

February

- 2.....Associational Camp Program Committee Mtg.,
4:00 p.m., Ministry Center
- 5.....Youth Super Bowl Party, 3-9 p.m., Ministry Center
- 6.....Ministers' Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Ministry Center
- 7.....Nominating Committee Mtg., 2:00 p.m., M.C.
- 7.....Mission Council Mtg., 4:00 p.m., Ministry Center
- 7.....**Youth Leaders Mtg., 7:00 p.m., M.C. (NEW DATE)**
- 11....."Transformational Class"/Sunday School Conference,
9-12 p.m., O'Fallon FBC (Register at MBC by 2/3/12)
- 12.....Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 13-19.....Focus on WMU Week
- 14.....Women on Mission Quarterly Mtg., 10:00 a.m.,
Gray Summit FBC
- 23.....Triple "L" Mtg., 10:30 a.m., Ministry Center
- 24.....Youth Gym Night, 7-10 p.m., Ministry Center (\$3.00
per person & please send an adult)
- 28-Mar 1DOM Winter Conference

MARCH

- 1.....VBS Director/Pastor Planning Clinic
- 3.....Baptist Men's Dinner & Builders Relief Team
Banquet, M.C. (Snow date Mar 31)
- 4.....Time Change - Set clocks ahead one hour
- 4.....Associational Spring Rally (**CANCELLED** this year
due to Regional Evangelism Conference on March
10.)
- 4-10.....Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
- 4-10.....Youth Week
- 4-11.....Week of Prayer for North American Missions
Emphasis
- 5.....Ministers' Mtg., 10:30 a.m., Ministry Center
- 10.....MBC Regional Evangelism Conference,
Parkway Baptist, 9:00-3:30
- 13.....WMU Council Mtg., 10:00 a.m., FBC - St. Clair
- 13.....Youth Leaders Mtg., 7:00 p.m., Ministry Center
- 20.....CORE: "Great Commission Conference", sponsored

**Plan now to participate in
"G.P.S." (God's Plan for Sharing)**

To take the gospel to every home in our region this year. This year's emphasis is on conducting big evangelistic events in the community. Call our office for more details or for assistance in planning.

NOTE: Calendar, Updates, additions and other announcements may be heard on KLPW radio (1220 AM) on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Weather related cancellations and closings will be available on our office phone answering system, ext. 411.

**Transformational Class/
Sunday School Conference**

**February 11, 9-12 p.m.
O'Fallon FBC**

(Register at MBC by February 3, 2012)

Please contact association office
if interested in carpooling.

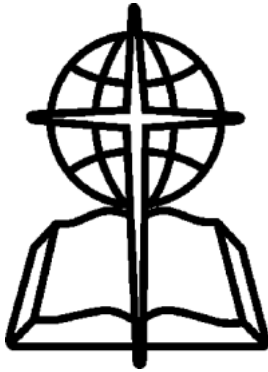
THE CHALLENGER
Franklin Baptist Association
PO Box 310
Union, MO 63084
Email: febarm@aol.com

February Newsletter Issue

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Address service requested

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Request in home service by Jan. 30

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The Challenger

Franklin Baptist Association

Webpage: franklinbaptistassociation.org

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Director of Missions
(636) 629-5600 home

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February 2012

CHURCHES & MISSIONS

ALLENTON HEIGHTS, FBC
ANACONDA (Closed)
CALVARY
CALVEY
CHARRETTE
CROSSROADS
DULY
EVERGREEN
FAITH
FRIENDSHIP SOUTHERN
GERALD, FBC
GRACE
GRAY SUMMIT, FBC
GREEN MOUND
LESLIE
LIGHTHOUSE
MEMORIAL
MT. CALVARY
NEW CHAPEL HILL
NEW FRIENDSHIP
NEW HOPE
OAK GROVE
OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP
PACIFIC
PROSPECT
ROSE HILL MISSIONARY
ST. CLAIR, FBC
ST. CLAIR SOUTHERN
SHILOH
SPRING BLUFF
STANTON, FBC
TEMPLE
TRUE VINE
UNION, FBC
VILLA RIDGE, FBC
VIRGINIA MINES
WASHINGTON, FBC

Youth Super Bowl Party

February 5, 3-9 p.m. (or end of game)

HELD AT THE MINISTRY CENTER

\$3.00 per person for snacks

Youth events are open to all association churches.

