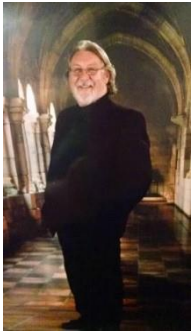




The Ouachita Baptist Association Newsletter

1201 College Dr, Mena, AR 71953
(479)394-3534
October 2024

PASTOR'S PULSE:



*First Baptist Church, Wickes
Featuring Pastor Scott Ray, 68*

Scott Ray worked in Nursing Home Administration in Texas and then relocated to Wickes. "My wife, Phyllis, and I are from here," Scott said. He was called as pastor of First Baptist Church in Wickes some 23 years ago, at the beginning of 2001. "We were just praying and seeking God's

will," he said.

God has blessed the Wickes Church during Scott's ministry, "At one time we were running 100+ in worship services," he stated. "That was before the Pandemic.

"The year before the Pandemic we saw 54 salvations," he said with excitement. "But Satan hit us hard, and we still haven't recovered." He mentioned there was also a division in the church and now they are averaging less than 20 in worship services.

"It seems like a lot of people are fearful of coming back," he said. "It's funny, in the Old Testament, people used to travel days on foot to worship. Now not even neighbors will come across the street."

Scott emphasized that the church has not lost her direction. "We're here to serve God, the Association, and support the Community," he said. "We are also blessed with a remnant of believers that continue to serve Him even in the darkest times."

He stated that the church will continue in reaching out to the Community. They hosted a Sports Camp in June, where five young people were saved.

The church is hosting a Fall Festival in October. Scott indicated that the problem he is facing is that "Families are involved in Football, Rodeoing, everything else, but people don't have a concept of Corporate Worship."

He pointed out the excitement in rebuilding. "We're open to everyone. Our vision is for God to restore this church with people."

Scott stated that God is delivering us but maybe differently than we may think. "Most of the time and throughout Scripture, God doesn't deliver us out of something, but through it. And I know God's going to take care of us, regardless."

With determination, Scott said, "Jeremiah preached 35 years without a single person repenting.

"Who am I to complain," he asked rhetorically. "I've been here and am not going anywhere, but staying is tough. I come here every Sunday and hope for 20 people." (Specific prayers get specific answers. Please join Bro. Scott Ray in praying for the church and church family at Wickes.)

First Baptist Church of Wickes is looking forward to hosting the Annual Meeting of the Ouachita Baptist Association on Saturday, October 12th, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Ouachita Theological Training Institute Schedule

"How to Study the Bible"

Taught by Pastor Dan Hill, MDIV, at Salem Baptist Church, 6 pm each Monday. There is still time to join this class! Tuition has been paid for all attendees, and the book is available for \$25.

September Camp Workdays



At this workday were Cheryl Boyd from Acorn Baptist Church; Josh Lawrence and his son from Vandervoort FBC; Chad Fields from Board Camp Baptist Church; Chris and Kiera Hartman and son and daughter from Mena FBC; and Wynn and Mike Adams from New Hope Baptist Church. Wynn and Mike Adams are the camp managers.



ARKANSAS BAPTISTS TO CONVENE IN LITTLE ROCK FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The 171st Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) will take place October 22-23 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock.

PASTOR'S PULSE:



*First Baptist Church, Vandervoort
Featuring Pastor Aaron Anglin, 35*

Aaron Anglin has pastored First Baptist Church in Vandervoort, Arkansas since January 1, 2017. Aaron is married to Tabbie, 33, and together they have Lely, 13, Marek, 7 and are foster parenting Tabbie's

nephew, Aiden, 11.

Aaron serves on several teams with the Ouachita Baptist Association and is on the Executive Boards of the OBA and the state level at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He's excited about serving and about the church he pastors. "We're here to help people in our community," he said. "When someone has trouble or a need, we want to be their first resource. A church and a community don't have to be separate.

"We're looking for opportunities to really live out our relationship with God in ways that impact our community," he said. "Our outlook is not on what makes our church great – we're looking at how to better serve God as a whole and serve our community.

"The focus of First Baptist Church, Vandervoort is not 'First Baptist Church, Vandervoort,'" he continued, "but it's on who we can help as a church." In further explanation, he said, "It's not like any other church I've been to. It's a group of people who love God and seek others." First Baptist, Vandervoort was established almost 130 years ago. Presently the attendance in church is notably higher than the town's population.

Aaron and his wife, Tabbie lead the OBA church camps at the OBA Campground in Board Camp. Twenty-two people were saved at this year's camps, including two adults. Clint Bell and Chris Kohlman were the camp evangelists, bringing the Word to campers. Aaron and Tabbie love the camps and being involved.

"A kid's summer won't be complete without attending an OBA Camp," he said.

Another way Aaron serves is as the Director for the Ouachita Theological Training Institute. He said the upcoming class started September 9th, Titled, "How to Study the Bible." The class is each Monday evening at 6 pm and new students are still welcome to join the class. Dan Hill, MDIV, pastor of Salem Baptist Church is the instructor, and class is held there.

Aaron said he is also looking forward to the OBA Annual Meeting from 9 am to 3 pm, October 12th, at the Wickes First Baptist Church. "It looks to be a great time of fellowship," he said. "I look forward to the Praise Reports because God has really blessed us this year."

Ladies' Day: "A Sweet Exchange"

A SWEET EXCHANGE Ladies' Day with Preaching the Word as well as Fellowship and a Meal.

Ladies and young girls are all welcome! This will be a Sweet Exchange from God's Word and from your kitchen to your kitchens. We do ask that you preregister to help facilitate plans the Lord is leading us in ministering to the ladies and young ladies and their guests who would like to attend this Ouachita Baptist Association Women's Ministry Event.

Cost: a plate of cookies for the exchange following the Sweet Exchange from God's Word and a copy of the cookie recipe to assemble a cookie cookbook for you to take home.

We strive to encourage, uplift, and come alongside of you as we strive to serve God in each ministry God opens for you.

Saturday, November 2nd, Concord Baptist Church, 3467 Hwy 88 E, Mena, 10:00 am to noon.

Sign in/arrival time is from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Preregister in a group at your church or by calling the OBA office at 479-394-3534 and leave a message, text or call Ronda Lambert at 479-234-8353, or text or call the Women's Ministry Leader, Dana Bowers, at 479-234-2403.



2024 and 2025

10/07 Executive Board Mtg, 6 pm,
Board Camp Baptist Church

10/12 OBA Annual Meeting,

9 am to 3 pm, Wickes FBC

10/22-10/23 Annual Meeting of the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Geyer
Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

11/02 Sweet Exchange, 10 am to
12 noon, Concord Baptist Church

12/13 Pastor's Christmas Fellowship,
6pm, Cherry Hill Baptist Church

01/20/2025 Executive Board Meeting
6 pm, Calvary Baptist Church

02/15/2025 Pastor's and Wives Conference,
West Arkansas Baptist Network, Pencil Bluff FBC,
8:30am – 3pm. Preregister with the OBA Office.

OBA office closed

12/20/2024 to 01/01/2025

Annual Meeting of the Ouachita Baptist
Association

October 12, 9am-3pm

First Baptist Church of Wickes

107 South 2nd Street

*Ouachita Baptist Association
Newsletter*

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Contributions can be directed to and submissions
of information can be sent to the OBA Office at
1201 College Dr., Mena, AR 71953.

Please make copies for your congregations.