

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Rocky Maddox	1985	Rose Park
Reginaldo DeLeon	1991	Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer
Randy Harper	1996	Bellaire
Ken Basco	2003	Bellevue Road
John Fream	2008	Cypress
Darrell Dean	2012	Providence Road
Allen Brown	2020	Plain Dealing
Hector Dela Cerda	2021	Calvary Spanish
Paul Flowers	2021	Summer Grove Spanish
Alex Elie	2022	House of Hope

Staff Changes

Pilgrim Home: *Wade Allen*, Pastor, resigned

Church News

Blanchard: D-Life Bootcamp, Aug. 12, 8:30-12:30. Training for a lifestyle of disciple-making. Registration: <https://fbcbanchard.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1823299>

First Bossier: FIRST PRIORITY Evangelism Training, Aug. 19, 9am-12 noon, grades 7th-12th in the Student Area. For more info: www.firstp.org/slt2023.

North Shreve: Revival with Bill Britt. Aug. 27-30, 6:30 pm.



Salem Baptist, east of Plain Dealing, celebrated their 179th anniversary in July. Salem is the oldest church in Northwest Association, which was founded in 1844. Larry Earhart is pastor.

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

- *NEW Twin Size Blankets
- *Paper Towels



Please bring any donations to the Association Office.

2023 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Church Contributions to Association Budget - \$143,074.64
Budget Expenses of Association- \$129,079.15

Fellowship Trips

Ellerbe: Israel Trip, Feb. 1-10, 2024. Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount Carmel, Caesarea, Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha, Garden Tomb, Beersheba, & 23 more Biblical sites. \$4,440. Contact Dennis Sims, Dennis@EllerbeBaptist.org

Woodridge: Senior group trip to Branson. Sept. 26-29, 2023. \$613 for double occupancy. Includes transportation, room, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, 5 shows, Titanic Museum. Contact Linda Lynch, 318-422-9259 or church office, 318-861-3519 for more details.

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Haynes Avenue - Bi-Vo Pilgrim Home - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Westlake - Bi-Vo	Belle Park - PT Lakeview - PT Westwood - PT	Barksdale - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - PT/FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Bethany - Nursery Coordinator - PT Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers Blanchard - Financial Secretary - PT Brookwood - Ministry Assistant - FT Eastwood - Assist. Daycare Director - FT Emmanuel - Janitor/Custodian - PT

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Shreveport LA 71129
318-686-5736 FAX: 687-9701
Return Service Requested

E-mail: carlene@nwlba.org
Website: www.nwlba.org
www.facebook.com/NWLBA
Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm/Mon-Thur.
8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 8
AUGUST 2023



3 Unbiblical Things Pastors Do To Hurt Their Ministry And Damage The Church

Building a healthy church culture should be something every pastor desires. The next question is, does he know how to build one? However, when a church becomes unhealthy it may not be detectable for some time, perhaps years. Painting over the problems with some new "feel good program" won't solve the problem.

Here are three things that pastors and staff could do that will turn a church's health in the wrong direction.

1. Stop listening to your church members and seeking council

The rumor mill normally dissipates if people believe they are being heard. A true leader is present to serve his sheep. Those closest to the issues often have the best solutions. It's not only hearing, but also hearing what's not being said that's equally important. That takes being intentionally present in church members' lives. The pastor should recognize he may not have all the answers. That's the first step toward humility and self-awareness. *Proverbs 20:18, 27:21*

2. Centralize control and all decision making

Dis-empowering church members from making decisions along with their avenue for ministry, will slowly erode interest and creativity. When the pastor and staff see the members as just clogging up the machinery of ministry, the separation has already happened. *Galatians 6:8-9, Colossians 4:1*

3. Stop telling the truth

The absence of full disclosure is everywhere in our society and even in the Church. The fastest way to get church members to stop trusting their staff is if they believe wrongs are being covered up or what they hear is not the truth. *Proverbs 20:28*

A lost world is watching us to see if we hold the Church to a higher standard!

