

# *The Shepherd*

*Coffee Creek Association, March 2023*

## **FROM THE MODERATOR...**

### **OUR 2023 ANNUAL SESSION**

Thank you to everyone who attended our 197th Annual Session on 12 March, hosted by the Tea Creek Baptist Church. We were pleased to have 12\* out of 20 member churches present, with 55 attenders (53 from our churches and two guests). It was an honor to have Sarah McCurdy, one of our International Ministries Global Servants to share with us on her work with education in Latin America. Dr. Darrell James, our interim Region Minister, also was in attendance giving greetings from the staff of the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky.

While there are many functions coming up in the very near future (such as Singspiration! on Sunday, 21 May), I want to invite you to our next annual session. Please mark on your calendar Sunday, 10 March 2024, for our 198th gathering. As we quickly approach our 200th meeting in 2026 and our bicentennial in 2027 (I will explain later why they are on different years), it is my prayer that we can have all 20 member churches in attendance.

Thank you for being a part of the Coffee Creek associational family, as we seek to worship and minister in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ together!

\* Those churches in attendance: Austin, Bethany, Bethel, Coffee Creek, First Marion, Hopewell, Kimberlin Creek, Lick Branch, New Harmony, Scottsburg, Tea Creek, Underwood.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

It is that time of the year for the granting of scholarships to students in our associational family. All individuals who are enrolling in higher education (college, tech schools, etc.) for the first time or are returning for course work this fall and our members of one of our member churches is eligible to apply. Applications went out in last month's *Shepherd* and the deadline for filing is quickly approaching—31 March. The decision on applications will take place at the Executive Board meeting on Sunday, 2 April, and the public presentation will occur at this year's Singspiration! on Sunday, 21 May. At this time only one application has been received. Let's get those applications in as soon as possible!

### **PASTOR'S GATHERING**

Each month our associational pastors are invited to break bread together on the second Thursday at Denny's in Scottsburg. Our interim Region Minister, Dr. Darrel James, joins us for this time of fellowship, sharing, and encouragement. The next get together will be on Thursday, 13 April at 8:30 a.m.

Pastors, please come out and join us. Church members, encourage your pastor to take advantage of joining together with brother pastors in Christ.

Rev. Timothy Mohon, Moderator

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### **From Patty Short**

#### **State ABWM**

This is a repeat but important reminder: A message from our state ABWM president, Jean Langdon, to all the ladies: "Love Day (their version of Valentine's Day) is June 12 in Brazil. Corenne Smith (she and her husband live in Indianapolis when they are not serving in Brazil), our IM missionary to Brazil AND our Indiana sister, would like for us to make valentines for her Brazilian kiddos who have not had a whole lot of love in their lives. SO, get your ABW ladies, Sunday School classes, children's classes, and any other group you can think of to make cards to send LOVE to Brazil in the form of valentines. It would be wonderful to send valentines from the four corners of Indiana and from every place in between!!! To you, it might seem like a little thing, but showing LOVE is never a little thing, is it? 'How do I get started?' you ask.

Well.....Google Search -- **Heart for Kids-Hope Unlimited for Children**. Now, just follow the instructions on this page. Mailing address is: Hope Unlimited for Children, 3130 Alpine Road Ste 288-125, Protola Valley, CA 94028. Now here is the most important thing to do before sending them: Pray for these children who will receive your valentines. Put them on your prayer lists. Remember where your love is going." (If your church will do this, please let Patty know.

#### **Coffee Creek Association ABWM: Sewing Seeds of Love**

**We will meet again at New Providence Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 4, from 6-8 pm.**

We are sewing quilts, lap throws, aprons, pot holders, etc., so if you have a pattern, please bring it. If the weather is uncooperative, those who have been participating will be contacted about cancellation. If you want to be added to this notification system, please contact Patty Short.

#### **Disaster Relief**

Dates for our 2023 Mission trip to Bremen, KY, will be March 26-29 and Mission trip to Hazard will be June 21-24. Please pray for us as we travel to Bremen and work there! Look for the Hazard trip registration form before the end of the month.

You can make donations to the Hazard 2023 trip by giving/ mailing them to Grace Flynn at 139 N. Sharon Drive, Scottsburg, IN, 47170. Checks should be made payable to "CCA ABWM." Be sure to designate which location you want your funds given to on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generosity!

## **ABWM Spring Conference**

Our 2023 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at Underwood Baptist Church so please mark your calendars and watch for our registration form coming soon with more details!

