

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Larry Brandon	1992	Praise Temple
Ed Gonzalez	2003	Linwood
Jesse Colston	2012	Oil City
Will Simmons	2013	North Keithville
Stuart Graves	2020	Red River

New Staff

Summer Grove: *Katy Baumgardner*, Youth Ministry Associate

Staff Changes

Bethany Camp & Conf.: *Trey Miller*, Interim Director

Calvary: *Chris Young*, Associate Pastor

Ida: *Danny Taylor*, Pastor. (wife, JoDee)

South Bossier: *Chris Young*, Pastor, resigned

Family & Friends Sympathy

Carl Crenshaw 1931-2021

Northwest Association Retired Pastor, Minister of Music

Fellowship Trips

Israel Trip hosted by Eddie DeHondt. Sept. 28, 2021 - Oct. 6, 2021, \$3,700.00. For more information call Annette Fredericks, 318-218-3141.

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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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We apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. February weather produced many challenges in its production.

Church News

Narrow Gate Cowboy Church: All Mule Rodeo, March 13, 6pm, Vivian Arena, Vivian, LA. For more information, call 903-658-6876.



On January 31, the Northwest Association family gathered for **CALL TO PRAYER VI** at Airline Baptist Church. After a year-long journey through a pandemic, it was wonderful to finally gather again with many different church families for a night of praise and prayer. For those not able to join us in person, Facebook was the venue of choice. To date over 1,500 people have viewed portions of the prayer service.



Terry Young



James Jenkins



Corey Smith



Scott Teutsch



Sherri Hagerhjelm



Ivory Jackson

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ferry Lake Mooringport Westlake Westwood South Bossier	Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Waller-PT	Bethany-PT Emmanuel/S'port-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT North Keithville-PT	Belcher-PT Cross Point-PT Ferry Lake-PT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Houghton FBC-Media Personnel-PT

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

*Churches, Missions &
Ministries Working
Together To Be
More Effective*

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CHURCH TRENDS FOR 2021

So how did 2020 affect the Church? Are we beginning to see Church trends for a post-pandemic country? After some research, I've found several nation-wide trends that were evident before 2020. The last 12 months have only entrenched those trends. These findings could change our church landscape for years to come.

1. Worship size will be significantly smaller. Before Covid, 75-80% of all churches in America were either plateaued or declining. During the past year, some states were less restrictive than others, but you would be hard-pressed to find a church with a greater in person attendance than a year ago. Many church consultants are saying you're the exception, if your attendance fully returns in the next few years. Of course, some of this reduction is due to online worship. How we count people who participate in our ministries has probably changed forever.

2. An increase in the number of worship services offered at times other than Sunday. It's 2021, and in most communities, one-third of the workforce has a job on Sunday. That number could include many of your church members who have to work one or two Sundays a month. Since our nation's founding, we accommodated farmers well with 11:00 am church so they could first complete their chores before departing the family farm. Today, less than 2% of America is agriculturally based, and we still meet on Sunday around 11am. The more varied the table is set for spiritual nourishment, the more the Church will benefit.

3. Church facilities will undergo a dramatic transformation. The first two trends lead us to the third. With smaller worship gathering and more service options, the need for large auditoriums will diminish greatly. Building a "big box" worship center is a last half of the twentieth century phenomenon that is disappearing. Remodeling or re-purposing an existing building is the trend. Another major trend in church facilities will be the sharing of those buildings and rooms with other organizations, even secular organizations.

4. Fewer pastors and church staff members will be compensated full-time wages. There are many factors contributing to this reality. Declining membership and giving are two major reasons moving many churches to adjust their pastoral positions, whether it's the pastor or support staff. Bi-Vocational staffing will be the future for most churches.

5. Multi-venue church services or multi-site church. Some growing churches are land locked. New construction is very expensive. Acquiring another existing facility will open the door for growth by sending leaders and workers to a new location. Also, sharing facilities with another existing church is becoming popular as large building space becomes available.

6. Fewer churches will align exclusively with denominations. No denomination will be immune from this trend. Some churches will leave their denominational alignment altogether. Many churches will see their respective denomination as one of many ministry partnerships. They will align with and give financially to multiple organizations and networks.

We can like these trends or not. Most of us are creatures of habit and rapid change can be unsettling. Pray for our Father's guidance as our Northwest churches adjust to the changing times for the glory of God.

Lane



Amazement! That's the word that comes to mind every time I see someone answer God's call to fulfill a much needed issue in our community. Mrs. Lynne Foster is one of those people. She is the founder of Imagine Life Ministries, a 501(C)3 non-profit ministry that for fifteen years has been on the forefront of helping to combat abortion in our area.

