



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

June 6, 2019

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John 3:16

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A \$5 MILLION FACELIFT



A rendering showcases the new English Village commons area.



Tudor Hall room upgrades will include modular furnishings.



Tudor Hall will receive upgrades as part of a plan to renovate some of its residence halls on campus over the next 17 months.



Adam Beach baptized Jacob Watkins, March 10, at New River Baptist Church, Saint Amant. He is among 17 new converts baptized since July 2018.

New River renewed after floodwaters, spiritual drought

By Brian Blackwell
Message Staff Writer

SAINT AMANT – Jacob Watkins was in bondage to a life of alcoholism, drug abuse and depression in February when he accepted an invitation to attend New River Baptist Church in Saint Amant.

One month later, Watkins was set free from the chains holding him back from a relationship with Christ when he turned to Jesus.

“I have been clean of alcohol and drugs and haven’t suffered from depression because I have been shown that you just give all of your problems to God,” Watkins told the *Baptist Message*.

Watkins is one of 17 new converts

See NEW RIVER, page 5

LC’s oldest residence halls to be refurbished

Norm Miller | LCNews

PINEVILLE (LCNews) --Louisiana College will refurbish its oldest residence halls with a multi-phase plan over 17-months through a \$5 million tax-exempt bond.

M.D. Descant, LLC, will

complete the first phase of renovations, which include Tudor Hall and English Village.

“This is an answer to prayer and the result of hard work to significantly upgrade facilities that have seen no major im-

provements in decades,” said Rick Brewer, president of Louisiana College. “With curb appeal ranking as the third most important consideration of a

See FACELIFT, page 2

SEBTS’ Dew nominated to lead NOBTS

By Gary D. Myers
NOBTS Communications

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) -- James K. “Jamie” Dew Jr., vice president for undergraduate studies and

distance learning at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been nominated as the next president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The presidential search

committee will present Dew to the full trustee board for a vote on June 5.

“As a committee, our focus has been to find the

See NOBTS, page 12

Facelift from page one

college by prospective students, these improvements will significantly improve our recruiting efforts and enhance our ability to retain students already enrolled.”

Board of Trustee Chairman Ken Schroeder praised Brewer’s leadership, citing the “dramatic changes” the president has made “to the school’s overall culture.”

“There’s a buzz around campus among the student body, the faculty, the administration, and the

board,” Schroeder said. “LC’s enrollment continues to increase at a steady pace. However, one aspect of our school that hinders the growth in enrollment is the condition of our dorms. We believe that by improving this aspect of campus life, LC will be in better position to attract even more students.”

J.D. Perry, chairman of the trustee’s Business Affairs Committee, offered that the “renovation initiative will allow us to offer our students facilities to

match” the “superior education” Louisiana College offers.

“Louisiana College has long been the best kept secret in higher education, but the secret is getting out,” Perry said.

Following two years of study and planning, along with discussions and approval by the BoT, the refurbishment plan includes extensive remodeling to corridors, restrooms, and residents’ rooms in Tudor Hall, whose first-floor lobby and commons area underwent modern upgrades and remodeling in 2017.

Tudor Hall’s rooms will



Louisiana College students who live in Tudor Hill will soon enjoy remodeled corridors as part of the upgrades to the residence hall.

feature modular furnishings and modern plumbing and light fixtures.

English Village will be re-clad externally, and apartments A-D and H-K will be completely remodeled. Additionally, the commons areas will be transformed into a bright and welcoming gathering place for students, according to the plan.

Beginning next summer renovations to residents’ rooms in Cottingham Hall will reflect upgrades similar to Tudor Hall rooms. Cottingham’s White Parlor, as well as hallways and other common facilities, underwent major renovations in 2017.

“When I arrived at Louisiana College in 2015, the need for campus-wide

renovations and upgrades were painfully obvious,” Brewer said. “We began almost immediately improving curb appeal through landscaping that has garnered several local garden club awards and positive comments by our friends and neighbors.”

“The long overdue time has finally come -- and we welcome it -- to demonstrate how much we already value our current students and our desire to more effectively attract new ones,” Brewer said. “I am thankful for the hard work of our trustees and how readily they have embraced our Vision of Preparing Graduates and Transforming Lives by rolling up their sleeves to help implement it.”

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Bridges: I am thankful to be a Southern Baptist

RUSTON (LBM) -- Within today's culture, there are many who seem to dismiss the idea of belonging to a denomination.

These "non-conformers" denounce such organizations as archaic, stilted, and unnecessary, preferring instead a less-entangled, non-denominational or independent congregation at the expense of working together.

My background as a life-long Southern Baptist has positively impacted my own position about our Convention, or fellowship, of cooperating autonomous congregations.

You see, I used to be a Southern Baptist by birth, but I remain a Southern Baptist by choice and conviction:

-- I hold to the basic doctrinal framework that

defines us as Baptists -- that is first and foremost! When I operate within my denominational family, I acknowledge that we stand together on the foundation of God's Word.