## **Women's Survey**

This is a survey that I sent to all churches in February via my ABWM church contacts that I am asking every woman to complete. If you have not done so, please do so ASAP and return them via email ([ppshort@frontier.com](mailto:ppshort@frontier.com)) or US mail to Patty Short, 1905 Blackiston Mill Rd, Clarksville, IN, 47129. Thank you.

Patty Short, CCA ABWM President. Cell: 812-595-1082. Email: [ppshort@frontier.com](mailto:ppshort@frontier.com)

## **Alpha**

Greetings from Alpha Baptist Church. Praying everyone is doing well. We are looking forward to having our ABW & ABM meeting this coming Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 6:30pm. It will be in our church sanctuary as our family center is full of items for our upcoming yard sale. The yard sale will be April 14 & 15, 2023 from 9am - 3pm in our family center.

We are going to be having Good Friday Services at 1pm on April 7, 2023 and if you can come, we would love to have you. Our address is: 8089 N. Whitsitt Road, Deputy, In. Take hwy 256 in Austin, In. and turn North, (L) on Whitsitt Road. Hope to see you there! Our Easter services will begin at 9am Sunday April 9, 2023. Praying all our churches will be full.

We will be having a pitch in dinner after our morning service on April 30, 2023. Join us if you can make it.

Yours in Christ, Stan Carroll, Pastor

## **Austin**

Greetings to our fellow churches of the association from Austin First Baptist Church. We hope that everyone is doing well, and looking forward to the upcoming spring season.

We are having 40 days of prayer at church from March 1st until Easter Sunday. We are asking our church family to join in prayer for each other, to pray for our church, and also be in prayer for our community.

Some Thoughts of Reflection- Trails and challenges come throughout the seasons of life. Jesus has the power and ability to give us comfort and help in our time of distress. Transforming our

situation from hopeless to hopeful. The prophet Isaiah wrote- See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19). Romans 8:34 - Tells us- Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us.

Christ is the one who makes a way in the wilderness and Jesus is the one who stands in the gap on our behalf.

We will be having an Easter Sunrise Service- on April 9th at 7:30 am Everyone is invited to come and worship our Risen Savior with us.

Pastor Joshua Jackson

### **Bethany**

We had our first ever St. Patrick's Day party at Bethany Baptist of Deputy on Friday evening with good fellowship and a sighting of a few miniature St. Pats. What a joy it is to have those little ones at church functions. We do not want to raise a whole generation bankrupt of the Gospel message that we all hold near and dear to our hearts as we are confident of the returning of our Lord and Savior someday. God the Father is the only one that knows when yet we are to be prepared at all times.

A Gideon Speaker is coming for Sunday service on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We are being steadfast in the Lord with our regular services on Sunday morning with Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30. We have been studying John with several messages backing thru it with it going to end on Easter day. You always wonder what happens next in a story this way you already know. Our Lord and Savior preformed countless miracles and it is good to hear about some of them and how God really thought about things. To see the Son is to see the Father. We look forward to Easter and the Easter morning festivities. Sunrise service, breakfast, Easter songs and preaching about Jesus's resurrection. Exact times to still yet be set.

### **Coffee Creek**

Here is a list of events coming up at Coffee Cree Baptist:

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunrise Service 7am Graham Creek Elm. Pastor Keith Smith from Coffee Creek Baptist will be giving the Sunrise service, Graham Presbyterian will host the Sunrise Breakfast and Commiskey Baptist will oversee the music.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Creek Baptist will have an Easter Egg Hunt after Church

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** Deacons Meeting

**April 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Creek Baptist Spring Revival 7pm; Pastor Dan Corbin will be preaching on the 17<sup>th</sup> , Commiskey Baptist, Pastor Tim Bitz will be preaching on the 18<sup>th</sup> , Coffee Creek Baptist, Pastor Keith Smith will be preaching on the 19<sup>th</sup> , and Alpha Baptist, Pastor Stan Carroll will be preaching on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** is the first Rural Fellowship Coffee Creek Baptist, Speaker Pastor Stan Carroll 7pm

Sincerely, Pastor Keith Smith

### **Kimberlin Creek**

Greetings,

We have been very busy the last 2 months here at Kimberlin Creek. First our 4:12 Youth Group have gone on several outings and volunteering in the community. They had a fun time at Strike and Spare in Clarksville, then went to Winter Jam in Indianapolis the following weekend. Next up was their Pulled Pork fundraising dinner. If you missed it, it was awesome as always. Pastor Tyler Griffin also preached that day as Pastor Tim Mohon was on vacation. Then, in March, the youth volunteered at CRADLE, then went Bowling with our church family at Scottsburg Lanes. As I am writing this, they are also planning to clean-up our local parks this coming Sunday afternoon. And at the end of the month during Spring Break, they will be going to the Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp to help get the camp ready for the summer camping season. They have been doing this for at least the last 5 or 6 years. We have an absolutely great bunch of youth.

