



VOTE

November 5, 2024

**PRESIDENTIAL
2024
ELECTION**



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

John 3:16

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October 31, 2024
Volume 139 • Issue No. 12

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Brian Blackwell photo

Messengers to the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting plan to vote on important business matters and celebrate their commitment to the Great Commission.

2024 LBC: Messengers will be urged to 'Connect'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Messengers will be challenged with a theme of “Connect” during the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, to be hosted Nov 12 by

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport.

“This year we’ve adopted what will hopefully be an ongoing theme for us – ‘Connect,’” said Steve Horn, executive director for Louisiana Baptists. “During our time together, our

See ‘CONNECT’, page 4

YEC scheduled for Nov. 24-25

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist youth and adult leaders are gearing up for the 37th annual Youth Evangelism Celebration, a statewide assembly focused on preparing the next generation to share Christ with the world.

Scheduled Nov. 24-25 in the Rapides Parish Coliseum, Alexandria, the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists will feature messages by Zane Black, evangelist and tour pastor for Winter Jam 2024; in-depth discussions led by Clint Davis, a counselor from Shreveport; high-energy music by Crescent City Worship, a worship band with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; entertainment by Jaron Myers, a comedian and podcaster; times of fellowship; and a concert by Rend Collective to close out YEC on Monday evening. Brandon Allen, student pastor with Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi, and student ministry podcast producer, will serve as the host/emcee.

Additionally, the Louisiana Baptist Collegiate Ministry will offer a lounge for youth

See YEC, page 2

Shiloh Baptist raising funds to repair historic fence

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

BERNICE, La. (LBM) – Shiloh Baptist Church has begun efforts to raise funds for a new fence around a cemetery that predates the Civil War.

The fence that surrounds the cemetery, which received its first buried person in 1852, has suffered so much wear and damage that it needs to be replaced.

So far, Shiloh Baptist has received \$6,000, leaving a balance of \$10,000 needed to com-

See SHILOH, page 2

INSURANCE FOR CHURCHES
Since 1916

Shiloh from page one

plete the project, according to church historian and cemetery committee member Cathryn Buckley.

“I have at least 10 family members buried here myself, and many more of our members and those who have connections to the church also are buried in the cemetery,” Buckley told the *Baptist Message*. “It’s an extra special project that means so much to so many people.”

Though the cemetery is

not listed on the National Historic Registry, a historical marker is located nearby.

Among those buried are the settlers of the town of Bernice (who also helped found the church in 1849); veterans of the Civil War; descendants of Louisiana Governors William Heard and Ruffin Pleasant; J.P. Everett, pastor at Shiloh from 1876-1891, who also was a veteran of the Mexican-American War, founder of the Concord Institute (a co-educational college located in Shiloh from 1877-1884) and co-editor of the *Baptist Chronicle*, which later became the *Baptist Message*; and family members of the George

W. Bolton family, whose name adorns Bolton High School, Alexandria.

Donations to the cemetery fencing project may be sent to Shiloh Baptist Church, 12841 LA-2, Bernice, LA 71222.

YEC

_____ from page one

ministers attending YEC.

Last year’s event drew more than 5,100 youth and resulted in 157 students stepping forward during the opening session to accept Christ, grow deeper in

See YEC, page 7



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Number 12

*Between the Great Commission
and the Great Multitude,
God invites us to join Him in*

THE GREAT PURSUIT

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AND LEARN MORE



INTERNATIONAL
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Connect from page one

prayer is we will connect with God, with one another, and with support for our cooperation missions and ministries.”

62.87 percent to support ministries in the state and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

CONNECT
24
The Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention

November 12, 2024
Broadmoor Baptist, Shreveport
LouisianaBaptists.org/AnnualMeeting

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

LBC President David Goza echoed the thought, urging Louisiana Baptists to attend.

“We are looking forward to our annual convention and renewing our commitment to win our state to Christ through our cooperative ministries,” he said. “When Louisiana Baptists stand together, we glorify the name of our Lord. I pray that God will bless our time together in Shreveport and that the Lord will unite us like never before.”

BUDGET PROPOSAL

As part of the business of the annual meeting, the Cooperative Program budget will be presented to messengers to consider for adoption.

The 2025 financial plan is based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$17,380,808, a decrease of \$699,761, or 3.87 percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2023 through July 2024. The allocation formula for distributing CP gifts between the Southern Baptist Convention and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged,

OTHER BUSINESS

Other highlights of the meeting will include messages by Horn, Goza, and Matthew James, vice president of enrollment, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Additional items on the agenda include a Bible study led by Hance Dilbeck, president and Chief Executive Officer with GuideStone Financial Resources; reports by the Convention’s entities; other updates on state missions; consideration of motions and resolutions; and election of officers.

At press time, candidates whose names have been placed in nomination for offices of the LBC are David Goza, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, president; and Craig James, associational missions strategist with North Central Baptist Association, second vice president.

NOTABLES

Gatherings for Nov. 11 include:

See CONNECT, page 7

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Send Network Louisiana celebrates new plants, baptisms in 2024

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – A year after the launch of Send Network Louisiana, the evangelistic growth initiative has produced 17 new church plants and 300 baptisms.

The partnership with the North American Mission Board, which went into effect Aug. 1, 2023, has helped the state further its God-sized vision to see His Kingdom expanded in Louisiana by one percent (about 28,000 new believers) over the next decade.

“It’s exciting to see churches answering the call to send people and support new churches that will reach new people for Christ for generations to come,” Send Network Louisiana Director Lane Corley told the Baptist Message.

BACKGROUND

Researchers estimate that 60 percent of 4,648,794 Louisianans are lost (about 2,789,276). If successful, 28,875 Louisianans will be added to the Kingdom through 231 new churches planted in the state by 2033 (based on each reach-

ing 125 people with the Gospel). These salvations will be in addition to those recorded by already established Louisiana Baptist congregations.

HARVEST BEGUN

Since the partnership began, the 17 new church plants, and another 28 planted since 2020 that currently receive Cooperative Program funding through the North American Mission Board and Louisiana Baptist Missions and Ministries Team, have reported, collectively: 683 salvation decisions, 300 baptisms and more than 13,000 Gospel conversations.