-- I, my congregation and I, voluntarily cooperate together to advance the Gospel of Christ through missions and ministries. We recognize that we can do more together than we can do

apart, demonstrating an unselfish spirit when we contribute to a collective effort instead of trying to build our own kingdoms.

-- Moreover, as Southern Baptists, we have a wonderful extended family with whom we get to work!

This past April, Southern Baptists in Ruston were reminded of how

blessed we are to belong to a larger body of believers.

Many of you may well remember that a tornado ripped right through our city and left immense devastation: homes destroyed, our university damaged, families displaced, and even more tragically, lives lost.

Immediately, community members sprang into emergency response mode. It was truly amazing how much was done in such a short time of recovery.

But most important were the contributions that you, my Baptist family, made during that time!

The very morning of the storm, I began to receive texts from fellow Baptists across the state, and indeed, from across North America. Specifically, our LBC Executive Director David Hankins and our LBC Missions and Ministries Director

John Hebert called to let us know that we were not alone. Moreover, our own Rolling Hills Ministries and its director, David Abernathy, began to marshal our Southern Baptist response teams and resources.

Thanks to Louisiana Baptists' generosity, John Hebert came to Ruston and presented \$10,000 to Rolling Hills in order to assist with feeding our community.

One feeding station was set up at our new ministry work, The Springs, which was located in the midst of the affected area.

This revitalized church, or replant, literally became a hub of ministry for the community, with something on the order of 6,000 meals served there. (Oh, by the way, The Springs just launched

worship services in the area in part because of the financial support of the Concord-Union Baptist Association, the LBC Missions and Ministry Department, and the North American Mission Board. Thanks to the Georgia Barnette and Annie Armstrong Offerings!)

Baptists' financial contributions were equally met with their sweat equity.

The night before the storm, our congregation joined with Rolling Hills to constitute a formal chainsaw ministry team (God's timing!)

But we were not alone. Our fellow churches in town, Calvary, Cook, Emmanuel and First Baptist, all got to work, too.

Other Louisiana Baptists armed with

See BRIDGES, page 5



Reggie Bridges
Pastor
Temple Baptist
Ruston

HereforYou.org
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

BREAKING NEWS!

- **281 people** visited the *HereforYou.org* gospel presentation in April and **46 indicated decisions for Christ!**
- *"I want to know everything about Jesus. Where do I start?"*
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ESTATE PLANNING IS STEWARDSHIP

By Jerry Love

Louisiana Baptist Foundation

Planning is a part of our daily lives. We plan menus for the day or week; we plan vacations; we plan meetings; and, ... the list goes on.

Why, then, is it difficult to make plans for one of the more important parts of our lives – our estates?

Estate planning often is looked at as a dreaded or unpleasant task. Many people have expressed feelings that if they make plans for their estate their lives will be over. Others take a more cavalier approach, saying “someone else can deal with that after I am gone.”

As followers of Christ, we should all be interested in the stewardship of our assets, or our “stuff.”

A prayerfully thought-out estate plan can be the largest single act of stewardship that you will undertake in your lifetime. Indeed, determining how to take care of others, how to be a blessing to others and how to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ through your personal planning is stewardship.

So, take a look at some essentials of estate planning, which is stewardship!

PEOPLE

The first step is as simple as making a list of the people who are most important to you. This should include anyone (children, spouse, grandchildren, parents) in your care during your lifetime and for whom you need to provide care after your death. This list also can include those you want to “bless” -- extended family or friends to whom you would like to leave a gift, either monetary or a personal item.

sonal item.

Additionally, you should consider what to donate to your church, another ministry or other charitable organization to which you have a close connection. Leaving a gift to ministry that furthers the Gospel is one of the best ways to be a blessing to others!

POSSESSIONS

Make a list of your personal assets, including bank and investment accounts, personal residence and other real estate, autos, boats, hunting vehicles, jewelry, firearms and etc. – anything of significance to you. Some items may have more sentimental value than monetary worth, but put them on the list, too.

There is a special class of assets that should be included in this list as well: life insurance policies, annuities, IRA’s and other retirement plans, along with pension accounts. All of these can provide significant blessings to others.

However, these assets will not be governed by the language of your last will and testament. Instead, each has a beneficiary statement that designates who is to receive all or a portion of the account after your death. This statement,



of a planning professional is important. For most people a relatively simple and straightforward last will and testament will handle the transfer of assets to heirs and legatees. Others may need to seek the advice of a CPA or tax accountant if there is a complicated estate or perhaps a family business interest involved. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation staff can assist with some of the more basic issues and may be able to help you determine what type of professional to seek for assistance.

Many people are concerned about the cost associated with estate planning. Remember that there are important and lasting decisions included in your estate plans. So, it is worth spending time, energy and money to see that your plans are completed properly.

