

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Randy Johnson 1974
 James Jenkins 1991
 I. E. Smith 2007
 Roy Thomas 2013
 Draper Wright 2016
 Cecil Marr 2017
 Corey Smith 2019
 John Anderson 2020
 Scott Shirley 2023

Countryside
 Baptist Bible
 Grace Temple
 Saint James
 New Zion
 North Shreve
 Heritage
 Northwoods
 Emmanuel

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 Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm/Mon-Thur.
 8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday
 Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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New Staff

Plain Dealing: *Blade Foster*, Students, from Jonesboro, AR, (wife, Kalynn)

Church News

Broadmoor: YALA, Young Adults Louisiana, is hosting a 2-day event tailored for young adults, "Take Heart," Sept. 13 & 14. Five Inspiring Conference Sessions, Sean Curran Concert, Silent Disco, Special Speakers: Chad Glover & Josiah Jones. For more info and to register, visit YALA'S conference website. www.youngadultsla.com

Salem, Plain Dealing: 180th Homecoming, July 14, 11 am. Tommy Weems, guest speaker, Raab Family Singers, 1:15 pm.

All Visitors Are Not Welcome At Church!

A standoff occurred at Elm Grove Baptist Church when an uninvited guest arrived early for coffee and donuts.



The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources resolved the alligator issue. A neighbor had seen the gator crossing Hwy 71 heading west to the church (without his Bible!). The Flatt River is on the east side of Hwy 71.

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

- Paper Towels
- SOS Pads
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner/Brushes



Please bring any donations to the Association Office.

REGROUP CONFERENCE North Conference

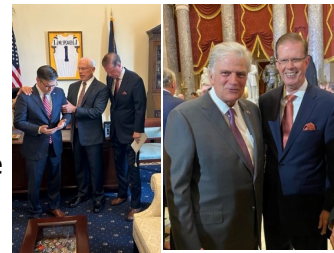
Saturday, August 24, 2024 9AM - 12 PM
 Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, LA

Keynote: James Pritchard, Pastor,
 First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA

Worship: Glenn Price, Minister of Music,
 Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville, LA

Representing the Churches of Northwest Association

Lane Moore, Director of Missions, was honored to represent the churches of Northwest Association in Washington, DC, for a congressional Statue Dedication Ceremony for the late Dr. Billy Graham. The influence of Graham on the Church in America for the last half of the 20th century is unsurpassed. Franklin Graham spoke on behalf of the Graham family. Also, your prayer support for the Speaker of the House was passed on to him. Gene Mills, LA Family Forum, and Lane Moore prayed for Congressman Mike Johnson.



Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
 Ministries Working
 Together To Be
 More Effective

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 7
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TIME TO TALK MONEY! ...Common Church Financial Mistakes

Rarely a month goes by that I don't have a conversation with one of our Association churches concerning their giving, raising funds for a project, annual budgets or church bookkeeping practices. It's an area that a church can get into trouble faster than anything else.

In the majority of churches the finances are handled by a volunteer. In several churches it's a part-time secretary. In some larger churches, it's a full-time bookkeeper or church administrator.

Here's a few items on my Church Financial Check List:

1. Not Having Enough or any Checks and Balances. What can be the most obvious is many times what is overlooked. We need and should want accountability in our financial systems. Questions for your church:

Who counts the money? How many different people count? Is there a rotation of people who can make deposits? Of the people who count, does any one of them input the numbers into your accounting software? Does anyone review the checks processed during the month? Who signs the checks? Who reconciles the account? Is it the same person who writes the checks?

2. Incorrect Payroll Processing. From understanding the pastor's housing allowance, to properly classifying an employee versus an independent contractor, are routine matters that must be addressed. A church is obviously a religious organization, but they are also a business entity in the eyes of the government. Even though a church is a non-profit entity and not subject to the same taxation as other entities, it is still subject to certain employment taxes.

3. Misconceptions About Designated Funds. If a church member or donor has given money with an expressed intent, it must be used for that purpose and legally cannot be used for anything else. Designated giving has been in place for generations and the church has been greatly served because of it, such as through building campaigns. The down side of designated giving is it can cause a church to be "cash poor." Members may give so much to various projects, campaigns, special offerings, and love offerings, that budget giving can suffer.

4. Not Using or Understanding Accounting Software. There are several good programs on the market today that cater to churches. Some are more user friendly than others. The software will also enable your church to have a backup of records in a worst case scenario. Check into them if your church is a smaller church and you're still keeping the books on paper. That precious lady who has been the church bookkeeper for the past 42 years, and I know several, is going to retire soon. Having your records on computer might make the transition easier one day.

5. No Annual Budget. Having an accurate budget for how you spend money is crucial. A budget is simply a spending guide. It will help your church track expenditures and manage cash flow throughout the year. Also don't forget to reconcile each month. Online banking can cause us to be forgetful. Assuming software will always flag an issue is being presumptive.

If your church is like most, your pool of volunteers is not bottomless. They are a limited commodity and utilizing them in the best capacity is crucial. Make sure those working with church finances are faithful followers of Christ and serving in their giftedness.



Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo	Eastwood - FT Ferry Lake - PT Lakeview - PT Mooringsport - PT South Bossier - PT Trees - FT/PT	Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - FT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Elm Grove - Pianist/Keyboard FBC Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer

What a start to the summer for the Shreveport BCM!



Our summer kicked off with missions and service at home and across the country. At the end of May, we took a team of 12 students to work with Southern Baptist church planters in New York City. Our students taught English classes and helped people prepare for their citizenship test. All this was done in partnership with Jackson Heights Community Church in Queens, New York, with whom we worshiped on Sunday morning. This was an eye-opening experience for our students. Some have expressed an interest in going back and working with these home missionaries on a long-term basis after graduation! Thank you to the many folks from our churches who gave to help make the trip affordable for our students.



