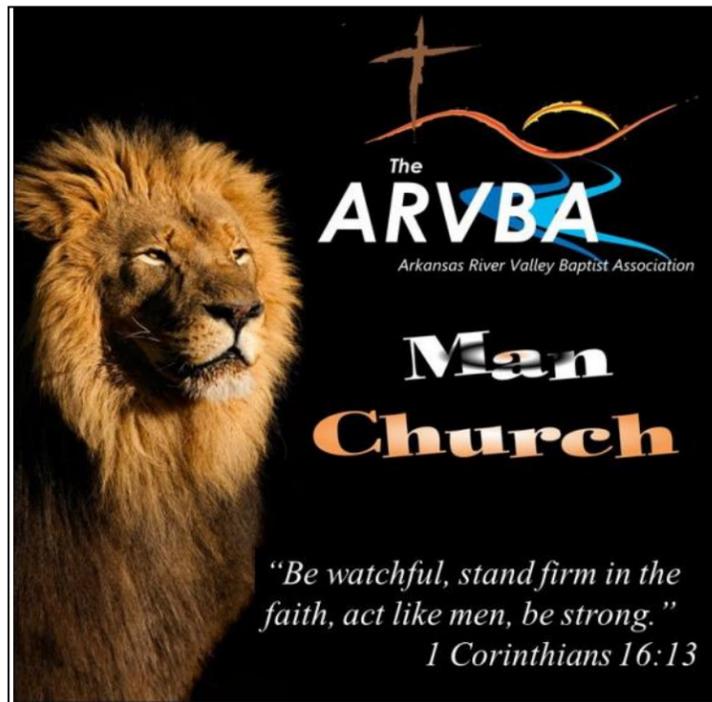




He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; Acts 1:7

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

- ◆ **March 5th & 6th- Teach 28:20!**
- ◆ **April 9th—ARVBA Day! & One Day: Serve Local!**
- ◆ **April 17th Easter - Easter Sunday**
- ◆ **May 14, 21 OR July 23 - Recreation Ministry Block Party at Gentry**
- ◆ **June 13th-17th - Church Camp!**



**Coming in 2022!**  
**"It's Going to be a Big Deal!"**



## Associational Equipping Ministries

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe all I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20

## Are You Ready For The Annual Teach 28:20 Training Event?

**Date:** March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Cost:** \$10.00 (Includes Lunch!)

**Times:**

**Saturday:** 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:45 -1:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1st Baptist, Morrilton

Pre-register at

[www.thearvba.com/teach2820.htm](http://www.thearvba.com/teach2820.htm)

The registration link is at the bottom of the page!

I know what you're thinking... "Who should attend this shindig?"

Oh, just about anyone who is involved in Sunday School or Small Group Ministry in their church.

Do You Mean Pastors? - Yep.

And Directors? - For Sure.

What About Teachers? - Most definitely.

How About Folks Who Are Just Thinking About Teaching? - Youbetcha!

**March 5th will be here before you know it, so go online and [register](#) as soon as you can!**

*"Churches Doing More Together!"*



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Russellville, AR 72801  
Permit #150



# Missionary's Heart

Can you believe the 'Teach 28:20' Sunday School Conference is less than a month away?! And can you believe the depth of talent the Lord has brought together for this small-group ministry training?! And can you believe this is happening on the heels of one of the best 'One Day' missions events in State Convention history?! And can you believe...?

From time-to-time, I am reminded that ours is a God of 'potentials'. Every new day given comes with the potential to do good for the Lord... or to do poorly. Each life-choice placed in our path has the potential to grow us spiritually... or cause us to stumble. Every equipping event provided by the Association, the State Convention, your church, or even your Sunday School class has the potential to positively impact the Kingdom of God in big and small ways... or not...depending on whether we take advantage of the event being presented. (How was that for a segue?!)

This year's Teach 28:20 Sunday School Conference could potentially be a turning point for your church's discipling ministry. We will discover ways to reclaim missing Sunday School members. We will learn new methods to do small group ministry and relearn methods that have always worked.

We will talk about age-graded outreach that affects the small group ministry from preschool to Sr. Adult. We will look at curriculum, teaching methods, room setup, and much, much more. If it involves the Sunday School or Small Group ministry, we will do our best to cover it at this year's Teach 28:20 Sunday School Conference.

