

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; Acts 1:7"

But it is perfectly okay to know what's coming up in the Association!

- ◆ **April 6th**—Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **April 11th**—ARVBA Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **April 22nd**—Regional D.R. Training
- ◆ **May 6th**—*EQUIP:SMC23*
- ◆ **May 14th** - *Mother's Day*
- ◆ **June 12th thru 16th** - *CHURCH CAMP!*
- ◆ **July 16th thru 22nd** - *ARVBA Mission Trip!*

May 20, 2023 BEAST FEAST 1st Baptist, Danville

Jeff Danker, of the Out Door Channel, will be the featured speaker. Jeff started BuckVentures in 2003 with the motto "Shoot by Sight, Walk by Faith" based off of 2 Corinthians 5:7 and has been hosting hunting shows ever since. In addition to hunting for a living, Jeff speaks about his faith in church's all across the country. He is married to his wife, Traci, with 2 daughters, Jaylee and Gracie.

Tickets will be available soon at a cost of \$20.00. For more information, contact First Baptist Church, Danville/Wayne Crawford.

The event sells out every year so get your tickets early!



Another Three Association Event! May 6th, at 1st Baptist Morrilton

The Arkansas River Valley, Conway-Perry, and North Central Baptist Associations are teaming up with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to bring much needed training and encouragement to those who lead Smaller Membership Churches.

EQUIP:SMC23 is a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is designed specifically with Smaller Membership Church (SMC) leaders in mind. Whether full-time, Bi-vocational, or volunteer, SMC ministry has many unique and challenging demands. This conference aims to further equip and encourage those serving in Smaller Membership Church ministry.

SMC pastor's wives will also benefit from this conference as they meet with, and learn from their peers from all across the region.

The conference is free and more information is coming soon.

Encourage your pastor to take advantage of this much-needed and encouraging conference.



**2023 Disaster Relief
Regional Training
Sat Apr 22nd
8:30am - 3:00pm**

**First Baptist Church, 200 S Denver Ave, Russellville
Cost:**

- \$30 for New Volunteers
- \$20 for Volunteers needing updated IDs
- Free for Volunteers wishing to be cross-trained

The recent tornado outbreak reminds us of the important ministry that is Disaster Relief. Our D.R. Team is constantly being deployed to help bring hope to communities devastated by storms and/or catastrophic flooding.

There is one thing we have learned over the years. You can never have too many D.R. volunteers. Each deployment is different from the last and each requires its own unique talent set.

Please consider joining the ARVBA Disaster Relief team and help bring hope and encouragement to those in greatest need.

For more information, contact Steve Overton



**Church Camp 2023
June 12th - 16th
Click the pic for more info
OR**

<http://www.thearvba.com/camp.htm>

“Churches Doing More Together!”



**The Arkansas River Valley
Baptist Association**
801 Williamson Way
Russellville, AR 72801

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Missionary's Heart

I am lately reminded of just how quickly things can change in Association ministry. For instance, November and December are 'slow' months for the ARVBA. There aren't a lot of carnivals or Recreation Ministry events scheduled by our churches. ARVBA Church Camp and the annual Mission Trip are half a year away and the grass doesn't even need to be mowed.

And then?... January rolls around.

Suddenly there are Camp meetings to attend and VBS props need to be moved from the shed and repaired or replaced. I began an eight-week interim at one of our churches and, in February, re-started the weekly Ministers Breakfast and met with our Education Team leader to discuss plans for the next Teach 28:20 teaching conference. In the meantime, your ARVBA Vacation Bible School Team worked on props, ordered materials and prepared for the annual clinic. (Great job by-the-way!)

March meant more Camp Meetings, Lunch with pastors meetings, The Man Church conference, and the Delta Vision tour. I don't really expect things to slow down again in your Association until November or December.

And that is a good thing!

A great number of folks attended this years VBS Clinic which means a great number of ARVBA churches are excited about putting on a great VBS in their community. Rec. trailers are already being reserved for Vacation Bible School events, Fall Festivals, and other summertime church activities.

Camp is just around the corner and that means a multitude of children and students will experience a week of Jesus centered preaching and teaching, fun and fellowship with peers from other churches, and time away from 'the world'. Some will be saved that week. Others will be drawn back to, or closer to, their Lord and others may begin to hear the first faint call to mission service.

And then there is the Annual Mission Trip. We are going to the Arkansas Delta this year and I cannot overstate the importance of this ministry. 'Spiritually

dark' is the phrase I heard over and over again as we traversed that 500 mile stretch in our own State. Church planters are hard-pressed to gain meaningful traction and desperately need their fellow Baptists to come alongside and 'gird them up'.

Our plans are to stay at Shell Lake Baptist Church and help provide a week-long Vacation Bible School there. Each day the block-party team will travel to a different city/community and provide for the church or planter the best out-reach carnival possible.

Light construction/landscaping teams will be scattered around and survey teams will scour the area gathering information for churches to follow up on. The possibilities are many and varied and only limited by the number of ARVBA'ers who wish to go with us. You can sign up with your church, as an individual or as a family. (it is helpful if you sign up your group individually so we can know how many to plan for).

Church Camp and VBS in our area means children are going to be saved and families drawn to your churches. That means you will have an increase of people to teach and disciple. That means you will need to recruit more teachers and that means we need to plan for a really awesome Teach 28:20 conference. We are looking at an early 2024 date so check the ARVBA calendar often.

I do want to thank you guys for all the prayers that have gone up on my behalf and the support you have given as I have dealt recent health issues. I cannot begin to tell you how much you guys mean to Teresa and myself and how privileged we are to be a part of the best Association of churches in the whole wide world!

Love you all,



Flat Rock Baptist Church First Baptist, Hector
First Baptist, Centerville First Baptist, Ola



The ARVBA presents "The Delta" Annual Mission Trip 2023

ARVBA Mission Trip 2023 will focus on the eastern part of our own great state. The area is known as a stronghold of spiritual darkness and our church planters and struggling Baptist churches need partners to help turn things around.

Shell Lake Baptist Church in Heth, Arkansas has asked for help in providing a week-long Vacation Bible School for children in their area as well as folks who could work with the church in surveying the surrounding community. SLBC will serve as our base of operations for the week and will be the hub from which we launch our block parties and other missions ministries. We will provide a total of 5 carnivals, light building and ground repairs at various church plants, and other ministry needs.

Plans are still developing and a lot of excitement is growing for our newest missions partnership. Below are just some of the ways you and/or church might get involved.

First of all, Pray, Pray, Pray.

As stated earlier, the Delta is very spiritually dark. THE most important task we can do is help our brothers and sisters on the real battlefield.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

Second, consider joining the Mission Team.

In truth, missions opportunities in the Delta are only limited by the number of volunteers we take with us. Carnival setup and tear down, breakfast and lunch meal prep, door-to-door surveys, light construction, VBS workers, Food Court and carnival workers are just some of the tasks you can help us with.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?'
Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' Isaiah 6:8*



Click the pic to sign up if you are reading this online

OR

go to www.thearvba.com and follow the links!

Third, help financially: There are a number of ways to do this:

Designate financial gifts to the Association specifically for missions projects; Donate carnival prizes (Oriental Trading, etc); Purchase gift cards for our church planters and their families; etc.

It is a new thing we do this year.

Won't you join us in helping to build God's Kingdom in the Arkansas Delta?