One attorney friend compared the cost of estate planning to the cost of a “good set of tires.” Tires have certainly gone up in price in recent years, but, he advised, it is better to pay the price up front instead of enduring the consequences of a bad set of tires, later.

This is a good analogy for proper estate planning -- it is worth the expense.

On that note, be cautious of online estate planning services.

Some internet legal advice sites claim their services are valid in all 50 states, but it pays to check with a local professional, particularly in the state of Louisiana. That “fill-in-the-blank” online data gathering website might not be all that it claims.

should get what in terms of the possessions entered on the second list, using the help of the professionals on the third list.

Sounds simple enough, right?

As always there are other considerations to take into account.

For instance, a ministry or charitable organization will not owe taxes on tax-deferred retirement assets, while an individual would be stuck with years of deferred taxes to pay.

Another thought, giving real estate in joint ownership to your heirs can possibly be a sticky situation if they cannot agree on what to do with the property. Likewise, leaving real estate jointly to family members and a charitable organization may cause friction. Typically, organizations like to “cash out” of such situations, forcing heirs to raise cash to buy out the charity.

Yes, being a good steward of your estate is not necessarily a simple task and, in some cases, can be complicated. But, fear not! As Believers we have an Advocate! Which brings us to the last “P” word...

PRAY!!!!

This should first on the list, but is listed last, here, for emphasis.

Before listing people, before tallying up all your possessions, and prior to making an appointment with a legal or tax professional to help you with your plans, you should take time to PRAY!

Seek God’s guidance on who should be included in your plans, how to distribute assets and what assistance you should seek. Proverbs 3:5-6 comes to mind: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” (NIV)

Even in planning your estate, God is willing and able to direct your path.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation helps those who desire to give to Baptist churches, ministries and organizations. We also serve as a resource to answer questions regarding estate planning.

Reach out to us via phone, 877.523.4636, or email, Jerry@LBFinfo.org.



signed by you, is a contract between you and the company backing the asset. Keep this in mind as you move forward with your estate plans.

PROFESSIONALS

Seeking the advice and assistance

PLANS

Now, just pick from the first list which people and organizations

Bridges from page 3

chainsaws joined us in the effort as well: First Haughton, First Blanchard, and Mangham Baptist showed up and showed out with their response skills!

Even Sam Porter, the national director of disaster relief for Southern Baptists, drove down from Oklahoma to check on

us and worship with us the Sunday following the tornado.

I could go on and on about how our Baptist family helped us through such a difficult time here in Ruston -- how the national Woman's Missionary Union Foundation Board provided a \$5,000 grant to our Louisiana

Tech Baptist Collegiate Ministry for building repairs, and other ways the collective Baptist work has extended the witness of our Lord and His Gospel.

But space restrictions do not permit.

Instead, let me close with a word of gratitude, a reminder for us all, and our commitment to you.

First, thank you, my fellow Southern Baptists,

for all you have done to make a difference for Jesus Christ in Lincoln Parish and beyond.

We will not soon forget how you were there for us.

Second, do not forget that there is still a place for denominational structure -- we can make a difference by standing together!

This disaster response is just one example of how viable cooperation

can be.

Third, we are with you in the Gospel effort and our resolve to work with you in missions and ministries has only been strengthened.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you to see His Good News advanced across the globe.

Simply stated, we love you, our Southern Baptist family, and we are committed to working with you!

New River from page one

baptized since July 2018.

Pastor Adam Beach celebrated Watkins' salvation and his obedience by baptizing him March 10.

Beach said Watkins' story is representative of how God has moved through the congregation since August 2016, when its worship center and gymnasium were deluged under 4 feet of water during the record flood in that region of Louisiana.

After the waters receded, the congregation went through a nearly two-year drought where no one was baptized.

But since last summer the congregation has witnessed the wave of baptisms plus 13 other additions, growing by 30 new members, combined.

"Once our members got back into the building and saw the baptisms begin to take place, they had this feeling that God was restoring them," Beach said. "Now that they have a plan in front of them, they are expecting God to do even greater things through them. This has produced this incredible amount of excitement among our people and the community we are trying to reach."

Beach said his congregation has adopted a simple strategy for growth. Members are encouraged to pray for and invite others who do not regularly attend activi-

ties sponsored by New River Baptist.

He said they offer AWANA classes (evangelism and discipleship for children), Vacation Bible School, nursing home visitation and an Easter egg hunt in a local park as outreach tools.

Now they plan to do even more planned ministry.

"Our kids really have gotten into the AWANA and VBS," Beach said. "We even have had some family members of nursing home resi-

dents come to our church because of the prayers they received during visits from our members.

"What our church went through with the flood brought clarity of who we are to be in the future," Beach said. "At the end of the day, our church wants to create ministries that make a difference in our community and show them the purpose for which we exist, which is to love others for Christ."