Please send an adult from your church
with your youth.

Contact Chris Fusco for information at 636-584-4381.

“FESTIVALS OF HOPE”

REGIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

March 10, 9:00-3:30

Parkway Baptist, St. Louis

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Morning session - Focus on Prayer and Evangelism

Afternoon session - Focus on Personal/Church Evangelism

MUSIC PROVIDED BY:

The Lester Family

Each church represented will receive a copy of ...

*Praying Your Friends to Christ, Leader Guide with CD

*CROSS Evangelism Training, Leader Guide with DVD

Pre-register online at MBC to receive lunch at conference

Walk-in registration, lunch will be on your own.

Register at www.mobaptist.org/SEC

From the Director of Missions...

One of the more major days or occasions Americans observe in February is Valentine Day - a day when "romantic" love and "special" relationships are the themes. During this time of emphasizing love, it is also a natural time to assess and nurture our love for God, which the Bible teaches should be our highest kind of love we should have. Love is the most important component of our relationship with God. God is love and He has shown His love for us most powerfully by sending His own Son to earth to pay the penalty for our sins by dying on a cruel cross. His action of love makes it possible for us to know and love Him in return, thus establishing a vital personal relationship between God and us.

In John 14, Jesus taught that it is our love for Him that leads and enables us to stay close to Him and to obey His commands for our lives. If we have trouble obeying Him, we show we do not really love Him properly. Jesus said God's greatest command to us is to love Him with all our hearts and His second greatest command is to love others as we love ourselves. He says if we love Him we will keep His commandments. His commission to us is to love others and to be intentional about reaching and teaching others about the need for forgiveness of sin and how to have a personal relationship with God. We thus become God's chosen agents of reconciliation to help others be reconciled to God. How are we doing with this? The answer for most of us is, not very well! You can see that by the total baptisms of our churches in our association, state and national convention which have steadily declined for the last 50 years, even while our population has increased by over 50%. This should alarm us all!

In response to this need, I want to urge every church and every church member to earnestly pray for genuine revival in our relationship with God, and not to give up praying until revival occurs in each of our churches. Such revival always results in renewing and raising our level of love for God and in expressing that love through our obedience to His commands in our daily lives. It also results in a major impact on the lost of our communities as they see and hear from us what God has done in us. If you sense a need for revival and for reaching people with the gospel, I hope you will make it a priority to pray for it and to be more intentional about walking with God and evangelizing the lost. You can read about some events and resources that can help us toward that goal in this newsletter.

Last, I want to personally (as much as can in printed form) thank each church and individual who has shown your love and concern for me and my wife in recent months by giving an "over and above" donation to help offset the amount of salary reduction that I have taken over the last year. It was helpful and much appreciated!

In HIS love,

Bro. Jim

Association Financial Update

Our Association Finance committee sent letters in December to our churches about the special "Fill The Gap" Campaign to raise \$25,000 in the next six months over and above regular church giving to the association. This amount is needed to restore the association to a solid financial status.

If your church is working on budgeting for 2012, please keep this need in mind. This would require churches on average to increase their normal contributions by 50% over the next six months. We know some churches will not be able to increase their giving at this time, so hopefully others can give more than 50% increase. Please inform the association office of your church action on this request. Also, please identify any contributions for this as "Fill The Gap".

