

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### Staff Updates

#### Pastor Anniversaries

Joseph Ricard, Sr.	1999	New Beginning
Kenny Joyner	2018	Willow Point
Heath Peloquin	2018	Summer Grove

#### New Staff

**Blanchard FBC:** Andrew Orr, Education, wife, Tracy Orr, Children, from Philadelphia Church, DeVille, LA

**Summer Grove:** Jerod Gann, Student Pastor, (wife, Jessica)

#### Staff Changes

**Red River:** Stuart Graves, Pastor, resigned

#### Sympathy

Gene Nix 1947-2021

Pastor, Shreve City Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA

5875 W. 70th St  
Shreveport LA 71129  
318-686-5736 FAX: 687-9701  
Return Service Requested

E-mail: [carlene@nwlba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlba.org)  
Website: [www.nwlba.org](http://www.nwlba.org)  
[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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Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

# Baptist News

Happy Thanksgiving!

Churches, Missions & Ministries Working Together To Be More Effective

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## WHO MOVED PART OF OUR CONGREGATION?

It's a rare week that I have a conversation with a pastor or staff member and the subject of church attendance doesn't come up. The struggle to see pre-Covid attendance numbers return for our churches is very real. One pastor told me, "I'm concerned that those who haven't resumed attending have made a permanent decision, and we will not see them again."

What has heightened the frustration is church leaders see their wayward members during the week at the grocery store, restaurants, and sporting events, but not at church. Admittedly, regular church attendance is not the only measure of a person's commitment to Christ, but it is a significant indicator. Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for it. If we love Christ, we're going to love His bride and long to fellowship with His family. However, it's still demoralizing to church leaders when they see people who they thought were loyal to Jesus Christ and supportive of the church's ministry choose not to return.

Of course, I'm not talking about people who are the most vulnerable to Covid. Those with ongoing health issues, the very elderly, or those with compromised immune systems, may need to continue watching online.

The parable of the sower in Matthew 13 may help all of us prepare for the sad reality that not all will remain faithful. We shouldn't be surprised when some folks drop out along the way. Jesus said that some seed planted in the shallow soil would spring up quickly, "But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root." Matthew 13:6.

For some, Covid has covered a multitude of other reasons to quietly slip out and not return because the pastor said something months ago they didn't like. The music isn't what is once was. A loved staff member moved on and it's not the same. The list of reasons can be endless when you're looking for one.

We would do well to remember not even Jesus managed to keep every sheep in the fold. "From that time many of his disciples turned back and walked with Him no more." John 6:66.

Shepherds, do your best to reclaim the strays and strengthen the believers. But let's be realistic, we will never have 100% retention no matter how good the music or preaching is!

Be blessed,

Lane



**First Baptist Keithville and pastor Mike Stowell, hosted the NLBA Annual Meeting in October. It was the first daytime annual meeting in 48 years. Budgets for 2022 were approved for the Association and Bethany along with several ministry reports. Dr. Adam Greenway, President of Southwestern Seminary (top left), preached an important and timely message concerning the present issues our convention faces. You can access that sermon by going to the [NORTHWEST LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK](#) page to view it.**

### Fellowship Trips

**Israel Trip** hosted by Chad Mills. Feb. 15-23, 2022, \$3,775.00 from Houston. For more information call 318-455-6927 or email [chadmills76@me.com](mailto:chadmills76@me.com)

#### 2021 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Church Contributions to Association Budget- \$141,541.41  
Budget Expenses of Association - \$118,762.17

### Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Eastwood - FT North Keithville- Bi-Vo Red River-Bi-Vo South Bossier- FT Westwood-Bi-Vo	Benton FBC-PT Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Keithville FBC- PT Trees- FT	Barksdale-PT Ellerbe- FT Emmanuel/S'port-PT Grawood-PT Mooringsport-PT North Keithville-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT	Belcher-PT Ferry Lake-PT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Haughton FBC- Preschool-FT

**Branson @ Bethany**

**Morning Show Sold Out**  
**2 pm TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

**It's a Christmas Show!**

**RYAN & FRIENDS**  
Comedian, Ventriloquist

**THE FOTO SISTERS**

**Shreveport's Very Own SEVA MAY**  
Singer, Theater Actress, Former Miss Georgia

**\*\*\*\*\* ONE DAY ONLY \*\*\*\*\***

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021**  
**SHOWTIMES: 9:30 am & 2:00 pm**

- \$17.00 (No Credit Cards)
- Meal following each show
- Checks must accompany ticket sales.
- Make checks payable to: NLBA/B@B
- 5875 W. 70th St. Shreveport, LA 71129

318-686-5736 for ticket sales  
Tickets mailed upon receipt of checks.  
Please mark which show attending  
Tickets go on sale September 20, 2021  
No refunds after November 15, 2021

**BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
9766 Hwy. 79, Bethany, LA 71007



Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association  
QUARTERLY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday,  
November 11, 2021

*Kingston Road Property*

8900 Kingston Road, Shreveport, LA

Church home to: Baptist Bible Fellowship &  
Kingston Road Baptist Church

12 NOON-Lunch & Business Meeting

Please RSVP  
318-686-5736  
carlene@nwlba.org



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
November 28-December 5, 2021

Dr. Jamie Dew,  
President of New  
Orleans Theological  
Seminary, teaches  
an overview of the book  
of Psalms to area  
pastors at the  
Northwest Association  
Office.



