

From My Laptop to Yours.

One of the ways that the Association is involved in the life of a church is in the interim time while a church is looking for a pastor. Often we refer to this church as being "pastorless". It is interesting to know that Webster doesn't recognize this as a word. I guess this should tell me something? But is "pastorless" the best designation. Yes we know what it means but by not saying it better are we miss-communicating? Recently I was talking with a church member of one of our "pastorless" churches. She had an interesting response to her church being tagged in this way. I have to admit that I really appreciated her perspective and would share it with you here:

Please accept my thoughts regarding the "Pastorless Churches" section of the ABA newsletter. From a personal perspective as both a church family member and as a staff member of 5.5 years, I'd like to bless the hearts and lives of our Pastoral team with this note. My heart is that we are BY FAR, NOT PASTORLESS! God has equipped our church with wonderful shepherds and we are moving forward to share the Gospel with Austin and the world. While we pray daily for our Pastor Search Committee and know that our new Pastor is out there and will join us in God's timing, we remain pastored and guided by the godly servant-leaders that He has assigned for this time.

Understanding the heart of the "Pastorless Churches" section, it would be great to be defined with a more positive approach that would tend less to a 'treading water' perception. Thanks for hearing my heart.

(*some editing was done so as not to identify the particular church)

Following this e-mail I began thinking of how to describe churches during this important time. As I dialogued with this lady, I invited her to share some alternatives names for the "Pastorless Churches" section of the newsletter.

My thoughts are that the title should reflect Jesus' characteristics showing the church is relational and the choice is God's (not man's)

- ◆ *Preparing for Our New Pastor*
- ◆ *Church Families Preparing for God's Shepherd*
- ◆ *Churches Seeking God's Leader*
- ◆ *Churches Listening for God's Choice*
- ◆ *Praying for a Pastor – (careful on this one—some could go on the list that still have one J)*

...then I suppose we'd be assuming that the churches on the list are indeed doing just that, seeking, listening, preparing.

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- Mission Churches & Church Plants*
- Abundant LIFE Community Baptist Church
 - Austin City Life
 - Austin New Church
 - Capital City Fellowship
 - Christian Love Center
 - Christian Worship & Family Learning Center
 - Cowboy Church of Travis County
 - Cowboy Church of the Hill Country
 - Gateway Hill Country Church
 - Grace Fellowship Community Church
 - Gracepoint Community Church
 - Greater Parkway Baptist Church
 - Iglesia Bautista de la Gracia
 - Iglesia Bautista High Pointe
 - Iglesia Bautista Oak Hill
 - Iglesia Piedra Viva
 - Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva
 - Iranian Baptist Church
 - Manor Fellowship
 - Neighborhood Baptist Church
 - New Life Baptist Church
 - North Austin Korean Baptist Church
 - Northwest Chinese Church
 - Primera Iglesia Bautista Buda
 - Primera Iglesia Bautista Pflugerville
 - Restoration Bible Church
 - Romanian Baptist Church of Austin
 - South Austin Community Church
 - Vietnamese United Baptist Church
 - The Church at Bee Cave
 - The Well

Purpose Statement

The Austin Baptist Association is an alliance of participating churches fulfilling the Great Commission.

Vision Statement

The Austin Baptist Association will be a catalyst alongside Great Commission churches to reach all people groups with the Gospel transforming our community and world through the power of God.

Church News

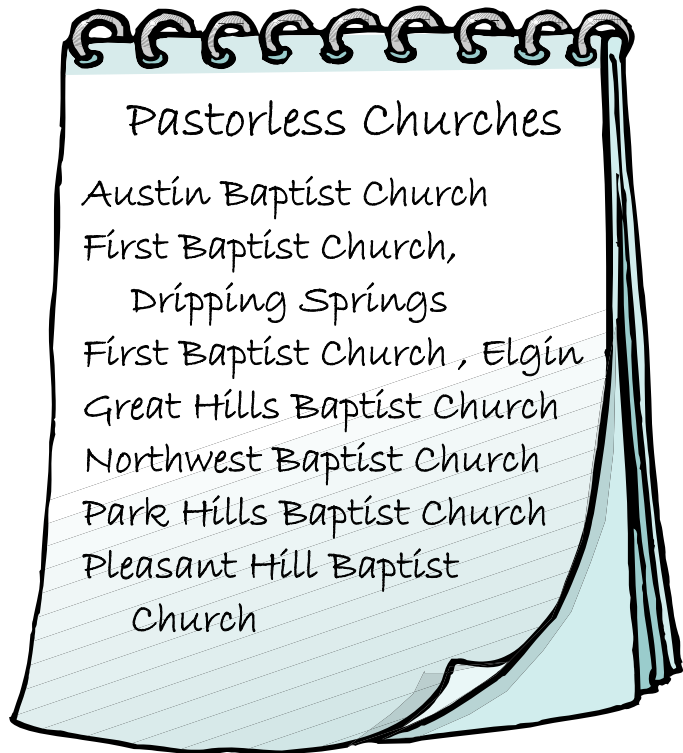


Upcoming Events

October 20th - ABA October Regular Meeting

November 17th - Monthly meeting (Topic: Energy Conservation)

November 25th - 27th - ABA closes at noon on the 25th for Thanksgiving Holidays. We will reopen on Monday, November 30th at 8 AM



Pastorless Churches

Austin Baptist Church

First Baptist Church,
Dripping Springs

First Baptist Church, Elgin

Great Hills Baptist Church

Northwest Baptist Church

Park Hills Baptist Church

Pleasant Hill Baptist
Church



Park Hills Baptist Church has 100 hymnals to donate to a church in need. They are the 1991 Baptist Hymnal, maroon in color. If your church is in need of more hymnals, please contact Tom Gillespie at 327-2500.

Calvary Baptist Church, Bastrop

Is looking for a part-time children's minister. For more information or an application, please call (512) 303-1697

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Is seeking a full-time Minister of Music. For more information and an application, see "Employment Opportunity" at www.thestoneofhelp.org or call Dr. Leroy Davis at 512-836-5365.

First Baptist Church, Elgin

Is accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Must be affiliated with SBC and BGCT. Mail resumes to Attn: Carolyn Creamer, PSC, P. O. Box 1443, Elgin, Texas 78621 or e-mail psc@eccwireless.net. www.fbcnelgin.org

First Baptist Church, Elroy

Will be in revival October 25-28. Youth Pastor Doug Landers from Waco will be preaching each night at 7 PM. There will be a meal each evening at 6 PM. The church offers this invitation to come and enjoy these services with them. (13705 FM 812, Elroy TX)

Iglesia Bautista Oak Hill

Is needing an experienced Music Director. Please contact Pastor David Silva at 832-646-3279 if interested. Salary determined by availability and experience.

Hays Hills Baptist Church

Is seeking a full-time Children's Minister. Send resumes to pastordavidsweet@gmail.com or call (512) 312-1433 ext. 23.

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church

Is looking for a volunteer Music Minister. For more information, please call (512) 926-4657.

Sunset Canyon Baptist Church

Is accepting resumes for an interim, part-time youth minister. Send resumes to church at 4000 E Hwy 290, Dripping Springs 78620 or office@sunsetcanyonchurch.org with the subject line "Interim Youth Ministry Position"

Vietnamese Unity Baptist Church

Is wanting to furnish their new church. Donations of a good piano, chairs or small pews, pulpit furniture and a small sound system are appreciated. For more information or to arrange for donation, please contact Pastor David Le at david_nhieu_le@yahoo.com

Hyde Park Counseling Center

Is seeking a new counseling staff member. For more information, contact counseling@hpbc.org.

Why do we do Annual Church Profiles?

Every fall, we send out Annual Church Profiles. Many have wondered why we collect this information, so we thought we'd give you a little idea of what this reporting accomplishes.

The following reasons came from one of the state conventions:

- ◆ Gives the church a way to track its progress in several major program areas from year to year
- ◆ Provides the church a way to share what God is doing within your congregation
- ◆ Helps identify areas of the state where evangelism and new churches are most needed
- ◆ Helps track trends in geographical areas and in your own local church.

These statistics are used by the conventions and associations for research to be used in church planting strategy as well as by churches seeking new staff members. It is also the most efficient way to update state conventions of your currently leadership.

THANK YOU to those of you who have already completed your 2009 ACP! We truly appreciate your dedication!

Continued from Front Page

These are hers, I would love to hear your responses:

So what does the ABA do for the churches that are looking for pastors? Here are just a few of the ways we assist.

We train the Pastor search committee

We help them with pulpit supply and interims

We help them with demographics on their church of prospective pastors


We serve to check references and do background checks on potential candidates.

We join them in prayer for the man that God has already chosen as their next pastor

Be looking for, a soon to be released, short DVD highlighted some areas in which that Association is working.

I appreciate your feedback on the newsletter. Blessings on you as you serve our Lord in the Austin and surrounding area.

For Christ and His Kingdom,



World Missions Conference

November 1-4, 2009

First Baptist Church in Buda invites you to attend a World Missions Conference. For more info, please call the church at (512) 295-2161.

Old Fashioned Fifth Sunday Singing

November 29, 2009
6 PM

Rosedale Baptist Church
4400 Maybelle Avenue



For more information please call James Sanderson at 512-453-1325 or email info@rosedalebaptistaustin.com



Children at Heart Ministries in Round Rock has a postage machine to sell. It is a Hasler WJ185 with low usage. Please contact Sylvia Goree at 512-246-4224 or Sylvia.Goree@cahmin.org for more information.



November, 29, 2009
5 PM - Potluck Supper
6 PM - Music

First Baptist Church of Oak Hill

6907 Convict Hill Rd

For more information, please call the church at 512-288-7570 or email staff@fbcoakhill.org

The ABA extends a special hello to Richard Cole, the new Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Buda. Welcome, Richard!

**WHO'S
WHOSE MISSING?
MISSION?**



Our Goal:

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
National Goal: \$175 million

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY**
NOV. 29 - DEC. 6, 2009

IMB.ORG | INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD, SBC



Help us be good Stewards!

If your address has changed, please notify the ABA office as soon as you can so that we may correct our database.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by email at charlotte@austinbaptist.org

THANKS!!!



**October Regular
Meeting
October 20, 2009**

Fellowship at 6:30 PM
Business Meeting
begins at 7:30 PM

Hosted by ACTS Fellowship
211 W. Koenig Lane, Austin TX 78751