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SBC annual meeting notes



By Staff
Baptist Message

CROSSOVER

Ahead of the Annual Meeting and Pastors Conference, Southern Baptists are set to gather for Crossover in Birmingham, Alabama, on Saturday, June 8, to blitz the city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the goal of visiting 20,000 homes.

The metropolitan population is 1 million people, with 2 million living within a 30-minute radius of the city.

A hub church in each of seven associations in and around Birmingham will serve as a base of operations, according to Sammy Gilbreath, Alabama Baptists' state director of evangelism.

He told the Alabama Baptist newspaper it will be an opportunity to present the Gospel to an area that is very unchurched.

"While we have a lot of churches -- 3,280 in Alabama Baptist life -- there are a lot of people, a huge population in metro Birmingham, that are not connected to any church," he explained. "Not only are we getting the opportunity to knock on 20,000 doors, it's giving us an event that provides an opportunity to train our own people in the state of Alabama to do this in their own communities."

But Crossover will be an opportunity for other Southern Baptists to learn and do evangelism as well.

Preston Nix, professor of evangelism and evangelistic preaching at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told the *Baptist Message* the school will take part in a week-long "evangelistic boot camp" for students, starting June 3 in Birmingham. Thirty NOBTS students will complete evangelism training and conduct door-to-door witnessing with activities culminating June 8 with Crossover.

"The students love it because they get hands-on experience sharing the

Gospel," Nix said. "Most of them tell me it's a life changing experience. It changes their lives and ministries and focus. Most of them are scared to death to do door-to-door and street witnessing at the beginning of the week. Then, by the end, they come away with confidence and realize it's not as hard as they thought."

CANDIDATES

Information (2018) provided for each candidate's church includes: average worship attendance, total baptisms, the ratio of baptisms to worship attendance, undesignated receipts, contributions through the main funding channel, Cooperative Program, or CP and the CP percentage and per capita amount, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and per capita amount, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and per capita amount, as well as Great Commission Giving (a combination of CP as well as direct gifts to SBC ministries) and per capita amount.

Data for the SBC:

Worship: 5,297,788
Baptisms: 246,442
Ratio: 1:21
Undesig.: \$9,601,534,950
CP: \$462,662,332 (4.8%, \$87.33)
LMCO: \$158,890,638 (\$29.99)
AAEO: \$61,100,000 (\$11.53)
GCG: \$572,281,994 (\$108.02)

President



J.D. Grear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, North Carolina, will be nominated for a second term.

Worship: 9,280
Baptisms: 616
Ratio: 1:15
Undesig.: \$21,652,266
CP: \$519,655 (2.4%, \$56.00)
LMCO: \$280,000 (\$30.17)
AAEO: 0 (0)
GCG: \$3,159,848 (\$340.50)

First Vice President



Mashal Ausberry, pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia.

Worship: 1,035
Baptisms: 16
Ratio: 1:65
Undesig.: \$3,075,263
CP: \$26,000 (0.8%, \$25.12)
LMCO: \$1,000 (\$0.97)
AAEO: Not Reported
GCG: \$268,000 (\$258.94)

Second Vice President



Noe Garcia, pastor of the North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

Worship: 1,480
Baptisms: 97
Ratio: 1:15
Undesig.: \$4,013,303
CP: \$100,826 (2.5%, \$68.13)
LMCO: \$68,614 (\$46.36)
AAEO: \$6,470 (\$4.37)
GCG: \$102,868 (\$69.50)

Recording Secretary



John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention and a member of the Deer Creek Baptist Church in Cuba, Missouri, will be re-nominated. He has served in this post since 1997.

Worship: 92
Baptisms: 8
Ratio: 1:12
Undesig.: \$153,413
CP: \$15,467 (10.1%, \$168.12)
LMCO: \$1,020 (\$11.09)
AAEO: \$2,150 (\$23.37)
GCG: \$27,890 (\$303.15)



Eddie Eaton, pastor of the Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina.

Worship: 285
Baptisms: 5
Ratio: 1:57
Undesig.: \$791,540
CP: \$37,152 (4.7%, \$130.36)
LMCO: \$17,263 (\$60.57)
AAEO: \$7,881 (\$27.65)
GCG: \$69,234 (\$242.93)

Registration Secretary

Don Currence, administrative pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ozark,



Missouri, will be re-nominated. He has served in this post since 2017.

Worship: 586
Baptisms: 8
Ratio: 1:73
Undesig.: \$1,509,924
CP: \$102,707 (6.8%, \$175.27)
LMCO: \$41,520 (\$70.85)
AAEO: \$7,724 (\$13.18)
GCG: \$242,789 (\$414.32)



Kathy Litton, director of planter spouse development with the North American Mission Board and a member of the Redemption Church in Saraland, Alabama.

