



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!

- ◆ **January 27th**— Area Prayer Breakfast at 1st Russ.
- ◆ **January 30-31**— Delta Vision Tour
- ◆ **February 9th**— Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **March 3rd**— *Man Church Conference*
- ◆ **March 9th**— Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **March 11th**— *VBS Clinic*
- ◆ **April 6th**— Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **April 11th**— ARVBA Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **April 22nd**— Regional D.R. Training
- ◆ **May 6th**— *EQUIP:SMC23*

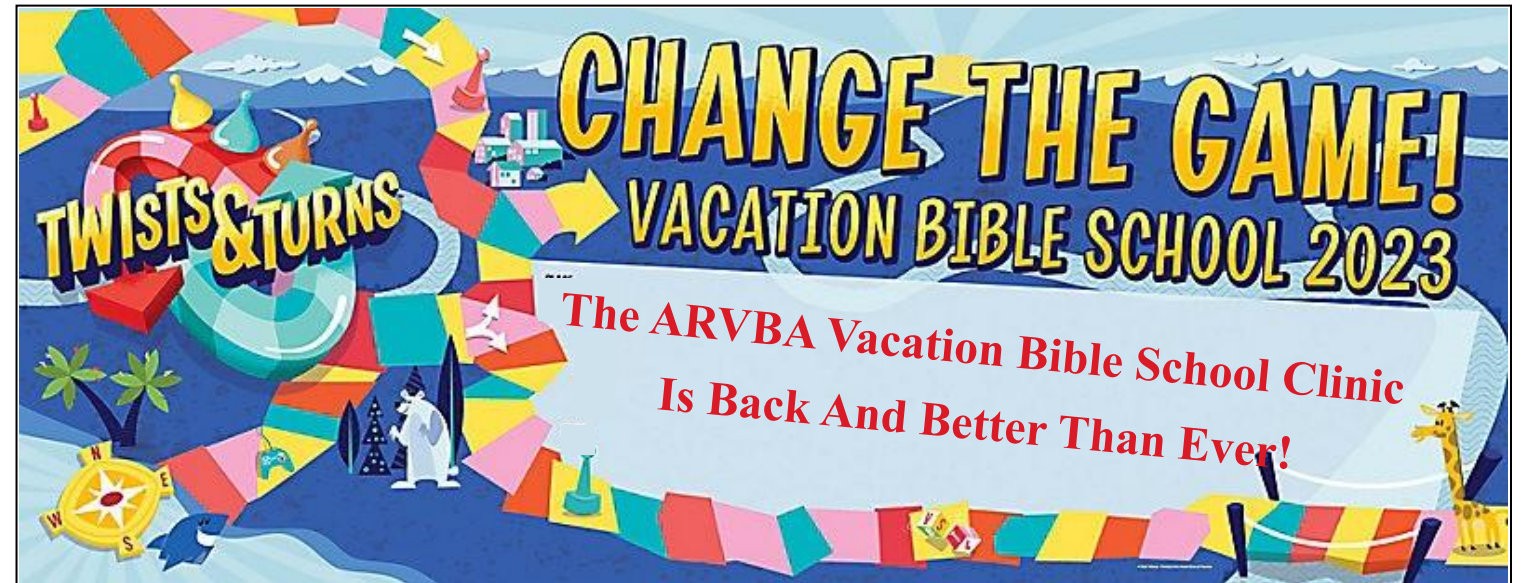


Another Three Association Event! May 6th, 1st Baptist Morrilton

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



The Good News Letter January, 2023



IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP VBS!

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

The Association's VBS Clinic Directors have returned from Nashville where they were given the lowdown on all things VBS 2023. Lifeway's national training session was extraordinary and our guys can hardly wait to share what they learned.

This year's Associational VBS Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 11th and will be held at Fair Park Baptist Church again. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the Clinic will begin promptly at 9.

There are a number of enhancements coming to this year's VBS clinic. In addition to the usual Worship Rally and curriculum display, you will be able to attend one of several breakout sessions. The exact number of sessions has not yet been determined but we will get that information to you asap. Some possibilities might be Effective VBS Follow-up - Engaging Parents of VBS Participants - Decorating For VBS - Sharing the Gospel with Children - etc.

Make sure you have this important event on your church calendar and bring all your VBS leaders!

Pre-register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cC6cT211ZjP34oGUNmLXrcFLfwVD_OD5YRBW4aWy5S8/viewform

"Churches Doing More Together!"



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

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Missionary's Heart

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

The ARVBA new year is already showing indications of being a genuine, bonafide, no-holds-barred, true-dat, barn burner! In addition to the everyday schedule, we have had our first Camp Committee meeting as well as the quarterly Executive Committee meeting. I began an eight-week SmartStart interim at First Baptist Church, Ola, enjoyed lunch with one of our pastors, and breezed through a scheduled pancreatic stent replacement. And the month is only half over at the time of this writing!

I have to say it is a genuine blessing to be able to 'do stuff' again. I still have a little ways to go before getting back to normal but that day is coming sooner, rather than later. And based on our upcoming schedule, it's a good thing!

On January 30th, myself and three members of the Assoc. Missions team will be traveling to 'The Delta'. We will join representatives from around Arkansas to evaluate the possibility of partnering with church planters in the most financially depressed region of our state. The trip will last the better part of two days and we will visit several different towns/regions while we are there. Our hope is to bring some sort of recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the annual Association Mission Trip.

On February 7th, we will restart the weekly minister's breakfast at the Association Office. Most mornings will feature a guest speaker and the topics will vary from week to week. (brief presentations only!) Breakfast will be served promptly at 8 and the meeting will end no later than 9 for those who have other appointments. Of course, the guys are encouraged to hang around and fellowship for as long as they like.

We will squeeze in another Camp Committee meeting on the 9th of February and spend the

remainder of the month preparing for the return of the ARVBA Vacation Bible School Clinic on March 11th. This will be our first since the Covid shut-down and your VBS team will not want to miss it!

But before we dive into VBS, I want to encourage ALL the men in ALL our churches to attend the first annual Man Church Conference on March. Hosted by First Baptist in Pottsville, this event will feature free admission, free dinner and nationally known speakers. "Disciple Men, Change the World" is the theme and more information and a sign up link can be found on page 3.

Vacation Bible School prop construction will begin at the Association office very soon and I hope you guys will lend a hand when possible. Contact Mrs. Tena for the best time(s) to help out.

There are other church-strengthening events being planned right now and I will get that information to you as soon as I can. A youth minister/ministry project is in the works as well as a renewal/re-working of the Association's Men's Ministry (Separate from the Man Church Conference).

Check out the new calendar page for more exciting stuff to come!



**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 who need updated IDs -
Free for Volunteers wishing to be cross-trained**

Rick's platform is unique as the co host of a secular radio and tv show who openly proclaims a Biblical worldview concerning day to day family life and the new stories of the day.

Andy Blanks is the Co-Founder of YM360 and serves YM360 as a Board Member and Special Advisor. A former Marine, Andy has been active in ministry since the early 2000s, mostly in the field of publishing and discipleship. During that time, Andy has led the development of some of the most popular Bible study curriculum and discipleship resources in the country. He has authored numerous books, Bible studies, and articles, and regularly speaks at events and conferences, both for adults and teenagers.

A free smoked chicken dinner will be served at 5:00PM with the service starting at 6:00. Come prepared to experience an incredible evening where the Gospel will be shared, lives will be changed, and discipleship will begin and/or be strengthened!

For more Information regarding this event, or to pre-register (FREE!) click the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-man-church-arkansas-conference-tickets-511586839007>

We're Finally Starting Back Up!

February 7th at 8 o'clock
Association Office

Bro. John Harris (or gifted stand-in) will be the guest speaker and will share about the upcoming Man Church Conference coming to 1st Pottsville in March.

We will provide a complete breakfast and are making plans for a full house on that day. The breakfast is provided for all ARVBA ministers and their guests.