



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

October 17, 2024

Volume 139 • Issue No. 11

TO REPORT A NEWS ITEM OR TO BUY AN AD, CALL 877.234.3832

John 3:16

Share the Message

www.baptistmessage.com

'Here for You' offers Louisiana Baptists a vast Gospel opportunity

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – In a state where an estimated 60 percent of the population lacks a relationship with Christ, “Here for You” is helping to remind Louisiana Baptists that a great harvest awaits.

Launched in the summer of 2014 as part of the President’s 2020 Commission, the “Here for You” multi-media campaign is attempting to impact the estimated 2.7 million people in Louisiana who do not know Christ.

At this point of our strategy, “We are not waiting on the harvest,” Louisiana Baptist commu-

nication director John Kyle told the *Baptist Message*. “The harvest is waiting on us!”

Since its statewide launch in 2019, “Here for You” has used social media, streaming services, broadcast television, billboards and more to reach the lost in Louisiana. The campaign has seeded God’s truth through more than

31,000 views of the Gospel presentation and more than 2,100 searches for local churches.

Additionally, through a partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, viewers have been directed to a customized landing page for prayer with trained counselors, who share the

See OPPORTUNITY, page 11

HORN: ‘No matter what ... He reigns!’

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – During the Sept. 24 general session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board, LBC Executive Director Steve Horn shared how Louisiana Baptists have continued reaching others for Christ.

FULFILLING THE GOSPEL

Horn said that various ministries are helping fulfill Louisiana Baptists’ ministry purposes in three ways: seeking the lost, strengthening churches and supporting cooperative missions and ministries. In his report, he invited four individuals to share how Louisiana Baptists are fulfilling their mission through various ministries.

See HORN, page 2



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn shared that no matter what happens in life, God reigns.

Executive Board approves loan to self-insurance trust

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – In response to the church insurance crisis that is pressing on congregations across the state, Executive Board members approved, during its Sept. 24 meeting, a motion that would loan \$250,000 from the Disaster Relief Restricted Fund to help cover initial costs of a newly-formed church self-insured organization.

The money would be used as a loan for establishment and administration of the self-insurance trust, also known as the Fellowship of Louisiana Churches and Non-Profit Religious Organizations.

“We have continued to take the lead to take steps so that this will become a reality,” Loui-

See TRUST, page 4

Early voting in Louisiana begins Oct. 18-29

By Staff
Louisiana Baptist Message

BATON ROUGE, La. (LBM) — Early voting for the General Election will take place Oct. 18-29, excluding Sundays during that time period) and polls will be open from

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Voters must show one of the following picture identifications in order to vote:

- driver’s license;

See EARLY VOTING, page 8

INSURANCE FOR CHURCHES

Since 1916

Spengler-Stewart
agency, inc.
105+ YEARS
Serving the Insurance Needs of Louisiana

Call **318.442.0269**
lardoin@spenglerstewart.com
sdarbonne@spenglerstewart.com
www.spenglerstewart.com

Lori Ardoin & Shelly Cooper

Horn from page one

BREAKAWAY CAMP

Kevin Roberts, pastor with Trinity Baptist Church, Pineville, shared how his son, Micah, turned to Christ during Breakaway Camp this summer at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center.

Roberts was overcome with emotion as he described how his older son, Noah, led his brother to a relationship with Jesus.

“My wife and I were

rejoicing,” Roberts said. “We knew that something had happened, something had taken place that night, and God had gotten a hold of his heart.

“But Micah wasn’t the only one,” he said. “We ended up having three other teenagers from our youth group that committed their lives to the Lord, and later that month, in the month of July, we were able to baptize all four of them at our church. And so, we praise the Lord for the work of Breakaway Camp and for the work of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and your employees.”

Champions Camp

Julie Johnston shared about the eternal impact of Champions Camp, held Sept. 6-8 at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center. This year’s camp drew 23 individuals with special needs.

Julie and her husband, John, first attended in 2018 with their son, Zac. But even though Zac passed away in 2021, the couple has remained committed

to the camp’s mission.

She said the camp is a great tool to reach not just the campers but their families.

“So (have a ministry for those with special needs and their families) in your churches and let me tell you what will happen,” she said. “Your blessing will be so much more if you make one thing accessible for one person. It makes a way for people to have access to Jesus.”

GOLA VBS

Isabella McClendon, a student with Louisiana Christian University, recounted her recent experience as a team member with GOLA VBS, an effort that combines the missionary zeal of the state’s Baptist Collegiate Ministries with a strategic need of Vacation Bible Schools for churches in Louisiana and beyond that might not otherwise be able to resource a VBS.

McClendon, who served as a missionary to Montana this summer, said the

See HORN, page 3

3 Questions for Church Bus Buyers:

1. Which Bus Company has sold more buses and vans to churches than any other company in the country?
2. Which is the only Bus Company to offer a FREE 8 Year / Unlimited Mile Body & Chassis Warranty on all new buses and vans sold to churches?
3. Which Bus Company has the largest in-stock, ready-to-deliver inventory of buses and vans?

1 Answer: Carpenter Bus Sales

Doesn't that make it easy to know who to work with?



America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

www.carpenterbus.com • 800-370-6180 • Nationwide Delivery

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: *Louisiana Baptist Message*

2. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9.30.24

3. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 24,334

4. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 24,334

5. Paid Distribution (Sum of 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d): 24,334

6. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d): 24,334

7. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 6a, 6b, 6c, and 6d): 159

8. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 6a, 6b, 6c, and 6d): 159

9. Total Distribution (Sum of 5 and 6): 24,334

10. Total Distribution (Sum of 5 and 6): 24,334

11. Copies not Distributed (Sum of 7 and 8): 100

12. Total (Sum of 9 and 10): 24,334

13. Total (Sum of 9 and 10): 24,334

LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE

Will Hall, Editor

STAFF

Philip Timothy Managing Editor, Rhonda Havens Advertising Director, Brian Blackwell Staff Writer

JoAnne Timothy Office Manager

Board of Trustees: Jeff Coleman, Larry Evans, Mike Evans, Dale Goodman, Dan Lay, Chad King, Frank McCormack, Alan Miller, Darryl Miller, Jonie Owens, Tammy Sharp, Nicole Tull.

ADVERTISING

Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.

To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the *Louisiana Baptist Message* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.

For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the *Message* at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832.

The Louisiana Baptist Message partners with: **BP news** and **BAPTIST COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION**

© Copyright 2024 Baptist Message. All rights reserved

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individual: \$14/year
Group rates available
Call the Louisiana Baptist Message at 318.449.4343 or 877.234.3832
Fax: 318-445-8328
editor@baptistmessage.com
PO Box 311
Alexandria LA 71309
www.baptistmessage.com

(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)

Published biweekly Thursdays by the Louisiana Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.

Volume 139 October 17, 2024 Number 11

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the *Louisiana Baptist Message*. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311

Third Annual Fellowship Baptist Revival and Bible Conference

Nov 6-10, 2024

487 Fellowship Road
Trout, La. 71371
318.992.2874

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, Nov 6

6:00pm - Brent Smith
7:00pm - Matthew Gullion

Scott Windham music

Thursday and Friday, Nov 7 - 8

8:30am - prayer
9:00am - Sonny Simpson
10:00am - Roger Haney
11:00am - Scotty McDowell
12:00pm - Lunch (fellowship hall)
5:00pm - Dinner (fellowship hall)
6:00pm - Rubin Weaver
7:00pm - Malcom Ellis

Glen Price music

Saturday, Nov 9

8:30am - prayer
9:00am - Malcom Ellis
10:00am - Sonny Simpson
11:00am - Scotty McDowell
12:00pm - Lunch (fellowship hall)
1:00pm - Wanda Simpson (ladies only)
5:00pm - (fellowship hall)
6:00pm - Rubin Weaver
7:00pm - Roger Haney

Glen Price and Ella Tibbs, music

Sunday, Nov 10

10:30am - Matthew Gullion
6:00pm - Brent Smith
7:00pm - Matthew Gullion

Scott Windham and The Harrigills, music

Horn from page 2

children experienced joy after learning about Jesus. Her team also ministered to college students and participated in street evangelism.

Through that experience, McClendon stepped out of her comfort zone. While taking part in street evangelism, McClendon and her fellow team members embraced Galatians 1:10, which asks, "Do I seek the approval of God or man?"

"It didn't matter how many people blew us off or didn't want to talk about it," she said. "What really mattered to us was that we got to have conversations where we sat on the curb for an hour and were able to talk about the Gospel and share with people who were hurt, broken and confused about God. I learned to articulate my faith so much better, take that back to college with me and just have these conversations with students at

my own campus."

Send Network Louisiana

Horn noted that the partnership with Send Network Louisiana began in August 2023, and for the reporting period of April-July 2024, network planters recorded 117 salvations, 72 baptisms, 1,892 Gospel conversations and 1,012 persons in intentional discipleship activity.

He added that 42 churches are supporting a church plant and 28 of those have chosen to be a sending church.

Matt Tyson, pastor with 3:18 Church, Shreveport, (named for Ephesians 3:18) shared how his church is reaching the "marginalized and unseen." He said they have drug dealers, prostitutes, mentally ill individuals and ex-convicts who are among the 85 to 115 who attend Saturday evening services. Tyson added that 60 people have

been disciplined and 20 new converts have been baptized.

He said Louisiana Baptists are part of the story of 3:18 Church because of their continued giving through the Cooperative Program.

"Because of your support, you're part of this story," he said. "As we move along, the unreached people group of the unseen are everywhere. They're all over our city. I can go to new cities as I travel and see the unseen in those cities. And so, they're all around us in our communities. They're all around us in our cities. They're all around us in our nation, and nowhere else will they find the joy of the love of Jesus."

NEW STAFF ADDITIONS

Horn shared with board members that several team members have been added to the state missions services staff since its spring meeting. These are:

- Ashley Lee, assistant accountant, the business/information services team;
- Jennifer Nolan, assistant food service manager, Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center;
- Jacob Crawford, church planting strategist, missions and ministry team;
- Lexi Hubbard, graphic associate/digital content coordinator, communications team;
- Lisa Broussard, as-

See HORN, page 5

LOUISIANA CHURCH INSURANCE




"Three generations of Galloway's serving Louisiana Churches."

Call us for your church insurance needs

www.louisianachurchinsurance.com • 800.256.0700

Licensed Contractor

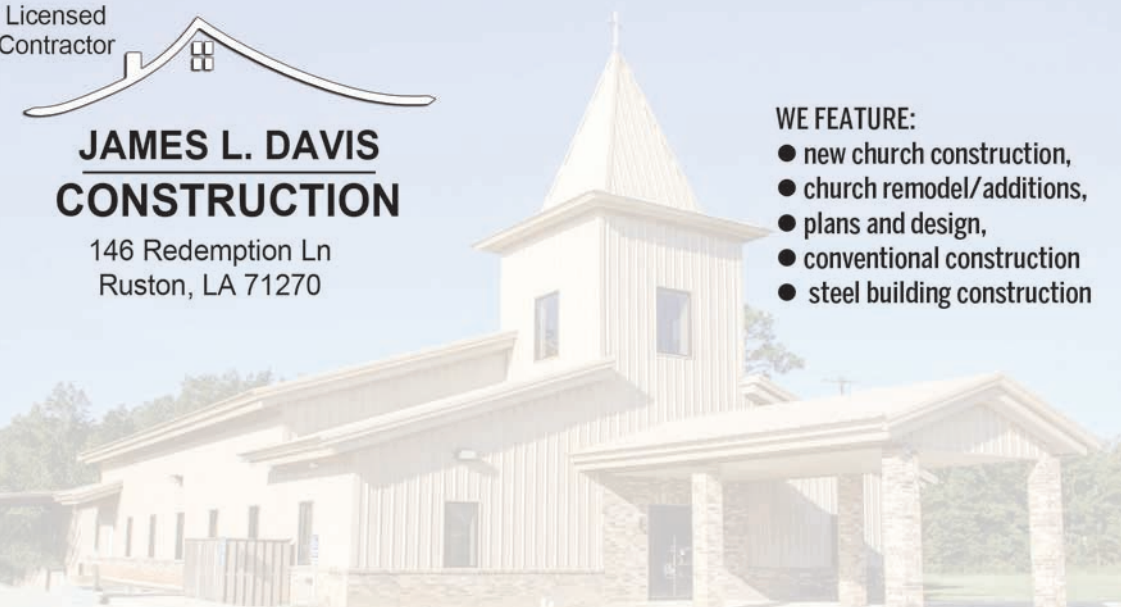


JAMES L. DAVIS CONSTRUCTION

146 Redemption Ln
Ruston, LA 71270

WE FEATURE:

- new church construction,
- church remodel/additions,
- plans and design,
- conventional construction
- steel building construction



318.202.3691 Office & Fax | 318.243.3330 | james@jamesldavisconstruction.com

Trust from page one

siana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn told Executive Board members. "I have met on many occasions, in person and in conference calls, with individuals in the insurance industry and government officials who can hopefully assist us."

BACKGROUND

In 2023 congregations began to receive nonrenewal notices or to see exorbitant premium hikes from the three largest insurers of faith-based organizations in the state (Church Mutual, Brotherhood Mutual and GuideOne). In response, the LBC launched a successful effort with the state legislature to establish a church self-insurance trust that is

open to congregations of all faith traditions.

Former state Sen. Robert Mills, with co-sponsor Sen. Katrina Jackson, championed Senate Bill 147, which was signed into law as Act 259, that authorizes churches and other faith-based organizations to form a self-insurance cooperative. There are no doctrinal components to the program and churches will not be tied to each other religiously. Each will be an individual member of the self-insurance trust, like a customer of any insurance company.

Gallagher Risk Management of Monroe has helped guide efforts to bring the program online, with a projected start-up date in the second quarter of 2025.



Brian Blackwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Executive Board members approved a motion that would loan \$250,000 from the Disaster Relief Restricted Fund to help cover initial costs of a newly-formed church self-insurance organization.

A state source of \$3 million of initial funding has been tentatively identified by Gov. Jeff Landry. These funds would cover costs

for catastrophic modeling and other steps needed to establish a premium schedule for participants. But the process for trans-

ferring the funds has yet to be determined.

Horn said there is an

See TRUST, page 5

2024 PRESIDENTIAL VOTER GUIDE



	REPUBLICAN DONALD TRUMP	DEMOCRAT KAMALA HARRIS
1. THE OVERTURN OF ROE V WADE The Supreme Court's overturning of the Roe v Wade decision, which had previously imposed abortion with few protections for the unborn on all 50 states.	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
2. TAXPAYER-FUNDED ABORTIONS The use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions and abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
3. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY Protecting business owners' ability to run their businesses in accordance with biblical teaching about marriage, family, and sexuality.	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
4. SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LEGISLATION Legislation to enshrine same-sex marriage into federal law.	UNKNOWN	SUPPORT
5. TRANSGENDER COMPETITION IN SPORTS Allowing students access to male or female sports based on transgender identity rather than biological sex.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
6. TAXPAYER-FUNDED GENDER TRANSITION Using taxpayer dollars to fund gender transition procedures.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
7. TEACHING CHILDREN SEXUAL TOPICS Allowing sexual orientation and gender identity to be taught to public school students as early as kindergarten.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
8. ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS ACT Federal legislation defining and opposing antisemitism.	SUPPORT	UNKNOWN
9. CHINESE PURCHASES OF AMERICAN FARMLAND Allow the Chinese government and connected entities to purchase farmland in America.	OPPOSE	UNKNOWN
10. ENTITLEMENTS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS Allowing illegal immigrants to access taxpayer funded benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
11. MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE Doubling the federal minimum wage to \$14.50/hour.	UNKNOWN	SUPPORT
12. GREEN NEW DEAL The Green New Deal climate change legislation.	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
13. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE Expanding oil and gas drilling on federal lands.	SUPPORT	UNKNOWN

Updated 9/26/24

THIS VOTER GUIDE IS 501(C)(3) COMPLIANT AND APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING CHURCHES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE IS TO EDUCATE VOTERS, NOT TO ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR CANDIDATE.



Trust from page 4

\$500 million shortfall in the state's upcoming budget, but that this money (\$3 million) is not part of that discussion.

"The money that (Landy) has earmarked for us is already in a designated, restricted account," Horn said. "They might have different terminology than we have, but basically it is a designated account that is actually holding money that legislatures from years ago allocated to a very similar project to ours that has never materialized. And it's the recommendation of the commissioner of insurance to the

governor that that money is sitting there and can't be used for anything else, and so that makes us a prime target for it. So, I take that to be good news."

PRAYERS NEEDED

Horn asked for prayers as Louisiana Baptists and other faith-based organizations strive to help provide an alternative to traditional property and casualty insurance for cooperating churches.

"I ask your continued prayers and support as we try to make this idea a reality," he said.

Horn from page 3

sociate camp director, Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center;

-- Emily Slay, production coordinator, communications team;

-- Kevin Ulmer, evangelism strategist, evangelism and church growth team;

-- Ella "Ellie" Inman, association Baptist Collegiate Ministries director, McNeese State University;

-- Zander Kirkland, maintenance assistant, Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center; and

-- Jeremy Woodall, BCM director in New Orleans.

EVALUATING THE FUTURE

Horn closed his report by sharing foundational, guiding Scripture passages that have been anchor points in his life for many years: Colossians 2:6, Psalm 71:18 and Revelation 19:6.

He noted that Revelation 19:6 centers him in His walk with Christ, noting that the verse emphasizes that God reigns in all circumstances.

"No matter what happens in culture, He reigns," he said. "No matter what happens in the Southern Baptist Convention that I cannot control, He reigns. No matter what happens on November 5, He reigns."

Horn emphasized it is impossible to worry and worship at the same time. So when he begins to worry, Horn remembers he needs to worship the Lord a little more.

"This is how I wish to lead," he said. "This is how I want our pastors to lead. This is how I want our churches to lead."

"Let us be known for our walk, our witness and our worship," he continued. "And everything else will take care of itself."

FOR SALE



2008 Starcraft 26 Passenger Bus
 Ford E-450 Super Duty 6.0L V-10 Gasoline Engine
 Price: \$25,300 -- Mileage: 36,000
 White w/Blue & Silver Trim

Contact: Troy Thomas • Dunn Baptist Church, Delhi, LA
 318.366.0266



Here for You.org
 LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

▼ **Who Are We Trying to Reach?**

We are attempting to reach the estimated 2.5 million people in Louisiana who do not have a relationship with Christ.

▼ **What Can You Expect from *Here for You*?**

- *Here for You* commercials are designed to help your church reach those in your community and identify with the campaign.
- Discover how you can let your community know you're behind this effort. Visit LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou for ideas.

▼ **What Not to Expect from this effort.**

You should not expect people to automatically attend your church because they see one of the commercials on TV, social media or other media platforms.

▼ **What are the Benefits for the Churches?**

- Church members will have opportunities to share the Gospel, personal testimonies, and an invitation to church.
- Churches will have opportunities to welcome those that members have invited, as well as those who may attend as a result of seeing a *Here for You* commercial.
- Church members will see their Cooperative Program and Georgia Barnette gifts at work, sharing God's truth with their community.

Craig James to be LBC second vice president nominee

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

JONESBORO, La. (LBM) – Craig James, associational missions strategist with North Central Baptist Association, will be nominated for the office of second vice president with the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2024 annual meeting of church messengers.

Clark Palmer, pastor with Faith Baptist Church, Tioga, contacted the *Baptist Message*, Sept. 25, to share his intention to make the nomination.

The yearly gathering of Louisiana Baptists is scheduled to be held in the facilities of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, Nov. 12.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

James, who is a member of Atlanta Baptist Church, has faithfully served the Lord and churches for decades, Palmer said.

“Over the years when I mention his name I have found that his former church members love him,” he said. “His fellow pastors love him. His family loves him. And recently the thought came into my mind, that I should nominate him for one of our LBC offices.

“If you know him you probably agree that he is a great representative of Louisiana Baptist pastors and leaders,” he continued. “He was surprised when I asked him if I could do this but

agreed to allow me to nominate him as second vice-president when we gather in Shreveport in November.”

BY THE NUMBERS

The database of the Annual Church Profile shows that Atlanta Baptist gave 0.16 percent (sixteen hundredths of a percent) of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program to support cooperative missions and ministries this year, amounting to \$250 from undesignated receipts of \$155,988. The congregation supported the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a gift of \$545.

Atlanta Baptist averaged 86 in Sunday worship service and baptized

five new believers this year, which is above average in the Southern Baptist Convention for evangelistic effectiveness.

CANDIDATE’S RESPONSE

James told the *Baptist Message* he was honored to be nominated.

“After having served Louisiana Baptist for 34 years, I am humbled to be nominated for second vice-president of LBC,” he said. “I have had the privilege to serve on Committee on Committee’s, the LCU Board of Trustees and the Resolution Committee. I love our Louisiana Baptist churches, pastors and convention. I would be honored to serve our LBC and most of all serve my Lord and Savior, Je-

sus Christ.”

PERSONAL DATA

James, who is married to Tammy, is a native of Verda and has served in the ministry since 1991.

He holds degrees from Louisiana College (now Louisiana Christian University), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Caskey Divinity School (on the campus of NOBTS).

James has served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Tullos; East Jena Baptist Church, Jena; Don Avenue Baptist Church, Denham Springs; and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Jonesville. He became AMS for North Central Baptist Association in 2018.

318-487-1906
lcuniversity.edu



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH *update!*

The Louisiana Christian University Presidential Search Committee has been listening and praying. Representatives have attended all the Town Hall meetings and appreciate all the support and input we have received from the public. In addition, the committee has hired Carter-Baldwin, a company with extensive experience in high-level searches in Christian higher education.

Our desire moving forward is to make Louisiana Christian University the best it can be and continue its longstanding tradition of both preparing graduates and transforming lives for the Kingdom of God for generations to come—for your children and your children’s children to follow in your footsteps as alumni of this great university.

We are thankful for your continued support of LCU.

Applications will be accepted until a new president is appointed, but letters of interest should be submitted by Oct. 25 for optimal consideration. Nominations and applications should be submitted to LCUPresident@carterbaldwin.com. The committee plans to begin reviewing applications in November.

Preparing Graduates ♦ Transforming Lives



Wicker celebrates 55 years as pastor of FBC Slaughter

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

SLAUGHTER, La. (LBM) – Basil Wicker recently celebrated more than a half century of ministry with First Baptist Church, Slaughter.

During the church's 182nd anniversary service, Sept. 8, the congregation honored Wicker for his 55th year of service as pastor. The event featured messages by his nephews Mark Wicker and Blake Emfinger, both who serve on staff with churches in Mississippi. The church plans to name the new multi-purpose building that is under construction in honor of him.

For Wicker, the service was a reminder of a church and community that have held a special place in his heart since he preached his first sermon on July 21, 1969.

"It's been like a dream, a dream come true," Wicker told the Baptist Message. "The Lord's blessed me and

my wife. She is deceased. She and I did not have children, and my prayer was always that God give us children, and he did! My children were the children of the church, and that's my family.

"I'm totally committed to the to this body. We have always worked on building relationships and love for one another, and there's always something going on," he continued. "As for me, I've tried to keep things simple. I've not looked for greener pastures. God made me content where He put me and I'm grateful for where he put me."

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Wicker surrendered to Christ when he was nine years old. When he was 12, he felt a call to ministry but because he was too shy, he waited two more years until he made a public statement to Calvary Baptist Church, Smithdale. Shortly after that he was given the chance to teach



First Baptist Church, Slaughter, honored Basil Wicker during the church's 182nd anniversary service, Sept. 8. Wicker has served the church as pastor for 55 years.

a Sunday school class, which brought him off the sidelines and set the groundwork for training in

ministry.

After graduating from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Wicker


accepted the call to his first pastorate -- with New Zion Baptist Church, Liberty, Mississippi. After one of the morning services, a search committee approached him about coming to FBCS.

Though he had never heard of Slaughter, Wicker and his wife, Linda, (who passed away in June 2019 and played the piano for 30 years with FBCS), came to the church for his trial sermon on July 21, 1969.

I had never heard of that community in my life, and I preached my sermon on the very day man walked on the moon for the first time," he said. "One of the ladies told me she wanted to see that happen, and not to go too long with my sermon. We finished in plenty of time, and I was even able to make it home to watch the moonwalk with my wife."

Since he came to the church, Sept. 7, 1969, Wicker has seen the church grow from 100 in

See **WICKER**, page 10




**YOUTH
EVANGELISM
CELEBRATION**

NOVEMBER 24-25
RAPIDES COLISEUM
ALEXANDRIA


#GEAUXYEC

LABAPTISTYOUTH.COM/YEC


**20
24**




Main Speaker
Zane Black




Worship Band
Crescent City Worship




Comedian
Jaron Myers



Session Discussions
Clint Davis



Monday Night Concert
Rend Collective



Host/Emcee
Brandon Allen

Executive Board updated on CP, entities

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

WOODWORTH, La. (LBM) – During a Sept. 24 meeting, Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board members approved a reduced 2025 Cooperative Program giving plan and were updated on the ongoing work by the Convention’s four entities.

BUDGET APPROVAL

Board members approved the business and finance committee’s 2025 financial plan 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 Southern Baptist entities and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, 62.87 percent to support ministries in the state and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities. The budget will be presented to messengers for approval during the 2024 LBC Annual Meeting, Nov. 12, in the facilities of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport.

“Our conservative budgeting process frames our budget every year,” Louisiana Baptist Associate Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer Dale Lingenfelter told the Baptist Message after the meeting. “Whatever we receive from August of the previous year (August 2023) through July of the current year (July 2024) becomes our working budget for the upcoming year. Every year has

its variables, but in short, our receipts within the outlined process were less than last year’s receipts, thus the reduction.

“We know that individuals, and thus churches, are facing economic challenges due to the rising cost of basically everything,” he continued. “We are grateful for the gifts the churches continue to forward, especially in light of these challenges. We’re hopeful and prayerful that as the economy turns around and inflation eases, these gifts will increase as well.”

ENTITY REPORTS

Louisiana Baptist Foundation Executive Director Jeff Steed said \$64.6 million has been generated for Louisiana Baptist ministries since the July 2020 launch of the LBF’s Vision200 (an initiative to impact the Kingdom with \$200 million through the LBF in 20 years or less).

He added that for every budgeted Cooperative Program dollar given to the foundation this last budget year, \$35 was generated for the Kingdom.

Through the LBF’s ChurchBiz services, the entity offers church loans, Giving-Gateway.net, payroll services, a computer support help line, capital

campaigns, accounting services, short-term funds and online giving.

He also reminded board members that in honor of the Foundation’s 80th anniversary, the entity is depositing an additional \$80 for churches and other ministries that open a money management account with the Foundation. Also, they will add \$80 when a donor makes a non-cash contribution through the Foundation’s ministry to a church or other ministry. These opportunities will continue through the rest of the year as funds budgeted for these activities are available.

“We would love to partner with your church in any way,” Steed said in his report. “We are grateful to each of you for the honor to serve Louisiana Baptists to advance the Kingdom one dollar at a time, one ministry at a time, one life at a time.”

Baptist Message Executive Editor Will Hall said the newspaper remains on solid ground financially, which helps the entity continue reporting good news taking place in Louisiana. He referenced recent articles that highlighted evangelistic efforts taking place in the state, such as how baptisms in 2024 increased by 31.1 percent compared to the year before and how Hopewell Baptist Church, Center Point, experienced a rebirth through prayer.

Hall said that HBC’s pastor, Ricky Belgard, shared the article on his Facebook page and a grandmother, after reading the story to her 10-year-old granddaughter, led her to a relationship with Jesus.

“There is a Holy anoint-

ing going with that article to touch lives,” Belgard wrote in his text to the *Baptist Message*. “Hallelujah!”

Hall, who also serves as the director of the Convention’s Office of Public Policy, said Louisiana Baptists helped to pass some good bills but failed to defeat one in the recent state legislative session:

-- Although lawmakers handedly killed a recreational pot bill, they rejected legislation (Senate Bill 237) that would have banned THC from consumable products that are being pushed in convenience stores, local grocery markets and gas stations. Instead, they legalized recreational THC in a hemp bill (HB 952).

-- Act 676, championed by Rep. Dodie Horton, a member with First Baptist Church, Haughton, will place the Ten Commandments in every publicly funded classroom, kindergarten through college, in Louisiana.

-- Act 293, authored by Sen. Mark Abraham, a member with Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, allows “each city, parish, or other local public school board” to “employ or accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services and programs for students, staff, and parents.”

Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries President and CEO Perry Hancock updated board members on several structural additions to its campus.

In August, the entity opened the Legacy Room, a space that celebrates 125 years of sharing Christ’s

See UPDATE, page 12

CALLED TO PREACH

NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

LEARN MORE nobts.edu

EARLY VOTING

from page one

- Louisiana Special ID;
- United States military identification card that contains your name and picture; or some other generally recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature.

Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

www.evangelistsammoore.org

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days, and Wild Game Supper Events. Call or email to schedule your 2025 events.

479.381.1170 evangelistsammoore@gmail.com



First Baptist Church, Ferriday celebrates centennial

By Brian Blackwell
 Message staff writer

FERRIDAY, La. (LBM) – More than 300 current and former members and other guests packed the worship center of First Baptist Church, Ferriday, Sept. 14-15, to celebrate the congregation’s 100th anniversary.

Kevin Ulmer, pastor with FBCF and Louisiana Baptists’ evangelism strategist, said the service provided an opportunity for the church to reflect on its past and look to the future.

“We had people travel from several states to come in to celebrate this milestone moment,” Ulmer told the Baptist Message. “The church really did a lot of work to make it a huge success and prepared for over two years to make it happen. It was good to see so many familiar faces

come back to celebrate our 100th anniversary.”

The two-day celebration began Sept. 14 with a trio of historical accounts from George, Bruce and Larry Fields, three brothers from out of state whose dad, M.H. Fields, was pastor when the current worship center was built.

The celebration continued the next day with a service that included remarks from two former FBCF pastors, John Connell (1986-1989) and Roger Johnson (1995-1999), and Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn.

A time of worship also was led by Tim and Melanie Hubbard, former members who also led the music for the church’s 75th anniversary celebration. The anniversary was capped with a special meal.

Additionally, those attending the weekend had



Submitted photo

The 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Ferriday, drew more than 300 current and former members as well as other guests. The two-day celebration focused on God’s goodness to the church.

a chance to view a pictorial mosaic that was made of photographs from past church directories, which

formed the shape of the front of the worship center that was renovated in 2023. Those attending also had

the chance to view numerous exhibits showcasing the history of the church.

See CENTENNIAL, page 13

E4+ Conference: Be Spirit-led, Gospel-centered churches

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

PINEVILLE, La. (LBM) – The Church of today must look like the Church of the First Century that was Spirit-led and Gospel-centered, Waylon Bailey, pastor with First Baptist Church, Covington, said during the recent E4+ Preaching Conference.

Citing Acts 2:22-41, Bailey told a crowd of more than 80 pastors and ministry staff and 17 pastors' wives at First Baptist Church, Pineville, that the church of today must tell the story of Jesus and live holy lives.

"What is the church of 2024?" he said. "It is the church that shares hope and that shares salvation in Christ. People are looking around and they want to know is there any hope in my life."

"Our world needs hope and where there is hope there are going to be people," he continued. "Where there is a way, there are going to be people. Let us be a people who tell the story of Jesus with kindness, compassion, with love toward the people around us. I want more than anything

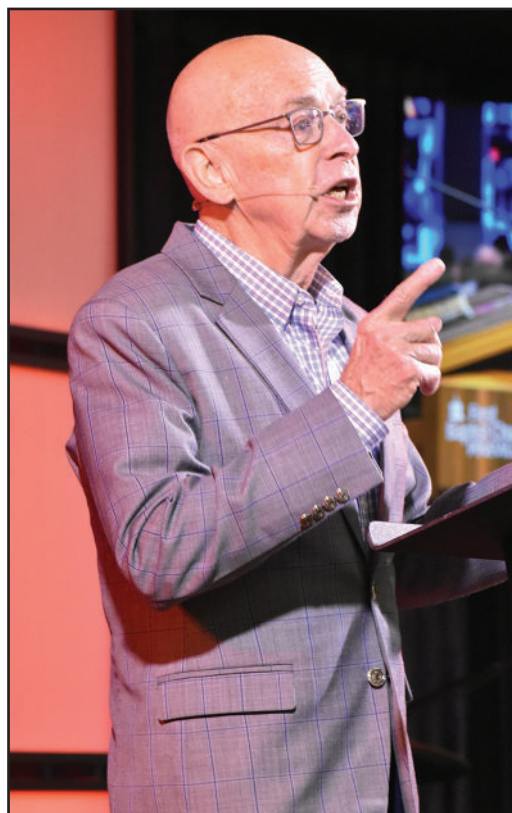


Stewart Holloway, senior pastor with First Baptist Church, Pineville, thanked a crowd of more than 80 pastors and ministry staff and 17 pastors' wives for attending the 16th annual E4+ Preaching Conference. The church has served as the host site since the conference began.

else for you to experience the peace, the love, the joy that I have found in Christ Jesus the Lord. And though my death is a lot closer than it has ever been, I also have great hope to be in the presence of God with the Savior who died for me. I

believe that is the church that will make a difference in the year 2024."

Bailey, sharing from Acts 4:1-22, added that when facing opposition and persecution, the church must respond by recognizing the opportunity in difficult times,



Brian Blackwell photo

Waylon Bailey, senior pastor with First Baptist Church, Covington, used Acts 4:1-22 as the focal passage in his message about how the church should respond to opposition and persecution.

deal with it in truth and facts, show how God works to bless lives, not shy away from the things of God and seek God's favor.

Bailey noted that the words of Peter and John must be our words as well.

"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge," he said. "We too must declare: 'We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard'" (Acts 4:20).

The Sept. 24 program was designed to "exemplify, encourage, equip and empower pastors to preach expositional sermons."

The conference also featured breakout sessions for pastors and directors of youth, media/sound, music and children, as well as ministers' wives.

Next year's conference, scheduled for Sept. 23, will feature Fred Luter, senior pastor with Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, his wife, Elizabeth, and his son, Chip, FABC senior associate pastor.

FBCP Pastor Stewart Holloway told the Baptist Message the E4+ Conference, now in its 16th year, began with a desire to sharpen and encourage pastors.

"I am thankful for our partners and sponsors that help E4 continue to minister to pastors, ministry wives, and ministry staff in our churches," he said.

Wicker

from page 7

attendance to more than 300 now, building a new worship center in 1976. He praised his members for their willingness to serve with him for 55 years and for their faithful outreach to the community. The deacons are key for their help in energizing the congregation to engage the people of Slaughter, also Wicker has placed an increased emphasis on discipleship of children and youth, and the congregation has fully committed to a day of fasting and prayer once a week.

"It is not about me at all," he said. "It's about God's kingdom."

Wicker said he has no

See WICKER, page 13

LOUISIANA LEGACY
FAMILY & KINGDOM

Kingdom-Minded Generosity

Future Gifts

Including a future gift in your estate plan or beneficiary designations to your church or other ministries may be the most significant stewardship decision of your life.

GIVING GATEWAY

ADVANCING THE *Kingdom* THROUGH THESE MINISTRIES

www.LBFinfo.org

[1-877-523-4636](tel:1-877-523-4636)

contact@LBFinfo.org

Update from page 8

love with children, their mothers and countless others around the state. The Legacy Room inside the Rucker-Austin Center features a chronological timeline of events and artifacts from its history.

In coming months, the LBCHFM will dedicate the Compassion Center, which will serve up to 25,000 impoverished children and their families each year. The regional center, still under construction, will provide weekend food backpacks and school supplies for children, a baby store for infants and toddlers and support for foster care families. The center also will provide space for a mission church, resources for existing compassion ministries and establishment of new church-based compassion works.

He encouraged board members to become involved with the Connect-1Child foster care and adoption network, which

in early September held a statewide conference at Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, for current and prospective adoption and foster care advocates along with church leaders and staff.

Hancock closed his report by sharing that in 2024 the entity ministered to more than 8,000 children, families and individuals in need. He explained that the entity continues to reach others with the Gospel through Granberry Counseling Centers, a residential program for ministers, a partnership with a Haitian children's village built by Louisiana Baptist and its campus in Monroe, and a women's learning center.

"Every Sunday, when you give to the Cooperative Program, you're helping all of those ministries and all those children because you're providing love and care," Hancock said. "It's the

hope in Christ that is making a difference."

Louisiana Christian University Acting President David Jeffreys said the fall semester is off to a "smooth" start.

He updated board members on the presidential search, sharing that a search firm and the search committee soon will look at resumes, with the goal of having a recommendation by February.

Recently, Jeffreys, other school leaders and trustees traveled throughout the state for town hall meetings to meet with alumni, pastors and others to field questions and update them on the presidential search and other happenings at the school.

He thanked board members for their support through the Cooperative Program and asked them to encourage prospective students to visit campus.

"Point students and parents in our direction," he said. "That's one of the simplest things we can ask of you."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louisiana Baptist Convention President David Goza (pastor, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge) challenged board members to fight against Satan and his evil forces.

"We have a fight that we are required to be engaged in," Goza said.

"But we have to learn to fight well."

Drawing from 1 Timothy 1:18-20, Goza said Christ followers must take the Gospel to the unbelieving world and fight with prayer.

"All these ministries highlighted today are for the purpose of winning souls in the Kingdom of Christ," he said. "We need to pray, be a people of evangelism, stand on the Word of God and point people to the truth of God's Word."

Credentials Committee: Messengers must register for annual meeting

By Staff
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.

JOSHUA
The Faithfulness of God

January Bible Study Preview
7-WEEK SERIES • GREAT FOR PREACHING AND SMALL GROUP STUDIES

<p>Oct. 22 9:00-12:00pm District Eight Missions Office Natchitoches</p>	<p>Oct. 23 9:00-12:00pm Evangeline Baptist Association Community Bible Church, Lafayette</p>	<p>Oct. 24 9:00-12:00pm Eastern Baptist Association Office Walker</p>
---	--	---

TEACHING PLANS:
Faithful to Reveal a New Beginning • Faithful to Redeem • Faithful to Lead
Faithful to Deliver • Faithful to Renew • Faithful to Establish • Faithful to His Promises

Study led by:
Dr. Waylon Bailey
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington

For details and to register, visit:
LouisianaBaptists.org/JBSpreview

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

\$15 Register Now!

Centennial from page 10

ally special thing for everyone who has ever been a part of our church," Ulmer said. "People just would stare at it and reminisce on their time at the church."

Church treasurer Bill Beasley said he has been blessed to see God use the church during his time as a member.

"Ferriday has seen a lot of changes in my lifetime, and in the past 100 years. But one thing has remained constant," Beasley

said. "The Word of God has been preached without compromise for the past 100 years at Ferriday First Baptist Church. God is great."

FBCF was founded after Dale Goodman, a Louisiana College student and pastor, had a strong desire to do mission work in the community. Soon after he began preaching, a revival service was held, and the church was formed on Sept. 14, 1924.

Through the years, the

church survived the Great Flood of 1927 that left its mark on the original structure, which is still visible today, as well as the Great Depression, World War II and the coronavirus pandemic. The congregation also completed multiple building additions on the property; and, most importantly, has baptized more than 1,600 since it began.

"The church has a wonderful history and with God the future is filled with the hope of Christ," Ulmer said.

Cenla Hymn Sing scheduled for Oct. 27

By Staff

Louisiana Baptist Message

TIOGA, La. (LBM) – Faith Baptist Church will host a hymn sing, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m., to bring together central Louisiana churches for a time of joint worship.

The hymn sing will include reading of scripture, prayer and singing of hymns under the direction of Kevin Boles, a chaplain with Passages Hospice in Alexandria and bivocational pastor

with Lone Star Baptist Church in Hineston.

"There's something special that happens when a roomful of committed believers sing familiar songs of praise

to God," Faith Baptist Church Pastor Clark Palmer told the *Baptist Message*. "The sound fills the room and the worship fills the heart. I love these gatherings."

Wicker from page 10

plans to retire anytime soon, and that he and the congregation are all in about reaching the community and making disciples.

"My prayer is that we work even harder to reach

folks outside these walls, and especially that God would continue to give us a burning in our hearts for witnessing to the young people, young adults in Slaughter."



FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER

First Baptist Church Pineville seeks a full-time student minister to lead our growing ministry to junior high, high school, and college students. With reach into fifteen local junior high and high schools attended by our students, two local college campuses, a nearby vo-tech campus, and college students who return weekly for worship, the potential is great for a thriving ministry.