Blessings, *Lane*

MEN'S FISH FRY

BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
9766 Hwy 79, Bethany, LA 71007

Guest Speaker:
Retired Army Lt. Colonel,
Kurt Zortman
and new pastor of
Elm Grove
Baptist Church

Special Patriotic Music by:
Rocky Maddox

Monday, September 11, 2023
Serving Time: 5:30 pm
Cost: \$10
Registration:
Bethany Camp & Conference Center
318-938-1221

NLBA Quarterly EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, August 17, 2023, Kingston Road Property

PASTORAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

With Dr. Barry Young from Kansas City, MO

10 am - 12 noon

Important Topics Dr. Young will cover:

- * *Death Notification*
- * *Bereavement Care*
- * *Sharing the Gospel in a Crisis*
- * *Compassion Fatigue*
- * *Ministry Burnout*
- * *Relationship Boundaries*

Lunch and Business Meeting 12 Noon



Lunch Provided By: **Pig & Chik**
Caterer: Raymond Wilkinson, Haughton, LA

Please RSVP to carlene@nwlba.org or 318-686-5736



SUMMER CAMP UPDATE & HIGHLIGHTS

Bethany Camp & Conference is in full swing at the time of this printing. Every week is full and the Camp team is grateful for a free day to clean and prep for the next camp. Church counselors are reporting that God is doing some remarkable things through the young people who have attended the camps. Over 40 young people have made professions of faith. 1,055 campers attended three weeks of Association sponsored events and another 1,172 campers attended non-Association sponsored events. Thank you for praying and continue to pray as August begins.



Bethany
Camp & Conference Center
Bethanyc3.com



A CLOSED DOOR IS NOT THE END! Part 2 *What Does The Next Chapter Look Like?*

Last month we looked at two of the four churches that completed lengthy legacies of ministry in 2022. Emmanuel Baptist Church in Vivian and Southside Baptist Church in Shreveport had their final worship services. The common questions most will ask is, “*What happens now and what happens to the facilities?*”

In this newsletter we’ll highlight two more churches in Northwest Association that brought to a close decades of ministry. However, ministry continues where these churches were once successful.

In the far northwest corner of Caddo parish, only a few miles from Texas and Arkansas is the town of Rodessa. During the oil boom of the 1930’s and 40’s around Caddo Lake, the population of Rodessa was nearly 10,000. Today, it’s less than 300. Since 1914, the **Rodessa Baptist Church** stood strong in the twentieth century. With an aging church and changing demographics, Rodessa brought their fellowship to a close in the summer of 2022. The Open Road Church in Haughton, pastored by Raymond Wilkinson does ministry differently. An opportunity to provide outdoor ministry in Rodessa until the existing church could be remodeled was tailor-made for Open Road. Over the last several months the church has ministered to well over a hundred residents of the Rodessa community. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter



were hands-on events with great results. Outdoor worship along with their mobile cooking units has opened an outreach door that is already seeing fruit. Your Georgia Barnette State Mission giving has been a blessing as LBC has partnered with the Association to support this new work in Rodessa, as the town continues to be reached for Christ.



For the past 69 years **Waller Baptist Church** has ministered in and around the heart of Bossier City. In the 1960’s and 70’s Waller was the second largest church in Bossier. Their bus ministry was known throughout the community and would bring hundreds of children to church each week. As Bossier grew north, south and east toward Haughton, families moved to new subdivisions and found new church homes. Thriving as a neighborhood church proved difficult over the last 10-15 years. To ensure a Southern Baptist Gospel witness was not lost, the Association began discussions with Waller in 2015 concerning a sister church sharing the facilities. In 2016, a new mission church, United Outreach Church, led by Greg Shyne, was praying about a permanent church home. After multiple meetings and joint fellowships, an agreement was reached to share the financial overhead of the facilities and both churches would stagger their Sunday School and worship hours. UOC and Waller’s partnership extended Waller’s future until their final service in August of 2022. The property was deeded to United Outreach last October, and effective ministry continues in the heart of Bossier City and beyond.