Recently, this ministry has been blessed by Northwoods Baptist Church with a portion of their property to be used as much needed Family Center. Imagine Life Ministries will be able to provide pregnancy and parenting classes, lessons on family dynamics, parenting related Bible studies, and other needed help for young families.

In exchange for taking these classes, clients will have the opportunity to get items they will need, such as cribs, clothes, diapers, and anything newborn babies will need for the first few years of their life.



Lynne Foster

Items and volunteers are much needed. If you or your Sunday School class would like more information about how to get involved with this incredible ministry, please contact Lynne Foster at 318-560-4471.

For more information concerning this or any other type of compassion ministry, please contact John Anderson, Compassion Ministry Strategist at janderson@nwiba.org or 318-230-3446.



District Bible Drill

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Shreveport, LA
2:30 pm

Church Bible Drill information is due by Thursday, April 1. Email to terea@fbchaughton.org or mail to Teresa Small, c/o First Baptist Church, 105 E. Washington Ave., Haughton, LA 71037. Questions? Call Teresa Small at 318-949-2441.



"... the success of missions and our prayers are linked together."

Annie Armstrong

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Week of Prayer: March 7-14

NLBA VBS TRAINING

DESTINATION DIG

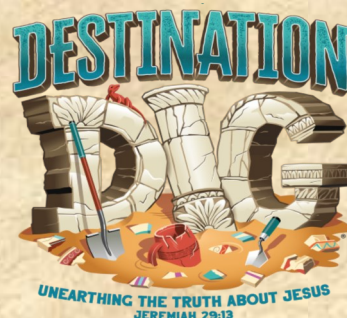
UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
Jeremiah 29:13

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Where: FBC Haughton
(105 E. Washington Ave, Haughton, LA)
When: Saturday, March 6, 2021
Cost: \$10.00 per Person*
Time: 9am-3pm
(registration begins at 8am)

*Includes lunch and all conference materials

Register at: louisianabaptists.org/vbsretreat



UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
Jeremiah 29:13

CULTURE WATCH in NATIONAL NEWS

Five States Report 108 Babies born alive after failed Abortions.

In the last 12 years, 108 babies have been born alive after attempted abortions in five U.S. states alone. The babies were born in Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota and Texas. Only a small minority of states ever report when babies are born alive after a failed abortion, according to Alison Centofante, Director of External Affairs with the pro life organization, *Live Action*.

Surgical Abortion Clinics on the decline.

The number of clinics that provide surgical abortion procedures has declined over the past several years while the number of clinics that provide only abortion pills is increasing, according to *The Christian Post*.

To confirm that information, the Kansas based *Operation Rescue* reported in January that the number of surgical abortion clinics in the United States has dropped by over 35% from 713 facilities a decade ago, to 458 facilities in 2020. However, clinics that provide non-surgical abortion methods have been on the rise in the country, going from 131 in 2009, to 248 in 2020.

The rise of Social Media and TV in our daily life.

According to the Global Web Index, the average person spends 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media per day. That is a total of 35.9 days per year, which would accumulate to nearly one year every decade. Meanwhile, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Americans spend 2 hours and 48 minutes on average watching television each day. That's a total of 42.6 days per year, or a year and two months per decade.



Franklin Graham urges Christians to "unite our hearts" and pray for Biden & Harris.

Evangelist Franklin Graham is urging Christians to pray for the new administration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. "The division in our country is as great as any time since the Civil War," Graham wrote on Facebook.



"Pray that everyone will stop the finger-pointing and realize that both parties bear responsibility for the problems we face today."

A Pastor's Perspective



William Valentine,
Pastor,
Lakeview Baptist,
Shreveport, LA

Passing The Test

As we observe the daily events happening in our nation and around the world, even as we deal with the pandemic, corruption and deception have taken center stage. Jesus warned us of the deception that would dominate society and infiltrate the Church in His Olivet discourse (Matthew 24). To help us combat this deception and discern truth from error, God has given us the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Spirit and united us to one another.

While our desire and prayers are for revival, we must at the same time acknowledge the self-deception that exists with many who sit in our pews. Jesus spoke of a "great falling away from the faith" that would take place in the last days. It is not referring to people who just walk away from faith and God but who also turn against God and His Church. John wrote, "They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us." (1 John 2:19) It is important for us to follow the instructions the Apostle Paul gave the Church in Corinth, "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"

We have recorded for us in John chapter six, a time when many disciples turned back and no longer followed Jesus. And Jesus, observing this, asked the disciples who remained if they wanted to leave as well. I pray that we can all respond as Peter did, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Worship, Bible Study and Fellowship are essential to our spiritual growth, both personally and corporately. Let me encourage you with these words from the book of Hebrews, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-24)

William Valentine has been the pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church since 2005. William and his wife, Carlene, have three children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.