

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Randy Johnson	1974	Countryside/Keithville
James Jenkins	1991	Baptist Bible
Roy Thomas	2013	Saint James
Draper Wright	2016	New Zion
Cecil Marr	2017	North Shreve
Corey Smith	2019	Heritage
John Anderson	2020	Northwoods
Jerry Masters	2022	Red River

New Staff

Eastwood: Allen Goodwin, Youth, from Georgia (wife, Lark)
Emmanuel: Scott Shirley, Pastor (wife, Bethany)

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8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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Southern Baptist Convention 2023 WRAP UP

Over 12,700 messengers from around the country gathered in New Orleans on June 13 & 14, including dozens of Northwest pastors, staff and laymen.



Action was taken by messengers related to the convention’s complementarian beliefs concerning the role of women in ministry and whether churches were in “friendly cooperation” with the SBC. The Convention upheld the removal of Fern Creek Church in Kentucky and Saddleback Church in California by large majorities due to the Baptist Faith & Message statement that Scripture reserves the office of pastor for men.

Messengers also approved another year of work for the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force and will report again at the 2024 meeting in Indianapolis.

A motion to amend the BF&M concerning Article 6 passed with over two-thirds vote. The new wording reads within article 6, *“While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified in Scripture.”*

Messengers also approved two motions authorizing the president to appoint two task forces. One would be to study the impact that the recommendations from the Great Commission Resurgence Report, which was adopted in 2009, has had on the effectiveness of the SBC’s North American Gospel effort and on relationships between SBC ministry partners. The second would be to study how the Convention should deem churches to be *“in friendly cooperation on questions of faith and practice,”*

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.

as written in Article 3 of the SBC Constitution.

The Convention passed several resolutions. Resolution 8 passed overwhelmingly to condemn “gender-affirming care,” and all forms of “gender transition interventions.” The resolution called these activities “an assault on God’s created order.”

Bart Barber was also re-elected as president of the SBC, defeating Mike Stone with 68% of the vote.



BCM Students from Rose Park and Woodridge serve as registration hosts at the SBC 2023.

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Haynes Avenue - 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

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective

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IF YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THE BIBLE,
JUST PUT IT ON ICE!

An unusual event occurred recently in the state legislature of Arizona. A state representative was caught on surveillance camera swiping Bibles that had been placed in the members only House lounge. This happened on more than one occasion. House officials found Bibles hidden under sofa cushions and in the lounge refrigerator! There’s a host of great sermon titles that could come from such nonsense. “Cold Bible, Cold Heart,” “You Never Pull Leftovers From God’s Refrigerator,” and many more!

Through the centuries efforts have been made to attack God’s Word and cancel the Bible once and for all. Banning the Bible has been commonplace in many countries since the early Church. The Scriptures have always been a threat, from the ancient kings to current tyrants and dictators, to the lost person down the street.

This month America will celebrate her 247th birthday. If our mischievous lawmaker had known more about our nation’s heritage, perhaps she would have had seconds thoughts about hiding Bibles.

Many of our greatest presidents, including Washington and Lincoln, were regular readers of God’s Word. Washington said, *“It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.”* Our 16th president was presented a Bible as a gift in 1864. Upon receiving it Lincoln said, *“In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it the best gift God has given to men. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong.”*

While Thomas Jefferson had some privately-held unorthodox views about Christianity, he nevertheless had a view high of the morality of Jesus. Our third president said of Christ, *“He gave us the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man.”*

The International Year of the Bible was declared forty years ago. Our culture has changed immensely since 1983. *TIME* and *Newsweek*, two of the most prominent magazines that year, did cover stories on the Bible and the founding of America. *Newsweek* wrote, *“For centuries, the Bible has exerted an unrivaled influence on American culture, politics and social life. Now historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps more than the Constitution, is our founding document: the source of the powerful myth of the United States as a special, sacred nation, a people called by God to establish a model society, a beacon to the world.”* Don’t expect to see a statement like that from the media anytime soon.

Before his passing in 2007, pastor, evangelist and author Dr. D. James Kennedy said, *“The Bible has done more to lift mankind than any other book. Throughout the world wherever the knowledge of Scripture has gone, education, wealth and the standard of living has increased. When knowledge of Scripture is absent, there follows poverty, crime, and immorality of every kind.”*

Make sure God’s Word holds a preeminent place in your daily life and that it hasn’t slipped between the sofa cushions. Be sure to check your refrigerator just in case!

