



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

July 4, 2019

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## HANKINS: 'Farewell and thank you'

MANDEVILLE (LBM) -- Greetings, Louisiana Baptists! My official retirement date as your Executive Director has come. Thus, I am writing to bid you farewell and to thank you for the many,



David E. Hankins, retired LBC Executive Director,

many blessings you have bestowed upon Patty and me these last 14 1/2 years. You have been faithful friends and fervent prayer partners. You have joined me in a myriad of ministries sponsored by the LBC for the Lord Jesus. You have been kind and forgiving. You have given leadership and followership. What a joy it has been to serve with you!

We have moved to Mandeville, Louisiana, near our youngest son and his family. We look forward to a less demanding schedule, to time with grandchildren, and to serving in the local church. I have no career plans (been there, done that) but will preach and teach as the Lord allows. I look forward to continuing participation as a Louisiana Baptist.

See HANKINS, page 7

## Lakeside plants, waters, harvests during VBS

Pastor Lloyd Bye (left) and Associate Pastor Ted Spence (right) baptized John Painter during Vacation Bible School at Lakeside Baptist Church in Pineville.

Brian Blackwell photo



By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

PINEVILLE – On the final night of Vacation Bible School at Lakeside Baptist Church, Pineville, Pastor Lloyd Bye “watered” what had been spiritually planted, baptizing three young boys in a horse trough, May 31.

“Each year we have made announcements on Family Night about how many accepted Christ, but some parents do not get to witness a baptism

See LAKESIDE, page 8



BCHS photo

Baptist Community Health Services has provided Gospel-centered health care to several impoverished areas of New Orleans since 2014.

## NOLA MINISTRY HEALS BODIES & SOULS

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer



NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Deep in the heart of New Orleans’ most impoverished neighborhoods, the missionaries and staff of Baptist Com-

munity Health Services treat not only the body but also the souls of the more than 10,000 people who pass through the medical ministry’s doors each year.

With a mission of “demonstrating the love of Christ by providing high quality primary medical and behavioral healthcare in underserved communities”

BCHS provides needed services while sharing the love of Christ, according to CEO Shawn Powers.

BCHS operates four medical clinics in New Orleans, and is the only known federally qualified health center connected to a Southern Baptist local association

See NOLA, page 9

## Louisiana College enrollment growth bucks downward trend in higher ed

By Norm Miller  
Louisiana College News

PINEVILLE (LCNews) -- *The Wall Street Journal* recently reported a down-

ward trend in higher education with this headline: “College Enrollments Fall Again, With Some Notable Exceptions.”

The May 30 article not-

ed that overall admissions at colleges and universities are down for the seventh year in a row, “contin-

See ENROLLMENT, page 9

## SBC resolutions include approval of 'Marxist' theories as 'analytical tools'

By Will Hall  
Message Executive Editor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (LBM) – Southern Baptist messengers attending the 2019 Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, approved 13 resolutions, including one that was substantially altered to endorse two theories as “analytical tools” that the author of the original resolution called “Marxist.”

Twelve of the resolutions passed without much controversy, although some garnered requests to tweak the language.

But Resolution 9 was hotly debated because it approved using controversial concepts, in addition to Scripture, for gaining insights about “social dynamics” like race and

gender in our culture.

This resolution described “critical race theory” and “intersectionality” in neutral terms, suggesting that in some cases both have been misused “by individuals with worldviews that are contrary to the Christian faith” to come to wrong conclusions.

However, the two theoretical frameworks actually arose from radicals in academia.

Critical race theory is traced to the Harvard Law School and the founding theorist Derrick Bell who insists that “the law” perpetuates “white supremacy” and “white privilege.”

Meanwhile, intersectionality is tied to the UCLA School of Law and Kimberlé Crenshaw, the pioneer of the concept,

who developed this abstract idea to explain, for instance, how the “the intersection of maleness and whiteness” results in oppression against women of color.

The resolution strongly underscored “Scripture as the first, last, and sufficient authority with regard to how the Church seeks to redress social ills” and promised “Southern Baptists will carefully analyze how the information gleaned from these tools are employed to address social dynamics.”

Yet, even with these reassurances, the author of the original resolution said the altered version recommended by the SBC Committee on Resolutions did not adequately address his concerns about “the proliferation of toxic, divisive, and satanic rhetoric designed to divide humanity and facilitate constant opposition in our society” that prompted him to sub-



Baptist Press photo

Curtis Woods, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions, gave the committee’s report June 12 at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama.

mit a resolution in the first place.

Stephen Feinstein, pastor of Sovereign Way Christian Church in Hesperia, Calif., and a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves, wrote on his blog that the impetus for his condemnation of critical race theory and intersectionality was his discovery of its prevalence on Christian

campuses and the resulting indoctrination of students about “white privilege.”

Moreover, while the SBC resolution said critical race theory and intersectionality were “subordinate to Scripture,” Feinstein’s resolution called them “unbiblical” and “Marxist” and “inherently opposed to the Scriptures.”

Summary of remaining resolutions:

— Resolution 1 urged “the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn *Roe v. Wade* so that more states can be empowered to protect by law the human dignity of the most vulnerable.”

— Resolution 2 condemned and lamented “all sexually abusive behavior” and called for Southern Baptists “to create a culture” where victims can share and receive care with

See RESOLUTIONS, page 12

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# Louisiana Baptists among motion makers at SBC annual meeting

By Will Hall  
Message Executive Editor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists offered three motions among 23 presented by messengers during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 11-12, in Birmingham, Alabama, with the Committee on Order of Business including two among 18 referred to entities or committees and another as part of five ruled out of order.

