



# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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DIGITAL EDITION • OCT 25, 2023



**OU BCM/BSU alumni  
celebrate 100 years  
of ministry**

>> STAFF



**DR training event  
draws more than 120  
volunteers**

>> BOB NIGH



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# 'Focused' on Gospel advance: 2023 Annual Meeting set for Nov. 13-14 at Del City, First Southern



>> PHOTOS: 1) TORI HAMILTON; 2-3) CHRIS DOYLE

Speaking at the 2023 Oklahoma Baptists Annual Meeting will be 1) Todd Fisher, executive director-treasurer of Oklahoma Baptists; 2) Chris Wall, pastor of Owasso, First and president of Oklahoma Baptists; 3) Michael Staton, pastor of Mustang, First.

>> by Staff

DEL CITY—The 117th Annual Meeting of Oklahoma Baptists is set for Nov. 13-14 at Del City, First Southern.

The annual meeting will feature times of preaching, worship through music, prayer, fellowships, business sessions, ministry reports, as well as various auxiliary ministry events. Registered messengers and guests may attend the two-day event, which is provided by the Cooperative Program, and the event will offer exhibits, at which pastors and messengers to the meeting can be connected to resources.

Speakers for the 2023 Annual Meeting include Oklahoma Baptists' Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Fisher; President Chris Wall, senior pastor of Owasso, First; and Pastor Michael Staton of Mustang, First.

The theme of the Annual Meeting is "Focused," which is inspired by Phil.


4:8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

"It's that time again for our Annual Meeting," Fisher said in a video message to Oklahoma Baptists. "I really want to encourage you to attend this year. We will have some great preaching. We'll have great reports about all of the wonderful things that God is doing in our churches and through our ministries here in Oklahoma."

The opening Annual Meeting session will take place Monday evening, Nov. 13, with pre-session music at 6:20 p.m. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Oklahoma Baptists' Pastors' Conference will take place beginning Monday morning at Del City, First Southern.

Key business items this year include the election of officers and a Constitution & Bylaws Review and Revision Task Force Report. Ministry reports will be given by Oklahoma Baptists representatives, as well as all four Oklahoma Baptist affiliates: Baptist Village Communities, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children, Oklahoma Baptist University and WatersEdge.

Pastors' Conference President Brad Graves, who serves as senior pastor of Ada, First, invited pastors across the state to attend. "Oklahoma Baptists' Pastors Conference is one of the great times for Oklahoma Baptist pastors to renew and restore their relationship with Jesus," Graves said.

Visit [oklahomabaptists.org/annual-meeting](https://oklahomabaptists.org/annual-meeting) for more information on how churches can pre-register messengers, for travel information and more. 

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

### MONDAY, NOV. 13

- 9:00 AM Pastors' Conference Morning Session
- 11:30 AM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Pastors' Conference Afternoon Session
- 4:00 PM Pastors' Conference Concludes

### MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 13

- 6:20 PM Pre-Session Music
- 6:30 PM Call to Order
- 6:50 PM Cooperative Program Focus
- 7:05 PM Business Session
- 7:25 PM Executive Director-Treasurer's Address – Todd Fisher

### TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 14

- 9:00 AM Pre-Session Music
- 9:15 AM Call to Order
- 9:25 AM Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children-James Swain
- 9:35 AM WatersEdge – Robert Kellogg
- 9:45 AM Business Session
- 10:55 AM President's Address – Chris Wall

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 14

- 1:15 PM Pre-Session Music
- 1:30 PM Call to Order
- 1:40 PM Baptist Village Communities – Bill Pierce
- 1:50 PM Oklahoma Baptist University – Heath Thomas
- 2:00 PM Cooperative Program – Todd Fisher
- 2:10 PM Business Session
- 2:50 PM Annual Sermon – Michael Staton
- 3:25 PM Closing Prayer

For a more detailed schedule,  
please visit:

 [oklahomabaptists.org/annualmeeting](https://oklahomabaptists.org/annualmeeting)

## OU BCM/BSU alumni celebrate 100 years of ministry



>> by Staff

NORMAN—One hundred years ago, the University of Oklahoma (OU) Baptist Student Union had its beginnings. On Friday, Oct. 20, at the OU Baptist College Ministry (BCM) Building on campus in Norman, more than 500 students and BCM/BSU alumni and supporters gathered for a special 100th anniversary event.