**Shreveport Metro BCM**  
Baptist Collegiate Ministry  
Stephen Craver

The Shreveport  
BCM continued  
a great

semester in the month of October highlighted by multiple ministry partnerships. Our free lunch program has come roaring back at LSUS this semester, and we have our NLBA churches to thank for that. The delicious meals and volunteer service of church members have

helped us reach many new students this semester. In fact, some of those students have begun attending our Thursday night worship service!

October also brought another important return – the return of the BCM Fall Retreat. We held our retreat this year at Bethany Camp and Conference Center and our



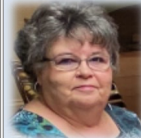
students couldn't have enjoyed it more. Students participated in worship, heard from a guest speaker, and fellowshiped late into the night. We hope this will be the first of many more to come! Thank you



again for your continued support of the NLBA and Louisiana Baptist Convention. Your cooperative giving continue to make these vital ministries possible!

**WMU/MISSIONS**  
Rhonda Berry

Happy Fall!



What a great beginning to the fall season we had with RefresHer! Many local ministries shared their mission, what they do and how we can help. Lane Moore started us out with words of encouragement. John Anderson gave us an update on the Masada Transitional Living

Center and Compassion Ministries. We heard from many others and left inspired and ready to work. We also enjoyed seeing some new faces, as well as our regular members.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19.*



**CULTURE WATCH** *AND*  
*CURRENT EVENTS*



**Israeli Archaeologists  
Uncover Evidence of  
Biblical Earthquake  
Mentioned In Amos and  
Zechariah**

The earthquake took place some 2,800 years ago after the reign of Solomon and during the time of the divided kingdom. The event is mentioned in Amos 1:1 and Zechariah 14:5. The discovery was recently made in the City of David National Park. The eighth-century BCE layer of destruction was discovered by IAA excavation directors Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf.



**HARVARD**  
UNIVERSITY

**Harvard University  
Approves Devout  
Atheist as School  
Chaplain!**

A school founded in 1636 as a religious institution to train clergy has undoubtedly drifted far from its mandate. Greg Epstein is the author of numerous anti-Christian books, got the job as "chaplain" because he said "*no one at Harvard is a Christian.*" A recent poll through *The Crimson* school newspaper, showed that 21% of the student body was agnostic and 17% were atheists.



**Grace Community Church  
Wins Legal Case Against  
California**

Grace Church initially complied with the government lock down orders, but by the summer of 2020 they decided in-person worship should resume. The state of California and LA County will have to pay GCC, \$800,000 to cover expenses incurred in their year long legal battle with Governor Gavin Newsom. Paul Jonna, special counsel for the Thomas More Society, who represented the Church, stated, "*Grace had 7,000 people attending each week and the government didn't like that. They wanted to make an example of them and it didn't work.*" Over the last 18 months, the church has had few Covid cases.



**Hobby Lobby Ordered To Pay In  
Trans-Gender Lawsuit**

Illinois state court has ordered the Christian-owned craft store chain to pay over \$200,000 in fines for refusing to allow one of its trans-identified employees to use the women's bathroom. The three-judge appellate court said that Hobby Lobby violated the Illinois Human Rights Act by declining to allow the employee to use the bathroom that corresponds with their chosen gender identity instead of their biological sex.

*Pastor's Perspective*



Darrell Cooper, Pastor,  
First Baptist Princeton  
Princeton, LA

The famous Christian group DC talk once stated "The greatest single cause of Atheism in the world is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips but deny him with their lifestyle. This is what an unbelieving world finds unbelievable." Many folks would agree that the modern church rarely resembles the powerful church we see at its beginning. What God designed as his hands and feet seems to be suffering from an identity crisis.

Ephesians 6:10 states "*Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.*" God commands us to be strong in God and in the power of his might. Sounds like God wants the church to know who they are in Christ and if we are in him we ought to resonate his power. 2 Kings chapter 4 gives us a story of two women who knew who they were in Christ. The first woman approached the prophet Elijah. She was a widow and creditors were coming to take her two sons for payment. In verse 1, she claimed her husband was a servant to the man of God which in turn made her a servant of God. With that statement Elijah simply asked what she had in the house and asked God for a miracle on her behalf. The second story is of a woman who faithfully served Elijah during his ministry (2 Kings 8-36). She was so devoted to serving God, she opened her house to the man of God. One day her son died and immediately she went to Elijah and didn't leave him until he came to her house and raised the young man up. Just imagine a church who is so in love with God we not only go to his house but we welcome him in ours. When life brings us troubles we ought to know that the bride of Christ has the ear of the almighty. We can go to God because we know who we are "in him" and that we are strong "in him". What a faithful example these two women gave! Since Elijah was mentioned in the previous examples, let me include him as someone who knew "the power of his might". Elijah was so faithful on many occasions but his challenge to the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18 was awesome. This mighty man of God stood before all the prophets of Baal - 400 men - and challenged them. As the prophets tried their best to wake their false idols, Elijah laughed and made fun of them. Elijah said in verse 24 you call on your gods but I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God! Just imagine if we obeyed the command and challenge to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Pastors, don't be timid in preaching the word! This world desperately needs our message. The gospel message comes across more powerfully when it comes from the church who knows who they are in Christ. It comes across more powerfully when it resonates with the power of the living God. Let us not grow weary in the commission. "*Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*" 1 Corinthians 15:58. God bless you all.

*Darrell Cooper has been the pastor of First Baptist Princeton since 2006. Darrell and his wife, Summer, have two children and one grandchild.*