

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Anniversaries

David Lee	1996	Trees/Pastor
James Jenkins	1991	Baptist Bible/Pastor
Randy Johnson	1974	Countryside/Pastor
Aaron Burgner	2012	Summer Grove/Pastor
Dale Sauls	1991	Blanchard/Assoc/Ed
David Venable	2004	Westwood/Pastor
Draper Wright	2016	New Zion/Pastor

New Staff

**Ferry Lake:** *Bill Lott*, Pastor, (wife: Kathleen)  
**Vivian FBC:** *Skylar Hollis*, Youth and Children from Marshall, TX.

Staff Changes

**Red River:** *Josh Cagle*, resigned  
**Red River:** *Billy Pierce*, Interim Pastor



Contact Amy Butler for your counseling needs at the Northwest Baptist Association Office.  
318-773-5539

Fellowship Trips

**Summer Grove:** Israel/Holy Land-10 day trip. February 6-15, 2018. Starting at \$3,498.00 per person. Contact Becky Singletary, 318-686-1470 or becky@summergrove.org  
**Trinity Heights:** 2017 Senior Adult Trip to Branson, MO. November 7-10. Double occupancy: \$495.00/Single Occu-pancy: \$613.00. Cost includes travel, lodging, 6 shows, 3 dinners and 1 play. Contact Pat Wilson, 318-309-0088, ASAP, to make a reservation.

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[www.Facebook.com/NWLBA](https://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

**Airline:** Tribute Quartet, Sunday, **July 23**, 6 pm  
**Clarion:** Ladies Fellowship/Luncheon, **July 22**. Guest Speaker: Dr. Bridgett Brown, Caddo Executive Master Teacher. Special Music: Jamie Huguet. Continental breakfast-9:00am, and lunch provided. No childcare. 5300 Barksdale Blvd, Suite B. RSVP text or call Jackie Marino at 318-678-3586.  
**Haughton FBC:** Disaster Relief Training, **July 28-29**. Friday-5:30 pm, supper provided, *Feed Training* led by Liz Landers. Saturday-8:30 am, breakfast provided. *Mudout Training* led by David Cheatwood & *Chainsaw Training* led by Toby Wileman. First time attendee: \$28.00. Includes back-ground check, training materials, ID badge, hat, shirt, and lunch.  
**Keithville FBC:** Ark-La-Tex Southern Gospel Convention. **August 18** - 6pm, **August 19** - 5pm. Free admission, love of-fering. For more info call 318-925-9476.  
**Salem:** Homecoming, **July 9**. Celebrating 173 years. Speaker: Ray Huddleston (*Interim Pastor 1979*). 12 noon-Lunch, 1:30 pm-Singing.  
**Trinity Heights:** Dr. Dennis Swanberg, **July 9**, 6pm. “Night of Laughter.” Free, but a love offering will be received.

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Brookwood Caddo Prairie New Bethel North Shreve Red River Springs of Grace Vivian FBC Woodland Hills	Pinecroft - PT Waller -PT Woodland Hills - PT	Ban Suk - PT Ferry Lake- PT Pilgrim Home - PT Princeton FBC - PT Providence Rd - PT	Bethany - Nursery - PT Clarion - Children - PT N. Keithville - Children's Worker - PT	Countryside/Keithville-Pianist Ferry Lake-Pianist North Shreve-Pianist Northwoods - Secretary- PT

Do not wish to receive this publication?  
Please contact us at [carlene@nwlbba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlbba.org)

Baptist News

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

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July, 2017



DISCIPLING IN AN AGE OF BIBLICAL ILLITERACY

Pastors, staff members, church leaders, and Sunday School teachers are always encouraging those under their instruction to spend time in God’s Word. However

American churches are becoming more spiritually anemic as the years go by. Is the church having the influence it should? Recent LifeWay Research numbers show only 22% of Americans say they read though the Bible regularly, and one third of Americans say they never read the Bible.

In Phoenix last month at the Southern Baptist Convention, I noticed a new resource coming out this fall from LifeWay. It’s called The Daily Discipleship Guide. This type of resource is not new, but I was impressed with this one. It’s from the *Explore the Bible* family of small group/Sunday School resources. I encourage you to check it out this fall. (*DOM’s don’t get commission!*)

The lack of Bible reading certainly has led to a lack of biblical doctrine. These stats from LifeWay Research of how American Christians view theology today is sobering to say the least.

- \* **47% say the Bible is accurate in all it teaches**
- \* **51% say the Bible was written to interpret as they choose**
- \* **77% say people must contribute to their own effort for salvation**
- \* **52% say good deeds will help them earn a spot in heaven**
- \* **45% say there are several different ways to get to heaven**

The details of the research didn’t say what kind of “Christian” they surveyed. I just hope they weren’t all Southern Baptist, or we’ve got more work ahead of us than we thought.

*Let’s work together to lower the Biblical illiteracy inside our churches, and as well as outside the church.* I know your larger Southern Baptist family and the leadership of our Convention is committed to accomplishing that goal.

Be blessed,

*Lane*

Are your youth registered for summer camp?  
Call Camp Bethany now! 318.938.1221



NEW FEATURE

This month we begin a new feature in the Northwest Association newsletter. You will be introduced to one of our pastors. Each month you’ll notice a GUEST EDITORIAL from the PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE. We trust you’ll enjoy hearing from different shepherds in our Association that many of you may have heard of, but you’ve never heard them preach.

In the July edition we begin with the newest pastor to the Northwest Association. Dr. Colin Wimberly arrived in March to pastor Trinity Heights Baptist Church. Bro. Colin has been the pastor of several churches in Louisiana as well as an instructor at Louisiana College.

Next month we’ll introduce you to the longest tenured pastor in our Association. Rev. Randy Johnson has served the Countryside Baptist Church (*formerly Berean*) in Keithville since 1974. Countryside joined the Association a few years ago.



WMU/MISSIONS  
Rhonda Berry

The summer is well underway and WMU is in active pursuit of Missions! Many of you are on mission trips this summer. FamilyFest is in July, and this year it is being held in Kentucky. If you have never gone on one of these trips I challenge you to add it to your calendar for next year. It is one of the very best mission trips I have been on, and is a way to combine a family vacation with mission action.

August 3 is our annual **WMU Training**, at Woodridge Baptist Church. It begins at 6:00 pm with a light supper, provided by Woodridge Baptist WOM. This year we will have break-out sessions for different areas:

- Children's Missions-Kathy Chreitzburg and Cathy Jenkins
- Women on Mission-Glenda Hofius
- myMission- Joyce Hevrin
- Mission Study (Russia)- Bettye Ann McQueen
- Mission Action- Gwen Kirkpatrick and Diane Reeder

Camp Bethany  
Robert Cole

I was telling my son Josh all about the craziness of the first week of summer. (It was really crazy! Lots of stuff broke.) Josh reminded me that God always shows up when the devil attacks. I was really humbled by my son's insight and encouragement. He was right. On the final night decision time there were only forty one people out of two hundred and twenty sitting in their seats. *The rest were making decisions at the front.* Eighteen students became Christians that night and another eighty made serious rededications to follow and serve their Lord more seriously. **IT WAS AWESOME!**

God is doing His thing once again. I don't have the numbers for week two, but twenty- three more children became Christians in week three. We cannot wait to see what God is going to do during the next three weeks, which will be our NLBA Kidz Kamp! We are also excited about our youth week called "Live Sent."

Everyone LOVES the new slides. They are so much fun. Trey has really worked hard working out a lot of problems and making adjustments as we break in this new equipment. All of our staff has done a great job.

Camp Bethany  
318/938.1221  
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[www.campbethany.com](http://www.campbethany.com)

*Keep us in your prayers as we keep working hard for Jesus!*

**myMission** is an online group that targets young adults. The cost is \$5.00, payable at the door. If you know that you are coming, please let me know at [splashberry@yahoo.com](mailto:splashberry@yahoo.com) or 318-415-9623. This will help in preparation.

**Are you ROOTED and READY?** We each one need to be Rooted in God's Word so that we will be Ready to share Jesus at any time. **RefresHer** will be September 16 at Camp Bethany. There will be a big change this year. We will have registration deadlines, and they are:

- Register by September 4, cost is \$15.00;
- Register by Sept 11, cost is \$20.00;
- Register at the door, cost is \$25.00.

We absolutely want everyone who can to come. But we also need to be wise in our planning, and good stewards of supplies, refreshments and lunch. We appreciate your understanding and help with this. Extenuating circumstances can usually

be worked out, but you will need to contact me so that we can work with you. Registration information/forms will be going out soon.

