

# NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

## Staff Updates

### Pastor Anniversaries

Mike Stowell	1987	<b>FBC Keithville</b>
Ron Johnson	2007	<b>Mission Point</b>
Calvin Hubbard	2010	<b>Barksdale</b>
Luke Allen	2010	<b>Covenant Bossier</b>
Terry Young	2016	<b>Airline</b>
Richard Thomas	2016	<b>Gethsemane</b>

### Staff Changes

**Mooringsport:** Max Hutto, Music, retiring

## Church News

**Bossier FBC:** Steve Green in Concert, May 15, 6pm. No charge. Concert provided by Louisiana Baptist University.

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Return Service Requested

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Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm/Mon-Thur.  
8:30 am - 12:00 noon/Friday  
Lane Moore, Director of Missions

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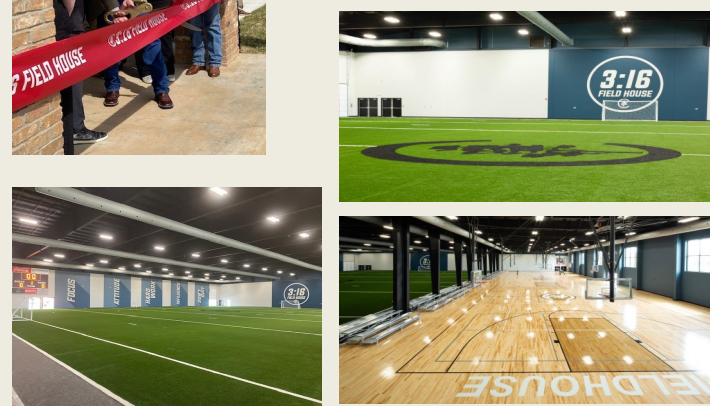


**SCENES** from this year's District  
**BIBLE DRILL...**  
Hosted by Woodridge Baptist



## Ribbon Cutting for the 3:16 Field House at Cypress Baptist

Included in the 81,000 square foot facility are two basketball courts, soccer & flag football field, and a 500 seat student worship center. The 3:16 Field House is available for ball leagues and area schools.



**MOST NEEDED ITEMS**  
\*Pine Sol  
\*Lysol Spray  
\*Bathroom Cleaning Supplies

Please bring any donations to the Association Office

### 2024 First Quarter Financial Report

Church Contributions to Association Budget - \$146,664.41  
Budget Expenses of Association - \$125,743.81

## Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Ford Park - Bi-Vo Shreve City - Bi-Vo	Ferry Lake - PT Greenwood - PT Lakeview - PT Mooringsport - PT South Bossier - PT Trees - FT/PT	Mooringsport - PT North Keithville - PT Plain Dealing - PT/FT Princeton FBC - PT Westwood - PT Vivian FBC - FT	Belcher - PT Ferry Lake - PT	Elm Grove - Pianist/Keyboard FBC Blanchard - Hourly Nursery Workers New Birth - Children's Church - Volunteer

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

# Baptist News

Churches, Missions &  
Ministries Working  
Together To Be  
More Effective

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 5  
MAY 2024



## THE CHALLENGE OF UNITY - PART II CAN AMERICA SURVIVE WITHOUT IT?

Last month we looked at the importance of maintaining unity in the Church and the value of the Body of Christ striving to be one as our Lord prayed in John 17:22-23.

This month we turn our attention to our nation, where we find daily disunity. There's little that unifies America. We are an aggrieved society. Millions of people are offended by our flag, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, and several of our holidays. If another 9/11 event occurs, there is little doubt many would be celebrating.

America is an ailing republic, but the problem didn't begin recently. We can look back to 1962 and 1963 when the Supreme Court said corporate prayer, along with classroom Bible readings, were unconstitutional. That was followed by the 1980 ruling when the Ten Commandments were declared unconstitutional. Those court decisions were monumental, but they seem like ancient history compared to the daily destruction of our moral fabric.



Abraham Lincoln, said, "The philosophy of the classroom in one generation, will be the philosophy of government in the next." To put it another way, if it's the wrong philosophy and we lose our children, then we lose our nation. It may take a few generations, but it will happen.

In her book, Full Surrogacy Now: Feminism Against the Family, Sophie Lewis argues that a truly just society would be one in which "we break down our assumptions that children belong to those whose genetics they have." They view your children as their children. Parents, grandparents, church workers of children, be aggressive in teaching a biblical world view to those in your care. Those who desire to experiment with your child's gender are the same ones who are advocating for the end of the nuclear family.

You have heard it stated that America's strength is her diversity. It's just the opposite. Our Unity, centered around a set of founding principles, is what made us strong. A house divided cannot stand. Unity is what made America a beacon for stability and morality around the world for more than 200 years.

Since the 1600's, immigrants have arrived on our shores. Most had the deepest devotion possible to adapting and assimilating to the values of individual freedoms, an impartial justice system, and the worship of our Creator. Those days are gone. Today we are a nation of economic, ethnic and political tribes with hyphenated people groups, with little or nothing to unite us.

The good news is, the type of culture and society in which we live is irrelevant to the work of God. In some of the harshest cultures of the world, the Word of God flourishes. God does not operate by the dictates of foolish and wicked men.

I am grateful for the more than 100 churches that make up the Northwest Association. I've had the privilege of preaching in nearly 80 of them. No two are alike. These fellowships are very diverse culturally. What unites the churches of our Association is the Word of God, and then we choose to be Southern Baptists. "The grass withers, and the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

Stay faithful,

Lane



# NLBA QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

BROOKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, 9014 BROOKWOOD CHURCH WAY, SHREVEPORT, LA

**MISSION823**  
DEFEND - RESCUE - RESTORE



For over 20 years Mission 823 (Psalm 82:3) has been providing critical support for children and families of Ukraine. Shawn Sullivan will give a firsthand report from this battle worn country of how

God is meeting needs through the gospel. Shawn served for 6 years as a church planter in Ukraine and since 2009, leads a global non-profit organization to minister to the needs of Ukrainian families that has now expanded into eastern Europe.



## LEADERSHIP SESSION

WITH SHAWN SULLIVAN, MISSION823

11:00 AM

ROOM D-5

## LUNCH & BUSINESS MEETING

12 NOON

COMMUNITY ROOM

Please RSVP [carlene@nwlba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlba.org) or 318-686-5736

## APOLOGETIC TIPS FOR THE BELIEVER

*Things People Say When They Try To Justify Themselves*

When the light of God's moral law exposes a sinner's guilt, he will usually try to justify himself. The feeling of guilt isn't pleasant, so he attempts to shake it off by offering excuses. *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."* Proverbs 28:13

- "They are just small lies. Nothing serious."** Sin is serious business to God regardless of the issue. *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord."* Proverbs 12:22
- "Everyone lies."** We won't be giving an account for everyone on Judgement Day. Telling the police officer that everyone speeds won't help when he's pulled you over.
- "That was in the past."** Everything is in the past. Reading parts of this newsletter is now in the past. Telling a judge that it was several months ago when you robbed that bank won't help.
- "I do good things."** The law judges you according to your crime, not your good deeds.
- "My God is loving and kind."** The God you will face is loving and kind, but He is also just and holy and by no means will clear the guilty. Exodus 34:7. When we make up a god to suit ourselves, it's called idolatry.
- "I don't believe in God."** That's irrelevant. You will still face Him on Judgement Day.
- "I don't believe in the Ten Commandments"** Ignorance of the Law is no excuse. God wrote the Commandments on your heart via your conscience. On Judgment Day you will be without excuse.
- "I don't care if I go to Hell. I've got friends there."** Do you enjoy pain? Two seconds in Hell would be terrifying. You don't want to find yourself there with no way out.
- "I don't believe in Hell."** If a criminal has received the death penalty, and he says he doesn't believe in the death penalty, his unbelief doesn't change reality.

**Charles Spurgeon said, "You cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it."**



## THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

*What We Believe*  
as Southern Baptists

The following is another in our series on the Baptist Faith & Message.

### Article VIII: The Lord's Day

*"The First day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ."*

The designation of Sunday as the Lord's Day is rooted in Scripture and in tradition dating back to the days of the apostles. Luke records that the apostle Paul and the disciples gathered in Troas for the breaking of bread and preaching on "the first day of the week" (Acts 20:7).

Elsewhere in the New Testament, we see followers of Jesus gathered for worship on the first day of the week, which became known as the Lords' Day (I Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10). For Israelites, this could be anytime from sundown on Saturday to sundown on Sunday. Worship began to shift from the Sabbath (Saturday) to the first day of the week in commemoration of Christ's resurrection. The resurrected Jesus appeared to His disciples on the evening of the first day of the week (John 20:19).

Sunday observance of the Lord's Day points to the centrality of the resurrection in the Christian faith. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"* (15:3-4).

Sunday is the first day of a new creation. Paul identifies believers as new creations in Christ. *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, new things have come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Lord's Day was not universally observed as a "day of rest" until influential church father, John Chrysostom, reshaped commerce under Emperor Constantine in the fourth century.

Christians with good intentions may be tempted to twist the Lord's Day into acts of legalism, and make the day a list of do's and don'ts. This misses the point of the Lord's Day, which is to be a day of joy and peace. Certainly, Christians should order their lives so that the priority of the Lord's Day is corporate worship.

Next month: Article IX of the BF&M: The Kingdom

## Culture Watch & National & News

### Cartoon Network Goes All In On Trans Day Of Visibility. Makes No Mention Of Easter

In a post on Instagram, the cable channel's official account read, *"Affirmations for our trans and gender non-confirming family. You are valid, just as you are. We're not doing hate today. Be kind or be blocked."* The cable network, which normally gears the majority of its daytime programming toward an audience of children, has waded into the culture war in the past as well. Also CN posted on X to celebrate the day, *"Addressing someone using their pronouns and name shows that you RESPECT them as their authentic self! We celebrate the journey of our trans and gender-non-confirming friends."*



Source: Daily Wire

### West Point Drops "Duty, Honor Country" From Their Mission Statement



The U.S. Military Academy no longer will use the motto "Duty, Honor, Country" as its mission statement, according to West Point's superintendent. The phrase which was highlighted by General Douglas MacArthur in 1962, will be replaced by the line that includes, "Army Values."

Source: Western Journal

### Gallup's 2024 Happiness Report Released, And We're Not Happy!

Gallup surveyed 100,000 people in 143 countries over the course of three years. Participants were asked to rate their lives on a scale of 1-10. Finland finished as the world's happiest country. The U.S. dropped eight spots and ranks 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Within the micro analysis, specially those under 30, America fell to 62<sup>nd</sup>. Why are young people so unhappy? The U.S. Surgeon General believes the answer is unsupervised social media. Murthy warned, *"Children spending hours on social media would be like children driving cars without seatbelts, no speed limits, no traffic lights and no rules trying to figure out how to drive."* David Closson, director of the Center for Biblical Worldview at the Family Research Center, stated in response, *"Christians should recognize that asking people to rate their happiness is inherently subjective and not scientific, however I do think the data represents a cry for help among the youngest generation in America."* Dr. Al Mohler, President of Southern Seminary added, *"The world can have a happiness index, but quite frankly, the Christian gospel doesn't explain that we'll be happy. Our salvation is far more glorious than just being happy."* The truth is, we live in a world that is broken, and a society increasingly departing from the truth of God. As such, unhappiness is expected.

Source: Washington Stand