Of the 45 churches that receive the funding in Louisiana, 31 are in southeast Louisiana, nine are in north Louisiana, and five are in southwest Louisiana. Corley noted that 50 percent of Louisiana’s population is in southeast Louisiana, along with the two largest and most diverse metropolitan areas (New Orleans and Baton Rouge).

“So, we’ll continue to see more churches planted in these areas annually,” Corley said. “However, we are working on



Since Send Network Louisiana launched in August 2023, the 17 new church plants and another 28 planted since 2020 that currently receive Cooperative Program funding through the North American Mission Board and Louisiana Baptists Missions and Ministries Team have reported, collectively: 683 salvation decisions, 300 baptisms and more than 13,000 Gospel conversations.

a greater emphasis in southwest Louisiana, with several growing communities around Lafayette without a Southern Baptist church — including Maurice, Cecilia, Duson and Sunset.”

Moreover, Corley said that replanting churches is still a significant need across Louisiana, as 25 churches close their doors for good every year. Currently, 14 replants are receiving funding and care through Send Network Louisiana. Troy Gause, a Send Network Louisiana replanter

who has replanted Ames Boulevard Baptist Church in New Orleans, was recognized in August by NAMB’s Replant Team as the Replanter of the Year. And Rescue Community Church, pastored by replanter Russell Caldwell, has baptized more than 50 new believers this year alone, as they utilize the former Peniel Baptist Church building in West Monroe for various recovery-related ministries.

Additionally, church planting continues to help Louisiana Baptists grow in diversity.

Sixty-four percent of current church plants are non-Anglo (12 Hispanic, eight multi-ethnic, seven African-American, one Asian, and one Arabic).

BRIGHT FUTURE

Corley said 2025 already is looking bright, noting that 24 church planting candidates already are in the pipeline to be assessed.

The goal of planting 25 new churches next year can be reached, Corley said, by Louisiana Baptists helping in several ways:

-- continue to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention through missions giving;

-- become a supporting church and adopt a church plant for strategic prayer, a mission trip, support for the planting couple or financial support; and

-- become a sending church (take responsibility for a new church or replant).

For more information about how to become a church planter or a sending church, visit SendNetwork.com.

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CENLA Pregnancy Center names ‘Volunteer of the Year’

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Dianne Massey once supported the pro-abortion movement; however, an encounter with Christ 44 years ago changed her mindset, and now she fights for pro-life causes.

Massey said holding her own newborn son brought to reality the value of life and how God cherishes the unborn. For the next 44 years, Massey went on a journey that included involvement with women’s Bible studies and prayer groups at her church, volunteering with pro-life centers and most recently witnessing to clients of CENLA Pregnancy Center about her own personal journey.

The CPC honored

Massey, Sept. 17, by naming her “CENLA Pregnancy Center Volunteer of the Year” for 2023.

“Even though I had been a Christian, I was in an atmosphere of humanism in my early adult years,” Massey told the *Baptist Message*. “And I didn’t realize how much I was being affected by all of that as a social work major taught by all non-Christian professors and being in the middle of the feminism movement. But God used the holding of my new baby in my arms 44 years ago to help guide me to the path to being pro-life. And ever since then I have been committed to that.”

Massey, who began volunteering at the pregnancy center four years ago, serves as the front desk receptionist on Monday mornings, one of

the busiest times of the week to field calls. She also places stamps on envelopes and counts money in baby bottles that individuals, churches and businesses use to collect spare change that is donated to the center. Massey also visits young mothers to help comfort them on their journeys.

She said it has been a blessing to see, first-hand, God at work in the lives of so many women.

“This place is so special,” Massey said. “You can just feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when you come in here. I can leave behind anything in my life and I can just focus on what is happening here. I feel like it is such a blessing just to be a part of this ministry. It just has God’s hand all over it.

“I see these young

women come in, sometimes teens with their moms, and they are so worried and scared and anxious as they sit there in a waiting room waiting to see one of our counselors or the nurse,” she continued. “They’re given a pregnancy test and ultrasound by the nurse. Then we continue to minister to them, and they begin to see there is hope for them -- that they are truly not alone. By the time they leave, they’re smiling and laughing. That never gets old, and I see it over and over again.”

Massey noted that prayer has been a driving force behind the pregnancy center.

“During our shifts, when we get abortion-minded calls, we transfer them to a one of our staff members. As soon as we

hang up, we immediately pray that this precious woman will choose life for her baby,” she said. “We pray over our list of women coming in for appointments that day. We pray with staff members for other needs they may mention. And we answer heroic media calls (abortion-minded callers who have responded to a website are transferred to the closest pregnancy center). After we alert the staff member, we transfer the call, and immediately pray.

“When we are not on our shift, we get prayer alerts on our phones when a staff member is counseling an abortion-minded client,” she continued. “We also receive alerts to rejoice and thank the Lord when a mother chooses

See VOLUNTEER, page 7

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In rural areas of SE Asia, missionaries address physical needs by drilling water wells, providing filtration systems and building sanitary toilets. These projects open doors for Gospel conversations.



LouisianaBaptists.org/CP

Volunteer from page 4

life for her baby. So, you see, everything done at the CPC is bathed in prayer.”

Kim Lyons, director of the CENLA Pregnancy Center, said Massey is among more than 20 volunteers who regularly help at the center. Weekly volunteers such as Massey agree to three-hour shifts during clinic hours to assist staff and clients.

“Additionally, we are so blessed to offer a variety of other volunteer opportunities,” Lyons said. “For example, one can sign up to be a regular prayer warrior, where you will receive a prayer request via text when

we are meeting with our most vulnerable clients. We also have our social media ambassador team and our marketing distribution team, and in September we have our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Gift of Life Banquet held at the Riverfront Center, where more than 100 volunteers assist us with this phenomenal evening.”

Massey said anyone who wishes to volunteer should consider it.

“Just come and you’ll get put to work,” she said.

Connect with the CENLA Pregnancy Center



Dianne Massey was named the 2023 CENLA Pregnancy Center Volunteer of the Year during the center’s 2024 fundraising gala, Sept. 17. Massey began volunteering at the pregnancy center four years ago.

by phone, 318.314.3061 or scan the embedded QR code to fill out an interest

form. Visit the Alexandria facility at 1254 MacArthur Drive to get plugged in.

Connect

from page one

- discipleship collaborative, 12 p.m., middle school space
- ladies fellowship luncheon, 12 p.m., high school space
- African-American fellowship, 4 p.m., high school space
- young pastors network dinner, 4:30 p.m., middle school space
- NOBTS alumni dinner, 5 p.m., dining room

Gatherings for Nov. 12 include:

- Next Generation Roundtable/Youth and Children’s Ministers lunch, 12:15 p.m., middle school space
- retiree/bi-vocational luncheon, 12:15 p.m., high school space
- Send Network Louisiana lunch, 12:15 p.m., dining room

YEC from page one

their faith or pursue a call to ministry. The threat of severe weather impacted the remaining times of decision. Instead of approaching the stage during an altar call and going to a tent outside to talk further with counselors, students told their adult

leaders, who will follow up with them on an individual basis.

“YEC is an opportunity for students to come and celebrate, learn and grow in their faith,” Louisiana Baptist Youth Strategist Lee Myers told the *Baptist Message*. “I’ve always told

people that the evangelism celebration honors what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do in our lives.

“I want as many churches as possible to come and be involved,” he continued. “It’s an annual event that helps define

who we are, especially as Louisiana Baptists and in the area of student ministry.”

The event kicks off at 7 p.m., Sunday and is scheduled to end by 10 p.m., Monday. For more information, visit ye-clouisiana.org

GBO

GEORGIA BARNETTE

MARK 1:38

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STATE GOAL: \$1,750,000

GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

Pastors Conference to emphasize 'faithfulness'

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Organizers of this year's Louisiana Baptist Pastors Conference, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, hope to remind participants, Nov. 11, to remain faithful in their ministry, marriage, and family lives.

"God kind of laid this theme on my heart during

last year's Pastors Conference that we need a time to encourage those who are hurting, maybe their ministry is hard, or maybe they have a death in the family," said Pastors Conference President Heath Peloquin, pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport. "We need this day now more than ever.

"Christianity is under attack and our country is divided," he continued.

"We will come together be encouraged to be faithful to take the Gospel to our cities and communities. These men that are coming are humble and they're praying for the Pastors Conference and preparing to come to bring a Word from God."

The program will begin at 9 a.m. with music led by the Summer Grove Baptist praise and worship team and messages by Gevan Spinney, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Houghton, and Richard Taylor, director, Corpus Christi Baptist Association. Pastors Conference Vice President Tommy Kiker, pastor, East Leesville Baptist Church, will close the morning session with prayer.

After lunch, the conference will reconvene at 1:45 p.m. with an afternoon session featuring a message by Waylon Bailey, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington, and a time of prayer for pastors

and their families.

"We're just going to stop and spend some time praying for the power of the Holy Spirit to come into their lives," Peloquin said. "We won't be calling anyone on stage. But because we know so many are discouraged and some even want to quit, we just want to surround them in a powerful time of prayer."

David Allen, professor with Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Cordova, Tennessee, and Hance Dilbeck, president

and CEO, GuideStone Financial Resources, will close out the conference with a message during the 6:30 p.m. session.

"This is something pastors need and if you can't make it to all the sessions, please come when they can," Peloquin said. "We understand the life of a pastor and how unexpected things can come up. We know you're doing your best to be faithful to your church and family. This will be a time of refreshment and encouragement."



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Operation Christmas Child blesses children with Gospel

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists will have the opportunity to join thousands across the world to share the ultimate gift to children in other countries through Operation Christmas Child.

Formed in 1993 by Samaritan's Purse, OCC allows churches and individuals to bring gift-filled shoeboxes to relay stations across the country that are then processed and shipped to local partners around the world with a

means of reaching out to children in their communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

National Collection Week is Nov. 18-25.

Louisiana Christian University, in its fourth year of participating in OCC, is collecting shoeboxes inside Martin Performing Arts Center through Nov. 15.

"As a member of the Operation Christmas Child Student Ministry team for this region, I am the Project Leader for Operation

See OCC, page 16

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lbch.org

Geaux 24: Louisiana collegians equipped to share the Gospel

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board National Collegiate Director Paul Worcester told students attending the first Geaux 24, a Louisiana Baptist Convention student missions conference, hosted by Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, Oct. 4-5, that they must put their "yes" on the table for Christ and be open to His call.

Citing Matthew 9:36, Worcester told the students they all have a role to play in furthering the Great Commission.

"The harvest is plentiful," Worcester said. "There are people on your campus right now that if we loved them, prayed for them and shared the Gospel with them, they would come to Christ. There are millions of people in unreachable groups around the

world that if one of us flew across the world, learned their language, befriended them, prayed for them and shared the Gospel with them in a contextualized way, they would come to Christ.

"I promise you that if you become a laborer, God will connect you with the harvest," he said. "You are backed by the presence, the power and the authority of Jesus Christ. We should be the most bold people on the planet because we have a commission from the King."

HEAR GOD

Worcester's message was part of the two-day program that included student testimonies, worship by the band WeRCalled, booths that introduced students to mission opportunities around the state and world and tailgate-style games and food. Geaux 24 drew 362 participants from 21 BCMs and numbers of church collegiate ministries in the

state.

Students also attended breakout sessions that encouraged them to share the Gospel and learned about mission opportunities from representatives of Send Louisiana Network (a church planting and soul winning partnership between the LBC and the SBC NAMB), SBC International Mission Board, SBC NAMB and the state's Baptist camps.

"Geaux 24 was an amazing weekend leading students to answer the call of Christ to serve by living missionally and seeking unique opportunities of vocational service," Louisiana Baptist BCM State Director Mark Robinson told the *Baptist Message*. "Collegiates and high school juniors and seniors heard the challenge to 'Geaux for Jesus.' I have heard reports from students and leaders alike that God moved powerfully in their lives and others from their campuses. We definitely will do this every year as we seek to 'call out the called.'"

SARAH FARLEY-BEALLE

International Mission Board Student Mobilizer Sarah Farley-Bealle encouraged the students to go on mission for Jesus, no matter the cost.