Included in the anniversary event was a cookout with activities for people of all ages. On display were photos and memorabilia throughout the decades of this storied ministry. A special program took place, with speakers including longtime OU BSU Director Max Barnett, OU BSU alumnus Kirk Humphreys and current OU BCM di-

rector Shane Kammerer, as well as live and video testimonies from other ministry alumni.

"From the beginning, through the years to today, the Lord has uniquely blessed the Baptist campus ministries at OU," Kammerer said. "On this important ministry milestone, we want to honor what God has done in the past, what

He is doing now and what we pray He continues to do in years to come."

The mission of OU BCM is, "We challenge students to know, love and glorify God by declaring the Gospel, developing qualified laborers and deploying trained disciple makers." For more information, visit [oubcm.com](http://oubcm.com). [m](#)



## DR training event draws more than 120 volunteers

>> by Bob Nigh

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

More than 120 people, including 43 first-time volunteers, attended Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) Orientation and Credentialing sessions on Sat., Oct. 14 at the TEaM Center near Okarche. Of the 124 in attendance, 81 were returning volunteers, some renewing their badges.

Orientation classes were conducted in Feeding, Chainsaw, Recovery, Shower/Laundry, Initial Contact, Assessment, Equipment Safety, and Chaplaincy. Volunteers were able to choose one of the session topics in the morning and another after lunch, which was prepared and served by a local feeding team.



>> PHOTO: BOB NIGH

Jason Yarbrough, Oklahoma Baptists' Disaster Relief director, leads the opening session of orientation on Sat., Oct. 14 at the TEaM Center near Okarche.

Also, DR director Jason Yarbrough issued an update on Oklahoma volunteers' efforts in Hawaii and Florida.

On Hawaii: "Several states are sending teams for two-week deploy-

ments to help with the fire clean-up on Maui. At this time, we have not been asked to send any Oklahoma teams."

On Florida: "We have had two chainsaw teams go and return already—and we have a team (that left) Sat., Oct. 21, and will return on Oct. 29."

"We don't currently have any big response needs in Oklahoma," Yarbrough said. "There are some teams completing local jobs, and we are glad that they are handling those requests."

To donate to Oklahoma DR visit the website, [okdisasterhelp.org](http://okdisasterhelp.org). [m](#)

# Singing ChurchWomen offer backpacks of hope through Hope Pregnancy Centers



>> PHOTOS: PROVIDED  
1) Backpacks are waiting to be filled for new parents; 2) Singing ChurchWomen filled the backpacks with supplies and 'notes of hope' for new parents coming to Hope Pregnancy Centers.

>> by Chris Doyle  
**MANAGING EDITOR**

The Singing ChurchWomen of Oklahoma (SCW) observed its second year of doing a service project during the group's recent annual retreat.

"We called it worship ministry outreach 2.0," said Randy Lind, Oklahoma Baptists worship and music ministry partner and director of SCW.

Last year, SCW began this ministry project by loading backpacks of school supplies and delivered them to educators across the state.

"This year, our leadership team wanted to continue with the service project idea, so that we could reach out to Oklahomans, in addition to our concert ministry," Lind said. "We decided to partner with Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children and specifically with the Hope Pregnancy Centers."

Lind said the Hope Pregnancy Centers provided backpacks, and SCW spent a Friday night filling up the backpacks with supplies for new parents.

"All the things you can think of," Lind said, "we filled those backpacks up. When people come into any Hope Pregnancy Center across the state, they will receive a backpack full of things they will need to care for their babies."

The backpacks also have prayer notes from SCW members or "notes of hope," as Lind called them.

"Our ladies wrote those notes, saying that we are praying for these new parents as they grow and have this new child in their life," he said.

All five Oklahoma Baptists performing groups are ready for their concert seasons. SCW and the Singing Churchmen (SCM) have already performed this fall with more concerts happening in the coming weeks.

"Every concert has been well attended," Lind said. "Our people are singing and playing at high level, and it's just been a great start to the year."

The Oklahoma Baptist Symphony and the Oklahoma Baptist Children's

Chorus kick off their concert seasons in November. Oklahoma Student Worship Choir has its first concert in January.

"Every season we will go into 60-70 churches across Oklahoma," Lind said. "In addition to the music and the worship, it is a huge connection with the grassroots of Baptist churches of every size. Every time we go to one of the churches, we want to accomplish two things. We want to advance the Gospel, and we want to encourage the church."

Next concerts for each group are the following:

- **Singing ChurchWomen**—Nov. 2 at Tulsa, First, 7 p.m.
- **Singing Churchmen**—Nov. 9 at Edmond, First, 7 p.m.
- **Oklahoma Baptist Symphony**—Nov. 12 at Edmond, Waterloo Road
- **Oklahoma Baptist Children's Chorus**—Nov. 12 at Midwest City, Meadowood
- **Oklahoma Student Worship Choir**—Jan. 21 at Midwest City, First

Visit [oklahombaptists.org/worship](http://oklahombaptists.org/worship) for a full schedule of each performing group. 

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# People in the news




**TULSA, FIRST HOSTS MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT.** Tulsa, First provided a mother-daughter retreat for girls in first through fifth grades and their mothers or female mentors. The event was at Rocky Meadow Farm, where participants enjoyed a loaded waffle charcuterie spread, beaded fun sunglasses and petting cute and fuzzy animals. Guest speaker Lynn Chen taught the story of Ruth and Naomi and their strong, special relationship.

"We are looking forward to having many more events like this one and are praying over each of the mothers and daughters to continue to grow in their relationship with God and with each other," said Lyndsay Wagner, Tulsa, First women's ministry director. 



**OKMULGEE, NUYAKA HOSTS REUNION REVIVAL.** Okmulgee, Nuyaka hosted a reunion revival by inviting three former pastors to preach different nights. Chad Eads of Mounds, Liberty; David Hamilton of Okemah, Skyview; and Jarrod Kendall of Miami, First were the revival speakers. The

event also was a special time to celebrate Loveta Ennis, pictured left, for serving the church in several capacities but especially being the church pianist for 45 years. 

## CAMPERS ON MISSION HOLD RALLY.

The state rally for Oklahoma Campers on Mission was Sept. 19-22 in Shawnee. Activities included stonework projects on pillars at Macomb, Romulus (pictured) and sewing projects of blankets for NICU babies and ministry bags for Midwest City, Meadowood and Hope Pregnancy Centers. Reports were given at the rally, as well as times of worship and fellowship. For those interested in joining Campers on Mission contact Paul Day at 405/509-0396. 



## VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

**Camp Gibson, Hardesty** —Tom Freeman 580/338-6259 or [pbaok221@gmail.com](mailto:pbaok221@gmail.com)

**Families Feeding Families Meal Center, Durant**—580/230-9142 or visit [familiesfeedingfamilies.org](http://familiesfeedingfamilies.org)

**Hope Pregnancy Centers** - South OKC 405/688-8700, North OKC 405/755-5433, Edmond 405/330-0200, Ardmore 580/223-7232, Tulsa 918/622-3325

### Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Campuses

Oklahoma City – 405/691-7781

Edmond – 405/341-3606

Madill – 580/564-2218

Owasso – 918/272-2233

### DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

**Nov. 4**—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10—Tulsa, South Tulsa\*\*

To register, please email [pjones@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:pjones@oklahomabaptists.org)

**Nov. 16-17**—Assisting Individuals in Crisis – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – \$50

Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112

To register, please email [pjones@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:pjones@oklahomabaptists.org)

\*\* For endorsed chaplains only

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