



THE ARK

Volume 16, No. 3 News from the Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches Fall 2016

MODERATOR'S CORNER



On **Sunday, October 16, 2016**, the **Akron Area Association Fall Rally** will be held at First Baptist Church of Canton. The afternoon will begin with a meeting of the Trustees at 3 pm followed by a catered dinner at **4:30 pm**. After enjoying the meal, we will gather for worship at **5:30 pm** and be inspired by the music of concert pianist and ordained minister, Huntley Brown.

Prior to Huntley Brown's appearance, updates regarding what is happening in the Association will be shared along with greetings from our new Executive Minister of ABC/Ohio, Dr. Ernest Jones. The FBC King's Choir will share a moment of music, too. You don't want to miss out on this time of connecting and worshipping together. We expect a big turnout for this time of food, fellowship and worship. Prepare in advance to bring a group from your church.

About Huntley Brown: His music has been described as inspired, anointed, powerful, and explosive. He has recorded many CD's that cover a wide range of musical styles. People are not only impressed with his incredible technique; they are touched by his deep love for Jesus. As one friend has said, "Huntley plays as if God is whispering in his ears." Huntley's ministry extends from churches, to auditoriums, to colleges, to opera houses, to gang-infested urban high schools—where, in one case, a

student body was allowed to assemble, under police guard, for the first time in four years to hear Huntley, and responded with rapt attention and wild appreciation, including a deafening, heart-rending standing ovation.

Huntley is a graduate of Judson College. He earned the Top Caribbean Gospel Instrumentalist Award for 2005 and 2006. In 2009 he was appointed musical ambassador for CTS TV Station in Seoul, Korea and in 2010 he was inducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall Of Fame. In 2011, Huntley was the featured guest pianist at Carnegie Hall with the Milal world symphony orchestra and choir. You can learn more about Huntley Brown and listen to his music at **www.huntleybrown.org**. Elaine Jarvis

Note: Packets of information were sent to each of our Akron Area Association churches regarding the trustees' meeting, dinner reservations, and the Fall Rally in general. Check with your Pastor for this info. Please join us for an inspiring evening at First Baptist Church 4110 38th St NW Canton, OH 44718 on October 16, 2016. For questions or inquiries, please contact Canton First at 330-493-3222.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ABWM Happenings	2
ABC-Ohio News	2
Churches in the News	3
Koinonia Camp	4
Bondage Breakers, Inc.	5
Editor's Note	5
Fall Pastor's Column.....	6
Mission News	7
Akron Area Association Calendar	7
Contact Info and Deadline Dates.....	8



ABC-Ohio NEWS



The ladies of the Akron Area Association are invited to the ABW Fall Rally. It will be at Massillon First on October 27. Registration starts at 9:30 am with program beginning at 10 am. Our guest will be Peggy Burke of Columbus. She will be bringing us current mission news. She is the Coordinator of Mission and Service for the State ABW. She is also a well-traveled short-term missionary. We expect to hear about Haiti, Africa and our mission work with the Native Americans of our own country. So please come and invite a friend. The program should be concluded by 12 noon.

Other highlights of ABW Akron Area: the Day of Spiritual Renewal and Workshops was a wonderful experience. Our speaker was Jacque Jackson, the wife of Rev. Jackson at Akron First. She shared with us "Lord Save My Mouth".

Looking ahead, we will have the Winter Rally at Springfield Baptist on Dec. 4 at 6 pm. Watch your mailboxes for a letter from our song leader, Deb Armentrout, about how to participate. It is an evening of music and readings, a great way to start off the Christmas season. It only flies if our churches participate by sharing their gifts of talent with us. It is a great time to give your young musicians an opportunity to use their talents for the glory of the Lord!

Lastly, I hope you are helping your ladies with their White Cross Requests. We help missionaries all over the U.S. and world with supplies that make their ministries of spreading the Gospel of Christ possible.

We hope you take advantage of the opportunities to learn and grow with us this fall.

Janet Southerland and the ladies of ABW Akron Area

For over three years the Association Task Force has been working to develop a covenant to put on paper what we have long believed about our relationship and mission. **We have created a Proposed ABC Ohio Covenant and Addendums ... Visit the abc-ohio.org website to download the documents and peruse them at your convenience.**

We ask that you read the Covenant. During the Fall of 2016 and the winter months of 2017, Dr. Ernest Jones, Rev. Mark Click and Rev. Jane Gibbons will be seeking your thoughts and ideas. They will discuss the proposed document at clergy gatherings, association meetings and at the 2016 Annual Gathering in October. These discussions will provide insights into how we can all make a greater commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ through intentional authentic relationships.

