

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

| | | |
|-----------------|------|------------------|
| Robert Beadle | 1993 | FBC Benton |
| Larry Black | 2002 | Faith Fellowship |
| Shaun Armstrong | 2009 | Grace |
| Mark Crook | 2010 | Trees |
| Shane Nugent | 2012 | Cross Point |
| Chris Willcutt | 2015 | Grawood |
| Wade Allen | 2016 | Pilgrim Home |
| Scott Teutsch | 2020 | Trinity Heights |

New Staff

Elm Grove: Katie Dyer, Youth, (husband, Kevin)

Staff Changes

Rose Park: Joseph Cumberland, Youth, resigning to FBC Biloxi, MS

Shreve City: Jason Frazier, Interim Pastor

Woodridge: Dr. Brian Prucey, Interim Pastor

Sympathy

Rev. Robert "Bob" W. Gordon, Sr.
1932-2022

Former Northwest Association Pastor of:
Mooringsport and (Caddo Heights) Woodridge

5875 W. 70th St
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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Church News

Caddo Prairie: Celebrated 150 years. Caddo Prairie is in the top 10 oldest churches in the Association. It began in the early 1870's to be a mission post to reach the Caddo Indians with the gospel.



Gray: Simple Faith Quartet in concert June 10, 6:30pm.

BIG CAMP EXPERIENCE
SMALL CAMP PRICE

\$240 PER STUDENT

BETHANY STUDENT CAMP

STUART HALL
SPEAKER

SQUATCH THE LEGEND

BROKEN VESSELS
WORSHIP BAND

JUNE 13-17
REGISTER @ BETHANYC3.COM

Kidz Kamp
\$185 PER CAMPER

CAMP #1 IS FULL
SIGN UP FOR CAMP #2!

Wrecked!

CAMP #1 - JUNE 20 - 24 **CAMP #2 - JUNE 27 - JULY 1**
REGISTER @ BETHANYC3.COM
DAKOTA BURTON SPEAKER **BROKEN VESSELS** BAND

Staff Opportunities

| PASTOR | MUSIC | YOUTH | CHILDREN | OTHER |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| North Keithville - Bi-Vo Red River - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo Woodridge - FT | Lakeview - PT Trees - FT Westwood - PT Woodridge - FT | Barksdale - PT Emmanuel/S'port - PT Grawood - PT Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT | Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT Eastwood - FT | Norris Ferry - Administrative Assistant - PT Blanchard FBC- Custodian |

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 6
JUNE 2022



WHAT TO MAKE OF OUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION *and what could happen in 2 weeks?*

Since 1845 the Southern Baptist Convention has endured numerous struggles, controversies and challenges. The last several years have been no different. The greatest mission sending denomination has weathered them all.

After a cancelled 2020 convention, the summer of 2021 brought the largest group of messengers to Nashville in 25 years. Believing 2021 was the year to right the ship and correct some misguided decisions in 2019, many messengers left the meeting only more frustrated and disillusioned.

In two weeks Southern Baptists will gather in Anaheim, CA, to elect a new slate of officers and debate a number of issues that can't seem to be resolved.

Current President Ed Litton, pastor from Mobile, AL, chose not to run for re-election, amid a year of multiple allegations of plagiarism and other issues. Earlier this year, two Florida pastors announced they would be nominated. The first was Tom Acsol, who has been pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral since 1986 and is President of Founders Ministries. Wiley Rice, the second announced candidate, withdrew his name from consideration in April when it was learned that a current deacon in his church and former school teacher had admitted to sexual abuse several years earlier but continued to serve as a deacon. Recently, two additional names have surfaced. Bart Barber, who is pastor of FBC Farmersville, Texas, has been a leader in the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, a group that split from the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1998. Barber has been a defender this past year of Ed Litton against criticism from the Founders Ministries and the recently formed Conservative Baptist Network. Also former IMB missionary and current Midwestern Seminary professor Robin Hadaway will be nominated for President.



Tom Acsol



Bart Barber



Robin Hadaway

* Ongoing theological issues continue to surface concerning a drift toward liberal theology in several areas of Baptist life. The battle for inerrancy, infallibility, and the sufficiency of scripture never quite seems to end.

