

Clear Creek Association Vision Frame

- Focus Team starts working deeply with three churches in ReFocus. (01/24)**
Review governing documents. (01/24)
- Propose revisions to governing documents. (04/24)**
Approve revisions to governing documents. (10/24)
- Reorganize all leadership positions/ministries around new strategies. (10/24)**
Reorganize budget around new strategies. (10/24)

Partnership
Education
Engagement
Scripture
Missions
Equipping
Prayer



Equipping churches to fulfill their mission through revitalized relationships.

- Partner:** Building Trust, Relationships, Communication, Fellowship
- Focus:** Awakening, Assessment, Discovery, Clarity, Supported Implementation
- Equip:** Leadership Development, Training, Encouragement, Deployment
- Engage:** Disaster Relief, Evangelism, Missions, Planting, Community Impact

The above Vision Frame is a culmination of the work of the Clear Creek Baptist Association ReFocus Vision Team. All proposed changes were voted on and approved at the annual meeting held October 15, 2023.

Major objectives for the year are printed at the top of this document and are as follows:

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Clear Creek Baptist Association
2825 East Vienna Street
Anna, Illinois 62906

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Ripples in Clear Creek

The mission of Clear Creek Baptist Association is equipping churches to fulfill their mission through revitalized relationships.



January 2024

Attempting to Create a Ripple

As the new year has come, I have been reflecting on my life and what I have done with it thus far. I want my life in Christ to make a difference whether small or great somewhere in this moment of time that I have been given. I have reflected on my past, and I see the difference that Jesus the Christ has made in my present, and I have hope for the future. The preacher offers us some timely counsel in Ecclesiastes 7:8-10 that will help us rightly measure our time and set godly goals for this new year.

Learn from the past (v. 8a) "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning" When the end is reached, the whole picture comes into view, and that is what matters most. We make mistakes, we experience victories, we often focus on temporary matters. Is what I have been spending my life doing of any eternal value? What I have done, not what I thought about doing, is all that will matter in eternity. "Those who fail to learn their history are doomed to repeat it." We must learn from past successes and failures of ourselves and others. "If you don't have time to do something right the first time, when will you have the time to do it over?"

Live in the present (8b-9) "And the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools." Living in the present involves replacing our pride with patience. Pride, impatience, and haughtiness push wisdom aside and lead to harboring anger and resentment. In all cases it is better to wait for God's timing. We must learn to trust God now, do our best now, learn from the past and use wisdom now. Sometimes we become so consumed with where we have been, and with where we want to go, that we forget where we are at. In order to use a road map, you must first locate where you are at.

Look to the future (10) "Say not, 'Why were the former days better than these?' For it is not from wisdom that you ask this." Pride and bitterness encourage wasteful and foolish longings for yesterday. We cannot return to the past, but we can use the lessons of the past to make better decisions in the present because each helps us to determine our future. We need to appreciate all of our life, and its opportunities. If we fail to learn from our past, if we fail to apply life's lessons to our present, we will not have much of a future to look forward to.

Someone once stated, "Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

Happy New Year, Bob Burnett, D.Min., Ph.D.

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Clear Creek Baptist Association
**STRENGTHEN YOUR
 CHURCH THROUGH
 SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**March 19, 2024
 6:30 p.m.**

Location to be announced in the next newsletter

Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful training event! You will receive multiple tools to strengthen your church through the avenue of Sunday School/Small Groups.

Breakout sessions, led by local leaders, will be available in the following areas:

- Beginning a Bible teaching class
- Organizing a Bible teaching class
- Children
- Youth
- Adults

We encourage churches to bring their members whether you provide a Sunday School/Small Group time or not. There will be information on how teachers promote relationships through simple means.

Sponsored by: CCBA Sunday School/Small Group/Discipleship Ministry



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to make repairs to the board room that sustained water damage this past November. All supplies for the repairs will be provided. We would like to have all repairs completed no later than Saturday, March 16, 2024. If you or someone you know is interested in helping in this ministry, please contact us at 618-833-4481.

Clear Creek Trustees recently met to discuss several items. One of those items was replacing the heavy tables and metal chairs in the board room. We are asking churches to contribute up to \$150 toward the purchase of 12 new white, round banquet tables and 72 white plastic chairs. This item was brought to the January board meeting as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 618-833-4481.