Worship: 1,271
Baptisms: 133
Ratio: 1:10
Undesig.: \$3,298,747
CP: \$121,146 (3.7%, \$95.32)
LMCO: \$30,200 (\$23.76)
AAEO: \$30,000 (\$23.60)
GCG: Not Reported

COMMITTEES

Nominees to serve as

See NOTES, page 7

FBI honors Baptist Friendship House

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – FBI Director Christopher Wray presented the Baptist Friendship House of New Orleans with its distinguished 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award, honoring the ministry for its work in fighting human trafficking.

Executive Director Kay Bennett received the award on behalf of the Baptist Friendship House during a special ceremony, May 3, at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"I am thankful for the FBI recognizing Baptist Friendship House," Bennett told the *Baptist Message*. "It was an honor

and humbling experience to receive such an amazing award. As all of the recipients from different states stood together for a photo, I looked around and thought 'What a beautiful picture of people and organizations working together to help others and to make our communities safer.'"

The Baptist Friendship House was founded in New Orleans in September 1944, and almost since inception the ministry has been feeding the city's homeless community, daily.

Additionally, the ministry has become a vital resource for providing lodging for homeless

women and children through the Baptist Friendship House Transitional Housing Program.

In recent years, the Baptist Friendship House has become a strong advocate on behalf of human trafficking victims -- working with a number of partners in making legislative recommendations, and, training individuals and groups in prevention and intervention as well as to raise community awareness.

Operating with a limited staff augmented by volunteers, the Baptist Friendship House offers a wide variety of services to those in need: computer skills, job readiness train-



Submitted photo

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray presented Baptist Friendship House Executive Director Kay Bennett with the 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award on behalf of the FBI New Orleans Field Office May 3, 2019.

ing, English as a second language courses, life skills and Bible studies, to name a few.

In 2018 the ministry provided in-house coun-

seling to over 1,100 women and referred another 3,300 to outside counseling; and, assisted in the rescue and care for 40 human trafficking victims.



The 2019 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will take place June 11-12 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama.

Notes from page 6

the trustees over the various national cooperative ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention as well as members on the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2019 SBC Committee on Nominations, and include a number of Louisiana Baptists. If elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12 in Birmingham, Ala., nominees will serve beginning at the close of the last session.

Executive Committee (86 members): Nominated for second term -- Philip J. Robertson, Deville. Also serving -- Charles (Glynn) Rhinehart, Lafayette, and Mike Holloway, Eros.

International Mission Board (76 trustees): Nominated for second term -- Chuck Pourciau, Shreveport. Also serving -- Joel G. Williams, St. Francisville, and E. Gibbie McMillan, Kentwood.

North American Mission Board (52 trustees): None. Also serving -- Frederick (Scott) Leachman, Ruston, and Gevan L. Spinney, Haughton.

GuideStone Financial Resources (43 trustees): None. Also serving -- John D. Cameron, West Monroe, and John (Johnny) D. Hoychick, Jr., Rayville.

LifeWay Christian Resources (51 trustees): None. Also serving -- Harry Forester, Shreveport, and J.D. Perry, Baton Rouge.

Gateway Seminary (39 trustees): None. Also serving -- David E. Crosby, New Orleans.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (35 trustees): None. Also serving -- Randall H. Tompkins, Alexandria.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (40 trustees): Amanda T. Walker, Ruston. Also serving -- Jackie A. Myers, Sicily Island; John P. Foster, New Orleans; Leland Crawford, Minden; Jerry W. Price, Monroe; Eddie Wren, Rayville; Stephen N. Horn, Alexandria; and, Waylon Bailey, Covington.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (30 trustees): Nominated for second term -- Sam F. Wheat, Ruston.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (42 trustees): James O. Jenkins, Shreveport. Also serving -- Julie C. Emerson, Lafayette.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (40 trustees): None. Also serving -- Leon A. Stamm, Ruston.

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (34 trustees): None. Also serving -- Ryan E. Gatti, Bossier City.

Committee on Order of Business (7 members): Steven F. Bates, Winnfield.

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Kisatchie Baptist celebrates ministering at the crossroads

By Teresa Chance
Special to the Message

PROVENCAL -- Kisatchie Baptist Church celebrated a special homecoming, March 31, marking 151 years of Christian service and commemorating the commitment of the seven founding members who helped to establish the ministry within the community.

A number of current and former members, relatives of deceased members, and residents of the surrounding area took part in

a program of worship, remembrance, special music and fellowship, taking time to acknowledge the blessings God has poured out on the congregation since its inception in 1868.

Church records document that Kisatchie members have been active in missions and ministry from the beginning, starting with the support of a missionary, 123 years ago, at the cost of five dollars per month.