## Referred to the Executive Committee:

— Leroy Fountain of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., moved that a comprehensive report be given at the 2020 annual meeting on the progress of 12 recommendations adopted by the SBC in 2011 for expanding ethnic participation in the Convention. The last published information about progress made on the 12 recommendations was included in a 2015 report on racial reconciliation.

— Pam Richardson of the New Life Baptist Church in Baker, La., moved to amend the BF&M 2000 Article 6 to state, “While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office and function of the pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.” Her motion adds “and function” to the original statement.

— Robert Anderson of the Colonial Baptist Church in Randallstown, Md., moved to add a George Liele Evangelism, Church Planting, and Missions Day to the SBC Calendar of Activities on the first Sunday in February. According to the International Mission Board website, “Liele was the first ordained African American Baptist preacher in American” and

“became the first American missionary, leaving in 1782 for Jamaica ... [30] years before Adoniram Judson left for Burma.”

— Morris Chapman of the Triune Baptist Church in Arrington, Tenn., moved that the Executive Committee amend the SBC’s Business and Financial Plan where necessary to strengthen the fiscal accountability of the SBC’s entities to the Convention.

— Dennis Golden of the Grace Baptist Church in Braden, Tenn., moved to amend the SBC Constitution and Bylaws to allow all Southern Baptist senior pastors to cast their votes electronically for SBC officers.

— Brad Cone of the Lamp City Church in Decatur, Ga., moved that the Executive Committee consider modernizing the nomination process and technology for the SBC’s boards and committees.

— Matt Dunn of the First Baptist Church in Bates City, Mo., moved that the Convention convene a study committee to update the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 to include a 19th statement declaring, “God will restore National Israel like Romans 11 says and bring about a reunion with her neighbors in the Middle East.”

— Brent Epling of the First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., moved that the Executive Committee consider a day of special emphasis and prayer for the global persecuted church to be added to the SBC Calendar of Activities.

— Aaron Colyer of the First Baptist Church in Roswell, N.M., moved that the Executive Committee consider whether it is viable to develop an avenue for

churches to request funding for the investigation of sexual abuse.

— Sarah Gregory of the First Southern Baptist Church in Mountain Home, Idaho, moved to set aside a time at the next annual meeting to honor the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as well as the Conservative Resurgence and its leaders.

## Referred to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission:

— David Haynes of the First Baptist Church, Center Point, in Birmingham, moved that the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission study the effects of birth control pills, IUDs and other contraceptive devices to see if they have any effect on a conceived child and report their findings in 2020.

— Rebecca Krueger of the Concord Church in Calera,



Baptist Press photo

Messengers at the 2019 Annual Meeting, June 11, voted overwhelmingly to pass recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee strengthening the SBC’s stances against sexual abuse and racism at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ala., moved that the Executive Committee and ERLC implement a process to provide trauma counseling for survivors of abuse.

— Dau Ayub of the First Baptist Church in Houston moved that the Convention increase its efforts to equip the local church to minister to groups promoting sexual immorality of various types and to be prepared for “at-

tacks on the pulpit.”

## Referred to the North American Mission Board:

— David Hobson of the Dogwood Grove Baptist Church in Adger, Ala., moved to study the feasibility of initiating a program through the North American Mission Board to partner

See MOTIONS, page 8

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# Port Barre expanding Kingdom boundaries

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

PORT BARRE (LBM) – Nearly 150 volunteers from Texas have spent a portion of their summer helping the First Baptist Church in Port Barre to expand its Gospel reach into the community through the construction of a worship center that will accommodate a growing membership.

Under the direction of Mike Shumock, who serves as missions builder strategist for Louisiana Baptists and is the coordinator for Baptist Builders, a construction missions group, three teams from

Texas are working with Louisiana Baptists to frame, install sheetrock, wire and plumbing inside the 20,000-square-foot facility. Once completed, the structure will house a worship center (with future seating for up to 600), youth room, reception area, nursery and coffee bar as well as restrooms and an education space with nine classrooms.

Groundbreaking was held in early January and the new facility is expected to open by Christmas.

“It’s been an amazing experience for us,” Pastor Benji Richard told the

Baptist Message. “We have heard about groups coming to build other churches, but there is nothing like a first-hand experience. They don’t make it about just building a building but make it about Kingdom work. They have inspired us to do the same one day and go out in the state to be a blessing to these other churches that are building.”

When Richard came to First Baptist Port Barre in 2009, Sunday morning worship attendance averaged eight people. He instilled in his congregation a sense of purpose and passion for reaching the community, and the result has been growth through evangelism. According to church records, average Sunday morning attendance grew to 200 this year, and they have baptized 185 new converts since Richard became pastor.

Richard said his congregation has fully embraced a Gospel mission.

Church members share the Gospel inside jails



Brian Blackwell photo

Scott Sanders, from Crossroads Baptist Church in the Woodlands, Texas, visited with Benji Richard, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Port Barre. Sanders was among a team of volunteers from multiple churches in Texas who helped build a new worship center for First Baptist Port Barre.

and juvenile centers, during Vacation Bible School each summer and as part of Celebration Recovery meetings for those who wish to overcome addictions.

“It’s a God thing,” Richard said. “It’s not anything we have or haven’t done. It’s amazing to see God work. He said, ‘If I be lifted up I draw men unto myself.’ He gets all the credit here. It’s been an encouragement to our people and me to see so many of them come to faith in Christ.

He said his congregation is faithful to disciple new believers and to plug them into what God is doing through the church in the community.

“We are very intentional about God using them and backing out of the way,” he explained. “Disciple-

ship allows you to do more through others than you can do yourself.”