Compensation includes salary, health insurance for the minister and his family paid by the church, a ministry reimbursement account, and retirement benefit.

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.

AMS Position Open

CenLa Baptist Association in Alexandria, an association of 58 churches and missions seeks applications for our next full-time Associational Mission Strategist. Qualified candidates will have:

- A Master of Divinity or Master of Christian Education from an accredited seminary (preferably from a Southern Baptist seminary).
- At least 15 years' experience in the ministry and be ordained.
- At least 10 years' experience as a pastor or staff member of a Southern Baptist church.
- At least five years' experience as a supervisor.

Candidates should also have a proven track record of support of the Cooperative Program and participation in a local association and should be hard-working and visionary.

Resumes may be submitted via email to Jill Lewis at jill@baptistmissioncenter.org or by mail to CenLa Baptist Association, AMS Search Team, P O Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

WEIGHING THE DIFFERENCE

STRONGEST RATE IN STATE FOR CHURCHES AND OTHER MINISTRIES ON CASH SAVINGS**

7X

BETTER THAN A BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT*

Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings

Based upon internal data.* Rates subject to change.**



SHORT TERM FUND RATE 4.40% CURRENT YIELD**

Message
Classified
Ads

DAVIS CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, 4313 Hwy. 18 East Quitman, Mississippi 39355 Melton & Sandra Davis. 30-plus years experience, Family-Owned and Operated. Variety of fabrics available. Work done on-site. All Work Guaranteed. Call for estimates: **601.776.6617**. If remodeling your sanctuary, please give us a call about upholstering your pews!

1x6 t&g western wood, \$.69 lft/\$.59 by the bundle. 1x10 western cedar \$1.99 lft/\$1.59 by the bundle. Waterproof worry proof spc flooring starting @ \$1.59 sqft. Call Ace Hardware at 318.757.8482 for more information.

EARNEST LITTLE available for supply and interim in the Central Louisiana area. Please call **318.663.2770**.

Call Advertising Director Rhonda Havens at **318.449.4351** to place your ads.

RUBBER STAMPS
SIGNS – BADGES
SEALS – FLAGS
BRONZE PLAQUES



Manufacturers of
MARKING DEVICES
SINCE 1867
4315 Bienville St. – New Orleans
504.525.2128

Petrus
FEED & SEED

FEED / SEED / FERTILIZER
FARM / LAWN & GARDEN
SUPPLIES

2914 N Bolton Ave,
Alexandria, LA
318.443.5929 / 318.442.2325

Find It Fast
In The Classifieds

FULL-TIME PASTOR
Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Bayou Vista, Louisiana is searching for a full-time pastor. Please send résumés to bvbcoffice@cox-internet.com.



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 PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER
Emmanuel Baptist Church in Minden, LA. is seeking a part-time music minister. Please send résumés to emmanuelbcoffice@gmail.com



SEEKING A PASTOR
Heflin Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send your résumés by November 20 to: Heflin Baptist Church, Attn: Gary Cooper
143 South Church St. Heflin, LA 71039
Email: gtcooper13@gmail.com.

firstbaptist BLANCHARD
love grow serve
Seeking Staff Minister to include Student Ministries, FBC Blanchard, Shreveport, LA. Email résumé to pastor@fbcblanchard.com



Sandy Bayou Baptist Church, Columbia, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Parsonage is available as part of compensation. Send résumés to William Parker, search committee chairman, 6441 Highway 559, Columbia, LA 71418 or email to SBBC2024@yahoo.com



SEEKING A PASTOR
First Baptist Church of Hatfield, Arkansas is prayerfully seeking a full time or bi-vocational Pastor who preaches the whole counsel of God. A parsonage is provided. Please send a résumé and include a link to three recent sermons to: FBC Hatfield, P.O. Box 108, Hatfield, AR 71945 or email to fbchatfield@gmail.com

FOR RENT

Advertise Here!
Call 318.449.4351 TODAY to reserve this space!



SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH OR FULLTIME YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTER
Cherry Ridge Baptist Church is accepting résumés for a P/T Youth Minister or a F/T Youth/Children Minister. Résumés may be e-mailed to cbapt@gmail.com or mailed to Cherry Ridge Baptist Church, 1005 Cherry Ridge Rd, Bastrop LA 71200.

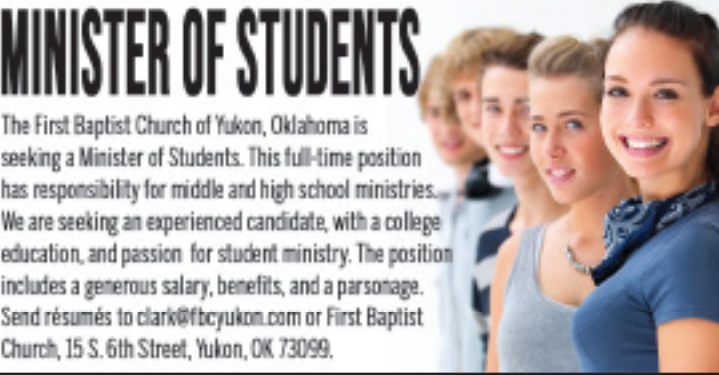


FOR SALE
2011 Ford Eldorado National 25 passenger bus for sale. The price has been reduced, \$27,000 or best offer. The bus only has 25,168 miles. For more information call milford fryer @ 225-715-1764, leave msg.



This is a facsimile of the bus that is being sold.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS
The First Baptist Church of Yukon, Oklahoma is seeking a Minister of Students. This full-time position has responsibility for middle and high school ministries. We are seeking an experienced candidate, with a college education, and passion for student ministry. The position includes a generous salary, benefits, and a parsonage. Send résumés to clark@fbcyukon.com or First Baptist Church, 15 S. 6th Street, Yukon, OK 73099.



Music MINISTRY
Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas is seeking a FT Minister of Music/Worship to lead a blended style of music. Experience in audio/visual technology is needed. If interested, send résumés to debbiereed@hbcjasper.com, 409.384.3371. A full job description can be requested.



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 Lcbcpastor1@gmail.com.



SEEKING A PASTOR
Mineral Springs Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Send résumé to 118 Pea Ridge Road, Dubach, LA 71235 or email msbaptistlouisiana@gmail.com.



HIXSON BROTHERS FUNERAL HOMES
Since 1907
701 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA 71301 • 318.442.3363
2701 Military Hwy • Pineville, LA 71360 • 318.640.1678
11886 Hwy. 84 West • Jena, LA 71342 • 318.992.4158
445 W Bontemps St. • Marksville, LA 71351 • 318.253.5979
www.hixsonbrothers.com



Seeking a Full Time or Bi-Vocational
PASTOR
UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH in Campti, La. is seeking a Full Time or Bi-Vocational Pastor. Send résumés to P. O. Box 8 Campti, La. 71411 or email to ubccampti@outlook.com



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

- Chris, wife Jasmine, Culpepper is the new music minister at Eastwood Baptist Church from Longwood, Fl.
- Ben Martinson is the new youth minister at Vivian First Baptist Church.
- Charlie, (wife April) Miller is the new pastor at Woodland Hills Baptist Church.
- Bobby Rodrigue, pastor of Belle River Baptist Church, passed away suddenly on September 14.

HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSIES

- Bayou Macon Baptist Church, Gilbert: Homecoming, October 13, Evangelist: Waylon Tibbs. A fish fry will follow the worship service. Pastor: Larry Russell.
- Pine Grove Community Church, Bastrop: Homecoming, October 13, 10:30 a.m. Special Music: Louisiana Melody Boys. Pastor: James Moffit.
- First Baptist Church, Folsom: Homecoming, October 13, 9 a.m.- noon; 9 a.m. Fellowship; 9:30 a.m. Singing and 10:45 a.m. Music: Jeff Brazell leads the music. Speaker: Nathan Van-Horn. Pastor: Will Robbins.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: 100th anniversary, October 13, 9:30 a.m. Musical Guest: Southern Plainsmen of Hornbeck. Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Merryville: 150th Anniversary, October 13, 11 a.m. Guest Speaker: Lewis King. Dinner on the grounds will follow the worship service. Pastor: Christopher Streams.
- 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, November 17, 9:30 a.m. Special Speaker: Paul Roney (former pastor). Special Music: John Simmons. Pastor: David Newton.

REVIVAL

- New Beulah Baptist Church, Hammond: Revival, October 13-16, 11 a.m. (Sunday morning) 6 p.m. (each evening). Evangelist: Bill Britt. Music leader: John Deris. Pastor: Leslie Fogleman.
- 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. Pastor: None
- First Baptist Church, Starks: Revival, November 3-6, 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelist: Mike Courtney. Special Music: Mackey & Gale Willis. Pastor:
- 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.
- Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: Revival, November 30-December 1. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

LAGNIAPPE

- Trinity Baptist Church, Shreveport: Southern Plainsmen in Concert, October 12, 4-6 p.m. Recreation Center. Cost is \$20 and will include a meal. Call the church office (318.221.2695 for more information. Pastor: Scott Teutsch.
- Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland: Jonathan Bonds in concert, October 13, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Danny Slack.
- Lakeview Baptist Church, Shreveport: Bill & Vicki Sky in concert, October 16, 5:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: William Valentine.
- Union Springs Baptist Church, Converse: Southern Plainsman gospel quartet in concert, October 19, 6 p.m. All are invited. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Ronnie Osborne.
- Alto Baptist Church, Alto: "HEAL OUR LAND" Ladies Conference and Luncheon, October 19, 10:30-12:30. Guest Speaker: Dianne Abraham. RSVP by texting 318-355-2453. Pastor: Alan Miller.
- Mt. Calvary Baptist, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with 4Calvary Quartet, October 20, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Chris Hoyt.
- Beulah Baptist Church, Oak Grove: 11th Hour in Concert, October 20, 11 a.m. Pastor: Kenneth Herring.
- Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert with 4Calvary Quartet, October 20, 6 p.m. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.
- University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Hallelujah on the Hill, October 22, 6-8 p.m. Join us for a night of spiritual refreshment featuring live music and speakers. Please bring your lawn chairs and blankets. The event takes place Adley Landry Water Reservoir Thibodaux (next to the Warren Harang Jr. Municipal Auditorium). Pastor: J.P. Cox.
- First Baptist Church, Anacoco: Rhett Walker: Days that we dreamed of tour, October 23, 7 p.m. Pastor: Chad King.
- New Prospect Baptist Church, Dry Prong: Second Annual Taste of Louisiana Cook-off and Fall Festival, October 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the New Prospect Community Park, 111 Prospect Church Road, Dry Prong. It is free to enter and free to taste. There will be a prayer walk (park walking trail) Great Faith Riders Prayer Ride, La Food, Trunk or Treat, music, family fun and tailgate games and Lagniappe Dessert Shop. All donations will go to support Grant Faith Riders Ministry and Starfish Ministries. Prizes include: "People Choice (Louisiana dish)" Best tailgate and Best Trunk or Treat. For more information, contact Pastor Trey Lewis (318.640.9712; Jackson Cooper 318. 623.2150 (brotherhood); Kimberly Roberts 318.308.3858; Beth Wilkins

- 318. 318.541.5350 (children's department); Jimmy Crabtree 318.729.4058 (music). Pastor: Trey Lewis.
- First Baptist Church, Jennings: 11th annual Pumpkin Patch Family Day, October 26. Pastor: Eric Sonnier.
- Maplewood Baptist Church, Sulphur: Fall Fest, October 26, 2-4 p.m. There will be food, music, games and much more. Pastor: Jeremy Blocker.
- Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: Fall Fest, October 26, 4-6 p.m. 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.
- Bedico Baptist Church Trunk or Treat, Fall Fest, and Gumbo Cookoff! Sunday, October 27 / 4:30-6:00.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.
- First Baptist Church, Luling: Trunk or Treat, October 27, 4-6 p.m. There will be cars, candy and community plus face painting, candy, games and photos. Pastor: Cody Cunningham.
- 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.
- Esler Baptist Church, Pineville: Trunk or Treat, October 27, 4-6 p.m. Pastor: Joshua Timothy.
- 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.
- Agape Baptist Church, Denham Springs: Church Fall Fest, October 13, 4-7 p.m. There will be Trunk or Treat, a silent auction, game and inflatables, and food vendors. Pastor:
- Town of Many Fall Festival, Naby: Fall Festival, October 19 3-7 p.m. First Baptist will have a kids pumpkin painting and a family photo booth. Pastor:
- West Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: West Fest, a free community event, October 20, 5-8 p.m. There will be Kiddie Train, hayride Petting zoo, Festival games, inflatables, Caramel apples, popcorn and trunk or treat.
- Hargis Baptist Church, XXXXX: Miles Pike in concert, October 20, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Pastor:
- 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.
- First Baptist Church, Moss Buff: Light the Bluff October 31, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Bryan Carter.
- Cook Baptist Church, Ruston: Fall Festival. October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Joseph Fowler.
- Sale Street Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Trunk or Treat, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor: Drew Mills.
- 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.

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.

trzfr zd pri ijxcidp uw uax zcrixzpjcfi, acpzq pri

xinilhpzuc uw pri haxfrjdin huddiddzuc, acpu pri

hxjzdi uw rzd mquxo.

ihridzjcd uci:wuaxpiic

Clues:
A = U; H = P

Answer to September 26, Scripture Crypto:
The Song of Solomon two:twelve



~GBO~

GEORGIA BARNETTE

LOUISIANA MISSIONS OFFERING

WE MUST GO TO THE NEARBY TOWNS, SO THAT
I CAN TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO THOSE PEOPLE.

~MARK 1:38~

STATE GOAL
\$1,750,000

GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG

