

PASTOR SEARCH

Please pray for the following churches as they seek their next Pastor


First Baptist, Hector
First Baptist, Dardanelle
Rover Baptist Church
First Baptist, Centerville
First Baptist, Plainview

Welcome Back!
Bro Robbie Harrison
New Pastor - Calvary Baptist Church

CHURCH SAFETY & SECURITY
Active Shooter!
Is Your Church or Organization Prepared?

The Strong Blue Line & Make It Clear Ministries present
'Pistol In The Pulpit'
A Church Security Seminar

- Does a local church have a duty to protect?
- What about having a trained & Armed Security Team?
- What does the Bible say about deadly force protection?
- How do you begin getting a team together?

 Pastor and former police officer, Dr. Tim Rupp will answer these questions and many others both biblically and tactically.
 Tim retired from the San Antonio Police Department and is an evangelical pastor, certified firearm instructor, Idaho police instructor, police chaplain, and author.

Cost: \$25 donation (\$35 per couple) to Strong Blue Line Foundation
Date: February 8th, 2025
Time: 9am – 1pm (Lunch Is Provided!)
Register: TheStrongBlueLine.org/seminars **Register Online or Call The Church Office**
Location: First Baptist Church
 5390 West Ash St
 Pottsville, AR 72858
 479-968-6233

For more information:
 visit <https://thestrongblue.org> or call 208-206-1215

Church has traditionally been a place where we expect our families to be safe from physical harm. THINGS HAVE CHANGED...



The ARVBA
 presents
Church Camp 2025!
June 16th - 20th
Spring Lake Camp & Retreat

Cost is still only \$150.00 (includes t-shirt!)

Even though we host a diverse range of ages, our Camp is amazingly age-graded. The Children (grades 1-4), Middle-Schoolers (grades 5-7) and Youth (grades 8-12) each have separate Worship and Bible study facilities. Lunch and dinner are staggered with the children arriving at the cafeteria first. Swimming, waterslide, and Paddle Boat times are divided by age while swimming and waterslide times are divided by gender as well. For all intents and purposes, we host three separate camps in one awesome week!



THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

Start inviting the unchurched kids & youth in your area now!



THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!
July 13th - 18th
THE LOCATION IS LOCKED IN!
Southeast Arkansas

Click the picture above to pre-register or go to www.thearvba.com/deltamissions.htm and follow the links to come along!

What Can We Do Now To Help The Team Prepare?!

- * Start collecting carnival prizes to donate
- * Pray for The Team to be used in a God-honoring ways while on the mission field
- * Schedule Bro. Danny for a Mission Trip presentation in your church
- * Take a day trip to the Delta and let God speak to your heart
- * Consider a 'Delta Missions' offering

“Churches Doing More Together!”



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

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Russellville, AR 72801
 Permit #150



Missionary's Heart

1191 ... eleven hundred and ninety one ... One thousand, one hundred and ninety one. -

Whether presented in numeric form or written out, that number, without the proper context, doesn't really tell us much does it? Are we talking about miles? Gallons? Bro. Danny's tomato seeds? What is so significant about 1191 that warrants a mention in the Association's monthly newsletter?

One thousand, one hundred and ninety one is the number of Sunday School members ARVBA churches have lost in the last ten years. That is a 43% decline in JUST Sunday School members in JUST ARVBA churches! I imagine there will be some who suggest -1911 simply reflects a shift from traditional Sunday School to the more modern 'small group' (whatever label your church gives them). However, unless we can show a 1191 person increase in small group participation the argument becomes mute.

2058 ... Two thousand and fifty eight ... That is the number of RESIDENT ARVBA Church members lost in the past ten years.

2315 ... Two thousand three hundred and fifteen ... The number of worship service attendees who quit coming...

In years past, the approach of a new church year meant it was time to evaluate the ministries of the last. In recent times, that practice has gone the way of the Sunday Evening Service and is now observed by only a few congregations in our area. Could lack of 'ministry evaluation' help explain how Southern Baptist Churches could experience such heart-breaking decline during a time of modest population growth?

A website I visited in preparation for this article began with this paragraph:

"Evaluation is essential to any endeavor. Evaluation keeps us from repeating the same mistakes year after year. Planning asks, "What will we do?" before the event while Evaluation asks, "How did we do?" after the event. Only through evaluation can we discover what we did right, what we did wrong, what we could have done better, and what we will do next time."

A quick Google search on 'Evaluating Ministry' will bring up countless articles on how to evaluate 'ministers'. It is only when your search specifies church ministries that really helpful suggestions can be found. The following is an adapted snapshot from one website:

EVALUATE DIRECTION:

- *If you continue in the same direction, where will you be in a year?*
- *Are members spontaneously initiating outreach?*

EVALUATE GROWTH

- *Has the number of members involved in ministry grown over the year?*
- *Are we reaching new target audiences or launching new outreach strategies?*
- *Did we start any new Sunday School classes?*

EVALUATE "SUCCESS CRITERIA"

- *It is one thing to evaluate whether you did things right. It is quite another to evaluate whether or not you did the right things!*

Of course, no evaluation sample will work for every church and that is as it should be. Your church is very different than mine and your community is as unique as it is possible to be. But don't you think a Church Ministry Evaluation designed for your church, and by your church could be a good thing?

I only bring that up because Henry Ford's time-tested observation is still as true today as it ever was.

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

2025 ... Two thousand and twenty-five ... Twenty twenty-five ... A year the Lord has given us to do better.

A year to try something new, and strengthen something old. A year to re-acquaint ourselves with the community we no longer know as well as we once did. A year to do something we've never done in hopes of seeing something greater than we ever have!

Looking forward to ministering in 2025 with the best group of people in the best Association on the planet!

Bro Danny



The ARVBA presents

VBS Clinic 2025!

When: Saturday, March 1st

Where: FBC, Dardanelle

What Time: 8:30 - Noon'ish

What Cost: \$10.00

Pastry Breakfast!

As we point out every year, VBS is still the most effective tool for evangelism in the modern church's arsenal. It is for this reason the ARVBA is so passionate about the VBS Equipping Ministry. This year we will host one of the few Associational Vacation Bible School Clinics in the state.

Mrs. Taylor and the ARVBA team have already been to the annual 'sneak-peek' hosted by Lifeway Christian Resources. They have studied the material, noted any changes to style and/format, pre-ordered samples of the current year's resources and scheduled 'prop building days' so our churches will have backgrounds and other decorations to MAGNIFY their local Vacation Bible Schools.

Although the event will highlight the current Lifeway VBS theme, we will focus on Vacation Bible School principles that can be incorporated into whichever curriculum you choose to use.

The clinic is only one month away so please get it on the church calendar. More information (and a link to preregister) is available on the Association website. For those reading the online version, just click the ARVBA Kids logo above. The rest can go to www.thearvba.com and follow the links.

Below are some of the breakout sessions we are considering: (Final list will be on the registration form)

Magnify Your Training for Leaders

Music & Motions

Decorating: Make a Big Impression on a Small Budget

It's No SMALL Thing: Connecting with Parents

Snack & Recreation Rotation Overview

VBS Directors Overview

Teaching Tips & Tricks

Outreach & Follow-up

As you know, The cost of ordering VBS materials through the Association is exactly the same for your church and when you do, Lifeway returns a small percentage of the cost to the ARVBA which we then turn Back to Missions & Ministries.

Order forms will be available from the Association website as soon as LifeWay makes them available to us.

Wanna Help With Prop Construction?

February 8th - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

February 10th thru 13th - 9.am - 4 p.m. (Come when you can, help as long as you like!)