Jesus said, *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. (John 4:35)*

All of us have heard stirring sermons on this text. We have been enjoined to note the vastness of the fields or the 'whiteness' of the harvest. We have been encouraged to direct our attention 'out there' rather than 'right here'. We have received instruction about

the folly of delayed evangelism or the terrible fate of the crop not harvested in time.

All of these are valid 'take-aways' from this text but I am not sure I have always embraced this text in its context. The words in red were spoken as Jesus watched a 'harvest' approaching from a nearby village. A harvest, gathered by the way, by the testimony of a woman of ill repute. (I kid you not!)

The disciples, who apparently embarrassed the woman enough to cause her to leave, were urging Jesus to take sustenance.

He replied, "No thanks. Apparently, you don't understand that what fills me is on the way here now."

*John 4:<sup>32</sup> But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."*

The words preceding John 4:35 tell us what He meant.

*John 4:<sup>34</sup> Jesus \*said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*

In truth, our food ought to be to do the will of Him who sends us and to accomplish His work. We should be more hungry for that than anything else in this life. What is that food?

*"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:<sup>18-20</sup>*

One of our pastors stopped by the office last week and during our visit he shared this observation, "You know, I sense a deep loss of passion among the folks, and even among some of our pastors, to reach the lost and reclaim our missing church members."

I confess, I have sensed the same. Perhaps that is evidenced by so many of us not passionately pursuing the food that Jesus found so satisfying... "To do the will of Him who sent Me".



## ARVBA Church Camp 2022

June 13th - 17th

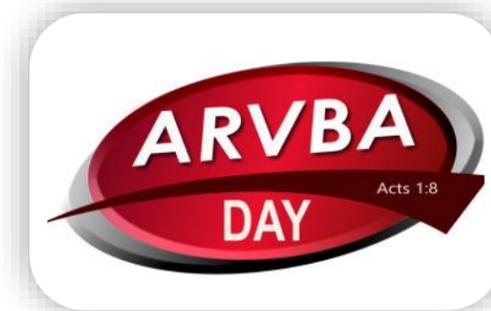
Cost" \$145.00 (Includes T-shirt)

No one could have predicted the impact Covid-19 would have on church services in 2020 much less the impact the pandemic would have on our ability to host 'extra' events like Church Camps and Vacation Bible School. But what was even more surprising is that no one foresaw (or even suspected) the impact forbidding such things would have on our children and youth. Young people need interaction with other young people and that statement has now been proven to be indisputable.

With that not-so-new revelation in mind, we can say this year's event is more important than ever! Our kids need to know that those infamous shutdowns were just an interruption and that the Lord has great things planned for ARVBA Church Camp 2022! Friends will be reunited, new friends will be discovered, and eternities will be positively impacted.

At \$145.00 (includes the cost of t-shirt) the cost to send your child to Camp is among the lowest anywhere. The reason we are able to provide so much for so little is that each year a multitude of passionate volunteers accompany the kids to Camp and expertly fill every position.

Remember, our Camp is actually three camps in the same location and on the same date! The Children (grades 2-4), Middle-Schoolers (grades 5-7) and Youth (grades 8-12) each have separate Worship and Bible study facilities. Lunch and dinner are staggered with the children arriving at the cafeteria first. Swimming, waterslide, and Paddle Boat times are divided by age and swimming and waterslide times are divided by gender as well.



This year, the ARVBA Executive Board has decided to combine *ARVBA Day* with the State Convention's *One Day: Serve Local* initiative on April 9th. Teams will be formed from all of our participants to work/engage in whatever ministry opportunities the regional churches have discovered. You will be able to list your top three choices from the ministries we are providing so getting to do the stuff you love shouldn't be a problem.

Combining the two mission events gives you and your church the option to engage in *ARVBA Day*, engage in *'One Day: Serve Local'*, or engage in *both!* A registration page will be placed online soon and can be accessed from the ARVBA Day page on our website. (*click the ARVBA Logo if you are viewing this online!*)

Your ARVBA Missions Team will be meeting shortly to pick the 'Region' to be served and we will get that info to you as soon as we have it. Check the website, your FlockNote notifications, The Association Facebook page, and your email for updates.



*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:<sup>16</sup>*

The ARVBA's Recreation Ministry has gained a reputation for her passion and 'no-holds-barred' approach to her Block Party presentations. We are known for doing what we do 'as unto the Lord'.

That reputation has led to an invitation from our State Convention to help a smaller membership church in the Gentry area hold a community outreach event. May 14th, May 21st, or July 23rd, are the dates to consider.

Contact Bro. Danny if you can help form a Recreation team on one of those days.

Dear ARVBA Church Member,

One of the most important tasks in any church is that of making disciples. One of the most important parts of that task is ‘teaching them’ the great truths of The Faith. Unless a new convert is taught, he/she cannot progress spiritually beyond the point of salvation and the church has not fulfilled the Lord’s Commission to *make disciples* (a disciple is ‘One who learns’). In the admirable passion to bring lost souls to salvation, we often forget the equally important responsibility to teach them about the Savior who saved them! And history has shown that in today’s culture the best way to do that is through Sunday School and Small Group bible studies.

This year, three Arkansas Baptist Associations are partnering together to present the ‘Teach 28:20’ Sunday School Conference. Taken from the Lord’s instruction in Matthew 28:20 to *teach them* to observe all that I have commanded you’, the goal of this ministry is to provide quality, practical training for all the disciple-making teachers in our churches.

The Arkansas River Valley, Conway-Perry, and Faulkner Baptist Associations are inviting our member churches to join us for this great adventure and have been blessed with a centrally located church whose members are both willing and excited to host the event. The folks at First Baptist Morrilton are already busy preparing for this year’s “Teach 28:20”.

The Saturday schedule will consist of four sessions. During the first two sessions, all participants will join Allan Taylor for in-depth, Kingdom-focusing, instruction on Sunday School/small group ‘done right’. The third session will begin at 10:45 p.m. and feature graded breakout sessions led by passionate speakers who are very gifted at what they do. These training experts are presently in the trenches just like the rest of us and will bring experience and practical insight to all our breakout meetings. **We have added two breakout sessions for this year’s event!** The fourth session will begin immediately after lunch and include final instruction and what resources are already available to help your church continue the disciple-making process throughout the year. Lifeway will again provide samples of all their teaching materials for folks to look at as you consider your teaching options.

**Sunday evening will bring the training event home as we meet at Morrilton’s 1st Baptist Church for a focused time of Worship and Preaching!** The three Associations will lift their combined voices in praise after which Dr. Sonny Tucker will bring a ‘kick-in-the-pants’ message sure to encourage us to return to our churches and act on the things we learned this year. We understand that many of our churches have their own Sunday night celebrations, but we hope that, in the spirit of ‘Baptists Doing More Together’, we can all move our services to one central location to better celebrate all that God will do in response to our attempt to better equip ourselves in the disciple-making process.

By now you know that we tend to invent these discipleship events as we go. Each year we learn something new, see something we need to avoid, and discover something that works really well. Thank you for being patient in allowing us to try new things in the ongoing effort to be of more service to our churches.

Whenever possible, Associational Training Events will be offered free of charge but a tentative price of \$ 10.00 per person may sometimes be necessary to help cover food and materials cost.

Please encourage your church to take advantage of this remarkable learning opportunity. There is a vast field of prospective disciples all around us. Our Lord wants them to be ‘discipled’ by our congregations. To do that, we need to prepare as best we can for the day the harvest is gathered into our churches.

Thank you for the privilege to serve,

## Coming March 5th & 6th

### It’s a Three-Association Event This Time!

Allan Taylor will kick off our annual training again this year with all new presentations and relevant insight into post-COVID Sunday School and Small Group Revitalization.



As in years past, Teach 28:20 will feature a focused time of teacher/leader training on Saturday and will include breakout sessions, large group instruction, and question/answer time. Lunch is included and will be followed by the remaining training sessions. We will conclude no later than 2 o’clock but the leaders will hang around a bit in case you need more information specific to your church.

The conference will feature breakout sessions for pre-school, children, student ministry, and adults and more! (See below)s. Being able to share ideas with fellow teachers and leaders is one of the highlights of these kinds of conferences. Plans are being made to include a breakout session discussing online media as well.

**Let’s Celebrate!** Churches from all three Associations will move their Sunday evening service to 1st Morrilton for a joint Celebration/ preaching event where we will be challenged to implement all that we learned on Saturday. Dr. Sonny Tucker will bring the message and our own Caleb Reynolds will lead the evening worship service. Service tentatively begins at 6 o’clock.



The cost for this awesome training is only \$10.00 (to help cover some of the cost) and can be prepaid or paid on the day of the event.