DECEMBER FINANCE REPORT

Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$13,134	
Monthly Building Debt payment:	4,150	
<u>Total Monthly Requirements:</u>		\$17,284
December Budget Receipts:	\$12,065	
*December "Fill The Gap" Receipts:	9,606	
December Building Fund Receipts:	3,224	
<u>Total Receipts for December:</u>		\$24,895
<u>Receipts "over" requirements:</u>		\$ 7,611
December Budget Expenses:	\$13,389	
December Building Payment:	4,050	
<u>Total Expenses for December:</u>		\$17,439
Designated Fund Balance:	\$29,063	
General Fund Balance:	(- 5,013)	
<u>Ending Checking Balance, 12/31/11:</u>		\$24,050
<u>Outstanding Building Debt:</u>		\$608,634

***Special thanks for some very generous donations this month by some churches and individuals.**

WOMEN ON MISSIONS QUARTERLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 14 - 10:00 A.M.

GUEST SPEAKER - JIM COLLINS

Bring covered dish for dinner

FBC OF GRAY SUMMIT

Camp News/Needs

CAMP RESERVATIONS – Churches please call the association office as soon as possible if you would like to schedule a date(s) to use our Retreat Center this year. After March 1 we will start allowing individuals to schedule dates.

Thank you from Agape House

The Agape House wishes to thank all the Franklin County churches and contributors for the toys and food and all who provided help this Christmas season. Your efforts helped 748 children to have gifts to open on Christmas morning. A special thank you to the churches who provided over two-thirds of the toys. Also, to the angels who packed the final boxes, thank you. Bro. Jim Armistead

OPEN FOR WALKERS

Ministry Center Gym

10:00 to 3:00

Monday-Thursday

BASKETBALL LEAGUE SIGN-UP

Our Recreation Committee is considering a 3-on-3 basketball league for March and April on Monday and/or Tuesday evenings. Players must be at least 14 or older. Any church interested in participating needs to contact our office or Mandy Thomas (636-629-5059) by February 23.



CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL

If your church is participating in the Children's Church/Association Bible Drill this year, please contact our office, so we can coordinate the schedules and plans for the drill.

TRIPLE "L" MEETING

FEBRUARY 23 – 10:30 A.M.

MINISTRY CENTER

LIVING, LOVING & LEARNING

All those over 55 years are welcome at the Associational "Triple L" meeting. LLL in February will be a double "Pot-Luck". Bring something to eat and bring along someone from each church to be a part of the program. See you there!

Church News

PASTORLESS CHURCHES: Duly, Gray Summit FBC, St. Clair FBC, and Stanton FBC. Please remember these churches in your special prayer as they seek pastors.

Mt. Calvary - Will host a "Single's Ministry Workshop", February 18th, 10 am - 1 pm. This is a free event for singles and is open to everyone. For more information call Ms. Clay at 636-744-3574.

"SEW EASY" Classes

February 11, 9:00
Ministry Center

Project of the month "Table Runners". Call Jill, 636-629-5600, for more information. Next month will be "Witnessing Dolls".

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS

(Dave Ramsey) - We are considering starting this popular 13 week personal financial management class on Monday evenings starting January 31. Registration to participate in the class is required in order to get class materials (\$99 per couple). Call our office to register.



OCTOBER thru DECEMBER 2011 FBA BUDGET & BUILDING RECEIPTS

Allenton Heights, FBC	686.00	New Friendship	110.13
Calvary	3656.88	New Hope	1494.90
Calvey	781.08	Oak Grove	1798.43
Charrette	590.11	Outreach Fellowship	363.87
Crossroads	327.18	Pacific	300.00
Duly	49.00	Prospect	1414.46
Evergreen	273.47	Rose Hill	100.00
Faith	2587.92	Shiloh	457.88
Friendship Southern	25.00	Spring Bluff	947.14
Gerald	386.90	St. Clair Southern	2497.13
Grace	2289.42	St. Clair, FBC	4613.89
Gray Summit, FBC	2870.49	Stanton, FBC	1355.34
Green Mound	140.00	Temple	1152.00
Leslie	150.00	True Vine	197.22
Lighthouse	280.15	Union, FBC	2844.30
Memorial	895.25	Villa Ridge, FBC	4424.00
Mt. Calvary	90.00	Virginia Mines	450.00
New Chapel Hill	240.10	Washington, FBC	951.94
		TOTAL	41821.58