"The IMB needs young people," said Farley, Bealle, a former LSU BCM associate director. "Students reach students. You were each created on purpose and for purpose. He created you with gifts and passions. He wants you to use what He gave you for His Kingdom."

After the conference, she told the *Baptist Message* that Geaux 24 was an incredible opportunity for students to leverage their lives for the Kingdom.

"I'm so thankful for Louisiana Baptists and BCMs," she said. "Their desire to give students the opportunity to learn and grown in their callings is impacting the world. The IMB is grateful to be part of this investment in the younger generations."

JOE WOOD

University of Louisiana-Lafayette BCM Director Joe Wood closed the conference by challenging the students to look at their campus, job and family as mission fields.

Basing his message on Acts 1:10-11, Wood encouraged them to join a club on campus and share the Gospel there and find like-minded believers at their school who will strengthen their walks with Christ and support their calls to share the Gospel.

"Make a daily commitment to the Good News," he told the students. "Purpose in your heart daily to take the Gospel with you. That daily commitment will become part of your DNA."

Wood told the *Baptist Message* that the conference painted a picture of how students can become more involved in missions on their campus, state and world.

See GEAUX 24, page 10

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: BROADMOOR BAPTIST, HIGH SCHOOL SPACE

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WOMEN'S MISSIONS & MINISTRY

Credentials Committee: Messengers must register for annual meeting

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) — In order for a church to be represented during the business portions of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, which will be hosted, Nov. 12, by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, the congregation will need to elect messenger(s), who then must register and be certified by the Committee on Credentials.

LBC Credentials Committee Chairman Dale Sauls, minister to senior adults with First Baptist Church,

Blanchard, noted to the Baptist Message that there are five ways for messengers to register and be approved:

— The first and simplest way is for messengers to pre-register using www.LaOne.org and print out the registration card to bring to the annual meeting. This way allows messengers to be certified within a matter of minutes, Sauls said.

— Second, a messenger may bring a note on official letterhead signed by the pastor or church clerk, stating that the individual was elected by the congregation.

— Third, a church officer can phone in the names of

elected messengers.

— Fourth, a person can be vouchsafed as a duly elected messenger by a fellow registered church member.

— Finally, when there are no other means by which to validate a person, the Committee on Credentials may be called into session to rule on the registration request.

Sauls emphasized that pastors are not automatically registered as messengers, explaining that they must follow the same procedure as other messengers to participate in the business discussions and official votes of

the annual meeting.

Pre-registration letters were mailed or emailed by Sept. 18. Please use the provided login information to pre-register your messengers at www.LaOne.org.

If you have not received your letter, or if you have questions about the process, please contact LBC Information Services by email (Messengers@LouisianaBaptists.org) or phone (318.448.3402, ext. 242).

Registration and credentials representatives will be available on site to assist messengers on

Monday, Nov. 11, 1-7 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Geaux 24

from page nine

“This generation of students doesn’t care as much about logic as other generations,” he said. “They care about people. Some people say that will make them seek. Maybe their tender hearts are exactly what God wants.”

IN THEIR WORDS

Students representing multiple schools shared their thoughts with the *Baptist Message*:

John Austin, a member of the Louisiana Tech BCM, enjoyed meeting other students from throughout the state who were committed to fulfilling the Great Commission.

“The speakers also did a phenomenal job of challenging us to see outside our own lives and give one summer for missions,” he said. “I came home with a challenge to make the Gospel the center of my life and to exude the love of Christ in every area of my life.”

Erin Wright, a member of the Louisiana Tech BCM, said God used the conference to encourage her to stay strong in God’s call on her life to missions. Part of that call is to serve as a summer IMB missionary in 2025.

“I have surrendered my plans and my future to the Lord and will let Him guide my steps,” she said. “It’s His will, not mine.”

“I just want to serve Him,” she continued. “People need Jesus and God deserves glory. I’m willing to sacrifice everything because Jesus sacrificed everything. He doesn’t ask us to do anything He hasn’t, and I just know His plan is much better than mine.”

Takeo Sibblies, a member of the Southern University BCM, said the conference equipped him to be a bold witness for Christ on his campus.

“Getting the chance to have deep and meaningful conversations with my brothers and sisters in Christ really helped my understanding how I can do my part and how to evangelize to all those around me who are lost,” he said.

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RESOLUTION 1: ON CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Baptist Convention was established to “provide the means through which Louisiana Baptist churches and members can cooperate in bringing persons to God” within our state; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Baptist Convention “recognizes the Southern Baptist Convention as the primary instrument used by Baptists to further the cause of Christ on a worldwide basis”; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Baptists have a special historical relationship with the Cooperative Program in that M.E. Dodd was a Louisiana Baptist pastor when he led the 1925 effort to establish the “Co-Operative Program of Southern Baptists,” making it possible for churches to support the missionary, education, and benevolent work within their respective states while cooperating with churches from other states to reach the world; and

WHEREAS, In 2025 our Baptist fellowship of national entities, state conventions and local associations across the United

States will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program for how it has supported our global “partnership in the Gospel” (Philippians 1:5); now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 177th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 12, 2024, express gratitude to God for His providential guidance in the creation of the Cooperative Program and for 100 years of His multiplied blessings through this primary channel of financial support for Baptist cooperative missions and ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we celebrate each Louisiana Baptist congregation who, in addition to their own missions activities, supports the missions and ministries of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention by generous giving through the Cooperative Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the Cooperative Program

“as the most effective [financial] means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach”; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to the celebration and promotion of the Cooperative Program within our churches, associations, and entities during 2025 to honor God’s favor to our cooperative missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program for the past 100 years.

