annually leads his church in a week of prayer. People not only pray individually but they have home prayer meetings each night of the week. Steve communicates to his people that this is a time to draw closer to God and to one another. People are encouraged to fast and pray and to read not only scripture but a book that focuses on growth in Christian discipleship. During this week the congregation looks ahead to the mission of the church for the next year. They pray for themselves, one another, the lost, and the ministry of the church.

This year the week of prayer was January 25-31. The congregation focused on praying Acts 2:42-47.



GWBA - February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Dennis Seidel**
- 4 Brent & Jeanette Cloyd**
- 9 Bennie Tomberlin**
- 11 Tim & Kaitlyn Lasswell**
- 11 Jim Minnick**
- 13 Cash Trowbridge**
- 14 Karter Seidel**
- 24 Nathaniel Trowbridge**



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
December 2025

| <u>General Fund Income</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>General Fund Expenses</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| Treasurer's Report December 2025 | | | |
| <u>General Fund Income</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>General Fund Expenses</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
| Crossville Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 600.00 | AMS Health Life Retirement | \$ 2,007.83 |
| Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 431.97 | AMS Salary | \$ 2,885.61 |
| Elm River Baptist Church | \$ - | Meeting Expense | \$ - |
| First Baptist Church, Albion | \$ 1,622.06 | Office Expense | \$ 97.49 |
| First Baptist Church, Carmi | \$ 575.00 | Telephone | \$ 209.64 |
| First Baptist Church, Fairfield | \$ 100.00 | Utilities | \$ 198.29 |
| First Baptist Church, Grayville | \$ 167.00 | Administrative Assistant Salary | \$ 450.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel | \$ 250.00 | AMS Hospitality | \$ 25.90 |
| Jasper Baptist Church | \$ - | Christmas Bonus | \$ 600.00 |
| Keenes Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 394.12 | Convention Expense | \$ - |
| Liberty Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 470.00 | Payroll Taxes | \$ 53.44 |
| Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 294.00 | Staff Mileage | \$ 194.60 |
| Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church | \$ - | Treasurer Salary | \$ 250.00 |
| North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield | \$ 805.00 | Improvements Repair New Equip | \$ - |
| Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Gra | \$ 250.00 | Benevolence | \$ - |
| Olive Branch Missionary Baptist | \$ 431.00 | Leadership Development | \$ - |
| Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 400.00 | Mission Development | \$ - |
| Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 150.00 | Payroll Liabilities | \$ (493.67) |
| Samaria Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 821.41 | Student Ministry/Camp | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Sims Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 505.19 | WMU | \$ - |
| Stewart Street Baptist Church | \$ 210.84 | Postage | \$ - |
| Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 195.00 | Associational Clerk Salary | \$ - |
| Wayne City Baptist Church | \$ 357.86 | Insurance | \$ 534.96 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 200.00 | Total General Fund Expenses | \$ 8,414.09 |
| Transfer from Savings | \$ - | | |
| Investment Income | \$ - | Associational Missions Bank Balances | |
| Total - General Fund | \$ 9,230.45 | General Fund Balance - Checkin | \$ 2,880.58 |
| Monthly Income & Transfers | \$ 9,230.45 | Special Gifts - Designated Saving | \$ 2,200.59 |
| Previous Balance | \$ 2,064.22 | Total | \$ 5,081.17 |
| Expenses | \$ 8,414.09 | | |
| General Fund Balance | \$ 2,880.58 | Investments | |
| | | Baptist Foundation of IL | \$ 60,000.00 |
| | | BFI Cash Management | \$ 33,252.25 |
| | | Peoples National Bank | \$ 65,877.77 |
| | | Total | \$ 159,130.02 |
| Special Gifts Income | | Special Gifts Expense | |
| Camp | \$ 1,400.00 | Camp | \$ - |
| Disaster Relief | \$ 800.00 | Disaster Relief | \$ - |
| Mission Fund | \$ - | Mission Fund | \$ - |
| New Equipment | \$ - | New Equipment | \$ - |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 0.59 | Miscellaneous Transfer | \$ - |
| Total | \$ 2,200.59 | Total Special Gifts Expense | \$ - |

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.