* The SBC's recent controversial hire of the Bradley Law Firm, which last summer co-sponsored a Gay-Pride Parade in Nashville, will surely be addressed. For many, this decision was a last straw after several years of poor decisions by Convention leadership, the ERLC, and the Executive Committee. If you violate trust, you can expect repercussions. *In 2021, Southern Baptists gave nearly 200 million dollars to the Cooperative Program. CP is what makes us the big tent that we are. However, Missouri Baptists are the first state convention to lead the way in a possible new method of giving for their churches. It's called "Plan B" cooperative giving. The plan will allow churches to withhold funds from selected SBC entities without withdrawing from Cooperative Program (CP) support altogether. Time will tell if other state conventions follow suit.*

* Also fulfilling a floor motion from the 2021 Convention, Guideposts Solutions, a third party firm, will be presenting their finding of a long investigation into past sexual abuse issues that were covered up at several churches within the Convention.



Issues? Oh yes, Southern Baptists have plenty!

Join me in praying for clarity and healthy resolutions in Anaheim on June 15-16.

Our future may depend on it.

Lane

Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry Stephen Craver



If a picture is worth a thousand words, then it's certainly worth that many memories. The Shreveport BCM recently celebrated our graduating seniors at our Semiformal and our volunteers with our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We have enjoyed an amazing semester and cannot wait to return to meet new students in the Fall. If you'd like to join us in this vital ministry through prayer, service, or financial partnership, reach out to the BCM office and come join the fun! shreveportbcm@gmail.com or 318-797-1946

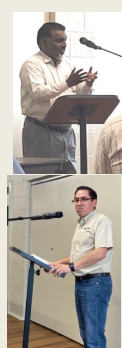


MAY Executive Board

Broadmoor hosted the quarterly Executive Board meeting of the Association. During the leadership session, Dr. James Jenkins reviewed the latest 2020 census information with our pastors and staff. Many demographic shifts are happening in the Shreveport-Bossier area and throughout Louisiana.

NLBA 2020 POPULATION TRENDS

| AREA | 2020 POPULATION | GROWTH FROM 2010 | DENSITY (PEOPLE/SQUARE MILE) |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Bossier Parish | 128,746 | +10.0 | 153 |
| Caddo Parish | 237,848 | -6.7 | 270 |
| Shreveport | 187,593 | -5.8 | 1780 |
| Bossier City | 62,701 | +2.0 | 1480 |
| Total NLBA | 366,594 | -1.4 | 217 |



During our business session, Bro. K. Vijayan brought us greetings from India and the tremendous work Mission Voice Network is doing in partnership with IMB. Also, updates from Bethany Camp & Conference Center were made concerning several projects with anticipated completion dates in June.



WMU/MISSIONS Rhonda Berry

What a privilege and honor it's been to serve as the WMU Association Director. What began as a 3 year term ended with several more years. Enthusiasm, faithfulness, availability and encouraging are words to describe all of you towards me throughout this time. That means more than you know. Lane, John, Carlene, Annette and Amy in the Association office have supported me and all of our crazy ideas; I always knew I could (and I did) go to the office and toss ideas and questions around.

WMU and mission education are both important to a church. How many of you can say you know who Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong and Georgia Barnette are? And why is it important that you know? What exactly is the Cooperative Program? You folks who have been around for a while know, but are we teaching our young people? Many these days would rather go do a mission project...collect things or go serve a meal...than learn about missions. We do need to do these things, but why—just so we will feel good, or just so we can post pictures on Facebook? Learning about missions and about missionaries develops a missional lifestyle. And more importantly, God expects us to minister to others. WMU has plans for ALL ages and I challenge you to check them out at: <https://wmu.com>.

Upcoming calendar dates:

- **Sept. 17, Refresher, Summer Grove**
- **Nov. 4 & 5, Missions & More Camp, Bethany Camp & Conference**

Missions & More is for grades 1-6. You don't have to have missions group at your church to bring you children. Bring your children's choir, Sunday School class, or even a group of friends. Jamey Drodgy will be our Camp Pastor. More details will be coming soon. Thank you so much for the special gift. I was honored and humbled.