**M&M Camp** will be November 10 & 11 at Camp Bethany. You will not want to miss this year. Kris Simpson is our new Children's Mission Director, and she is working on a great weekend. This year's theme will be the Underground Church. Please add this to your fall calendars. There will be much to learn and lots of fun!

The next few months are filling up, and each church has its own events. But when we only participate in "our own" activities we miss so much—making new friends, learning new ideas from fellow Christians, sharing your ideas with fellow Christians and good, old fashioned fellowship and cooperation. *Please pray about your participation in Association events.*

ASSOCIATION UPCOMING DATES

2017	
<i>Special EVENTS to Mark Your Calendars:</i>	
July 3-7	PreTeen Camp #3 Camp Bethany
July 24-28	NLBA Youth Camp Camp Bethany
August 3	WMU Training Woodridge Baptist Church
September 11	Men's Fish Fry/Camp Bethany
October 9	Annual Meeting Airline Baptist Church
November 28-29	<i>Branson @ Bethany</i>

**It's Finally Here!**

Check out our  
**NEW Website!!!!**

[www.nwlba.org](http://www.nwlba.org)

Compassion Ministries  
John Anderson

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, twelve churches from our association had the privilege of hearing Rusty Davidson, and three of his associates from Children's Hunger Fund out of Dallas Texas. They gave us a presentation of their food ministry and informed us how they are able to help churches, not only in the Dallas area, but all over the United States, and other parts of the world to open doors in their community through their food ministry. They told us that their ministry goal is to partner with as many churches as they can, not only to meet physical needs, but to use the food as a tool to help share the gospel with individuals and families. The idea is to adopt a family for a period of time, help meet their physical needs, and build a relationship with them,

while all along sharing the love of Christ with them.

**What an incredible plan!**



Rusty Davidson, Jose Luis Amezcuita, Steve Muncey, and Danny Agular with Children's Hunger Fund

*Jesus said, " man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*



What an opportunity this is going to be for our churches that are looking for another avenue to express the Love of God.

For more information concerning this or any other type of compassion ministry, please contact me, John Anderson, at 318-686-5736 or on my cell at 318-230-3446. You can also email me at [janderson@nwlba.org](mailto:janderson@nwlba.org)

UPCOMING Monthly EVENTS	
July 4	Independence Day Office Closed
10	Bi-Vocational 6:30 pm Association Office
25	Pastors Prayer 9:00 am Association Office

## A Pastor's Perspective



Collin Wimberly,  
Pastor  
Trinity Heights  
Baptist Church

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. *What is faith?* According to the dictionary faith is trust or confidence. For many, faith means that I can count on someone. Losing faith means losing trust. We often hear people speak about losing faith in the government, a prominent person, or even their spouse. People who lose faith often find themselves disappointed or disillusioned. If they are not careful they can become bitter and angry individuals.

**What does the Bible say about faith?** The writer of Hebrews defines faith as a profound and life altering belief. Faith is trust, absolute trust in the truth of Christ and the claims of the gospel. Faith is the conviction that God exists and orders the universe according to His purposes and plans. Faith holds true even when we cannot see evidence to prove it or feel emotions to validate it. Manley Beasley defined faith as "reason at rest." This means that our minds become so fully convinced of the reality of God that nothing is needed to verify it and nothing can shake it.

Hebrews 11 is a tour through the lives of ancient men and women who lived by this kind of faith. They were so deeply convinced of the truth of God that they were willing to suffer and even die for what they believed. How very different from many who profess to have faith today! The slightest inconvenience sets their heads spinning and leaves them wondering if God is even real. Let sickness, or loss, or persecution, or some major crisis come upon them, and they "lose faith." When this happens, disillusionment, anger, and even bitterness are not far behind.

However, true faith is not something that can be "lost." It can be tested and tried. It can be strengthened. It can also weaken. But faith itself is a gift of God. True believers will fail and falter at times, but they will not lose their faith. Faith grows when we fill our minds with the promises of God. Faith is developed in the gym of hard knocks and painful falls. Faith thrives in the harshest of conditions. Faith trusts God even when all outward circumstances are stacked against us. Take a lesson from Hebrews 11 and trust God. When life is good, trust God. When life is hard, and suffering or death waits at the door, trust God.