



The Connector

a monthly publication of
SMITH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*Fulfilling the Great
Commission by connecting
people with people.
Matthew 28:19-20*

After receiving a formal request, the Administrative Team voted to extend fellowship to South Spring Baptist Church on Monday, February 13, 2017, This has been a momentous event for this church as it has transitioned from FBC South Campus to the new South Spring Baptist Church. We want to say “Welcome” and we look forward to what God is going to do as South Spring Baptist begins her new ministry.

The following is written by Chris Legg, pastor of South Spring Baptist Church.

About 170 years ago, a few families founded “Tyler Baptist Church” and met for services in the Courthouse. Lacking a church or baptismal, they baptized people in a spring just south of the downtown. Even after they did build, they apparently continued to baptize in that spring. Over time, they took the name “First Baptist Church of Tyler.”

Over the next generations, they and their progeny founded and planted many churches around East Texas and even around the world. About 16 years ago, they founded a South Campus.

This last summer, after 5 years of surging growth at that campus, the Senior Pastor, Pike Wisner, asked the leadership team about him starting to focus more at the Down Town Campus (he had traveling between both locations on Sunday mornings!).

In the midst of those conversations, the question was raised of timing for planting the South Campus as an independent church. Several meetings later with staff, lay leadership, servants, congregations, and after a month of called prayer, the church voted overwhelmingly all together to plant the South Campus as an independent church!

Though there was certainly grief and some trepidation, and sometimes change doesn’t bring out the best in us, this has been a celebration of what work God is and has been doing. The transition is still ongoing! The legal issues with the state are still in process, though a name and logo have been chosen.

South Spring embraces and loves our First Baptist roots and we are proud to continue in the legacy set forth by generations of Christian servants of our past.

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- 5-12 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
 7 CIM 1121 Interpretation: Bible for Preaching & Teaching
 6 p.m., SBA office
 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
 13 Administrative Team Meeting
 SBA Ofc. 1 p.m.
 Advisory Council
 Location TBA 6 p.m.
 14 CIM 1121 Interpretation: Bible for Preaching & Teaching
 6 p.m., SBA office
 21 CIM 1121 Interpretation: Bible for Preaching & Teaching
 6 p.m., SBA office
 28 CIM 1121 Interpretation: Bible for Preaching & Teaching
 6 p.m., SBA office
 31 G.A. Mini Camp - Timberline

Anniversaries

- 2 David Burcham, Harvest Acres 3-2-08
 3 David Dykes, Green Acres 3-3-91
 5 Ray Davis, FBC Whitehouse 3-5-06
 6 Tom Buck, FBC Lindale 3-6-06
 13 Pike Wisner, FBC Tyler 3-13-11
 20 Edwin Lewis, FBC Golden 3-20-98

Birthdays

- 1 Doug Haning, Lone Star Church
 Bill Minson, FBC Swan
 6 Kelly Burton, FBC Alba
 17 Carl George, Macedonia Baptist
 19 Chris Legg, South Spring Baptist
 25 Bruce Rudd, Mt. Sylvan Baptist
 28 Tommy Derrick, The Fellowship Troup
 30 Kenward Goode, East Lake Baptist

SBA Churches without Pastors

Dean, Tyler;
Hebron, Tyler;
Ig. Bautista Colonial Hills, Tyler;
Living Acts, Tyler;
Liberty, Hawkins;
Pruitt, Van
 Please pray for these churches as they seek God's leadership.

The fact that we chose the name "South Spring" before we knew about that spring I mentioned in the first paragraph, has been a kind encouragement by God as to His handiwork. That spring is why the road that runs behind Bethel's downtown campus is still named "South Spring Ave." We are proud that our name links us not only to the power of scripture (Moses in the desert, the words of Jesus to the woman at the well), but to our history.

South Spring Baptist is dedicated to the principle that every member is a minister. We emphasize hospitality, devotion and discipleship as we seek to live out the mission statement to "live, teach and tell the gospel that all may know the Living God." We really want people to get to know Him. We hope that everything we do, whether word or deed is done in the Name of Jesus Christ – and we give thanks to God the Father through Him, and in the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

I would love to mention that in my opinion, a big part of why things went so well has to do with the power of Godly friendship. The friendship between Pike and me, between the staff members of both campuses, between the staff and the lay leadership, these are what made this possible. As a pastor, I cannot imagine doing this without those friendships – they empower and sustain me and I am more grateful than I could express in words. Philippians 2 and Ephesians 4 are alive and well!

Come see us sometime; we love to welcome all, especially the unchurched, poorly churched and even traumatically churched into our dysfunctional family! Count on scripture to be taught clearly so that it can be lived out in real life! It is our goal to make sure you have the most welcoming experience you can have (without having to pay for it).

Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

South Spring
Baptist Church

March 5-12, 2017
Goal: \$70 Million

WEEK OF PRAYER
 FOR NORTH AMERICAN
 MISSIONS

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
 EASTER OFFERING®
ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM



VBS DISCOVERY DAY

Explore & Discover Which VBS Program
Is Right for Your Church This Year

Saturday, March 11
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lifeway Christian Store
5510 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler, Texas 75703
903-534-9753

Galactic Starveyors Training

April 1, 2017
**Trinity Baptist
Church**
Longview, Texas

contact Judy Van Hooser
Southern Baptist of Texas
Convention
877-953-7282
or
jvanhooser@sbtexas.com



Smith County Baptist Ministers Scholarship

This scholarship is open to dependent children of ordained Baptist Ministers serving congregations in Smith County that are members of the BGCT. Graduating high school seniors and current college students with at least a 2.5 GPA are eligible. For the 2017-18 year, **three** \$1,500 will be awarded.

DEADLINE
March 1st 5 p.m.

[Application Information](#)

Are You Doing M.O.R.E.?

(Moving Out Reaching Everyone)

is a strategy for encouraging
and assisting churches in fulfilling
the Great Commission

GO - BAPTIZE - TEACH!

Let's all be united in seeing
MORE
people come to Christ each year
and being baptized in your
respective churches

For additional information
about enlisting your church
to be a

M.O.R.E. church,
contact Bob Sexton
903-849-4198

Congratulations to the following Park Heights Scholarship Recipients

Mark Legg
Matt Lyles
Paul McKenzie
Milagro Mohon

Applications are considered once a
year and are due by January 31st.

[Park Heights Scholarship App.](#)

CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY

SMITH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
3226 OLD JACKSONVILLE HWY.
TYLER, TEXAS 75701
903-581-6139

SPRING 2017

February 14 - March 21
CIM 1121
Interpretation-Bible for
Preaching & Teaching

March 28 - April 5
CIM 1126
Introduction to Missions

\$25 Registration Fee

\$175 Class Fee

classes offered by

East Texas Baptist University
Marshall, Texas

For more information
contact

Dr. Danny Pickens

903-581-6139

or

danny@smithbaptist.org

Spring Break



Day Camp

March 7-11, 2016

Drop Off: 8:00 AM

Pick Up: 4:00 PM



Baptist Camp & Conference Center
15363 FM 849 • Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3183 • www.timberlinecamp.com

Interested in borrowing...?

Westwood Baptist is making available two of Dr. David Jeremiah's

Bible Studies to you



For more information contact

Rev. Ron Moore
Westwood Baptist

820 NNW Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75702
903-592-5124



Click

[HERE](#)

to see how we can help!



Lookin' for a Bible Study?

Remember our Video Library



Church Support Staff Vacancies

Visit

<http://smithbaptist.org/staff-vacancies/>

for ministry opportunities