



Moderator's Article 2



Nurturing Young Baptists 3



Partnership Profiles 4



Regional News & Updates 6

Elizabeth Richards Missions Offering 7

Financial Report 8

Engaging Young Baptists

This summer a young Tennessee Baptist woman contacted TCBF looking for guidance. Having heard that the Fellowship family was welcoming and affirming of women in ministry, she reached out locally to ask about chaplaincy endorsement. At the time, she was completing a unit of clinical pastoral education (most often referred to as CPE) and anticipating employment on completion of the program by some employer that - like most organizations which

lines - resources unavailable from her home church or denomination.

An email about endorsement led to lunch and a conversation clarifying the difference between ordination and endorsement and the nature of these respective processes. Clarity on these matters sometimes comes late when it's assumed that your gender precludes you from both. Not only would the pastor of her home church not bring the topic of her potential ordination to the leadership of the church that baptized her, but her denomination simply does not endorse women as chaplains. Since our time together, I've had the privilege - on your behalf - to introduce the young Baptist woman to a couple of pastors of TCBF partner congregations who can guide her on both matters and help her initiate both journeys.



IT WAS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE TO SHOW THIS YOUNG WOMAN YOUR CHRIST-LIKE EMBRACE AND A FREE AND FAITHFUL WAY TO BE BAPTIST.

employ chaplains - would require a denominational endorsement. As she neared completion of the program, she needed a faith organization that expressed confidence in her giftedness and calling to work on the front

SEE "ENGAGING YOUNG BAPTISTS" ON PAGE 6.

A Word from our Moderator

Frozen Custard with Family

Several weeks ago, the Coordinating Council met in the rolling hills of Thompson Station to plan, prepare, and imagine. As a part of its 25th Anniversary campaign, CBF Global has pledged grants to the states and regions. We spent a good deal of our time talking about how to faithfully use the gift we will receive.

We began crafting ideas for this gift months ago. When we gathered in our state meeting during General Assembly in Atlanta, those present offered suggestions on how to use these resources. While many expressed great passion for an idea or ministry, everyone recognized the many needs and places where our time and resources could make a true difference.

What rose to the top in our Council talks, as in many conversations across the state, is that we want



And so we talked, we debated, and on mostly everything, your Council agreed. We represented the three unique regions of this State. From churches small and large, some of us were old friends and some had only met that day. After dinner, we slipped away from the lodge and drove to a nearby town. There awash in a neon glow was a local frozen custard shop. Each one of us, with frozen goodness in our hands, laughed and shared a bit of ourselves. That night, as I looked around, I felt as if I were having frozen custard with family. Indeed, it is my family of faith because of a common mind, a shared desire to share authentically the Word, and a mutual hope in making our Fellowship stronger.

What we hope to do with those funds will enhance the wonderful family-feel that TCBF offers. It will encourage our next generation of leaders to begin their service now. It will offer a tie to bind our partner congregations. It will work to continue God's work around the globe. With this great gift, we will be able to do amazing things: even more amazing than frozen custard. [•TCBF•](#)



DR. THOMAS QUISENBERRY IS THE SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHATTANOOGA

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to help foster and nurture future young leaders of the Fellowship. And we want to do it in a way that is considerate of the Fellowship's other core initiatives: healthy congregations and global missions. I am excited for what is already happening, and I cannot wait to see what will come.

Nurturing Young Baptists

TCBF Nurtures Young Baptists Through Student.Church Intern Program

This fall, four college students from Tennessee were able to answer the traditional back-to-school essay question, “How did you spend your summer vacation?” with a similar answer: as a ministry intern. In an effort to nurture the faith of young Baptists and support their personal ministry goals, CBF’s Student.Church program enables internships for college students who are interested in “trying out” ministry in a local church. The program’s intent is to provide a “deeper experience of church life.” TN CBF provides complementary support to students involved in the program to encourage young Baptists in Tennessee. Two interns spoke with us regarding their experiences.

Ellie Sexton, a social work major at the University of Tennessee, interned with Mentor Susan Tatum, Minister with Children and Families at First Baptist Knoxville. She and fellow intern Andrea Wheeler shared leadership of Kids Camp and Vacation Bible School. As a former teen in the youth group at FBC Knoxville, Ellie had helped with the Kids Camp before, but enjoyed her new experience with the effort this year. She realized the level of effort and detailed preparations necessary that were invisible to her as a teen volunteer. Mentor Susan Tatum said that both students greatly “enabled ministry during the summer.”

Ellie shared, “I went into the internship not knowing what to expect, but I knew it would help me decide if ministry was a possibility.” She sees herself involved in future ministry with children whether it be in a formal position or as a lay leader. Ellie urges anyone who has even a slight interest in pursuing ministry within the local church to consider interning. The experience has better helped her “figure out if she wanted to (or

could do) ministry.”