Located west and adjacent to Kisatchie National Forest and bordered to the south and east by the Peason Range on Fort Polk

and The Joint Readiness Training Center, the present facility stands within yards of the original building spot. But the structure has changed over the years from a log cabin, which doubled as the school house on week days, to the present brick building comprising the sanctuary, Sunday school classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Kisatchie Baptist Church has always stood at a crossroads, originally built at the juncture of two major trails in the state and now standing at the intersection of Louisiana



Kisatchie Baptist's first pastor, Y.I. Prewitt



Present day Kisatchie Baptist Church still has a heart for missions and ministering to the community. Photo by Harlei Taylor Rains, owner of Rustic Flair Photography,

Highways 117 and 118. Likewise, the congregation's mission has always been to stand as a "lighthouse in the crossroads of life," records show.

Organizers patterned the celebration after the 100th homecoming of Kisatchie Baptist Church, commemorating the milestone with a review the rich history of the congregation and renewing its commitment to remain a "lighthouse" to all "by proclaiming to the world the Holy Word of God and the truth of salvation found only through the Savior Jesus Christ."

Coordinators also read to participants an excerpt from the program printed for the 114th homecoming celebration, held Feb. 18, 1982:

"There is little doubt that the little church begun in 1868 has grown and changed over the years, but one thing has remained constant. That is the faith and dedication of its membership. No band of believers has ever worked harder, supported more consistently or held to the faith with greater perseverance. It is this attitude, this very sense of community that we pray will go with us throughout this second century of ministry. We look to the future with great optimism, and await anxiously each of those times when we can accomplish good works through service to God."

Article dedicated by author in loving memory to Kay Taylor, Kisatchie Baptist event coordinator: "Who had her greatest homecoming with our Lord on May 27, 2019."

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Louisiana passes legislation to protect unborn at first heartbeat

By Will Hall
Message Editor

CULTURAL NEWS

BATON ROUGE (LBM) – By a vote of 79-23, Louisiana House members passed S.B. 184, which protects an unborn baby at the first heartbeat, usually detectable between 6-8 weeks of development.

The measure authored by Sen. John Milkovich (D-DeSoto), requires an ultrasound “prior to any abortion” in order to establish “whether or not a fetal heartbeat is present,” banning abortion if the unborn child’s pulse is detected.

However, an abortion is permitted to “prevent the death ... or to prevent a serious risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function” of the mother.

Likewise, if the unborn child is diagnosed with a medical condition that “is incompatible with sustaining life after birth,” an abortion is allowed.

Arguments were passionate on both sides of the debate.

Rep. Valerie Hodges (R-East Baton Rouge, Livingston), the primary House sponsor, led the effort to pass the “heartbeat bill,” arguing a heartbeat is the definitive sign of life.

“When a person’s heart stops beating, you know their life is ended,” Hodges said. “When you can hear a baby’s heartbeat it is proof that life is present.”

She also defended the

bill against attempts to add an exception for rape and incest, arguing the unborn baby’s rights supplants the mother’s.

“I believe the right to life supersedes every other right we have,” she said.

But opponents were not swayed, arguing that without the exceptions young girls would be forced to carry a baby to birth.

“How dare you not allow a family to make a decision for that child who’s carrying a child,” Rep. Pat Smith (D-East Baton Rouge) charged.

Other opponents argued supporters were inconsistent in their pro-life beliefs, dubbing them “pro-birth,” instead, because they also support the death penalty.

“All you so-called Bible thumpers in here who supposedly preach the book you all just speak the words,” claimed state Rep. John Bagneris (D-Orleans). “You don’t walk the walk.”

Meanwhile, Rep. Alan Seabaugh (R-Caddo), a member of the Broadmoor Baptist Church

in Shreveport, pushed back, saying, “We don’t punish children in this country for the sins of their fathers.”

He also responded to the criticism of inconsistency with regard to pro-life values, while taking a swipe at “pro-choice” values.

“If you want choice, let [the mother] choose to execute the rapist. That’s fine,” he said.

The Senate passed the bill 31-5 on May 6.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, the lone Democrat governor in the Deep South, signed S.B. 184 into law May 30.

“I know there are many who feel just as strongly as I do on abortion and disagree with me — and I respect their opinions,” Edwards said in a statement after the bill’s passage. He called upon “the overwhelming bipartisan majority of legislators who voted for it” to join him “in continuing to build a better Louisiana that cares for the least among us and provides more opportunity for everyone.”

The bill is provisional, having a “trigger” statement that puts it in effect upon a final decision by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding a similar “heartbeat bill”



Alan Seabaugh

passed this year by the Mississippi legislature.