We introduce the new Association WMU Director: **Virginia Disotell**, faithful member of FBC Haughton.

Virginia will be reaching out to many of our Association churches for coordinating future women's mission events.



MAY-HIM 2022

May-Him did not meet in 2020 or 2021, but returned last month for the 39th senior adult hymn fest. Special thanks to Director Richard Beeman for coordinating all the church choirs and to Bethany Camp & Conference Center for hosting us in the Emmaus Chapel.



CULTURE WATCH

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

As They Flee, Ukrainians are Falling Into The Arms Of Southern Baptists

IMB and Send Relief of NAMB have established numerous refugee stations throughout Romania and Poland. Also several state Disaster Relief teams have traveled to these neighboring countries assisting at the camps with basic services and connecting refugees to local churches. Southern Baptists have given \$5.5 million to date toward the relief efforts.



Southern Seminary President Al Mohler Warns Of The Post-Christian Predicament

Speaking at Midwestern Seminary's annual meeting, Dr. Mohler stated, "Secularization is the process by which societies liberate themselves from theistic fundamentals that had explained the origins of that very society. It is the decreasing absence of any religious claim as necessary for life in a society. We are also in a full-scale assault on reality." Mohler concluded his message by saying, "We are not doomed, because Jesus is Lord. As you look back through church history, God has called His people to be faithful. God always gives His people exactly what we need for faithfulness in a moment."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's Bizarre Statement From The Bible

Recently Putin paraphrased John 15:13 in order to justify the ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Putin said, "You know, I remember the words from the Bible. There is no other love rather if someone gives soul for their friends." He went on to say that, if needed, Russian soldiers would "shield each other on the battlefield from bullets as brothers. We have not had such unity for a long time."



Archaeologists Find Massive Underground City In Southeast Turkey

In the province of Mardin, Turkey, just north of the Syrian border, archaeologists believe they may have found the largest underground cave in the world, according to the *Jerusalem Post*. Potentially thousands of people could have lived inside and researchers believe persecuted Christians lived there in the third century. Artifacts dating to the second and third centuries were found inside the underground city featuring places of worship, silos, water wells and passages with corridors.

New Orleans Seminary's Student Center Named In Honor Of Fred Luter

Dr. Luter is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. When he arrived in 1986, the struggling church had 65 members. Today, the church is one of the largest Southern Baptist congregations in the state. The new name is part of a \$12 million campus renovation project. The student center renovations were funded by a \$2 million anonymous gift, which included naming rights for the building.



Pastor's Perspective



The Necessity of a Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

Shaun Armstrong, Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA

Over the last few decades two ministry philosophies that have been popular as means of church growth are *the seeker sensitive model* (i.e. the attempt to make

unbelievers feel comfortable in church by avoiding offensive biblical truths) and *the attractional model* (i.e. the attempt to make the church "cool" in order to attract the world). In more recent times another ministry philosophy that has gained traction is *the respectability model*. This is the idea that if we (the church) are nice enough the world will like us, and thus we will gain the world's respect and acceptance. This is usually done by trying to show how much common ground the church shares with the culture and how we are not like those angry, rigid Christian fundamentalists of yesteryear.

All three of these ministry philosophies fail to understand and practice a biblical philosophy of ministry. We are not to avoid the offense of the gospel (contrary to the seeker sensitive model). We are not to become like the world in order to win the world (contrary to the attractional model). And neither are we to seek acceptance by the culture at the cost of compromising biblical truth (contrary to the respectability model). Rather than being driven by cultural fads, worldly techniques, and pragmatic methods, the church must practice a biblical philosophy of ministry that is distinctly Christian in its beliefs, practices, and methods. In other words, successful Christian ministry is never defined by anything other than faithfulness to God's Word. Simply put, the church must be resolved to obey the Scripture and leave the results to the Lord. May we ever and always be faithful to teach the full counsel of God's Word, evangelize, worship, and order our church life based upon the only trustworthy place to stand, namely the Bible.

Shaun Armstrong has been the founding pastor of Grace Baptist Church since 2009. Shaun and his wife, Shelley, have 5 children.



We are in need of :

- * 13 gallon trash bags
- * Toilet Paper

Please bring items to the Association office.