



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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April 2021 Edition

Christmas Tree in the Baptistry

I realize it is not Christmas, but my point is in reference to “expectations.” A few years ago, I had a pastor friend who told me about his introduction to his new church. Some of the members of the recent pastor search committee were showing him around the church building. When the excited “new” pastor asked about the whereabouts of the Baptistry, he was told, *“oh it’s up these steps, but that is where we store all of our Christmas decorations.”* When the new pastor finally made it up the steps, passed all of the shiny gold bells, shimmering tinsel, and what looked like, miles of greenery... there in the church baptistry sit a huge Christmas tree. The pastor shook his head and asked why is the Christmas tree in the baptistry? One of the members said, *“Because it is good dry place, and it is out of the way until we need it.”*

The church baptistry should NOT be *“a good dry place”* for the storage of anything, especially Christmas trees. In fact, if your church baptistry is a *“good dry place...”* that is the problem! Far too many churches have lost their zeal for evangelism and outreach. We have grown complacent in our convenience. We lack a genuine burden for the unsaved. Many view their relationship with Christ as one that is reserved for once a week. Our Church is not a place to visit on occasion, it is a lifestyle we are expected to live. The prophet Hosea was writing to the people of Israel at a time they were much like the church people of today. Hosea recorded some timeless truths that are as relevant and needful for us today as they were then. Like Israel of old, we need to repent of sin, return to God, and live faithfully for Him.

In **Hosea 10:12** the prophet extends and invitation to the people, *“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”* Hosea gives us some good instructions as how to restore the use of our baptistry, and “break up our fallow ground.”

He starts with a **Challenge**; a challenge to, *“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap mercy...”* Israel refused to admit their need. They believed as God’s chosen people, they were exempt from judgment. Their lives were void of reverence or true worship for the Lord. God challenged them to examine their own lives and personally repent and become obedient to Him. This same principle applies spiritually in our day. If we are to enjoy the blessing of God, live fulfilling lives spiritually, and see the church strong and healthy, we too must sow in righteousness.

Secondly, Hosea instructed them to **Cultivate**; *“break up your fallow ground...”* The fallow ground spoke of areas that had been neglected, allowing weeds and briars to overtake it... (like a church baptistry becoming a storage area). No doubt we all have areas in our lives that have been neglected and need attention. However, the churches’ main function is two-fold, evangelism and edify the saints. If our baptistries are dry, then our evangelism has stopped. It has been exciting to see and hear about some of the churches of LRBA displaying their baptisms on Facebook lately. It is encouraging to know that those baptistries have not become storage facilities for tress or dust. On the other hand, what about your church? When was your last baptism? The Gospel to Every Home is an emphasis on evangelism in our community, and an outreach to our churches.

Lastly, Hosea is seeking and expecting a **Commitment** from them: *“... for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”* Although Israel may not have desired to admit their need, they were certainly aware of it. God had sent countless warnings to them to repent and return to Him. Complacency has taken the place of consistency in many churches today. I realize we all have spiritual highs and lows, but we cannot and should not become content with things as they are.

As the churches of Little River Baptist Association join hands, hearts and heads to take the Gospel to Every Home in Trigg county, let us do so with great anticipation and expectation of what the Lord will do within our community. Let us *“break up your fallow ground,”* clean out our baptistries, dust off our altars and bring this community to Christ. Could I also ask that you please prayerfully consider giving to our **Mev Fredenburg Mission offering** this year, as we hope to use these funds in our efforts to take the Gospel to Every Home in Trigg county throughout the year, with various gospel opportunities. Our Goal is \$12000.00.

In Christ Service,
Bro. Bobby Sellers

The Gospel
TO EVERY HOME

2021
Mev
Fredenburg
Associational
Missions
Offering Goal
\$12,000



2021 Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament

Congratulations to the following Associational Children's Bible Drill winners from Liberty Point BC: **Ada Redd**, grade 2 & **Laura Wadlington** grade 3. **Lydia Redd**, grade 5, **Megan Wadlington**, grade 5, & **Caleb Wadlington**, grade 6, also qualify to attend the State drill at Potter's House Worship Center in Smithland, KY, May 1st.

Congratulations to the following Associational Youth Bible Drill winners from Liberty Point BC: **Elli Redd**, grade 7, & **Walker Wadlington**, grade 9. There will not be a State Youth Bible Drill in 2021, but both students scored as State winners, and qualify for the National Drill.

Congratulations to our Associational Speakers' Tournament winner from Liberty Point BC: **McKenna Finley**, grade 11. She was the only participant in the entire state, and scored as state winner. McKenna also qualifies for the National Tournament.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	249.30	
Blue Spring	2,602.42	50.00
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	1,276.15	
Canton	1,273.92	250.00
Cerulean	501.00	30.00
Delmont	305.95	
Donaldson Creek	935.62	
East Cadiz	527.16	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	697.52	1,000.00
Locust Grove	1,063.00	
Maple Grove	400.00	
New Hope	668.85	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	0	
Oak Grove	292.89	
Ponderosa	861.52	
Rock Front	0	
Rocky Ridge	381.00	
South Union	135.85	
Wallonia	2,800.00	30.00
Misc. Income	800.00	252.00
Total	16,172.15	612.00
		16,784.15
Interest NOW Acc.	5.75	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Fund		362.00

Subtotals	16,177.90	612.00
Total income		\$16,789.90
Monthly expense		\$12,581.84

Regular Fund	
Beginning Balance	35,000.12
Interest Received	5.75
Gifts	16,172.15
Trans- Contingency Fund	(100.00)
Trans- OMC	
Trans- Building Maintenance Fund	(100.00)
Trans- Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	(10,299.66)
Ending Balance	\$40,678.36

Treasurer: Louise Fuller 4/25/21

MAY

Calendar Of Events

State Children's Bible Drill- 5/1,
9:00 a.m., Potter's House Worship Center, Smithland

National Day of Prayer- 5/6, 12:00 noon, WKDZ

Mother's Day- 5/9

Memorial Day- 5/31 (Office Closed)