All 16 Louisiana Baptist representatives supported the bill: Mark Abraham (Trinity, Lake Charles), Roy Daryl Adams (First Jackson),

Raymond Crews (First Bossier City), Julie Emersson (First Lafayette), Dorothy Sue Hill (Cherry Grove, Dry Creek), Frank Hoffman (First West Monroe), Dodie Horton (Fillmore, Haughton), Frank Howard (Oak Grove, Hornbeck), Mike Johnson (First Pineville), Sherman Mack (Bethlehem, Albany), Jack McFarland (Carney Lake,

Chatham), Wayne McMahan (Central, Minden/Springhill), J. Rogers Pope (First Denham Springs), Steve Pylant (First Crowville, Winnboro), Alan Seabaugh (Broadmoor, Shreveport) and Malinda White (First Bogalusa).

Four Louisiana Baptist senators voted for S.B. 184: Jim Fannin (Ebenezer, Jonesboro), Ryan Gatti (Cypress, Benton), Gerald Long (First Natchitoches) and Beth Mizell (First Franklinton). Wesley Bishop (Franklin Avenue, New Orleans) voted against the bill. Absent for the vote: Jay Luneau (Calvary, Alexandria) and Gary Smith (First Norco).



John Milkovich



Valerie Hodges

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Irma's Place Ribbon Cutting



The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home celebrated the completion of its newest HomePlace Cottage for homeless children and their mothers with a ribbon cutting May 21 at its campus in Monroe. Among those celebrating the ribbon cutting were (left to right) Perry Hancock, Gene Howard, Irma Howard, Maggie Martin and Jonathan Martin. Gene Howard is the cousin of Jonathan Martin, chairman of the Louisiana-based RoyOMartin Lumber Company. The Howards have given generously toward this project, along with proceeds from the Brenda Hall Abney Children's Golf Classic hosted annually by RoyOMartin. Irma's Place, named after Irma Howard, will house homeless women and children for up to 12 months at no cost to the residents. While there, the women may work toward their high school equivalency and receive life and employment skills training through the Christian Women Job Corps, a ministry of the Children's Home. Residents living in this cottage will experience an array of amenities to offer a true home environment for the women and their children in this transitional setting as they prepare for independent living. This is the second new HomePlace Cottage to open since 2016.



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.

HOMECOMING

- Bethsadia Baptist Church, Many: **Homecoming**, June 9 10:45 a.m. Dinner on the grounds in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service. Speaker: **James "Buddy" Greer of Paris, Texas**. Pastor: Jay Begbie.
- Linda Lay Memorial Baptist Church, Gilliam: **100th anniversary/homecoming**, June 9, 10 a.m. A catered BBQ lunch will be served following the worship service. Speaker: **Steve Armstrong**. Special Music: **The Offering**. Pastor: Eddie Kent.
- Laurel Hill Baptist Church, LaCamp: **150th Homecoming**, June 22, 2 p.m. There will be a meal after the program. Former pastors have been invited to speak. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor: Wesley Jackson.

REVIVAL

- Bethsadia Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, June 6-8, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: **James "Buddy" Greer of Paris, Texas**. Pastor: Jay Begbie.
- First Baptist Church, Winnfield: **Harvest Sunday**, June 9, 11 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Stephen Smithson.
- Aimoch Baptist Church, Olla: **Revival**, June 9-12, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor: Bobby McGuire.
- Trinity Baptist Church, Oakdale: **Re-**

vival, June 9-12, Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelists: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Dennis Lafleur.

- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: **Harvest Sunday**, June 16, 10 a.m. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Pastor: Sonny Simpson.
- The Way Church, Denham Springs: **Family Crusade**, June 16-19. Evangelist: 2TALK42 Ministries. Pastor: Joshua Spinks.
- Alford Heights Baptist Church, Many: **Revival**, June 18-23, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Lon De Almedia.

LAGNIAPPE

- Gray Baptist Church, Jefferson, Texas: **Simple Faith in concert**, June 7, 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 150 FM 727, Jefferson, TX 75657. Pastor: Roy W. Davis.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: **Experience Mega Force and their amazing feats of strength**, June 9, 6 p.m. Admission: Free. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Fair Park Baptist Church, West Monroe: **VBS - In the Wild**, June 10-14, Pastor: Waymond Warren.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Merryville: **VBS - Giddyup Junction**, June 10-14, 5:30-8:45 p.m. There will be pizza, cotton candy, popcorn, water slides, air jumpers, arts & crafts and games. Pastor: Jim Miers.
- Fish Bayou Baptist Church, Winnsboro: **Ben Waites in concert**, June 16, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Jim Goodman.
- Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: **Trevor Thomas in Concert**, June 19; family supper 5:15 p.m.; concert 6:15 p.m. Cost: free admission but a love offering will be taken. Coteau Baptist Church is located at 2066 Coteau Road, Houma. For more information, contact John Williams 985.226.7119. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.

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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.

zh vevib nzm szgs ivxvrevw gsv trug, vevm hl

nrmrhgvi gsv hznv lmv gl zmlgsvi, zh tllw hgvdziwh lu

gsv nzmrulow tizxv lu tlw.

urihg kvgvi ulfi:gvm.

Clues:
T = G; L = O

Answer to May 23 Scripture Crypto:
John thirteen:one

NOBTS from page one

heart of God and the man that God has chosen for this role," said Frank Cox, chairman of the NOBTS presidential search committee. "After much prayer and research, we have been led to unanimously nominate Dr. Jamie Dew.

"It is our firm conviction that Dr. Dew embodies the DNA of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary," Cox said. "We believe he will make a great president and will bring out the best in the next generation of Southern Baptists."

Cox cited Dew's academic preparation and experience, his ministry background and his engaging personality among the top reasons the committee is recommending the 42-year-old North Carolina native for the role.

An extensive presidential search process was initiated after Chuck Kelley's October 2018 announcement that he planned to retire on July 31, 2019. Cox, chairman of the NOBTS trustee board at the time, selected a diverse com-

mittee to conduct the presidential search. The 11-member committee, NOBTS noted, included male, female, Asian, African American and Caucasian and represented a wide range of backgrounds including educators, administrators, pastors, students and business leaders.

The committee launched its efforts with a time of focused prayer in November 2018. Later, they called on Southern Baptists to nominate qualified individuals.

Cox said the committee received many nominations from Southern Baptists including three African American nominees and one Hispanic nominee. In total, he noted, the committee carefully reviewed 20 candidates.

The committee considered all the candidates equally, regardless of age or ethnicity. One of the four finalists for the nomination, Cox said, was African American and was interviewed extensively by the committee. The top candidates ranged in

age from 42 to 63.

"We were impressed by all four of these candidates -- they are all great men," Cox said.

The committee indicated it felt an immediate connection with Dew during their first interview with him.

"When we sat down with him the first time, we had a God moment as a committee," Cox said. "We realized that God had His hand on Dr. Dew. Every time we met with him, we became more convinced that he was God's man for NOBTS."

Dew was elected to serve on the SEBTS faculty in 2011. Since 2013 he has directed the work of the College at Southeastern and served as a member of the SEBTS president's cabinet. From 2013 until 2014, Dew served as dean of the College at Southeastern. In 2014, Dew's role expanded when he was named vice president for undergraduate studies and distance learning. As vice president, Dew supervises the college, all aspects of distance learning, the prison programs, and the writing center.



Submitted photo

James K. "Jamie" Dew Jr., and his wife, Tara. Dew has been nominated as the next president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dew also teaches and mentors undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students in his role as associate professor of philosophy and the history of ideas at SEBTS.

Cox fully expects Dew to continue mentoring and engaging students even as NOBTS president. Dew will be the type of president who knows students and is accessible to them, Cox said.

The committee was impressed with the leadership Dew has exhibited during his time at Southeastern Seminary. In addition, Cox noted that Dew's Southern Baptist roots, his commitment to his family, his academic preparation and acumen, and his ministry experience were key factors in the decision to nominate him for the NOBTS presidency.

"He has an engaging testimony of God's wonderful grace and work in his life," Cox said. "As Southern Baptists get to know him, they are going to be drawn to his life story."

Dew is a "strong family man," Cox said. Married for 18 years, Dew and his wife Tara are the parents of two sets of twins -- Natalie and Nathan (11), and Samantha and Samuel (8). Cox commended the Dews on the way they communicate with each other and complement each other in ministry.

Dew's academic preparation and credentials impressed the committee. After earning undergraduate degrees from Louisburg College in Louisburg, N.C., and Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, Ga., Dew earned a master of divinity degree in pastoral ministry and a doctor of philosophy degree in theological studies from SEBTS. In July, Dew will graduate with a second doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Birmingham in Birmingham,

ham, UK. His second Ph.D. focuses on the philosophy of the mind and philosophy of religion.

Dew is also an accomplished author, editor and researcher. His books include "How Do We Know? An Introduction to Epistemology," "God and Evil," "God and the Problem of Evil: Five Views," and "Philosophy: A Christian Introduction."

Tara Dew has strong academic credentials of her own. She earned a doctor of education degree from SEBTS, writing her dissertation on the preparedness of Southern Baptist pastors' wives for ministry. Cox noted that Tara Dew remains engaged in the training and equipping of ministers' wives.

The committee placed a high priority on church ministry experience from the beginning of the presidential search process. Since 1996, Jamie Dew has engaged in a wide range of church ministries including stints as youth minister, minister to adults, interim pastor and senior pastor. Dew served eight years as the senior pastor of Stony Hill Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C., and currently serves as a care group leader, discipleship leader, and AWANA leader at Open Door Church in Wake Forest.

In addition to the long list of qualifications, Cox said that Dew and his family already have developed a love for the city of New Orleans. During the Dew family's last visit to the city, Cox said they expressed sadness about leaving and mentioned their eagerness to get involved in ministry in New Orleans.

If elected during the special-called trustee meeting on the NOBTS campus, Dew will become the school's ninth president.

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