CULTURE WATCH & National News

HE /HIS SHE /HER THEY/THEM United Nations Expert Says Religious Beliefs Must Change To Accommodate LGBTQ Ideology

This summer, the U.N.’s Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity presented a report to the Human Rights Council arguing that religious freedom is “*not incompatible with equality for LGBTQ persons.*” The “*compatibility*” of Victor Madrigal-Borloz’s report appears to mean that long-held religious beliefs and traditions must be subservient to the LGBTQ ideology. The report continually bemoans laws that affirm natural marriage and family structures. Madrigal-Borloz not only suggests the idea that religious groups are interpreting their own religions incorrectly, but also that articulating their understanding of sin can be considered hate speech or even incitement to violence.

Serve Tour & Crossover New Orleans 2023

God blessed in compassion ministries leading up to the SBC Convention. 366 people committed their lives to Christ. 84 outreach and compassion projects. 3,487 gospel conversations were had with unbelievers. 12,180 members of the community were served at compassion projects and outreach events.



Church Recitation Of “Sparkle Creed” Draws Criticism

A greatly modified version of the centuries old Apostle’s Creed was recited at the progressive Edina Community Lutheran Church in St. Edina, Minnesota. To say it has caused quite a stir across the internet would be an understatement. Critics are characterizing the words as “idolatry,” “heresy,” and “absolute insanity.” To celebrate Pride month earlier this summer, co-pastor Anna Helgen led her church to recite the creed with her.

I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.

I believe in Jesus Christ, their child, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads and saw everyone as a sibling-child of God.

I believe in the rainbow Spirit, who shatters our image of the one white light and refracts it into a rainbow of gorgeous diversity.

In believe in the church of everyday saints as numerous, creative, and resilient as patches on the AIDS quilt, whose feet are grounded in mud and whose eyes gaze at the stars in wonder.

I believe in the calling to each of us that love is love is love, so beloved, let us love.

I believe, glorious God. Help my unbelief. Amen.

The “Sparkle Creed” was originally penned in 2021 by Rachel Small Stokes, pastor of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky. When denominations reject the Word of God, they will end up anywhere theologically. If there’s a positive aspect to the new creed, it serves to totally clarify who belongs to God and who doesn’t, regardless of how they identify themselves.



THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

*What We Believe
as Southern Baptists*

We continue with our series on the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, with this month’s column.

Article IV-B: Justification

“Justification is God’s gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.”

In justification, God declares us righteous. In sanctification and glorification, which we’ll explore over the next two months, God makes us so. These interlocking works of God ensure that one day, we will be fully conformed to the image of Christ.

Regeneration, indwelling, and sanctification are ways God works salvation in us, making us spiritually alive, taking up permanent residence in our spirits, and conforming us to the image of Christ. But justification occurs outside of us. Put another way, the location of justification is heaven, where God declares believing sinners in right standing before Him.

In some respects, justification is the linchpin in God’s great work of salvation. It is His fundamental act of blessing by which He saves us from the past and secures us for the future. Paul places justification in the golden chain of redemption in Romans 8:29-30. Those whom God foreknows, He predestines, calls, justifies, and glorifies.

Justification is received by faith. (Romans 5:1, Gal. 3:24) It is a one-time, instantaneous, non-repeatable act of God, placing us in right standing before His holy bench and ensuring that we are never subject to double jeopardy.

To add works to justification, such as returning to old covenant practices that served as types and shadows of greater things to come, is to trample on the Son of God and regard as profane the blood of the new covenant (Hebrews 10:29).

Justification is not to be confused with sanctification, which is the work of God setting believers apart and engaging us in a lifelong process by which we become more Christlike. Justification and sanctification may be distinguished but separated. Both are divine facets of God’s redemption.

Next month: Article IV-C of the BF&M: Sanctification