Shumock said the Port Barre project is the fourth one undertaken by Baptist Builder volunteers this year:

-- In May, Mississippi Baptists helped rebuild a 5,000-square-foot education building for Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans, which lost several of its buildings after an EF-3 tornado touched down in the area Feb. 7, 2017.

-- In early June, a team from Franklin Creek Baptist Association in Alabama with assistance from a Wisconsin Baptist volunteer helped the Korean Baptist Church in Leesville build a 3,000-square-foot multipurpose facility.

-- In late June, members of El Renuevo Hispanic Baptist Church in Lafayette completed installation of sheetrock inside Moreauville Community Church’s 2,880-square-foot worship center and food pantry.

Other projects planned for 2019 include construction of a 1,200-square-foot addition to the worship center for Greys Creek Baptist

See PORT BARRE, page 7

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# Former addicts celebrate Christ at First Rayville

By Brian Blackwell  
Message Staff Writer

RAYVILLE – Every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church in Rayville, up to 150 people with hurts, habits and hang-ups are celebrating victory found in Christ.

Through the church's Christ-centered Celebrate Recovery ministry, modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous, individuals are breaking the chains of bondage to alcoholism, compulsive overeating, drug use and other addictions and dysfunctional behaviors. Additionally, many are repenting for salvation and making commitments to live for Jesus.

After enjoying a meal, participants gather inside the First Rayville youth room for worship, music and a time of celebrating milestones on the journey to recovery and healing. Once a month, individuals are given the opportunity to come forward to commemorate a certain number of days they have been clean from their addiction – some 30 days, some



Brian Blackwell photo

Eddie Wren, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rayville, encouraged Celebrate Recovery participants during their weekly meeting. The program, modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous, helps individuals break the chains of bondage to alcoholism, compulsive overeating, drug use and other addictions and dysfunctional behaviors.

three months and some even several years. The service concludes with an evangelistic message and invitation.

After the hour-long worship service, participants gather into gender-specific smaller groups to address dependency issues.

Eddie Wren, pastor of First Rayville, said the program strives to show the love of Christ to those who are struggling with life's many issues.

"Celebrate Recovery

has thrived because of the church's love and commitment," he said. "Our members serve every Thursday night 52 weeks a year, including holidays. Our people love those who attend CR from the community, in-house addiction facilities or sober living houses and are excited when they come back for Sunday worship and Sunday school. This is a place where those who are struggling with drugs, alcohol, or any type hang-up can

come and find hope and encouragement in Jesus Christ. We are grateful the Lord chooses to use us this way."

Celebrate Recovery was launched in 1991 at SaddleBack Church in Lake Forest, California, and that first meeting drew 43 people. Since then, more than 27,000 people have participated in that one ministry. But more than 5 million have participated worldwide, and today, nearly 35,000 churches host a Celebrate Recovery group, according to the Celebrate Recovery website.

First Rayville started its Celebrate Recovery ministry in September 2011 with 15 participants, and has seen attendance reach as high as 180 guests, most without a home church.

Claude Mercer, one of the coordinators of Celebrate Recovery at First Rayville, has been amazed at how God has allowed

the congregation to be a part of so many healed bodies and souls, hundreds so far.

"People I have dealt with while working in the sheriff's department have come here and turned their lives around," he said. "It's a great ministry program that God uses to change lives through the power of Jesus Christ. This program has a higher power of Jesus Christ and that's who changes the lives, and we do what we can to see that God's work is done here."

Joseph Michael was among those lost when he entered Celebrate Recovery in 2016. At the time, Michael was addicted to alcohol and estranged from his family. Nearly three years later, Christ has transformed his life.

"These people loved me and were encouraging me

See RAYVILLE, page 7

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# SBC NEWS: Charges, Challenges, Changes

By Will Hall

Message Executive Editor

## BETH MOORE: SBC is misogynistic

LifeWay's top seller of books and Bible studies sparked a social media battle when she announced she would be preaching on Mother's Day at a large church.

A number of Southern Baptist Convention theologians weighed in and Beth Moore fired back, unleashing her discontent even with evangelicals' support of Donald J. Trump during the 2016 presidential election.

One of the first critics to comment was Owen Strachan, associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

Strachan blogged, May 7, that it was against God's Word and design for "a woman to teach and

preach to adult men." Calling it a "sinful practice," he added that "to do so is to bring the church body into disobedience against God."

Moore tweeted May 11 that she was "compelled to my bones by the Holy Spirit ... to draw attention to the sexism and misogyny that is rampant in segments of the SBC, cloaked by piety and bearing the stench of hypocrisy. ..." and appeared to peg her distress to several high-profile SBC pastors who supported then-candidate Trump.

"I had the eye opening experience of my life in 2016. A fog cleared for me that was the most disturbing, terrifying thing I'd ever seen. All these years I'd given the benefit of the doubt that these men were the way they were because they were trying to be obedient to Scripture ... Then I realized it was not over Scripture at all. It was over sin. It was over power. It was over misogyny. Sex-

ism. It was about arrogance. About protecting systems. It involved covering abuses and misuses of power. ..."

But she also argued that the prohibitions against women preachers in 1 Timothy and 1 Corinthians should be grappled with "alongside other words Paul wrote" that were "equally inspired." Moreover, she insisted that these examples needed to be balanced against "the attitudes & practices of Christ Jesus ... toward women," noting that "He had women followers! Evangelists!"

Meanwhile, Al Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, who once advocated for the ordination of women, said in a podcast, May 10, that the issue is about biblical authority.

Citing Paul's prohibition against a woman having authority over a man (1 Timothy 2:12), Mohler said, "This

is where you go back to the original controversy in evangelicalism and in Southern Baptist life ... biblical authority. Did the Holy Spirit inspire Paul to say that or not? If the Holy Spirit did inspire Paul to say that, then it's the Word of God."

