

# Wolf Bayou Association of General Baptists



## Newsletter

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Inside Story 2

### Inside this Issue:

Church News 2

Word puzzle what's in a name 3

Church News 3

Camp News by Pamela

Camp News by Kurt Hudspeth, 4

### From Our Association Moderator



Dr Dennis Powell

#### We Need More!

Last night I met a young man named John. He is a freshman in high school and believes God has called him into the ministry. John reads a lot and often challenges his pastor with the depth of the questions he asks. John reads his Bible regularly as well as other books about the Bible and faith in God. From my brief encounter with John and the introduction from his pastor, I came away feeling pretty good about what God is going to do in his life in the future.

I also know a young lady who believes God has called her to a public speaking ministry

(we might say "evangelist.") She is very sharp and has tremendous insights into Scripture and life in general. She is a leader among young adults and she reads quite a bit from the Bible and books about faith in God. I am impressed with her commitment to Christ.

We need many more people like these two. Let me give you the typical "bad news, good news" scenario. I have been approached a couple of times lately by people in churches without pastors.

They are actively looking but cannot find anyone. My response to them is this, "Of course you cannot find anyone, because there aren't any more pastors available who are not retired." The life of our churches is important, but churches need pastor leaders in order to thrive, yet we have run out. We have two churches in our association who are being led by novice licensed pastors. They are both good men, but they have not had adequate time to learn and prepare for life as pastors. I am certain they will do their best because they both have a deep faith in God, but how much easier it would be for them if they had more time to prepare themselves.

#### Rev. Pedro Ramirez-Flota

Our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:

We trust the blessings of our Lord are upon you and your families. Through this letter my family and I wish to extend our most sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the love shown to us.

This love was shown during all the legal process we went through. This legal process was as yours as it was ours. We can say that

because we never felt alone and family during the long process which now culminated by the residency of five of the members of the family. Thank you for letting God use you to help us obtain it. Thank you for all the unconditional support given to me and to my family, once again THANK YOU VERY MUCH. We cannot thank you enough for so much love and support shown to us.

Want to hear the good news? God is still God and is still able to call out leaders to become pastors. Yet, we need to do our part. We need to cry to God in prayer and ask Him to call out people for the ministry. Then we need to become encouragers of those we believe God may call. We need to challenge our young adults with the possibility God will choose to call them to be pastors and missionaries. We need to challenge our middle and senior adults to consider the possibility that God will call them to a second career as a pastor.

Here is the challenge for us. Let us join together in prayer asking God for 10 new licensed ministers this year. We need them! It will take them a few years to be mentored and educated to be effective pastors and missionaries, so we need them to be called now. God does the calling; we do the praying, mentoring, and educating worship and prayer attendance has been good and the spirit is good.

We would like to extend as well this gratitude with the General Baptist Churches. Thank you for praying and adopting us into your family. My family and I, know that we are part of this special General Baptist family we have no doubt of it. We ask please that this letter may be sent to all the General Baptist Churches who participated on our long journey.

We love you all, brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Sincerely

**Chastain Chapel**

By Angela Shipley

Hope all the rain has helped your gardens. We are certainly blessed with all the rain we have had this year. I hope everyone remembered to show our Armed services people the appreciation they deserve this Memorial Day. They sacrificed their lives for our freedom just as our Savior Jesus Christ did. Praise His Holy name. We are pleased with the way our church has held together for the past seven months without a pastor. We have had some very good speakers fill in while the pulpit committee has searched for a pastor. We would like to thank Brother Dan Payne and Brother Marcus Hutto for the wonderful job they have done filling in while we search. God Bless them and their families. We have had one of our Founding members pass away recently. Mrs. Bessie Kennedy. She was a driving force in our church since the day Chastain was founded in 1957. She gave her all to our church and saw many changes happen with our church also. There was nothing she would not do for Chastain and we are going to miss her very much. On June 6 is Chastain Chapel Decoration Day, June 19 our church will be having a fish fry and on June 27 our Bible School will be starting. So please come out for all these events and have a good time. The New Young Life Center is a catch on.

On a lighter note, we have two members of Chastain who have been invited to play at Mt. View for some bluegrass music. They are very talented and we enjoy listening to Gary Lacy and his son Matthew play for us. They are very special to us. God Bless you all and have a great Summer and give thanks to all that God has given us.

It is nondenominational for teens who would not usually go to church. It is a great way to learn about God and His Son Jesus Christ, and to have fun with other teens. We are very proud of our teens who support this center.