RESOLUTION 2: ON SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Children have been entrusted to parents by the Lord and represent our nation’s future and our spiritual legacy; and

WHEREAS, God has given parents the responsibility for the upbringing and education of our children (Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-7); and

WHEREAS, God has ordained the state to promote

good and restrain evil, thereby cultivating the conditions necessary for the flourishing of children and families which are not defined by arbitrary or subjective moral claims, but by basic moral goods rooted in the character of God (1 Peter 2:14); and

WHEREAS, The state has established a public education system as one means for promoting the general welfare of the people, mandating school attendance, in general, for children between the ages of six and 18 years old; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory attendance establishes schools as mission and ministry fields (Matthew 28:18-20), providing opportunities to support and strengthen fellow followers (1 Thess. 5:11) as well as to allow God to make His appeal through us to the lost (2 Cor. 5:20); and

WHEREAS, Research shows that religious support has a positive effect on students by reducing suicides, alcohol use and drug use, as well as promoting higher self-esteem, academic

See RESOLUTIONS, page 12

“ Can God please save me today?
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RESOLUTIONS from page 15

achievement and educational attainment, while also improving adolescent mental health; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Mark Abraham, a faithful member of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, championed a bill to authorize schools to employ or otherwise accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain who has been vetted through state and federal databases; and

WHEREAS, He testified that 15 states already were engaged in similar initiatives and that two other states had passed similar legislation to begin soon, noting that “In these 30,000 schools, teen pregnancies are drastically down; suicides are zero; and it [chaplain program] has been helping with mental illness – not only for the students, but also for the teachers”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 177th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 12, 2024, commend Sen. Abraham for his wisdom in pushing through the legislation process this authorization to voluntarily make available a crucial spiritual resource in our schools; and be it

further

RESOLVED, That we encourage our LBC Executive Board to include chaplaincy certification in the existing disaster relief chaplains training program to certify Louisiana Baptists to volunteer in this school chaplain program; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge our congregations to support the voluntary chaplain program in their neighborhood schools along with other programs that give them access to share the love of Christ in these vital mission fields.

RESOLUTION 3: ON AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, The Bible describes each individual as being created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and affirms the sanctity and dignity of all human life (Psalm 8:4-5); and

WHEREAS, God calls upon believers to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture condemns slave traders as ungodly and sinful (1 Timothy 1:8-10); and

WHEREAS, Despite having some of the strictest laws against forced labor and sexual exploitation in the nation, human trafficking in Louisiana has surged from “206 confirmed and prospective victims” in 2015 to “1,615 confirmed and suspected victims” in 2023, with a 57 percent increase in just the last year; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-six percent of the 2023 human trafficking victims were sex trafficked and 83 percent were juveniles; and

WHEREAS, The National Football League’s Super Bowl LIX has been scheduled to be held February 9, 2025, in the Caesars Superdome of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, There is evidence such sports championships attract human traffickers seeking to profit from sexual exploitation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 177th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 12, 2024, restate our condemnation of human trafficking; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage our Louisiana Baptist congregations, especially those located along the I-10 and I-20 corridors and in metropolitan areas, to educate their congregants about

the signs to recognize victims of sex slavery and forced labor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we challenge Louisiana Baptists to make February 9, 2025, a day of special prayer emphasis for the protection, rescue and restoration of victims of human trafficking; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge our state cooperative ministries to coordinate with national cooperative ministries as well as with state and federal law enforcement agencies to help rescue victims from human trafficking situations related to Super Bowl LIX such that these women and children see the love of Christ in action, hear the Gospel of salvation and seek hope in Him.

RESOLUTION 4: ON EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have had a part in planning, preparing and conducting the 177th annual meeting of our Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, The messengers of this Convention desire to warmly recognize and express

See RESOLUTIONS, page x

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Résumés may be submitted to Pastor Stewart Holloway at sholloway@fbcpineville.net or 901 Main Street, Pineville, LA 71360. We prefer that résumés include a cover letter from a reference and that further references are provided. www.fbcpineville.net.

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DR intern recaps busy summer of storm responses

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Lillian Peterson recently got an inside look at Louisiana Baptist Disas-

ter Relief field operations as an intern who responded to multiple hurricanes. Through a partnership between churches and LBDR, Peterson was

able to get a taste of relief activities while participating in responses to Hurricanes Beryl, Francine and Helene.

“I’ve taken the FEMA courses which have helped me a lot in learning about disaster responses, but this gave me the chance to see up close how a disaster relief organization works,” Peterson told the Baptist Message. “Also, I saw how communities come together in a disaster, and I was able to be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving them, which is what I’ve always said I wanted to do.”

Peterson, who is a member with Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, and a Louisiana State University



Lillian Peterson, a member with Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, and a Louisiana State University of Alexandria general studies major with a concentration in disaster science and emergency management, worked with the incident command center and assisted deployed feeding units at multiple sites.

of Alexandria general studies major with a concentration in disaster science and emergency management, worked with the incident command center and assisted deployed feed-

ing units at multiple sites. She enjoyed learning how LBDR conducts day-to-day operations and experienced how those who experience a disaster enjoy

See INTERN, page 15

SEEKING A KIDS PASTOR

Peavine Baptist Church, a highly evangelistic and fast-growing multisite church with a weekly attendance of 2,300 in North Georgia, just outside of Chattanooga, TN, is excited to announce an opening for the position of Kids Pastor. This full-time pastoral role is crucial for building, growing, and leading our children's ministries across all campuses, providing spiritual guidance and care to the next generation. At Peavine, we value our team members and offer a comprehensive benefits package, which includes:

- Full health insurance coverage for the Kids Pastor and their family
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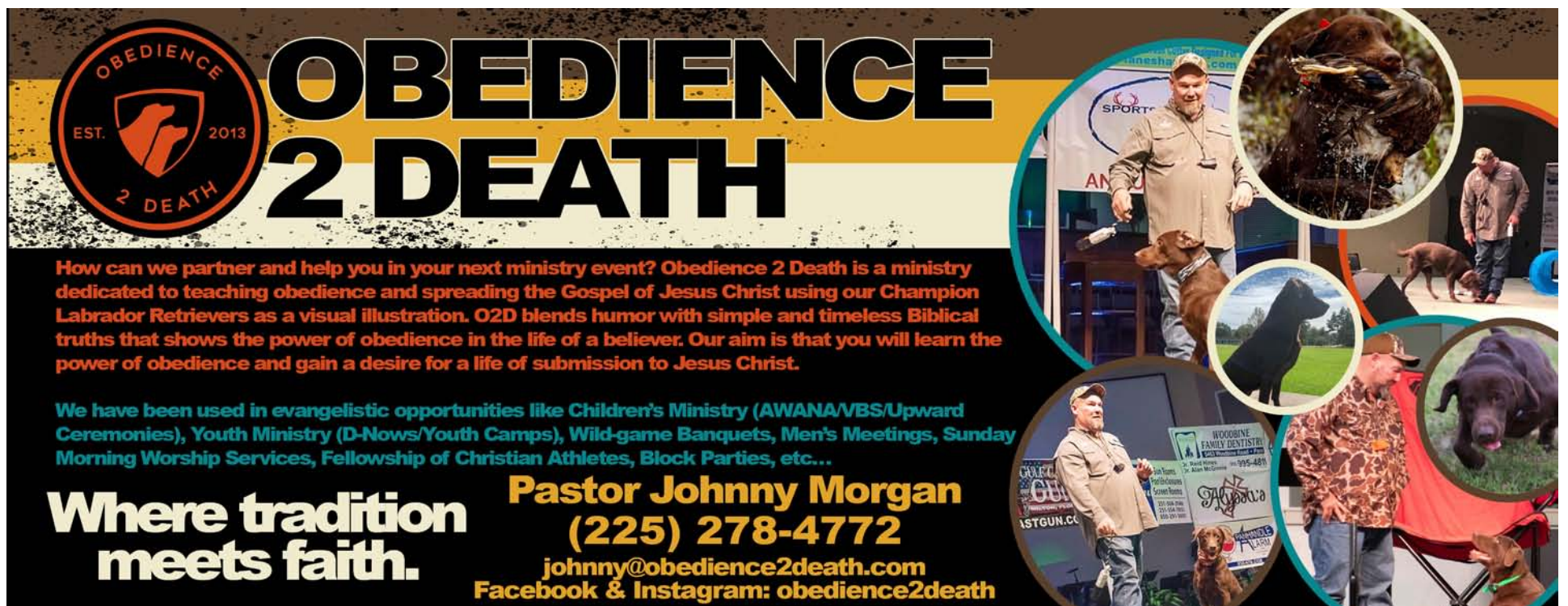
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Resolutions from page 12

appreciation to the following:

Dr. Chuck Pourciau, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, as well as the staff and the congregation, for their assistance with details and for providing the use of their facilities for this annual meeting; and

Dr. David Goza, Convention president, and pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for his warm, gracious spirit in leading, speaking and listening to Louisiana Baptists this year, and his gentle firmness in moderating this annual meeting; and

Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for their commitment to sharing the Gospel in our state by graciously supporting Dr. Goza's leadership of all the churches of the Louisiana Baptist Convention this past year; and

Tyler Hennessee,

music director for this annual meeting, who is a member with Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, for planning and coordinating the music, and the musicians and singers for their contribution of instrumental and vocal talents; and

Ronnie McLellan, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Marrero, and the members of the Committee on Order of Business for planning this informative and inspirational annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 177th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 12, 2024, express to each of the above, and to all who contributed our deepest heartfelt gratitude.

Intern from page 14

having someone to listen to their stories.

"Everyone who experiences a disaster wants a listening ear when talking about their struggles," she said. "So just having someone with an outlet to talk about their problems really helps them cope with the situation."

LBDR Strategist Stan Statham said he is proud of Peterson's passion for helping to serve others in their times of need.

"It is great to see such a committed Louisiana Baptist college student pursuing a degree in the area of disaster relief," Statham said. "Lillian has had the opportunity to learn about disaster relief through hands on experience, and she has been a blessing to the teams she served with as well as the storm survivors she ministered to. I

believe the Lord will use her in great ways for His glory."

Peterson encouraged others who have not served to consider being a part of a DR team.

"This has been one of the best experiences I've ever had in my entire life," Peterson said. "This is my calling, and I was so excited to serve the Lord in this way."

Matthew 6:19-21

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OCC from page 8

Christmas Child Ministry on our campus,” said Tabitha Huffman, LCU professor of theatre. “Last year our campus packed and sent out 178 shoeboxes...which was over double the year before! This means 178 needy children overseas received our gifts that include a message about Jesus through ‘The Greatest

Journey’ discipleship program that is delivered wherever the boxes land.”

Introduced in 2009, this 12-lesson program has taught 40.5 million children about God’s amazing love and what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Of those who have participated, 20.2 million indicated they had surren-

dered their lives to Christ.

According to OCC’s website, shoeboxes have reached 220 million children in more than 170 different countries and territories. The nationwide goal this year is to reach 12 million children.

Vital items like a toothbrush (no toothpaste), a bar of soap and washcloth, coloring book, crayons, and other school supplies, as well as combs, brushes, and hair accessories should be included. A stuffed animal and small toys may be added to each gender-specific box.

For those who are unable to shop for items to fill a box, the Samaritan’s Purse website



A trio of girls in Mongolia rejoiced over the shoebox gifts provided to them from Operation Christmas Child.

offers a “Build a Box” option where participants can submit a \$25 donation, and the organization will build one for

you.

Enter your zip-code to find a drop-off location, see the “Build a Box” option, and discover many other helpful resources at www.samaritans-purse.org.

“These gifts open the door for us to share God’s love and the eternal hope of the Gospel with children and their families who are living in desperation and fear,” Samaritan’s Purse President and CEO Franklin Graham said in a statement. “The world is changing, but the message of the cross doesn’t change—bringing the hope of the Gospel to millions, especially the living hope of Jesus. Our mission never changes.”

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Guidelines: Making motions at '24 LBC Annual Meeting

By Staff

Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – It is important to remember that motions may only deal with one topic at a time. When making a motion, you should be as brief as possible and always begin with the phrase “I move that...”

If you are making a subsidiary motion (one that deals with a motion already on the floor), it must be relevant to the motion currently under consideration and not be a motion that is the same or substantially like one already dealt with by this Convention.

If your motion is a privileged motion, it must not be dilatory (unnecessary or made only to delay the conduct of business). If your motion seeks to amend the Louisiana Baptist Convention Articles of Incorporation or its Bylaws, prior to offering your motion, please review these documents in advance to review the rules for how to amend each. A copy of the LBC Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws are found in your Book of Reports.

Important steps in wording your motion:

-- A motion should direct the Convention to take some sort of action or to refrain from taking some action. Include only the action you want to see taken in your motion.

-- Do not include supporting reasons for adopting your motion in the motion itself. This is done during debate; and as the maker of the motion, you will have first opportunity to speak to your motion.