Recent graduate Grayson Hester interned with Pastor Amy Mears at Nashville’s Glendale Baptist in Nashville. He appreciated the opportunity to experience all aspects of what a pastor does. He shared that the experience allowed him to see “how pastoral ministry differs in urban settings rather than rural or small-town settings and how ministry must be tailored to the context of the church.” The experience helped give Grayson some clarity for a possible career direction and better understand “what it really means to be a pastor.”

Mentors and churches play a huge role in the Student.Church program, but the discoveries between mentor, church, and student can be mutual. Scott Claybrook, Minister with Young Adults at FBC Knoxville, says “Ministry is a marathon. By engaging with student interns, our church continues to benefit from their fresh energy and creativity. Not only do they provide extra sets of hands and feet during one

of our most busy seasons, but their questions, passion, and imagination provide fuel to our staff and lay leaders.” He says that one of the best gifts a congregation can give a young person is the opportunity to “try ministry on for size.” “You’ll be amazed by what they can teach you in the process!” •TCBF•



Intern Ellie Sexton demonstrating a science lab at FBC Knoxville’s Kids Camp

KAREN HARWELL, A GRADUATE OF THE MCAFEE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, GREW UP IN TULLAHOMA, TN. SHE CURRENTLY DESIGNS HANDS-ON PRAYER EXPERIENCES, COURSES, AND OTHER SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAMS FOR CHURCHES AND SMALL GROUPS.



Students were supported by a combination of funds from TNCBF and the CBF Global Student.Church program. For additional information on possible internships, visit www.cbfn.net/studentdotchurch.

Partnership Profiles

Gatlinburg First Baptist Church Continues Ministry to Fire Victims



The fires burned rapidly and very hot. The result is that very little was left standing in most buildings burned by the fires. Even fire safes were usually damaged or the contents inside got so hot that paper and similar items were just ash. However, some metal items and jewelry survived the fires in a damaged state. Teams volunteered to sift the ashes for the owners using screens to recover anything that might have survived. In several cases a few treasured mementoes were found and this provided some comfort to the survivors. It also gave these teams an opportunity to minister and witness to the survivors.

the church office to say they were visiting Gatlinburg and donating funds collected by their home church and/or community for recovery work.

The Fire Relief Team decided to minister both to members of the congregation directly affected by the fire and affected members of the community. We determined that approximately 50 church families lost either personal houses, businesses, or in a few cases both. Our team began contacting these families to provide support and financial assistance. We also

provided support for three other churches that suffered building damage from the fires. Although our main church building was not touched by the fires, there was significant smoke damage. Once we could get back into the building we began relief work while a crew worked around us clean-

ing. Some team members also volunteered at relief centers setup by various organizations, and others worked directly with families who had losses from the fires. Each week conditions changed and our team

Even before the ashes of the fires that consumed our youth building and 2400 other structures in our county cooled, the members of the First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg wanted to be involved in our community's recovery. The Sunday following the fires, our church family was not able to meet in our sanctuary because of the evacuation. Instead, we gathered in the auditorium of the local high school just outside the evacuation area. That service included the formation of our Fire Relief Team. The church decided to use that Sunday's offering to begin a fund to help the recovery. Our team, chaired by Lori Fortner, wife of our Youth Pastor, began meeting the next week. We have been overwhelmed and very thankful for the outpouring of emotional, physical, and financial support the church has received from people all around the country. In the weeks following the fires several people dropped by

**Through your generosity,
Tennessee CBF
has contributed \$10,000
to partner congregation
Gatlinburg FBC's Fire Relief Fund.
Thank you for
your responsive generosity!**

highlighting churches and organizations partnering with TCBF

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

members transitioned to meet the immediate needs. Many church members volunteered with established ministries in their coordinated efforts to help victims sift through ashes of their former homes for any items that might have survived the fires. When these ministries completed their work they provided our team with contact information for all of the people they had

the fires, finding a new job to replace jobs lost because businesses were either destroyed in the fires or closed because of them, help with significant medical bills incurred because they have lost health insurance due to changes in their job situation, and counseling to help overcome the mental traumas from the fires. We are partnering with other local congregations and ministries to provide more support than any one group could provide separately.

In all cases it means our team needs continued prayerful support as we attempt to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Since the very beginning our team has made it a practice to close every interview and meeting with a prayer expressing our thank-

fulness that God has brought us through the initial challenges and continues to allow us to help others.

To the left shows what was left of the youth building in the days immediately following the forest fire.

served. Since then the team has made follow up calls to offer help for any continuing or remaining needs.. These contacts have resulted in the opportunity to provide additional ministry to some individuals and families.

The recovery needs and efforts have shifted from providing the immediate to more long term complicated issues, many of which will continue for years to come. This can mean help navigating the rebuilding process, help recovering from lost income due to shutdowns and slowdowns caused by

We are able to continue in our efforts because of the many prayers that have been lifted up on our behalf. With God's strength we will continue to help rebuild our community. •TCBF•

JOHN TARPLEY IS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF GATLINBURG FBC AND A MEMBER OF THE RECENTLY FORMED FIRE RELIEF FUND.