**What's Happening in the Churches of
 Clear Creek Baptist Association?**

- **Caledonia Community Church** provides a food pantry for their community, and they are in need of donations (food and monetary). If you or your church would like to offer donations of any kind, please contact Tammy Wilson at 618-638-7467.
- **Harbor Church** has a sound board, speakers, (and possibly subwoofers) free to any church that can use this equipment. Please contact Pastor David Anderson at 618-694-8992 or Brad Roberts at 618-521-1622.
- Remember in prayer **Beech Grove** and their pastor search committee.

***Clear Creek Baptist School of Theology
 Seminary Extension Classes***

Formation for Ministry
 (GM2500)
 January 22 – April 15, 2024

One class will be offered during the Spring 2024 Semester. Students will be meet Monday evenings starting January 22 and ending April 15. Class time is 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the association building.

Students who are members of Clear Creek Baptist Association churches are eligible for tuition reimbursement upon successful completion of each course. Scholarships are available in certain circumstances, please contact the office for more information.

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is a special, focused time of prayer for Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the North American Mission Board and the people they serve.

We invite you to join us this season of prayer, March 3-10, 2024. In addition to prayer, your generosity in giving to the [Annie Armstrong Easter Offering](#) makes an eternal impact. When you give directly to this offering, 100 percent of your gifts support missionaries in North America.

The 2024 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$75 million.

***God's Provision for
 Clear Creek***

December 1-31, 2023

Anna, FBC		276.93
Anna Heights		1485.00
Bethany		224.36
Big Creek		661.20
Dongola, FBC		612.18
Fellowship	-2-	1383.44
Harbor		303.56
Immanuel P&W		50.00
Jonesboro, FBC	-2-	1110.45
Limestone		100.00
Lockard Chapel	-2-	1181.80
Maple Grove		100.00
McClure		800.00
Mounds, FBC		144.00
Mt. Olive		543.00
New Hope		322.62
Pleasant Ridge		261.82
Thebes, FBC		46.00
Ullin, FBC		463.00
United Missionary		388.66

TOTAL 10,635.08

-2- indicates 2 deposits this month

December General Fund Report

Total Income	10,638.02
Total Expenses	13,090.24
General Fund Balance	35,517.48

Resources Available to Pastors

Lake Sallateeska: IBSA offers [free retreat time](#) for pastors and their wives. The directors of the camps are available for prayer and directed retreats. When getting away for a few days isn't enough, ministers and spouses can take advantage of counseling opportunities offered by [Pathways Counseling](#), a service of the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services. With 11 locations in Illinois, [Pathways offers up to six free sessions for ministry couples](#).

In addition, Illinois Baptist Women provide [ReFresh](#), a two-day conference for ministers' wives' each spring. And an offering collected at the Annual Meeting supports the Minister's Relief Fund, set aside each year to assist pastors who find themselves without a ministry position who need temporary help.

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, FL [offers sabbaticals](#) for pastors and their families. For more information about this center, contact Executive Director Jeff Yant through email at jeff.yant@lybcc.com or calling 352-483-9800.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 19 MEN'S WILD GAME SUPPER
- 22 SEMINARY EXTENSION CLASS BEGINS
- 23-25 IBSA Leadership Summit

FEBRUARY

- 12-18 Focus on WMU
- 24 IBSA Training Event



(CAPITALIZED events are sponsored by CCBA)

WMU® God's mission.
 Our passion.

**FOCUS ON WMU
 February 12-18, 2024**

Share with your church how God uses WMU missions discipleship to make his gospel known around the world.

***Clear Creek Baptist Association
 Associational Leadership Council &
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING***

March 12, 2024

East Cape Baptist Church
 60 Brookwood Dr.
 East Cape, IL

6:00 p.m. Assoc. Leadership Council
 7:00 p.m. Executive Board

We are changing our format for upcoming board meetings for the year 2024. We will meet at different churches throughout the association. There will be a short worship time with song, a devotion brought by the host church pastor, and any business that arises. Please make plans now to attend. We look forward to this new way of meeting and conducting business.