**News from Centerpoint**

By Brenda Holley

Greetings from Centerpoint! We in the Quitman area are excited about the Lord! We just came off a weeklong community revival which was held June 6 thru 12 at the Quitman City Park. This was the second year for the event and plans are already underway for next year! Several area churches participated and the message was brought by a different pastor each night. The Spirit was felt each night as the Quitman community came together to worship our Lord and Savior. Attendance was good, the weather cooperated (for the most part!) and a good time in the Lord was had by all who attended.

The church recently named Meagan McDaniel as our youth coordinator. Meagan has been a member at Centerpoint for several years and enjoys working with the youth. She will be coordinating events for our

young people as we attempt to spread the word of Christ in our community. Our youth represents the foundation of our future and it is so very important that they accept Christ into their lives and know that He should be the one to direct their steps. The future of our continued religious freedom in this country is dependent upon our youth of today who are our adults of tomorrow.

Brother Willford Ivy recently treated us all to a fish fry. We met one Friday afternoon for a wonderful meal of fish and all the trimmings. Brother Willford catches fish all spring in preparation for this annual event. We're not sure who enjoys it more, Brother Willford when catching and frying the fish or us while eating them! Everything was wonderful and we finished the night up with a campfire and some fellowship. Several of the men camped out at the church and had breakfast the next morning. We understand they didn't get much sleep but very much enjoyed the visiting and testifying that took place. Next time you see Brothers Terry Hill and Larry Duncan, ask them how to make gravy! Yes, there's a story behind it!

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you safe. Until next time,

**Sunny Slope**

By Pat Bittle

We've been experiencing God's blessing at Sunny Slope Church, we recently Baptistized two young men at a Sunday morning service and to see the joy on their faces renewed the joy of God's salvation in all of us.

Our fellowship hall (and several of our members underwent a drastic transformation for the week of Vacation Bible School, when those attending were transported to the land of Egypt and experienced Joseph's journey. It is always a blessing to see the children learn and grow in God's word. Needless to say the week was a success.

At a recent business meeting the congregation voted to proceed with the construction of our new family life center; for various reasons progress had more or less halted on the project but we feel God is leading us to pick up and go forward. Those of you who have tackled such projects know that it can be a slow and patience-trying experience. The Lord has also blessed us as we have began a Bible Study class on Wednesday evenings. The youth were already having meetings with the last Wednesday of the month being fun night, so when the adults joined in we all enjoy a fellowship meal ending with praise and worship and prayer attendance has been good and the spirit is good.

Our pastor, Bro. Dwight, recently had a serious health scare, but God blessed again and after tests and medication, but mostly prayers, he was given a clean bill of health and is back in the pulpit doing his usual fine job.

Oh, give thanks unto the lord for he is good, His mercy endureth forever.

**North Little Rock**  
By Adam Pate

Since the month of march we have had six people to come to know the Lord, and a eighty one year old elder of the church rededicated his life to the lord. Also we have had two elders of the church sending a letter for deacon's lic. The church is growing spiritual and in numbers. The people have grab a hold of God's vision and been seeking his will in the church. We just started remodeling the children's nursery. The Lord is truly working in our church and we are excited to see how we can make a difference this year. Seeking his will and saving lives in our Lord Jesus Christ. Your Brother in

**Oakland City University** will again be offering classes in religious studies beginning in August. The first class will be Introduction to Christian Education and will be taught by Ron Byrd. Other classes to be offered this year are Worship Leadership and Church History. All of these courses will apply toward earning a Certificate in Religious Studies and an Associates in Religious Studies. Two students will receive their Certificates following completion of the Christian Education course, and two will receive their Associates degree following completion of all three courses.

Classes usually meet on Thursday evenings, 6:00-10:00 pm for 11 weeks to satisfy the requirements of a 3 credit hour class. All courses offered in this extension program are fully accredited and transferable. The cost for the classes has been \$225, which is a fraction of the full tuition cost. No increase has been announced at this time. For more information, contact Dennis Powell at 501.206.6568 or PastorDennis@HeberFirstGBC.com

**Wilburn General Baptist Church**

by Dorothy Ball

In March our church hosted the community Easter Sunrise Service. We heard a great Easter Message from the pastor of the Community Church, with some spirit filled singing. After the service we had breakfast that was prepared by the men of our church.

In April we had a great time with the Arkansas Revival Choir performing at our church. We have opened our doors and hearts to the Wilburn Family and Friends Relay for Life team. They have been able to raise money by having Chili and Spaghetti suppers. Also a gospel music singing made up of local talent. Keep our church in your prayers.

**Camp Formosa T-shirts**

Anyone interested in buying a 2010 Camp Formosa t-shirt can do so for a minimum \$5 donation (while supplies last, providing your size is still available). Contact Dewey Williams at (501) 745-6674. The shirt has the Camp Formosa logo on the front.

**Want to save Wolf Bayou Association some money?**

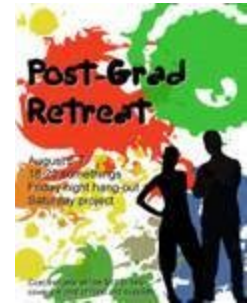
Want to get your newsletter more quickly? If you have an email address, and want to receive the newsletter in a PDF file instead of on paper, send your email address to Melinda@HeberFirstGBC.com. It costs us \$1 to send you a paper newsletter, but it will cost us nothing if we can send it via email. The newsletter is an important part of our communication and connection ministries of the association. It keeps you informed about church life and the ministries Wolf Bayou supports, and it is well worth the effort and expense. We want to be as cost effective and ministry effective as possible. Send us your email, and the next one won't cost a thing

**What's in a name**

**Change of Life/ Change of Name**

**What were the origin names of these biblical characters?**

- 1 Abraham & Sarah----(Genesis 17:5,15)
- 2 Israel------(Genesis 32:28)
- 3 Joshua------(Numbers 13:16)
- 4Solomon------(2 Samuel 12:24-25)
- 5 Peter------(John 1 :42)
- 6 Paul------(Acts 13:9)
- 7 Mora------(Ruth 1:20)
- 8 aphanath- Paaneah---(Genesis 41:45)
- 9 Belteshazzar------(Daniel 1: 6-7)
- 10 Jehoiakim------(2 Kings 23:34)
- 11 Zedekiah------(2 Kings 24:17)



**Last August, Camp Formosa hosted it's first Post-Grad Retreat**

aimed at students who have just graduated high school through 20-somethings. (We're flexible) Last year we had nearly a dozen come with little advanced warning but much excitement. Not wanting to necessarily be just like the other retreats, Post-Grad features a service project around Camp on Saturday. Last year's project was the repainting of the exterior of the concession stand. Wanting to continue this retreat after all the positive feedback, this year's Post-Grad Retreat will take place on August 6-7 at Camp Formosa. Friday night will be a night of fellowship and fun. We will have dinner at 6:00 and a small service at 7:00. Then the rest of the night is open for games and relaxing. Saturday morning, we will have breakfast at 8:30, and plan to begin this year's service project at 9:00. This year's project has yet to be determined and may encompass from repainting again, to possibly working on the cabins, so come prepared for anything. Cost for this retreat is \$15 to help with food and some of the supplies we may need depending upon the project. For more information, check out the Camp's Facebook page or the Camp Formosa page at [www.argbchurch.org](http://www.argbchurch.org).

## Wolf Bayou Association

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Great things have been happening at Camp Formosa recently. On May 22, we had the First Annual Camp Formosa Picnic. This is an open event for all people in the supporting denominations. About 64 of us enjoyed food, fun, music by New Direction, a blue-grass group from Heber Springs, and ended with a worship service where Pastor Dennis Powell gave a message on camping. Next year this event will be held May 7.

Junior Camp had the theme "Formosa Dude Ranch" and the 66 campers and 30 staff had a great week learning about horses and God. Instead of one evangelist all week, there were several special groups brought in to show us something about horses and relate it to God. For two evening worship times we traveled by hay wagon to the Hickory Grove Rodeo Arena. One evening our speaker set up a horse ring at camp and showed us some tricks with his horse. One afternoon the campers got to take a short ride on a horse and learned how to groom them. Another afternoon we had a water day with balloons and a water slide. The whole week revolved around the dude ranch theme with Campfire Stories (class times), Cowpoke Crafts, FYI (information about horses), and others. Through the course of the week there were 9 campers who made first time decisions for Christ and 11 that made Rededications!

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.argbchurch.org](http://www.argbchurch.org)



Senior Camp revolved around the theme "Inside Out" based on Ezekiel 36:24-27. Of the 85 campers there were 4 first-time decisions for Christ and at least 8 Rededications. Also there was a young man who answered the call to the ministry! Rev. Terry Hill served as evangelist and gave several very challenging messages about trusting Christ. Thursday evening's service focused on putting God and others first in our lives and being willing to put ourselves last and ended with a time of foot-washing.