More information will be coming soon so check your mailbox and the Association website often. It is going to be a great day!

#### Breakout Sessions will include:

- Pre-school
- Children
- Students
- Adults
- Sr. Adults
- Virtual/Hybrid Sunday School
- Pastors & Directors

**NOTE:** Preschool, Children, Youth, and Pastor/Directors are ‘two part sessions. Participants will need to attend both sessions to gain full benefit.

Adult, Sr. Adult, and Virtual/Hybrid Sunday School are single session breakouts. Participants can choose to attend another session of interest.



Conway-Perry Baptist Association



## Conference Speakers March 5th & 6th, 2022

### Pastors & Directors - Allan Taylor



Allan formerly served as the Director of Sunday School and Church Education Ministry at Lifeway Christian Resources where he provided training and assistance to churches and Ministers of Education across the country. He also served 20 years as Minister of Education at First Baptist Church Woodstock, Georgia. Under his leadership, the Sunday School attendance grew from 2500-5800. He also served at London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach and Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Knoxville. He has authored three books and three Sunday School DVD series. He and his wife, Linda, have three children and three grandchildren. Allan currently serves as the Executive Pastor of Ministries at First Baptist Concord in Knoxville, TN.

### Celebration Event Speaker - Dr. Sonny Tucker

*Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention*



Leading in this position since 2013, Dr. Tucker has extensive pastoral experience in Arkansas churches. Prior to joining the ABSC staff, he pastored churches in Monticello, West Helena, Fair Oaks and Sparkman. Dr. Tucker received a Master of Divinity degree from Mid-America in 1992 and completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in 1998. He and his wife are members of First Baptist Church in Benton and have two grown children, Megan and Curt.

### Preschool – Leah Jo Wilson

*Preschool & Children's Ministry Consultant, ABSC*



**Leah Jo Wilson** serves as the Preschool and Children's Ministry Consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. She served on staff in churches in Arkansas for 14 years before joining the ABSC team in 2010. Her heart's desire is to lead preschoolers and children in discovering the love of God. Leah Jo also teaches babies – PreK at a Christian daycare in Little Rock. When she is not teaching or serving AR Baptist churches, she loves spending time with family and her grandchildren.

### Children - Emily Smith

*Children's Ministry Specialist, ABSC*



**Emily Smith** serves as the Children's Specialist on the Evangelism and Church Health Team for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Emily has served on convention staff with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, church staff in Arkansas and faith-based organizations in AR and TX. She has a passion for serving churches in the area of kids ministry and safeguarding minors. Emily and her husband, Wayne, enjoy exploring our great state with their two boys.



### Students - Dr. Daniel Johnson

*Student Pastor at 1st Baptist Dover*

Daniel joined the FBC Dover staff in 2006. He has an A.A. in General Studies from Arkansas Tech University, a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Ouachita Baptist University, a M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a D. Min. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He serves on the Super Summer Arkansas Leadership Team and the Super Winter Leadership Team.

### Adults - Ben South,

*Associate Pastor - Education & Missions at Central Baptist Church, Conway*



Ben joined Central in 1996 as a college student and joined the staff in December 2001. Ben is a graduate of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas with a major in Pastoral Ministry and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia, with a Masters in Christian Leadership. He completed his doctoral studies with an emphasis in Administration and Servant Leadership at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

### Sr. Adults - Dr. Freddie Pike

*CBC, Conway*

"Dr. Pike is a former director of the ABSC Sunday School Department and has led multiple conferences across the SBC. He is currently a senior adult teacher at Central Church, Conway."



### Virtual/Hybrid Small Group Ministry



**Terry Atwell**

Terry is 68 years old, has been married to his wife for 50 years, having two children and 5 grandchildren. He worked in the woods for 19 years, 14 of those as a logging contractor. At 37 he started college, earned a BS degree in Occupational Therapy and worked at Baptist Health for 22 years retiring 6 years ago. He has been teaching Sunday School most of the last 45 years... and loves it!



**Blake Wilson**

Blake is the tech guy for Central Baptist church in Conway and helps set up and run all things 'digital'. He and Terry Atwell have developed a virtual/hybrid Sunday School model that can work for almost any size class and which has spun off other class ministry opportunities. Blake can answer any questions about options, costs and installation.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy spirit, **teaching them** to observe all I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20