The Samaritan's Purse team set up on our campus, and here is shown the view from the street. Their tent is in the parking lot of what was the youth building. The main church building is just out of frame to the left. Note the burned trees behind and around what was the building. The Alamo restaurant which also burned is just out of frame to the right.





Regional News & Updates

Pilgrimage to Memphis

This year's TCBF General Assembly convenes in Memphis,

TN on a significant anniversary for our nation - the 50th anni-

versary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As the commemoration wraps up in Memphis, CBF Baptists in Tennessee will gather seeking a renewal of Dr. King's vision in our own hearts and communities. We'll consider the gaps that still exist and ask what God would have us to do and who God would have us be to make Beloved Community a nearer reality.

Dr. Kevin Cosby will be our worship proclaimer and dialogue facilitator. Dr. Cosby serves as Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church and President of Simmons College, both in Louisville, KY, and has been a leader in the Angela Project, a partnership among three national Baptist bodies that will be profiled at the 2019 CBF General Assembly in Birmingham.

A pilgrimage to Memphis offers us the opportunity to journey into the gap, to experience the bridges being built, and consider the bridges needed in our own lives and communities. Join us for worship, learning, fellowship and transformation! **•TCBF•**

2018 TCBF General Assembly
April 27/28, 2018



Engaging Young Baptists, *cont'd. from cover*

It was my great privilege to show this young woman your Christ-like embrace and a free and faithful way to be Baptist. That day, Tennessee CBF - through you and your church's partnership - was about its mission to resource Tennessee Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission. And because of your support for that mission, to do so in a very incarnational, local way. That day we were Forming Together.

There is a euphoria that comes with glimpses of missional faithfulness; that day I was feeling it! Which leads me to say on my anniversary as Tennessee field coordinator: thank you for the privilege of serving you, our partner churches, and the free and faithful Baptists of Tennessee!

Christ's peace and strength to you for the next season of ministry, Rick

Happy Anniversary, Rick!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed already since Rick began his work as our TCBF Field Coordinator, and yet, when you take a look at all the good work he has done it's hard to believe it has only been a year! Rick has covered the state from end to end and top to bottom and everything in between. He has been a student of Tennessee and TCBF churches and is quickly becoming a Tennessean. Rick, thank you for loving us well. Thank you for listening deeply, for taking the time to show up and spend time with us, and for guiding us well as we seek to be the presence of Christ across the state of Tennessee. We can't wait to see what the next year has in store! - *From the TCBF Coordinating Council*

Elizabeth Richards

State Mission Offering

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ELIZABETH RICHARDS STATE MISSIONS OFFERING express gratitude to the ten churches and six individuals who contributed to this year's missions offering. The 2016-17 offering concluded on July 30, 2017 approximating the goal of \$27,000 set by the TCBF Coordinating Council.

Contributing CHURCHES

Central Baptist Church, Bearden
Central Baptist Church, Fountain City
Ekklesia Blount, Maryville
First Baptist Church, Chattanooga
First Baptist Church, Gatlinburg
First Baptist Church, Jefferson City
First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville
Providence Baptist Church, Cookeville
Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova

IN MEMORY OF

John Steen (Immanuel, Nashville)
Given by Diane Jordan (FBC Nashville)

Contributing INDIVIDUALS

Brad and Connie Bull
Eileen Campbell-Reed
Randell and Melanie Dover
Kelly Moreland Jones
Diane Jordan
Scott and Vickie Willis

**2017-2018
PROMOTE THE
ELIZABETH RICHARDS SMO
IN YOUR CHURCH**

**Download posters and bulletin
inserts, or request a speaker
or offering envelopes at
tncbf.org/ersmo.**



Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

6300 Deane Hill Dr,
Knoxville, TN 37919

SIGN UP

FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER!

rbennett@tncbf.org

TCBF Coordinating Council

Thomas Quisenberry (Clergy), *Moderator*
First Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Brittany Krebs (Clergy), *Moderator-Elect*
First Baptist Church, Memphis

Phillip Moody (Clergy), *Immediate Past Moderator*
King's Cross Church, Tullahoma

Mary Jayne Allen (Clergy, retired), *Recorder*
First Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Terms Ending in 2018

David Hixson (Lay)
First Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Brandon Owen (Clergy)
First Baptist Church, Nashville

Terms Ending in 2019

Jeff Cockerham (Clergy)
Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville

Wayne Smith (Lay Ministry Leader)
Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville

Financial Report

FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERING

(7/1/17 - 8/31/17)

We have received \$24,307. Our year-to-date budget for the same period was \$30,500.

That puts us \$6,193 behind budget through August 31.

Terms Ending in 2020

Christine Jones (Laity)
First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, TN

Noel Schoonmaker (Clergy)
First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Regional Council Leaders

West Tennessee: **Stephen Cook** (Clergy)
Second Baptist Church, Memphis

Middle Tennessee: **Melanie Dover** (Laity)
Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville

East Tennessee: **Scott Claybrook** (Clergy)
First Baptist Church, Knoxville