The rest of the church family has been busy also. Between Sundays and Wednesday nights, Pastor Tim has been very busy preaching and leading us in Bible study. He also had a wonderful Lenten Service. Besides our bowling outing, we also had a Mardi Gras party. Also, Pastor Tyler has begun having several meetings getting ready for Vacation Bible School this summer. It's never too early to get started planning that very important event. Another event was held last night (15<sup>th</sup>), that surprised our church secretary, Judy Peacock. Pastor Tyler invited the whole church to our Family Meal we have every Wednesday night to celebrate her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. (I was truly surprised by it all. Thanks so much for everyone making my birthday very special.) God is so good!

Happy Spring to all. Can't wait for the warmer weather.

Judy Peacock, church secretary

## **Bethel**

Greetings & Shalom and happy spring from Bethel Baptist in Leota

Deuteronomy 32:2. "Let my teaching fall like rain and my words like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."

The first day of spring is Monday and this big rock we are riding on will experience a few days of equal light and equal darkness or equinox. From the Latin Aequus Nox meaning equal night. We don't notice this tipping action. But the days continue to become longer and temps warm up a little and things begin to happen that we do notice. Frogs chirping, big bunches of turkeys wandering around looking for dates. Daffodils and crocuses blooming. Weeds, flowers and grasses in the fence row or flower beds poking and pushing their way through their dead ancestors reaching toward the light and warmth of the sun. All of these happenings and many more are sure signs of spring and of new life.

And, I say to we critters who have been quasi hibernating. "Wake up! Rise up and grow! Let us get on with the activities of life and living."

Surely, we are not exempt from springing and growing. Aren't we part of nature like the dandelions, frogs and daffodils? Yes!, and we have our own human version of poking up through our dead ancestors, and growing, and blooming, and chirping.

In our attempts, out here in Leota, to welcome spring and to grow and bloom and chirp, in our own uniquely funky, human sort of way, we are reading a book, two books actually. Books that will guide us, hopefully, to become less dependent on our own clunky (is there any other?) way of growing and blooming and more dependent on the Holy Spirit, who is uniquely invested in our growing and blooming, wherever we might find ourselves. After we finish looking through these books we are going to pray for 40 (popular biblical number) days, and see where the Spirit takes us. Seems like a springy sort of thing to do and who knows where it might lead. Good spaces, I hope, I think, I pray.

So spring on peeples. And may this season of Lenten reflection take you to places of new birth and resurrection.

p.b.

## **New Harmony**

Today (the day I am writing this) is St. Patrick's Day. I was curious so I googled why this day is a national holiday. I want to share with you what I have learned- Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He lived in the 5th century. He was born in Roman Britain and was kidnapped and taken to Ireland at 16 as a slave. He eventually escaped only to return later and bring Christianity to

the people of Ireland. The shamrock (native Irish clover) is actually what he used to teach people about the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). He is believed to have died on March 17, 461. St. Patrick was a missionary doing the work he (and all of us) are called to do.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (NLT-stated by Jesus). Romans 1:5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His name. (NLT) If you are a born-again believer of Jesus Christ then you are an apostle. It is your (and my) responsibility to be a light to others, show love, and somehow open a door where we can talk to others about Him. My question is this----- are you being an apostle? It is not the pastor's job to grow the church. It is everyone's job to grow the church. The pastor is the shepherd but we, as the flock, are to reproduce to grow and be healthy. In other words, INVITE someone to church. If everyone in church could invite one person and they come—you have doubled your congregation. When they show up just love them as they are. Our job is to get them there, God will take care of the rest.

## NEWS

This month we lost a beloved member and sister in Christ, Linda Deaton. Please remember the family in your prayers. We started a women's group. Our next meeting is on March 25 and we are going to stuff Easter eggs and fellowship. Later that evening we are going to have a Game night with lots of games, food and fellowship.

April 8th, we are having our community Easter Egg Hunt and we usually have a great turn out. Everyone is invited. Johnny also has prizes to pass out. We had seven members attend the annual Coffee Creek Association meeting.