## NAMB: Fewer church plants, baptisms

The Southern Baptist Convention's 2019 Book of Reports cited a number of successes for the North American Mission Board, noting the printing of nearly 2 million "3 Circle Life Conversation Guides," 130,000 downloads of a related phone app, and, distribution of 10,000 evangelism kits.

However, church plants hit a new low, dropping from 1,003 in 2011 (Kevin Ezell's first full year as NAMB president) to 624 last year, about half of the stated goal of planting 1,200 churches each year.

Church planting is NAMB's primary vehicle for evangelism, and the results as measured by baptisms have been likewise negative, dropping from 333,000 in 2011 to 246,000 in 2018.

Last October, Johnny Hunt, former pastor of the First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, and a past SBC president, was named NAMB's new senior vice president of evangelism and leadership, specifically to revive soul-winning among Southern Baptists. However, the budget for evangelization was cut from \$14.7 million spent in 2018 to \$7 million planned for 2019.

Church planting appears to benefit from the more than \$7 million cut to evangelization, increasing to \$75.4 million in 2019, up from \$68.3 million for 2018 and nearly \$53.4 million more than the \$22 million spent in 2010-2011.

## LIFEWAY'S NEW CEO: Colorado pastor, industry outsider

A LifeWay trustee search committee has

nominated a Colorado pastor as the next president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Mandrell is an outsider to business and publishing, but the search team praised him for his vision and leadership, according to a LifeWay press release, especially for growing Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, Colorado, from a North American Mission Board church plant launched with 250 people in 2015 to a congregation averaging 1,600 in weekly attendance last year.

He previously served as pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee, when the congregation grew from 1,800 to 2,600 in weekly attendance during a seven-year period, 2006-2013. Prior to being installed to that position, he was the college pastor for the congregation and simultaneously served as director of discipleship ministries at Union University (an SBC school), also in Jackson.

His work experience includes serving on staff with Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas K-Life Ministries of Orlando, Florida, and Sterling Christian School in Sterling, Illinois.

In January, LifeWay indicated it would be closing "some" of its bookstores due to declining sales. At the same time, Baptist Press published an analysis of LifeWay's audits which showed "total operating expenses exceeded sales" eight years in a row, growing in deficit each year from \$2.3 million to \$35.5 million.

Then on March 20 LifeWay announced it would shutter all 170 of its brick and mortar shops.

Just weeks prior, on March 4, LifeWay retroactively shared that CEO Thom Rainer had expressed "a desire to move forward with his retirement effective Feb. 28," after he had announced plans in August 2018 to remain one more year or until a "new CEO is named."

Rainer's departure resulted in the 10 month search that ended with the naming of Mandrell.



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Brian Blackwell photo

In early June, a volunteer from a Texas team prepared to use a drill as part of construction on a new 20,000-square-foot facility at the First Baptist Church in Port Barre.

## Port Barre from page 4

Church in Denham Springs, which was heavily damaged in the flood of 2016, and building a new 8,000-square-foot multi-purpose facility at First Baptist Church in Napoleonville, Shumock said. The start dates of both projects are contingent on securing an adequate number of volunteers.

“The excitement of building in the community and the church generates people to want to come, to be able to hear, and to be able to respond to the Gospel,” Shumock said. “They know that church is doing something. Anytime you build and have

a new mission, it will create curiosity and draw people to Christ.

And that’s what we are trying to do with the Baptist Builders.”

To learn more about volunteering with the Baptist Builders call 225.975.0848 or visit [facebook.com/groups/LAMissionBuilders/](http://facebook.com/groups/LAMissionBuilders/).

## Hankins

from page one

I believe God has great things in store for LBC. Your new executive director Dr. Steve Horn is already at the helm. He brings to the office great giftedness, fruitful experience, a wonderful spirit, and a love for Jesus and the church. I have every confidence you will thrive under his leadership, and I will be cheering him on.

As the prophet Samuel said goodbye to the people, he declared, “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.” (I Sam. 12:23). I make the same pledge to you.

Fraternally,

David E. Hankins  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Baptist Convention  
2005-2019

## Rayville from page 5

to do the right thing,” Michael said. “I hadn’t talked to my Dad in a long time when I first came to Celebrate Recovery and now we are best friends. This has given me something to look forward to in life.”

Jacqueline Mason became a small group leader after struggling with alcohol addiction for many years; and, she is thankful how Celebrate Recovery allows her to use her past to relate to women in need.

“This is the perfect outlet for me to give back,” Mason said. “I enjoy talking to the girls and showing them there is a better

way.”

Stewart Bedillion accompanies patients from the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center in Rayville, where he serves as a spiritual counselor.

He has seen their spiritual hunger and watched them search for a better way.

“They are so broken because of the addiction that is weighing down on them,” said Bedillion, also senior pastor at Riverside Baptist Church in Bastrop. “The messages here speak directly to where they are living. This ministry is helping to give them hope

and God is healing them, despite the choices they previously made.”

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## Lakeside from page one

because they are not active in church," Bye told the *Baptist Message*. "This time parents got to see the harvest we reaped from the seeds that were planted, and it made it special for the boys that their parents were witnesses."

Daniel Edwards actually was "harvested" during a recent VBS by a sister Louisiana Baptist congregation.

"I accepted Christ at Faith Baptist Church in Tioga," Edwards said. "But my Granny asked if I wanted to get baptized here since I have spent so many summers at Lake-

side."

He added that it was "special" because both churches are part of his spiritual life.

The Family Night worship service capped a fruitful week for Lakeside Baptist. Eleven children out of 46 who attended had repented for salvation by the end of VBS.

### VBS AND MORE

VBS is one of several evangelistic outreaches for the congregation, which averages 30 in Sunday morning worship service and another 25 in chil-

dren's church.

Operation Christmas Child is another.

Throughout the year, members collect items -- hygiene products, small toys and school supplies -- that are packed in shoeboxes and shipped overseas to give to children. The church's VBS offering of \$300 was used to purchase supplies for this year's Operation Christmas Child Collection.

In 2018, the church packed 250 shoeboxes for the annual gift drive by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief organization.

Members also volunteer with Helping Hands Ministry, a Christian non-prof-

it organization in Tioga.

They sort through items at a distribution center, work in the ministry's store and hand out bags filled with toiletries to neighborhood residents, 175 every three months.

Other ministry efforts include financially supporting Main Street Mission in Pineville and many members participated as volunteers with the Hope4U2018 Crusade at

the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria.

"Through the years the Word of God has been proclaimed here at Lakeside Baptist," Bye said. "Within the inner city domain that is highly transient this is still needed today. Remembering the ABCs for children of all ages in this community, we will plant, water and reap in the ongoing harvest. To God be the glory!"

## Motions from page 3

with associations comprised of smaller churches and bivocational pastors to place a second staff member as an associate pastor at no cost to the church or association until they can partially fund it.

### Referred to LifeWay Christian Resources:

— Laura Smith of the South Side Baptist Church in South Bend, Ind., moved that LifeWay Christian Resources include a Gospel presentation in each lesson for children through the sixth grade.

### Referred to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary:

— A motion by Benjamin Cole of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., that the Convention request the trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to authorize the seminary president and legal counsel to pursue the lawful recovery of school property that may have been removed from the president's home.

### Referred to all entities:

— Phillip Bethancourt, executive vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and a messenger of the Redemption City Church in Franklin, Tenn., moved that each SBC entity provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse, covering what the respective entity is doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention and care, what steps have been taken since 2018, and how their entity is partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.

### Ruled out of order by the Committee on Order of Business for requesting the Convention to exercise

### authority over an entity's board:

— Caleb Lewis of the Gentilly Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., moved that the Council of Seminary Presidents make the most recent BF&M the only doctrinal statement faculty is required to sign. Southern and Southeastern Seminaries include in their doctrinal guides an Abstract of Principles, regarded as emphasizing the systematic theology of Calvinism

— Derin Stidd of the Harmony Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ind., moved that the ERLC do a study on how churches, associations and state conventions can work with entities within their state to promote the immediate abolition of human abortion.

### Ruled out of order for resembling a resolution; exceeding the deadline for submitting a resolution:

— Morgan Bush of the Morningside Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., moved that each church be urged to consider the impact of pornography and take "vigorous action to meet and defeat the effect of pornography."

### Ruled out of order, citing legal or polity constraints:

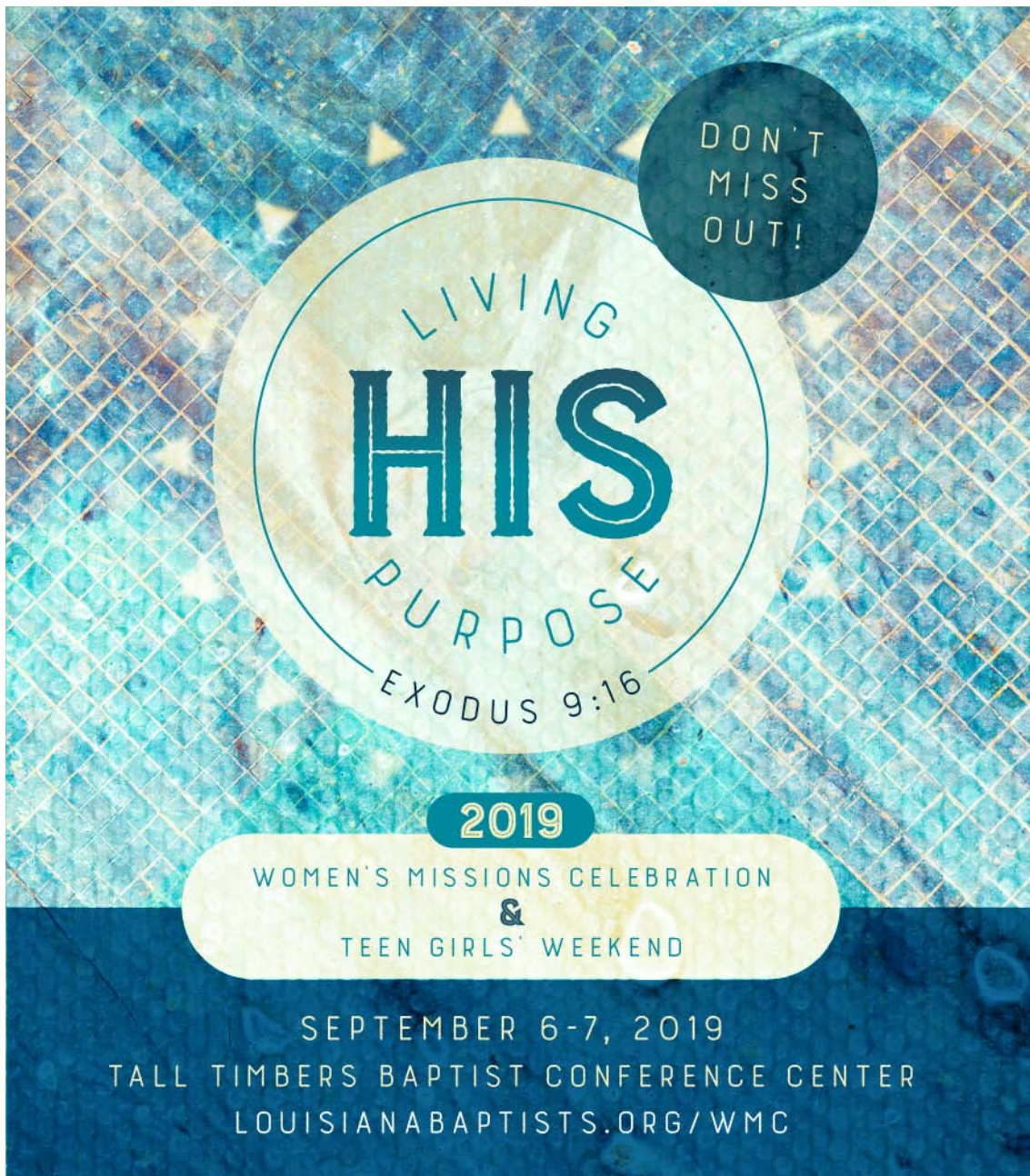
— Wade Burleson of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., moved to amend the report of the International Mission Board to include the full text of the May 29, 2019, Sexual Abuse Examination update.

— Adam Blosser of the Goshen Baptist Church in Spotsylvania, Va., moved to amend SBC Bylaw 18 adding, "The Recording Secretary shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee."

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## NOLA from page one

of churches, he said. The New Orleans Baptist Association, with the help of the Baptist Community Ministries (a foundation set up with proceeds from the 1995 sale of the Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans) and Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board, launched the medical ministry in 2014.

"We are thankful for the many partners, including BCM, NAMB and NOBA, who invested in the vision of what is today a thriving

Christ-exalting healthcare mission," Powers told the Baptist Message. "We pray our many trusted partners and donors see this accomplishment as BCHS' ongoing dedication to the stewardship of medical mission that has been entrusted to us."

### GOSPEL-CENTERED CARE

Powers initially helped to advise NOBA during its preparation to launch BCHS, and two years after the medical ministry was founded

## Enrollment from page one

ing a trend that is putting pressure on many smaller schools even as some bigger schools thrive. Nationwide enrollment declined by 1.7 percent, or by nearly 300,000."

"The enrollment decline has fostered mergers and closures, reductions in faculty and academic programs, and slashed budgets among America's higher education institutions and is sending seismic shockwaves across the scholastic landscape," said Rick Brewer, president of Louisiana College in Pineville.

The *WSJ* article stated that enrollment for four-year, for-profit colleges decreased 19.7 percent from spring 2018 to spring 2019, Brewer said.

"That percentage pales compared to an increase of 3.2 percent among private institutions," he observed. "Louisiana College, however, has fared exceedingly better than that with a spring 2019 enrollment 7.2 percent higher than last spring."

Louisiana College is a "remarkable exception because of our historic and ongoing exceptionalism," Brewer explained.

"Add to that our differentiating value proposition, which is the integration of faith and learning, and the reasons for our growth indicate that parents and students are averse to the worldview propagated at other schools. Rather, they seek a bona fide liberal arts education that underscores traditional family values and develops spiritual understanding through curricula that are relevant, relational,

and rigorous. This is Louisiana College in a nutshell," he added.

"Our leadership team brainstormed to help build upon a vision that has garnered 11 percent growth since 2015 and will keep us growing well into the future," Brewer said. "We developed a strategic plan and have faithfully followed it."

Implementing that strategy has produced memoranda of understanding with Louisiana Tech University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the latter of which provides a seamless path of matriculation into Louisiana College for graduates from two-year schools.

Louisiana College also has inked dual enrollment partnerships with public and private high schools.

"Innovative scholarships; additional academic programs, both undergraduate and graduate; a Summer Bridge program of remediation to give students a hand-up; and a faculty second to none, particularly with their compassion for students, are some reasons for Louisiana College's sustained growth," Brewer said.

Noting a record retention rate of 94 percent from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019, Brewer said, "Once students choose Louisiana College, they choose to stay."

Repairs and rehabilitation of facilities as the result of an \$18 million negotiated insurance settlement from

he became the first full-time CEO of the only health-care center in the Lower Ninth Ward, Powers said. He added that Fred Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, helped select the Lower Ninth Ward where BCHS was launched. That decision was made in large part because residents of the Lower Ninth Ward were struggling with access to primary healthcare even before Hurricane Katrina impacted the area in August 2005.

Powers said Southern Baptists, pastors and lay members, compose 100 percent of the organization's board of directors. Moreover, BCHS senior staff and doctors are commissioned missionaries of NOBA.

Since the health center's formation, the staff has shared the Gospel and prayed with patients more than 20,000 times. In partnership with local LBC churches, BCHS strives to use its medical platform to meet the medical, behavioral health and spiritual

care needs of patients living in what the federal government defines as "medically underserved communities."

In 2016, Powers also led BCHS to provide 100 percent free healthcare for Southern Baptist pastors, church staff and their respective families. Powers said he wanted to offer this option because of the desire of BCHS to strengthen the ministry of the local church and believing, "healthy pastors lead healthy churches and healthy churches help build healthy communities."

The ministry accepts commercial insurance; however, the majority of the health center's patients are covered by Medicaid and Medicare. Patients without insurance also are served and fees are deeply discounted using a sliding payment scale, usually \$25 to \$60, based on income level and family size. Regardless, no one in need of care is turned away due to financial reasons, Powers explained.

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration recently awarded BCHS a perfect score after

conducting a three-day intensive onsite inspection and audit of BCHS' compliance with 91 federal elements among 18 major categories -- which included inspection of the multi-site health center's clinical quality (practices, policies and patient outcomes) and review of administrative-financial leadership, and board governance.

"In my own local SBC church, First Baptist New Orleans, our pastor challenged us to 'dare to love this city' and to be 'mighty in word and deed to share and show the love of Jesus with our neighbors,'" said Hannah Pounds, chief medical officer for BCHS. "The vision for what BCHS has become was birthed in the local church, supported by Baptist Community Ministries, the North American Mission Board and made possible through the dedication of the New Orleans Baptist Association. If any of those cooperative links had been removed, we would not be celebrating this milestone today and tens of thousands of people would have missed our Gospel witness.

See ENROLLMENT, page 12

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.*

**ON THE MOVE**

■ **Stephen (wife Crystal) Craver** is the new director to the Shreveport Metro Baptist Collegiate Ministry.  
 ■ **Aaron Brewer** is the new associate director for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry in New Orleans.

**REVIVAL**

■ Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Mount Hermon: **Family Crusade**, July 7-10. Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Scott Spinks.  
 ■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: **Revive Monday**, July 8, 15, 22, 29. July 8: Evangelist: **Bob Pittman**. Worship: **Jason Crabb**. July 15, Evangelist: **Jerry Chaddick**. Worship: **PBC Worship Team**. July 22: Evangelist: **Mike Stone**. Worship: **PBC Worship Team**. July 29: **Tarande Greene in concert**. Pastor: Philip Robertson.  
 ■ Standard Baptist Church, Olla: **Revival**, July 14-17, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Malcom Ellis**. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.  
 ■ Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: **Harvest Sunday**, July 14. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell, Chalk Artist**. Pastor: Steve Jones.  
 ■ Beauregard Memorial Baptist Church, Longville: **Family Crusade**, July 11-14.

Evangelist: **2TALK42 Ministries**. Pastor: Jimmy Clark.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Princeton: **Harvest Sunday**, July 21. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Darrell Cooper.

**LAGNIAPPE**

■ Gulf Coast Baptist Church, Golden Meadow: The church is in need of a **new or used (in good working order) refrigerator** and also a separate **freezer** to help store more cold and frozen food for the church's newest ministry "Feeding Lafourche" food bank. Call 985.258.0988 or email gcbcla@gmail.com. Pastor: Shane Terrebonne.  
 ■ East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles, is seeking a **bi-vocational associate pastor** with a concentration on reaching the area. Contact Alan Weishampel at aeweishampel@aol.com.  
 ■ Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Fourth of July Family Fun Day**, July 4, 6-9 p.m. Come join us for hot dogs, games, music, and fireworks to celebrate Independence Day. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 7-11, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; **Parent's Night**, July 12, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jack Bell.  
 ■ Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: **Blake and Jenna Bolerjack in concert**, July 7, 10:15 a.m. Award winning Christian music duo, Blake & Jenna Bolerjack, will be special music guests for the morning services at Houston River. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.  
 ■ New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: **Blake and Jenna Bolerjack in concert**, July 7, 6 p.m. Pastor: Roland Hebert.  
 ■ Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville: **VBS-Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good**, July 7-11, 5 p.m. All children entering

pre-K-6th grade are welcome to join us. We begin each evening with dinner for kids at 5 p.m. in the REC. We move from there to all of the fun VBS programming at 5:30 p.m. and end our trek at 8:30 p.m. Pastor: Jeremy Shepherd.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Slidell: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 7-11, 5:30-8:30 p.m. nightly. This is for three years old thru sixth grade. Register at fbcslidell.org. Pastor: Casey Stark.  
 ■ Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Hopes Journey in concert**, July 7, 9 a.m. The church is located at 2066 Coteau Road, Houma, La 70364. For more information, call 985.226.7119 or go to www.hopes-journeyonline.com. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Adult & Youth VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 7, 14, 21, 28, 6 p.m. Session 1, July 7, **Encounter in the Temple**; Session 2, July 14, **Encounters on the Water**; Session 3, **Encounter at the Tomb**, July 21; **Session 4, Encounter on the Road**, July 28. Sessions will be taught by members of four different Sunday School classes. Members of The Empty Nest, 39 and Holding, Gail's Gals, and The Bridge class will all have a week to take us on amazing encounters in the Wild. Pastor: Steve Smithson.  
 ■ New Zion Baptist Church, Covington: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 8-12. To sign up online go to www.newzion.net. Pastor: Clark Stewart.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Jonesboro: **Women's Conference: Complete in Christ**, July 12-13. Speaker: **Michelle Nezat**. Pastor: Brian McAllister.  
 ■ Ouachita Baptist Church, West Monroe: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 8-12, 6-8:30 p.m. Pastor: Mike Holloway.

■ Beauregard Memorial Baptist Church, Longville: **Ben Waites in concert**, July 14, 9 a.m. Pastor: Jimmy Clark.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Pine Prairie: **Faith, Family and Friends Festival**, July 14, 4-8 p.m. Cost: \$6. There will be burgers, chips, drinks, popcorn, pop-sicles, cotton candy, balloon animals, face painting, carnival games, fun jump, water slides, and a dunking booth. Door prizes will also be given away. Buy tickets at the church office or call 337.224.9394 or 318.838.4353. **All proceeds will be given to Pastor Daniel Holsomback who is battling cancer.** Pastor: Daniel Holsomback.  
 ■ Parkview Baptist Church, Monroe: **Vacation Baptist School kick-off party** July 14, 5 p.m.; **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 15-18, 8:30 a.m. - noon; family night program and supper, July 18, 6 p.m.  
 ■ Foster Road Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **VBS - Roar: Life is Wild. God is good**, July 14-18, 5:15-8:15 p.m. This is for grades kindergarten thru the fifth grade. Pastor: Mike Morris.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Cameron: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. For children Ages 3 - just finished 6th grade. Pastor: Charles Hugonin.  
 ■ East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 15-19, 5:30 p.m. You are invited to In the Wild, as we zoom in and focus on Jesus and God's creations. Pastor: Alan Weishampel  
 ■ Ridge Avenue Baptist Church, West Monroe: **VBS - In the Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus**, July 15-19, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by VBS afterwards. Pastor: Jim Wolfe.  
 ■ Georgetown Baptist Church, George-

town: **3 Day Walk of Faith**, July 21-23, 7 p.m. Worship: **Living in Faith Everyday**. Pastor: Carl Giffith.  
 ■ Bethel Baptist Church, Jennings: **VBS - Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good**, July 22-26, 8 a.m.-noon.  
 ■ First Baptist Church, Carlyss: **VBS-Giddy Up Junction (Taking God's Love to New Frontiers)**, July 22-26, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. This is for children age 3 -11 (going to 6th grade). Come join us for a fun week of western-themed Bible Adventures. Pastor: Frank Walker.  
 ■ Caney Lake Baptist Church, Chatham: **"Annual Hee Haw Show,"** July 26-27, Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 5 pm. Tickets are \$7 each. For tickets call: Tammy Gunter 318.805.6124; Anita Waggoner 318.278.3773; or Donna Ferguson 318.348.5577. Pastor: Lance Otwell.

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## Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

g j x n p k h f a b l k h g j x f p b k q t a b k h n h p k g a x b n , g j x

h y s w p n p y i n p k r u b w p n x k h n a y r p b u ; q y a n p k r

q k g a k x p b u , l k f g s h k g o o n p k t k y t o k i g h g h n y j b h p k x

g n p b h x y f n a b j k .

u g a e k o k c k j : k b w p n k k j

Clues:  
X = D; G = A

**Answer to June 20 Scripture Crypto:**  
Micah five: seven

# Resolutions from page 2

specific statements offering encouragement to the abused, urging repentance by perpetrators and asking for policy changes from lawmakers.

— Resolution 3 was an admixture of confirmation of the doctrine of local church autonomy with condemnation of a supposed misuse of this “cherished doctrine ... as a means of hiding the sins of ministers and others in the church who abuse, sexually or otherwise, ‘the little ones’ of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— Resolution 4 de-

manded “the North Korean regime and the Communist Party of China to cease persecution of their citizens” while directing “the United States government to elevate religious liberty as a top priority of American foreign policy in its engagement with North Korea and China.”

— Resolution 5 denounced sexual identity politics along with the labels of “Gay Christian and “sexual minority” and called upon “all Christians who struggle against same-sex attraction to forsake any self-conception or

personal identity that is contrary to God’s good and holy purposes in creation and redemption.”

— Resolution 6 addressed a “divisive spirit which hinders our cooperative work” without specifying the “secondary doctrinal points of disagreement” or identifying instances of “imposing methodological uniformity” and “promoting a cultural or political agenda” which the statement broadly brushed as accusations. In the past, the phrase “secondary points of disagreement” has been used to dismiss concerns expressed by traditional Southern Baptists about

the growing influence of Calvinism in the SBC.

— Resolution 7 cited Amos 5 as an example of confronting “social injustices” in making an appeal to Southern Baptists to become “involved with the struggles of our neighbors” and to advocate for “people who are oppressed,” in the hope that “through our love for others, they too may receive the [G]ospel and share in the joy of salvation.”

— Resolution 8 accused Southern Baptists of being “historically monolithic with respect to domestic ministry,” citing specifically a “lack of cultural awareness” with regard to “the history and the contributions of Christians from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds” and urged “our seminaries, entities, and churches to equip ministers and ministry leaders ... with these proficiencies.”

— Resolution 10 honored women “who wish to engage in military service as volunteers” but also opposed “efforts to force women into military service by government coercion,” strongly urging

“the President and Congress not to expand the Selective Service to include women.”

— Resolution 11 condemned by name Professor He Jiankui who has edited the genetic material (germline) of three children in his laboratory in Shenzhen, China; and, the statement called on the U.S. Congress and international policy-making bodies “to make human germline manipulation unfundable and illegal.”

— Resolution 12 described the annual meeting as “a sacred gathering” in asking Southern Baptists to “continually evaluate their political cooperation in light of Scripture’s witness”; and, offered competing warnings about “the danger of political engagement overwhelming the priority of our mission” and “the opposite danger of disengaging from public issues and disregarding our obligation as citizens to encourage good, restrain evil.”

— Resolution 13 expressed appreciation for those who made the annual meeting in Birmingham possible.

## MONDAYS IN JULY

# REVIVE

*Rejoice and Refresh*

**JULY 8**



**BOB PITMAN**



**JASON CRABB**

**JULY 15**



**JERRY CHADDICK  
& PBC WORSHIP TEAM**

**JULY 22**

**MIKE STONE  
& PBC WORSHIP TEAM**



**JULY 29**



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# Enrollment from page 9

hail and water damage, as well as the launch of a multi-phase \$5 million resi-

dence hall refurbishment project has contributed to retention through just enhancing the attractiveness of the campus, Brewer offered.

He also said Louisiana College has “invested significantly” in landscaping because it ranks third on the list of criteria among prospective students. “Our college has won several garden club awards, as well as the local chamber of commerce ‘Bizzy Award’ for curb appeal.”

These factors help put Louisiana College on track to “bring in classes of new freshmen of more than 300 for the second time in the past three years, an accomplishment occurring only twice previously in our 113-year history.”

“The results of hard work and God’s blessings reflect that our vision of ‘Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives’ is not a mere marketing slogan,” Brewer said. “It is a reality that drives and sustains us.”

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