-- Do not make a motion that instructs the Convention to not adopt some other main motion. Also, do not attempt to amend a main motion in such a way that it becomes the opposite of its original intent. If you are against a certain motion, simply vote “no.”

-- If you wish to amend a motion, you may move to strike out words from that motion and replace them with other words or you may move to simply add or take away words from the motion. It is not proper to make a “substitute motion” which seeks to completely change the words of a motion so that it is no longer what was originally offered.

-- If you offer a motion during the report of a convention entity or the Executive Board, do not address the person making the report; only address the chair and state your motion directly to him.

The following may be used when making motions on the floor during the annual meeting. Please provide a copy to the president or secretary of the LBC before making your motion.

PROPOSED MOTION TO THE LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Name of Messenger: _____

Name of Church: _____

The wording of any motion should easily fit on the lines below. When making your motion, please state your name and the church from which you are a messenger. Then address the chair as follows:

Mr. President,

I move that: _____

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SEEKING A PASTOR
Merryville First Baptist Church in Merryville, Louisiana is searching for a full time pastor. Please contact or send résumé to Greg Marchie at 337.401.0715 or g_marchie@hotmail.com



SEEKING A LEAD PASTOR
Crossgate Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, is actively searching for a Lead Pastor to guide our congregation of 600 in making more and better disciples for Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are an elder-led, SBC-affiliated church, dedicated to making an impact locally and globally, while investing in the next generation. Our beautiful facility supports a variety of dynamic ministries. We desire a leader with 10 years of ministry experience, including 5 as a teaching pastor. This Spirit-led man should focus on foundational Bible teaching, discipleship, prayer, spiritual growth, and authentic leadership. Apply: www.crossgatechurch.info.

SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER
Lee's Creek Baptist Church, Bogalusa La., is currently seeking a full-time or part-time minister of music. Please send your resumes to 1803 Lees Creek, Church Road Bogalusa, LA 70427 or e-mail Lcbbcpastor1@gmail.com.

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Part-time Association Mission Strategist LaSalle Baptist Association. For job description call 318.992.8864 between 8 a.m. - noon, Monday thru Thursday. Contact person Robert Melvin. Send résumé to LaSalle Baptist Association P.o. Box 2948, Jena, Louisiana 71342.



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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Baptist Message provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in Louisiana Notables. To place your event in the paper, send your information (who, what, where, when, time) to philip@baptistmessage.com or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the Message.

ON THE MOVE

- Eric Halphen is the new music minister at Providence Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.
- Madison, husband Ken, is the new children's minister at Live Oak Baptist Church. Nov. 3 will be the first Sunday with the church.
- Jordy, wife Jessika, McKaskle is the new executive pastor at North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe.
- Jami Ashley is the new (interim) Student Minister at Sterlington Baptist Church, Sterlington.

HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSIES

- Greenacres Baptist Church, Bastrop: 74th Anniversary, October 27, 10 a.m. Lunch will follow the worship service. Pastor: Danny Hawthorne.
- Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Homecoming, Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Paul Roney (guest speaker). Special music: John Simmons, former minister of music. Riverview is located at 8709 Hwy 1 South, Alexandria, La. 71302. For more information, contact Mike Boone at 318.613.6505. Pastor: David Newton.

REVIVAL

- Gloster Baptist Church, Gloster: Revival, Nov. 3, 10:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Leland Crawford; Music Ben Waites, Cad Tingle and Scotty Blackwell.
- Aimoch Baptist Church, Olla: Revival, November 3-6, Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-

- Wednesday 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Todd Allen. Music: the Allen Family. Pastor: Bobby McGuire.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trout: Revival. November 7-9. Evangelist: Malcolm Ellis. Pastor: Shad Tibbs.
- Rescue Community Church, West Monroe: Fall Revival, November 10-13. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.
- First Baptist Church, Robeline: Revival, November 10-17, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Brian Ray.
- Boeuf River Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Harvest Day, November 17, 10:30 a.m. Food and fellowship will follow after service. Guest Speaker: Rodney Ratcliff. We can't wait to see everyone back at Boeuf River. Pastor: Rodney Ratcliff.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: Revival, November 30-December 1. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

LAGNIAPPE

- Bedico Baptist Church Trunk or Treat, Fall Fest, and Gumbo Cookoff! Sunday, October 27 / 4:30-6:00 p.m. for an evening of fall fun with lots of activities for the whole family! We need lots of volunteers and candy donations. <https://www.fbcmandeville.org/event/fall-fest/>. Pastor: Ronny Cooksey.
- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: Fall Festival, October 27, 4-6 p.m. There will be plenty of candy, food, fellowship and fun. Come join us.
- First Baptist Church, New Orleans: Fall Festival, October 27, 4-6 p.m. There will be huge inflatables for kids of all ages to bounce and play; face painting stations; delicious cotton candy and refreshing snowballs for sweet treats; free food for everyone to enjoy; carnival games with fun challenges and candy prizes. There will also be a small pumpkin patch. Pastor: Chad Gilbert.
- Marlow Baptist Church, Leesville: Trunk or Treat, October 27, 4-7 p.m. There will be plenty of food, games and treats. Pastor: Matt Marler.
- Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: Trunk or Treat, October 27, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Join us

- for a sweet family fun event. There will be candy, games, cake walk, jumps and food. Pastor: James Blakenship.
- Bedico Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Trunk or Treat, Fall Fest, and Gumbo Cookoff, October 27, 4:30-6 p.m. Pastor: Jonathan Gers.
- Searcy Baptist Church, Trout: Fall Festival, October 27, 5 p.m. There will be trunks, games, candy, cake walk, face painting and family fun. Pastor: Steve Jenson.
- Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon: Trunk or Teart, October 27, 6 p.m. The community is invited to attend a Trunk or Treat. There will be a cake walk, free hot dogs and a costume contest. Pastor: Chris Stephens.
- First Baptist Church, Zwolle: Trunk or Treat for Halloween, October 31 in the church parking lot, Come and participate in this fun time for our youth and children in the community. Pastor: Marty Williams.
- First Baptist Church, DeRidder: Eat before you treat, October 31, 5-7 p.m. (or until we run out of food). Come enjoy a free dinner before you head out to Trick-or-Treat. The meal will consist of chili, Fritos or crackers, cornbread, grilled cheese sandwiches, dessert and a drink. Pastor: Steve Graves.
- First Baptist Church, Mangham: Trunk or Treat, October 31. We will be setting up at Mangham High School for the festivities. For more information, call the church office (318.248.2634). Pastor: Rick Aultman.
- Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: Fall Festival. October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Joseph Fowler.
- New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall Festival, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be a cake walk, coke toss, and concessions. Pastor: Marty Black.
- First Baptist Church, Bunkie: Trunk or Treat, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be lots of candy and games, plus two bicycles will be given away (you must be present to win). Pastor: Phillip