## **Scottsburg**

Greetings, fellow churches of the Coffee Creek Association; as I write this article Spring is trying to come, but Winter keeps interfering. We started a Youth Group back in July of 2022 and four young ladies and one young man came. As of March 12<sup>th</sup>, we had eleven young ladies, but the young man stopped coming. There hadn't been a Youth Group in the church since way before I started in 2016. We have many plans for this coming Spring and Summer: For Palm Sunday we will be reading Luke's version of the Passion of Christ with several members of the congregation adding voices to the different people in Luke's Gospel. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be blessed by Tamme Dillon, who is a missionary in Africa and director of a school with over 100 students. Tamme is the daughter of Doug Lee. All are welcome to come and hear Tamme. Our service is at 10am. Then the following Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Fifth Sunday Praise service and

this time we've asked folks to share their faith story. It'll be very powerful! Then June 24<sup>th</sup> we will once again have a one-day VBS. The last one we had was in 2019 and then COVID came and we were off for three years. The theme of this year's VBS is "LET'S ROCK! JESUS IS MY ROCK!" Times and schedule will come next month. It is so good to be getting back to doing things again. As always, Operation Bottom Line, our diaper ministry continued through COVID helping people with 100 diapers per month per child. We distribute between 2500 and 3000 diapers per month to those in Scott County. God bless each and every one as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Pastor Kevin

### **Underwood**

We are looking forward to Easter!

The Deacons have undertaken a project to put up a lighted Cross at the North end of the exterior of our church building. It was a large blank brick wall left from much needed landscape removal. The deacons brainstormed solutions to make that portion of the church more attractive. They arrived at a large, lighted cross structure that would be visible to the community both day and night. During the planning stage, an anonymous benefactor came forward and is funding the project. Now the wooden cross is standing on a large semicircular concrete base. The concrete is still curing. Some ladies are discussing landscaping to enhance the project.

Pastor David is preaching through the Seven Deadly Sins. How appropriate during this time of Lent to consider areas of our life that require repentance. Although he sometimes incorporates cartoon images, the message is very clear that it was our sins that put Jesus on the Cross. Our Easter celebration will be more wonderful as we contemplate being set free of the burden of our sins.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt, we just hope it doesn't snow with all of the crazy weather we have been having! On Saturday April 8 from 2-4 PM all will enjoy cookies, drinks, crafts and prizes. Each child will receive a book of "The Story of Easter" and the book will have our worship service times on a sticker inside the cover. We pray for every child to learn that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Easter.

American Baptist Women's Ministries will have their Spring Conference on Saturday May 6 and our church is hosting. The theme is "Grace Full Living." This is for all women, not just those who attend ABWM groups. Plan to attend!

Grace and Peace to you,  
Underwood Baptist Church



**Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp**

HOMEcomings- OPEN HOUSE Sunday, May 21, 1:00-4:00 PM

You are invited to join us to kick-off our summer the right way! Come meet Stinkerbell the skunk, Sunny the bearded dragon, and our new staff! Bring your family, a picnic lunch, invite your friends and enjoy the grounds, putt-putt, fishing, and swimming! There is no entrance fee.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 03/31/2023 CCA Scholarship Application deadline
- 04/02/2023 CCA Board Meeting, Kimberlin Creek, 2 PM
- 04/04/2023 Sewing Seeds of Love, New Providence 6-8 PM
- 05/04/2023 CCA ABM, Alpha 7 PM
- 05/21/2023 Homecoming, Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp 1-4 PM
- 05/21/2023 Singspiration, Kimberlin Creek, 6 PM
- 06/21-24/2023 Mission Trip to Eastern Kentucky
- 07/09/2023 CCA Board Meeting, Kimberlin Creek, 2 PM
- 08/12/2023 CCA Family Picnic, Bethany 4 PM
- 09/11-15/2023 CCA Fall Revival, TBA
- 11/02/2023 CCA ABM, Coffee Creek 7 PM
- 12/03/2023 Carols & Choirs, Scottsburg 6 PM

If you want to submit articles for The Shepherd, the deadlines are as follows.

2023 Shepherd Deadlines noon on:

- 04/22/2023
- 05/20/2023
- 06/17/2023
- 07/22/2023
- 08/19/2023
- 09/17/2023
- 10/21/2023
- 11/18/2023
- 12/16/2023

Please mark your calendars.

Thank You,

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