The process began in listening sessions with our now retired Executive Minister Dr. Larry Swain. In those sessions it was clear that we wanted to be more closely connected in a common mission and vision. Since those listening sessions, there have been more conversations to help put into words how we can intentionally strengthen our commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

At the heart of the conversations came two thoughts: authentic relationships and intentionality. We have long assumed that we would join together in authentic relationships. Most of the time this has happened and we have made our ministry stronger. Yet, we know we need to be more intentional at making our relationships more authentic to empower our shared ministry for the glory of Jesus Christ.



CHURCHES IN THE NEWS

Fall 2016



By Joyce Crislip

Sunday night, September 11 was the Fall Kick Off at **Springfield**. The evening began with a performance by "The Akron Big Band" and was followed by an Ice Cream Social. This was a special evening of fun and fellowship.

Trinity youth have begun the Holy Grounds Cafe. Every Wednesday evening they meet for coffee/hot cocoa, good company and homework! They also enjoyed a trip to Cedar Point Fest on September 17th where they heard Christian concerts by Toby Mac, Chris Tomlin and more.

Seniors at **Springfield** enjoyed a road trip to the Train Museum in Greenville, PA in August. There was great fellowship.

Canton First has begun a "Meal Fellowship Night." Meals are each Wednesday evening at 5:45 and are followed by Bible study for adults and Christian activities for children of all ages. Participants must sign up for the meals.

The Youth at **Springfield** kicked off the fall season with a bon fire, hot dog roast and games. The kids had lots of fun with this seasonal activity.

Pastor Jon Lobos, **Trinity**, has begun a Bible study entitled "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've got to Get Out of the Boat" by Jon Ortberg. This is a five-week video-discussion study.

The Paper Recycle Bin and Clothing Donation Shed are still available for donations at **Springfield**.

Teens at **Newman** enjoyed an outing on a pontoon boat and fishing in August. They continued to discuss Christian Disciplines in their Sunday school class.

Massillon First held a food safety training class in August. The Massillon Health Department presented a Level 1 Food Handlers Class in the

Fellowship Hall to instruct participants on health regulations and food safety in preparation and distribution.

Bible studies have begun at **Canton First**. These are small groups with the theme of "Reset for Your Soul"—to walk by faith instead of by sight; to be known not as those who judge well, but who love well; to speak hope instead of caving to hopelessness trumpeted in the world; to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Springfield Baptist will host their Holiday Craft Sale on November 4 and 5 from 9am to 4pm. Vendors are needed.

A new Discipleship program was begun at **Massillon First**. This is a 13-week course that is based on the scripture verse Ephesians 4:12 "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service." The mission is to "equip each believer in the foundations of our faith so that we may reach the lost for Jesus in whatever way He leads us."

Jamie Ryder was ordained at **Newman** during the summer. He will be working under Pastor Denny McDonald until he is called by the congregation as Lead Pastor.

Seville First hosted a night of organ music on its recently restored 98-year-old Schantz pipe organ. The organist, Jeff Herr, presented Christian music including using the chimes, classical and contemporary music. "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "God Bless America" as well as pieces featuring sounds of flute, trumpet and cello were presented. There were at least 75 listeners in the audience.

Choir rehearsals have begun in most churches. Preparation for the Christmas Musical is in full swing at **Canton First**. The Choir director is encouraging interested people to join the choir.

Seville First is reaching out to the community with an Arts Project. Every Wednesday evening for six weeks, there are special arts activities for elementary-age children. The project will culminate with a Family Festival on October 16.

Koinonia Camp News

Geneva Grape Jamboree

On **September 24 - 25, 2016**, fifteen friends of Koinonia Camp served as volunteers at the Koinonia Booth at the Grape Jamboree in Geneva, Ohio. The booth staff greeted visitors and shared info about the camp. During the 2-day event, face painting, balloon critters, and giveaways were available.



Upcoming Koinonia Events

2016 Women's Retreat

November 4 - 6, 2016

Arrive 6:30 pm - Depart 1:00 pm

Mrs. Julie Hines will be sharing the Word with us

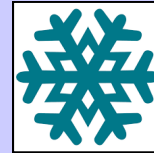


\$85 for the whole weekend event or \$65 if you bring a friend who has not been to Women's Retreat!

2017 Winter Bash

January 13 - 15, 2017

Youth 6th - 12th grades



\$85 for the weekend or \$65 each if you bring a friend who has never been to the Winter Bash before.

Food, fun and time spent with the Lord!

Register online on the forms page of the camp website.

2017 Snow and Glow

February 17 - 19, 2017

Kids 3rd - 5th grades



\$85 for the weekend or \$65 each if you bring a friend who has never been to Snow and Glow!

Snow fun, Bible time, games, food and goofiness!

*Koinonia Camp and Conference Center
Randy Brookes, Executive Director
6810 Cork Cold Springs Rd.
Geneva, OH 44041
Phone: 440-466-1278
Christiancampohio.org*

Bondage Breakers, Inc.



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose... Ecc. 3:1"

After 25 years of ministry "to the least of these my brethren...Mt. 25:41," Bondage Breakers, Inc. officially closed its doors at the 680 E. Market St. Suite 305 address on September 30, 2016. This closure does not mean that we will no longer minister in the respective venue, it does mean that the physical address terminated on that date. We have been ever so grateful to serve in this community for a quarter of a century. We have relished and treasured every moment and our hearts are still open to do so, whenever the opportunity presents itself, as our programming continues, the Bondage Breakers Board will meet at various community locations.

In no uncertain terms, God has been extremely good to and throughout this ministry. He has been good to the hundreds that have been served through our support services. He's been good to the thousands that we have had the privilege to serve inside the prisons. Over the last 15 years, God has been good to the many disadvantaged children and teenagers through yearly camp experiences and our education scholarship incentive.

Honestly, it has been our faith working throughout these years (Ro. 12:1-3). As life would have it, it has been said: "when one door closes, another opens." And another, it has! As of September 1, 2016, I was offered, and after much prayer, accepted the position of Vice Chancellor for the Tri-State Bible College North (www.tsbc.edu). Of course, God is always up to something, right?

The season is right for change. As we look out culturally, politically, spiritually, morally and socially, we can discern the times, discern the shift from righteousness to anarchy. We can somewhat see on one

hand the "love of God" is still preached and fleshed out, while on the other hand, like in the times of the Judges, "everyone did what was right in their own eyes." If ever there was a time to "draw nigh unto God...Jas. 4:8," now seems like a mighty good time.

The faithfulness of God indicates He will raise up people that will serve Him, obey Him, love Him, and trust Him. Perhaps there is someone in your congregation or a Pastor who wants to go deeper in Bible Study. Perhaps there is one who is just "thirsty for the Lord," "like the deer that pants at the water ...Ps. 42:1." Would you consider this article an invitation to "come and see?"

My firm belief and commitment to God says, "this is not just a time and season for me, but also for "whosoever will come and see."

Bless you,

Dr. Alicia J. Malone (330-906-2479)

Vice Chancellor

Tri-State Bible College

1600 S. Arlington St. Ste 305

Akron, OH 44306

Editor's Note: Rev. Dr. Alicia Malone has been a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of Bondage Breakers, Inc. that she founded over 25 years ago. Thank you Dr. Malone for your total commitment to the persons whose lives were and will continue to be touched and transformed as you minister as the feet, hands and skin of Jesus.

Dr. Malone has overcome many obstacles during her walk with Jesus but I know she will continue to be a strong witness for the Lord as she also moves into another season of ministry as the Vice Chancellor for Tri-State Bible College North. Congratulations Dr. Malone! May the light of Jesus be reflected in everything He has planned for you moving forward. Elaine Jarvis

FALL PASTOR'S COLUMN



"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

The Olympic Games have changed since I first started watching them years ago. The most recent ones last month in Rio raised concerns about water quality, public safety, long airport-like security lines and more. The events have been expanded to include a number of "sports" I've never even heard of. Those who compete are no longer merely amateurs, but almost exclusively professionals. Drug testing banned a number of potential participants. American swimmers got into an embarrassing flap with local authorities.

One notable change was that expatriate athletes were allowed to participate as part of a "refugee" group, not affiliated with any recognized country. And every country was allowed to send two athletes, regardless of their prowess or status.

That meant the door was widened, and the bar lowered, for this competition. It meant that those who hoped to win a medal could take part, even if they had no country behind them. And it meant that those who had a country behind them could compete even if they had no hopes of winning a medal.

If you watched the games, you saw a lot of tears: gold (or other) medal winners shed tears of joy. Some who had to settle for less than gold wept tears of despair, because they didn't win as expected. Some wept tears of frustration as injuries, miscommunication, miscalculations, poor performances or rules violations forced them from their events.

But what I appreciated the most were the tears of triumph shed by the lesser athletes who just managed to finish the event they were in. These

were not world-class competitors; just being part of it was probably the thrill of their lifetime: long distance runners or swimmers who finished several minutes behind the elite group. Their goal was not to compete, but simply to complete – to "finish the race," as the Apostle Paul says of his own life in 2 Timothy 4:7..

A recent article in one of my ministry journals was called "Meet the Dones." There are unchurched people who have always been on the outside. There are dechurched people who once were in, but have gone away hurt or angry. The Dones have also gone away, because they are tired or frustrated or disillusioned. They have given up. They've dropped out. It is an interesting and widespread condition. You may know some of them: nobody offended or insulted them, nobody took advantage of them, there's nothing wrong with worship style or sermon content, they just got tired, stopped somewhere along the course and are no longer running the race.

Woodrow Wilson said, "The object of love is to serve, not to win." As Christians, we are called not to compete, but to complete. Another lap around the calendar of the church year is about to begin. Are you still in the race? Are you ready to get back in?

Running With You,
Pastor Malcolm Hall



A BIG thank you to First Baptist Church of Canton for hosting the 2016 Fall Trustees Meeting and Rally. Canton First wishes to thank Trinity Baptist North Canton for helping co host the Rally event.

MISSIONS



World Mission Offering: Celebrate New Life in Christ "on Earth as in Heaven"

A great and surprising spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now! Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. The number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers.

After decades of harsh restrictions, "the church of God has risen from the ashes", says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. "In God's time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel."

The good news is that our church's support of the WMO is helping to fuel the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through IM-sponsored pastor conferences. The better news is that there is a lot that we can learn from Cuba's spiritual revival. For example: Youth ministry is thriving through camping and sports ministries, concerts and youth rallies in the streets of Cuba's cities and towns. The Spirit-filled outreach is yielding abundant fruit through evangelistic campaigns, undergirded with fervent prayer and fasting. Discipleship is spreading through numerous house churches and cell groups of prayer. A new generation of leaders is growing through faithful teaching at seminaries and lay training centers.

Support A New Generation of Believers! Through our giving to the WMO we are being challenged.

Youth camps in Cuba and the Dominican Republic are an important way that youth (ages 12 to 25) come to know Christ. In Cuba alone, 10 camps minister specifically to 2,000 non-believers. An amazing 90% of these young people become followers of Jesus! But, thousands of young people are waiting for a camp opening. There are simply not enough camps to go around. The need for additional camps, supplies and scholarships is great. Baptist partners in Cuba and the Dominican Republic are

requesting our help! Here's how it works:

1. Challenge your church to raise at least 10% more in undesignated WMO funds in 2016 than in 2015.
2. If IM receives overall 10% more in undesignated WMO giving, 100% of the income above that level will be sent to support youth camps and gatherings in Cuba and the Dominican Republic!

Wilma Nicholson, AAA/ABC Missions Chairman

Akron Area Association 2016 Calendar



Executive Leadership Team Meetings

March 14th, June 27th,

August 15th, **November 14th**

All **2016** ELT meetings will be held at First Baptist Canton at 6:30 pm ... unless otherwise notified. A light supper will be provided.

Trustees' Meetings

The **Fall 2016 Trustees' Meeting** will be held on **October 16th at 3 pm** ... prior to the Fall Akron Area Association Rally ... at **First Baptist Church of Canton.**

Fall Rally 2016

October 16th - **First Baptist Church of Canton following the Trustees' Meeting.** Dinner is at **4:30 pm** and the **Program** begins at **5:30 pm.**

Reminder: There is only **one** rally (fall) per year for the AAA/ABC but **2** trustees' meetings ... spring & fall.

2017 Ark Articles Deadline

Winter - January 13; **Spring** - April 14;

Summer - July 14; **Fall** - September 15



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Fall 2016



NEW Association Website
(aaa-abc.com) will be
officially launched soon!

Facebook -
Akron Area Association of
American Baptist Churches

Koinonia Website
(christiancampohio.org)

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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"THE ARK"



Articles and info for the **Winter 2017** AAA/ABC Quarterly newsletter are due **on or before January 13, 2017.** The newsletter will be mailed to churches in the association, trustees, and others. Thanks to everyone who supplies information for "The Ark" and to those of you who have indicated your support of the Akron Area Association and this newsletter.

Please don't hesitate to contact Joyce Crislip or Elaine Jarvis to publicize upcoming events at your church and/or specific events in the ministries of the association and of the Region. If you would like to receive a copy of The Ark, or know of someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, or if you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please let us know.

***"Optimism is the faith that leads to
achievement. Nothing can be done
without hope and confidence."***

—Helen Keller