- Boone.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Fall Fest, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be food, fun, games, jump houses, harvest maze, Trunk-R-Treat, hayride, petting zoo. Pastor: J.P. Cox.
- Community Baptist Church, West Monroe: Fall Festival, October 31, 6-8 p.m. There will be games, candy, prizes, food and fun. Pastor: Jared Peters.
- First Baptist Church, Oakdale: Live Music, food & games, photo booth, jumpers, archery shoot for kids, cake walk and face painting. Pastor: Robert Rollins Jr.
- First Baptist Church, Fort Jesup: Fall Festival, October 27, 4 p.m. Bring the family out for a time of fun, candy, and great fellowship. Pastor:
- Swartz Community Carnival, October 27, 4-6 p.m. The event will be held at East Ouachita Middle School. There will be free entry, food trucks, games, jumpers and Trunk R Treat. The event is sponsored by Loch Arbor Baptist, Rowland Road Baptist and Swartz First Baptist.
- Cedar Crest Baptist Church, West Monroe: Family Fun Night and Trunk or Treat, October 30, 5:30 p.m. There will be an unforgettable night of candy, costumes, and fun for the whole family. Gumbo will be served at 6 p.m. Pastor: Gregory Clark.
- Little Pass Baptist Church, Charenton: Trunk r Treat, October 31, 5-8 p.m. Pastor: Chris Holloway.
- Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: Summer Grove Baptist Preschool Academy Fall fest/Trunk 'R Treat, October 31 10 a.m. until noon outside the preschool playground. Pastor: Heath Peloquin.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: Annual Harvest Fest, October 31, 6-8 p.m. Free gumbo, popcorn, cotton candy, games, jumpers and lots of family fun. The event will take place in the Bethel Family Life Center (gym). Pastor: Kenneth Bratton.
- Thompson Road Baptist Church, Slidell: Trunk

- or Treat, 6-8 p.m. Bring the family for fun, fellowship and loads of candy. Pastor:
- Frierson Baptist Church, Frierson: Fall Festival, November 2, 4-8 p.m. There will be hay rides, chili cook off, cake walk, food, bounce houses, face painting and so much more. Pastor: Mel Campbell.
- Aimoch Baptist Church, Olla: Fall Festival, November 2, 1-6 p.m. There will be a bounce house for the little kids, cake walk, Hayride and weenie roast. Pastor: Bobby McGuire.
- North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe: Night of Hope, November 2, 2 p.m. An incredible afternoon of music and worship featuring the Bibletones, Karen Peck & New River, The Chitans, Lauren Talley, The Allens, and Josh & Ashley Franks. A 100 percent of the proceeds go to St. Jude's. Venue: North Monroe Baptist Church. For tickets call 318.417.3929 or email SJNightofHope@gmail.com. Pastor: Bill Dye.
- Barksdale Baptist Church, Bossier City: Fall Festival, November 2, 2-5 p.m. There will be games, bounce house, food truck, hayride coffee cart, cotton candy and more. Pastor: Calvin Hubbard.
- Ebenezer Baptist Church, Hammond: Fall Fest, November 3, 3-5 p.m. This is free family fun for the community. There will be games, soup cook-off, inflatables, chili cook-off, cake walk and much more. Pastor: Steven Campbell.
- Victory Baptist Church, Hammond: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, November 3, 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Johnathan Watts.
- Shiloh Baptist Church, DeRidder: The Bibletones Quartet in concert, November 10, 10 a.m. Pastor: Bruce Butts.
- Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Pitkin: The Bibletones Quartet in concert, November 10, 5 p.m. Pastor: Chad Estes.
- First Baptist Church, Covington: Ben Waites in concert, November 12, Noon. Pastor: Waylon Bailey.



First Baptist Church Ruston, LA is seeking a full-time Student Minister to guide our already growing and strong student ministry with great potential for more growth and strengthening. First Ruston's Student Ministry actively connects students from seven middle schools and five high schools with God and with others as well as connecting others with God.

Compensation includes salary, health and life insurance for the minister and family paid by the church, retirement benefit, phone allowance, and vacation.

First Ruston is a church family that genuinely loves God, loves people, and has fun together! We are a healthy community of believers doing our best to follow Jesus and live like He lived. God is working in some incredible ways at and through First Ruston! If you feel God might be leading you to be a part of His work in Ruston, then please submit your resume to Ed Colvin (ed@fbcruston.org).

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.

kl cbg adq gzjsw sizjwsgdipj, dq gjz cbwv

pbrrdivjv kl gjz zdiv bu rbqjq, ubw gjz isij gwskjq,

ttlbtmya? jgi my jgpkylji, gb

obqzxd ubxwgjji:gab

Clues:
D = A; Z = H

Answer to October 17, Scripture Crypto:
Ephesians one: fourteen

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**SOUTHWEST
LAKE CHARLES
JAN. 22, 6 PM**

**NORTHWEST
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER
JAN. 25, 10 AM**

**SOUTH
BATON ROUGE
JAN. 25, 10 AM**

**NORTHEAST
MONROE-WEST MONROE
JAN. 26, 2 PM**

**CENLA
PINEVILLE-ALEXANDRIA
FEB. 1, 10 AM**

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PULSE

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2024/25**



At PULSE, high school and college students will hear from local speakers, practice pro-life persuasion with their peers, and ask questions in a safe environment in order to grow as pro-life leaders!

UPCOMING DATES

LAFAYETTE
Saturday, March 22, 2025

BATON ROUGE
Saturday, March 29, 2025

NEW ORLEANS
Saturday, April 5, 2025

REGISTER TODAY!



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