

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

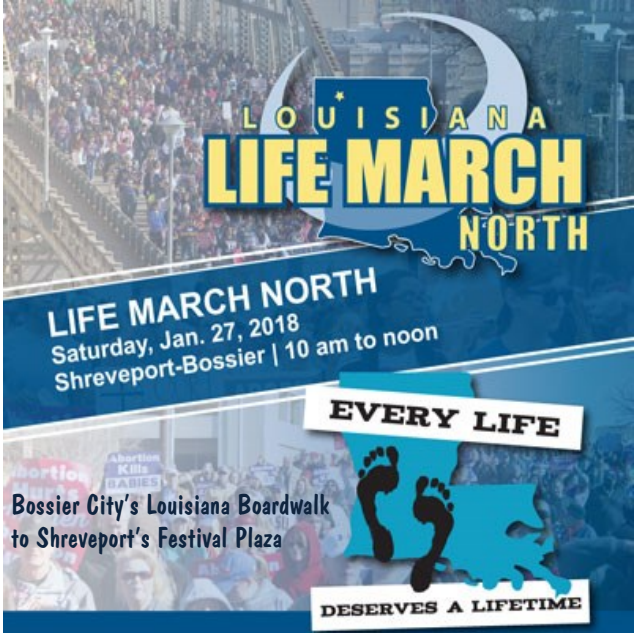
Freddie Williford	2006	Ford Park
“Skip” Rainbolt	2008	Fillmore
Billy Sutton	2008	Redeemer
Steve Pettey	2014	Pinecroft
Rusty Shuler	2015	Eastwood
Gary Johnson	2016	Waller

New Staff

Belcher: Virgil Ragland, Interim Pastor
Belle Park: Scott Shirley, Interim Pastor

Staff Changes

Summer Grove: Aaron Burgner, Pastor, resigned to Church at the Mall, Lakeland, FL



Fellowship Trips

Cypress: Ireland Trip. Group 1-April 18-28, 2018. Group 2-April 22-May 2, 2018. \$3,499 plus \$250.00 (optional/insurance) Contact Cindy at 318-965-2296

Staff Opportunities				
PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Belcher Belle Park Brookwood Caddo Prairie Gray Kingston Road Mansfield Road New Bethel Red River Springs of Grace Summer Grove Willow Point	Bethany-PT Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Koran - PT Waller -PT	Ban Suk - PT Barksdale-PT Emmanuel S'port - PT Pilgrim Home - PT Princeton FBC - PT	Clarion - Children - PT Norris Ferry-FT N. Keithville - Children's Worker - PT Ferry Lake-PT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Ferry Lake-Pianist Northwoods - Secretary- PT Trinity Heights-Keyboardsist Rhythm Guitarist Drummer Do not wish to receive this publication? Please contact us at carlene@nwlbba.org or 318-686-5736

5875 W. 70th St
Shreveport LA 71129
318/686.5736 FAX: 687.9701
Return Service Requested
E-mail: carlene@nwlbba.org
Website: www.nwlbba.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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Church News & Calendar

Calvary: STUDENT MINISTRY Training 1 Day Conference with Stuart Hall from Atlanta, GA , Dec. 2. 9am-12noon. No charge.
Calvary: 2018 Night of Praise, Jan. 12, 6:30pm. Featuring Steel Magnolias, Ammer Gayle Whatley, Jake Cowley, Calep Lewis, Allen Family and Voices of Louisiana College.
Westlake: Free choir robes and collars. 23 maroon & 25 ivory. Contact Donna Clayton at 318-929-4033.

Over 50 NLBA Staff Wives were honored last month at FBC Bossier with an Appreciation Dinner.



Becky Moore, wife of Director of Missions, Lane Moore



Gretchen Lary, wife of Pastor John Lary, Calvary Baptist Church

Week of Prayer For International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
December 3-10, 2017

Baptist News

"This Association exists to assist our family of churches in reaching and discipling people for Christ."

Volume 47, Number 12

December, 2017



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

The celebration of the arrival of Jesus (God with us) will receive all the attention in December. In order for the apostle Paul not to feel left out this month, I'll close 2017 with some valuable lessons from his life.

In Acts 16, Paul, Silas, Timothy and later Luke visited some of the churches they had founded or visited before. Their journey included several roadblocks, a vision, a meeting with a wealthy businesswoman, an exorcism, jail time, then a miraculous release from the jail, plus several conversions.

LESSON #1 *Everywhere Paul went he made emotional, spiritual, and relational Christ-like deposits into the lives of others.*

After people spent time with Paul, they were better people. Acts 15-16 described Paul as strengthening the brothers, strengthening the churches, and encouraging people.

LESSON #2 *Paul had great discernment.*

Paul was discerning enough throughout his ministry to recognize from the Holy Spirit a closed door or an open door. God will use both doors to direct us to His will. God expects us to think wisely and clearly as we weigh options. Paul also had godly men around him to aid him in those decisions.

LESSON #3 *Paul looked for opportunities to have gospel conversations.*

When Paul would enter a city, the first stop was normally the synagogue to discuss spiritual things. However, at Philippi, a Roman colony, none existed. Paul found the place where he believed spiritually minded people would gather and made that his place of conversation.

LESSON #4 *Paul faced difficulty with grace.*

In one city Paul and Silas got thrown into jail after being beaten. Instead of pitching a holy fit, scripture says they sang hymns to the Lord during the night. They knew God was still in charge. We never know who is watching us when difficulty arises in our life. With all the insanity in the world today, what a godly witness it is to respond properly.

With more people at this time of the year open to spiritual things, perhaps some of these lessons from the life of Paul in Acts 16 will help us point people to Christ during this Christmas season.

Have a blessed Christmas with your church family this month,
Lane



SUNDAY NIGHT

6:00 PM

Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, LA

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association



WMU/MISSIONS
Rhonda Berry

As we transition from the Thanksgiving Season into the Christmas Season, we continue to have much to be thankful for. Though Hollywood and “Madison Avenue” would have us believe that Christmas is all about who can start showing their Christmas movies the earliest and who can provide the fullest stockings and highest piles of gifts so their children will not be deprived, I am thankful that Jesus Christ is still the reason for our Christmas Season of Celebration. God’s Gift of His Son is His gift of eternal life for His children.

Recently we went to Camp Bethany for **Missions & More Camp (M&M Camp**, pictures at right). *Kris Simpson*, our Children’s Missions Director, planned an exciting time of learning about the persecuted church. The children had to decode the directions for attending the secret church in order to find the worship place and the Bibles and hymnals. This was a reminder of the freedom of worship we have, and the overabundance of worship places/helps (buildings, Bibles, hymnals, musical instruments, etc.) that we enjoy. It is the Message that is important and the children learned that this weekend. *Thank you to Kris for planning, thank you to the leaders/parents who cared enough to bring the children, and thank you to Camp Bethany for all of your help. Great time!!*

The Carpenter House will be opening soon, and there will be several ways that your WMU can help. Contact John Anderson for more details.

Camp Bethany
Robert Cole

We are busy with several maintenance projects as we come to the close of 2017. We have painted two cabins and are hoping to do two more soon. We are building a really big front porch onto the intern house. We have replaced some lights in the CPAC building. While all of these and other projects are going on, we are continually hosting weekend retreats. We finished *Missions and More* this past weekend with sixty kids in attendance. Now we are getting ready for the biggest event of the Fall which is, of course, **Branson @ Bethany**. As you are reading this it will have already happened. We are anticipating about 1,500 guests to be on the campus over two days to enjoy good entertainment, good fellowship and, as always, good food.

December is usually our quietest month and we will be taking advantage of that by slowing down and enjoying some time off.

Camp Bethany
318/938.1221
Fax:318/938.1220
www.campbethany.com

Please remember to keep Christ as the focus of your Christmas this year and make plans to come see us in 2018.

Here are some dates to add to your spring calendar:
WMU Quarterly Meeting: February 6 – Location TBA; May 1 – Brookwood Baptist Church.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (NIV: Isaiah 9: 6)

Merry Christmas! I look forward to serving with you in the New Year!





PRAYING FOR EVERY HOME
SHARING WITH EVERY PERSON

NLBA 2018

Harvest

Sunday School Training

for Small Groups

Monday Night– February 12th 6-8 PM

Host Location: Brookwood Baptist Church

Sessions for: Children, Youth & Adult Leadership
“Putting Evangelism Back In Sunday School”

Compassion Ministries
John Anderson

Gifts. That’s what is on the mind of so many people during the month of December. We are concerned about buying gifts, giving gifts, hiding gifts, and trying to find the right gift. And the closer you get to December 25th, the more critical those gifts seem to be. But just so we don’t forget, there are individuals and families in our community who are not having to worry about a lot of gifts. Not because they don’t want any, but simply because they can’t afford any. Paul told the Church at Corinth in 2 Corinthians chapter 9 verse 7, *“that the sincerity of their love for God could be measured by their diligence to give towards others.”*

I want to encourage all of us, that while we’re enjoying this Christmas season, there is no greater blessing than being a blessing to others. Linwood Baptist Church is in great need of canned goods for their food pantry. Also, they are collecting tarps and blankets for the homeless during the winter months. Contact Ed Gonzalez at 318-631-4467 or 318-393-7737. For more information on how your church can be involved in Compassion Ministry contact John Anderson at 318-230-3446 or 318-686-5736.



ASSOCIATION UPCOMING DATES

2017

*Special*EVENTS to Mark Your Calendars:


December 7

Retirees Luncheon
Trinity Heights Baptist

UPCOMING Monthly EVENTS	
December 11	Bi-Vocational 6:30 pm Shreve City Baptist Church Spouses invited
12	North Caddo Staff Christmas 6:30 pm Trejos Hwy 1 & I 49 Spouses invited
14	Ministers of Music 11:30 Country Tavern Barbecue 823 Brook Hollow, Shreveport
Christmas Schedule	Association Office 21-1/2 day—Close at 11:30 am 22-26—Closed 27-28—Open 9-11 am 29-January 1—Closed
January 2	Office Re-opens to regular schedule

A Pastor's Perspective

My Favorite Christmas



As I look back on my life of 62 years, I have tried to remember the most meaningful Christmas that I could share in this column. My goal here is to help the reader to reflect back on their childhood to this present time, and to try once again to catch that true Christmas spirit.

Billy Flowers,
Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Vivian, LA

Having been an athlete in my youth, I remember the times that I received the new basketball, football, baseball, etc., and even as a younger adult, the golf balls. I’m not sure any of those rank up there with my favorite Christmas.

I certainly remember my first bicycle and especially the five speed, deep purple bicycle, called *The Rail*, that I wanted so badly and enjoyed so much. Probably my most favorite Christmas gift, as a youth, was my first set of drums which led me to years of playing in garage bands, thinking I was much better than I really was.

These were great, but I’m not sure any of these would classify as “my favorite Christmas.” James 1:17-18 says, *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.”*

No greater gift have I ever received, no greater Christmas have I ever experienced, than the gift of Jesus Christ. It, therefore, is not subject to just Christmas, for it is Christmas, and it is something that can be celebrated 365 days a year and emphasized during the Christmas season.

PRAISE BE TO GOD WHO HAS GIVEN US THIS GREAT AND PRECIOUS GIFT.

Billy Flowers has been the Bi-Vocational pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Vivian since February 2017. However, Billy is not new to our Association. For over 25 years, Billy has pastored several churches in Caddo and Bossier Parish.