At home in Louisiana, our GOLA VBS team led vacation bible school for Red River Baptist Church. Our seven student leaders helped make crafts, lead recreation, and yes – did the motions to the songs! More importantly they gave part of their summer to help one of our churches reach out to its community and share the gospel.

These kinds of partnerships are what make the BCM such an important ministry.



If you or a group from your church would like to be a part of the Great Commission work the BCM is doing, we'd love to talk to you. Praying, partnering, and giving are all great opportunities, and you can contact us at the BCM office or at Shreveportbcm.com to get involved.



SBC Convention 2024 Wrap Up

Nearly 11,000 messengers and a crowded field of candidates led to a couple of runoff elections before Clint Pressley was named president. Pressley is pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church near Charlotte, NC.

Southern Baptist messengers failed to reach the required two-thirds approval for what has become known as the Law amendment. The amendment did receive the requisite two-thirds last year in New Orleans. The amendment would have defined a cooperating church as one that "affirms, appoints, or employs only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture." However, the Baptist Faith & Message (2000) is clear in its affirmation of complementarianism in Article VI and Article XVIII. The Credentials Committee, Executive Committee and the messengers have established a clear precedent for declaring egalitarian churches not to be in friendly cooperation.

More than 50 motions were made on the floor of the Annual Meeting and messengers acted on several of them. A motion to abolish the ERLC, requiring a two-thirds vote, failed.



Other Highlights:

- * IMB sending celebration confirms 83 new missionaries
- * Crossover Indianapolis reported over 1,469 volunteers, which visited 9,211 homes and gave 5,393 gospel presentations.
- * NAMB announced that 35 out of 41 state conventions had increased baptisms.



THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

What We Believe as Southern Baptists

The following is another in our series on the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Article X: Last Things

"God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord."

Followers of Christ have reliable information about the end of days through the revelation of Scripture. While we may debate the order of events surrounding the return of Christ, we should be able to agree on these seven biblical truths.

1. **The world ends when the Father says so.** *Matthew 24:36, 25:13.*
2. **The world ends with the return of Jesus.** It's important to look for Jesus' physical and visible appearing, in which angelic and human followers accompany Him in glory as He takes His rightful place on the throne of David and restores all things. *John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:27, 24:30; Acts 1:11.*
3. **The world ends with the resurrection of the dead.** We should heed the plain teaching of our Lord when He stated, *"a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out, either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation"* *John 5:28-29.*
4. **The world ends with judgement.** Resurrected unbelievers will stand before Christ and are punished in varying degrees for their evil deeds. All are cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15.* There is a day of reckoning for those who reject Christ and persecute his people. *Romans 12:19; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Hebrews 10:29; Revelation 19:11-21.*
5. **The world ends with separation.** Specifically a separation of God's people from those who have rejected Christ. *John 14:3; Matthew 8:12, 13:42,50; John 8:12.*
6. **The world ends with the creation of new heavens and a new earth.** The apostle Paul described the present world in which we live as *"groaning together with the pains of childbirth"* beneath the weight of sin. *Romans 8:22; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21 & 22.*
7. **The world ends as it began, with God dwelling with us.** Heaven is the temporary home of believers. The restored earth is our eternal home and God's throne. The apostle John heard a loud voice from God's throne declaring, *"Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His peoples, and God himself shall be with them and be their God."* *Revelation 21:3.*

Next month: Article XI of the BF&M: Evangelism, Missions

Loneliness Is On The Rise. 40 % Of Adults Go Days Without Interaction



With all our devices and social media making it easier to connect, you would think loneliness would be a thing of the past. A new British poll of 2,000 adults found that 40% can go days without a face to face conversation with another

person. The Mayo Clinic added a statement to the poll results saying, *"Keeping emotions buried takes a toll on your health. Loneliness affects confidence, anxiety levels, and sleep for many people."*

Source: BBC

UMC Passes Petition To Remove Non-Affirming Clergy At National Convention

At the recent United Methodist Church's General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, delegates voted 667-54 to strip away any doctrinal safeguards that uphold the sanctity of marriage as between one man and one women. Any clergy member not affirming the revised definition of marriage could have their credentials removed. In the last two years over 7,500 churches have disaffiliated with the UMC.

Source: Charlotte Observer

Two Out Of Three Trans-Gender Kids Will Return To Their Biological Gender By Adulthood.



The vast majority of children who experience some level of gender dysphoria will embrace their biological gender by adulthood, according to a sweeping national study that monitored children for 15 years. A European study tracked 2,772 adolescents from the age of 11 to 26. Researchers noted, 78% of all adolescents that were tracked never felt any feelings of gender dysphoria, and two out of three that did, embraced their birth gender by their mid-20's. Some experts felt vindicated by the results. Jay Richard, PhD., stated, *"The study confirms what we've know for a decade. The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, noted that in 2013, most kids who experience distress with their gender resolve those feelings after they pass through puberty."*

Source: Washington Stand

"Unaffiliated" Is The Only Growing Religious Group In America

A new Public Religion Research Institute survey shows religiously unaffiliated Americans are the only group that has seen steady growth over the past decade. In 2013, 21% of all Americans claimed no connection to a faith. In 2023, that number had risen to 26%. These unaffiliated Americans, many of whom abandoned their childhood faith, are not looking for a spiritual home. The Catholic Church saw the largest decline. Black Protestants and white evangelicals had the best retention rates at 76%. These results come from a study of 5,600 adults across the country the last two months of 2023.

Source: Religion News Service