Stay faithful,
Lane



Compassion Ministries

John Anderson



"A well-kept secret has gotten out," said Virginia Disotell, Northwest Association WMU Director. The secret is the number of church quilting groups that are in our Association. Most of these groups meet every week or at least once a month. In May, sixty ladies from our Association gathered at Northwoods Baptist Church for the first ever quilt ministry luncheon to celebrate the many organizations they support locally and overseas. Supported Ministries include: Nursing homes, Children's and V. A. hospitals, St. Jude in Memphis, orphanages in Kenya, and various Hispanic ministries.

One of the ladies said, *"Our goal is not only to meet the physical needs like Lydia in Acts 16, but that the Lord would open people's hearts to heed the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ."* These ladies are excited about what great things God is doing with their sewing groups. If you love to sew and would like to be a part of one of these many groups in our area, you can call Virginia Disotell at 318-518-4520.

For more information concerning this ministry or any other type of compassion ministry, contact me at 318-230-3446 or janderson@nwlba.org



A CLOSED DOOR IS NOT THE END!

What Does The Next Chapter Look Like?

Last year four churches in the Association had their final worship service. So what happens next? Specifically, what happens to the church facilities? In most cases the facilities are deeded over to the Association, or the remaining membership can put the facility up for sale. Proceeds can be given to missions, other non-profits, or endowments can be set up to allow the church's legacy to live on.

In this newsletter we'll highlight the next chapter of two former churches.

The **Emmanuel Baptist Church of Vivian** began in 1954. For decades the church experienced many fruitful years. The membership endured a major fire in 1970. The church building was a total loss. The members immediately built the current structure, pictured bottom left. In the last decade the membership declined to an unsustainable level. In the spring of last year, the Colquitt Baptist Church of Myra, Louisiana, led by Pastor Robert Green, petitioned the Association for Watchcare status. Last October, Colquitt became a full participating member of Northwest Association. The Colquitt church has now relocated to Vivian and is occupying the former Emmanuel facility and the building is once again thriving with new life.



The **Southside Baptist Church** had been a fixture in south Shreveport for over 100 years. Moving to a new location a little over a decade ago was not enough to give Southside the boost it needed to reclaim some of the great years when it was beacon of strength in the Cedar Grove neighborhood. Cypress Baptist Church in Benton had been desiring to plant a new church in Northwest Louisiana for several years. Last summer, in partnership with the Association, pastor John Fream and Cypress began a major remodeling project for a new work in south Shreveport. The church doors officially opened in February with a new south campus of Cypress Baptist Church.

There is life after closing. It won't look like it did before and perhaps that's a good thing. Most people don't like change because we like our habits and routines. Changes in life can be very unsettling, however the Lord can stretch us in many ways, even at church.



CULTURE WATCH & National News



77% of Churchgoers Support Tithing, But Only Half Actually Do!

Slightly over 3 out of 4 Protestant churchgoers say tithing is a biblical command for today. The youngest adult churchgoers, those 18-34, were the least likely (66%) to agree tithing is a biblical command that still applies today. However, only (51%) admitted that they give 10% to the church that they attend. *Source: Lifeway Research*

Kansas Protects Babies Born Alive During Abortions

The Kansas legislature overrode Governor Laura Kelly's veto of legislation to protect babies born alive during an abortion procedure. The bill requires healthcare providers and physicians to provide the same level of care to an infant born alive during an abortion that they would to an infant born alive under different circumstances. *Source: WORLD News*



Florida Baptist Convention Victimized By Cyber Attack. Losses \$700,000 Dollars

FBC staff thought they were sending funds to the North American Mission Board. A convention staff member received a revised bank account number (supposedly from a NAMB official) of where to send the funds. FBC is working with federal and state investigators to retrieve the lost money. Florida Convention leaders say they will honor their financial commitments by drawing from reserves. They also said they would add to their cybersecurity training, and system upgrades with advanced detection software. *Source: Florida Baptist Press*

Nearly 1 in 5 Adults Now Being Treated For Depression

Clinical depression rates in America have risen noticeably since the beginning of Covid-19 in March 2020. Currently, more women (24%) than men (11%) are being treated for depression. Since 2017, that rate is up 6 points for women to 2 points for men. Lifetime depression rates are also climbing fast among Black and Hispanic adults and have now surpassed those of white respondents. *Source: Gallup Survey*



THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

What We Believe as Southern Baptists

Following is another in a series of columns on the Baptist Faith & Message 2000

Article IV: Salvation

"Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ. As Lord."

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of the heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through the conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. 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.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Since Christians possess a relationship with Christ, which already has begun and extends out into eternity future, it is biblically faithful to say we *were saved* (from the penalty of sin), *are being saved* (from the power of sin), and *will be saved* (from the presence of sin). The Lord alone applies these wonderful elements of salvation to our lives.

Over the next few months we'll look at each of the above aspects of our Salvation: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification