

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

<i>Dennis Sims</i>	1990	Ellerbe
<i>David Lee</i>	1996	Bansuk
<i>Joey Ketchum</i>	2006	Western Hills
<i>Chuck McInturf</i>	2012	Woodridge

Fellowship Trips

Israel Trip hosted by Chad Mills. February 15-23, 2022, \$3,775.00 from Houston. For more information call 318-455-6927 or email chadmills76@me.com

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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Who defines Truth Today? Are We Living In A Post-Truth World?

Observations from your DOM...

In a word, yes! Today, everyone defines their own truth. Can there be lying anymore when you determine what your truth is? Man has always believed lying could be fun, fashionable, or practical, and even useful to shape his future and fortune.

Jesus declared that Satan was a liar and the Father of lies in John 8:44. Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 that a man of lawlessness is coming. He will no doubt be a great leader on the world stage, and scripture says he will be empowered by the Father of Lies and will come with signs and wonders.

In a world more willing to be duped and accept lies than ever before, this man will be welcomed with open arms. In a post-truth world, he will be just what the doctor ordered. *"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper."* Romans 1:28. How close are we to the revealing of this man? That date has been debated for centuries.

The table is being set. For the last eighteen months, with what we have all lived through and witnessed across this nation and globe, not to mention the deepening division and distrust among people, it's not hard to imagine one man rising up to say, *"I alone can repair us from whatever scourge that plagues the world and bring us together as one."* Whether it be a pandemic or some other global calamity, the accolades from the world will hail his arrival.

This is one truth we can be sure of, *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My saying, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him on the last day."* John 12:48.

Be watchful Church!

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Eastwood Mooringsport North Keithville Westwood South Bossier	Benton FBC-PT Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Keithville FBC-PT	Barksdale-PT Ellerbe- FT Grawood-PT Mooringsport-PT North Keithville-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT	Belcher-PT Ferry Lake-PT Blanchard-FT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Blanchard FBC –Administrative Assist.-PT Haughton FBC– Preschool-FT

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Baptist News

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



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SEPTEMBER, 2021



KEEPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHURCH

"How do we keep young people in church," is a question I've heard my entire ministry. LifeWay Research has done extensive study on this subject. They interviewed hundreds of young adults who had attended church prior to age 18 or attended church as an 18-22 year old.

The church characteristics that dominated their findings on why young people dropped out of church are listed below. *I'll combine the first three because they're basically symptoms of the same issue.*

1. INSINCERE, HYPOCRITICAL, & INAUTHENTIC

37% of young adults who dropped out of church said that when they attended church as a teen or college student, they saw church members who were insincere. Fakes. Phonies. The church members weren't genuine or honest. For those who continued to stay in church, 69% said the church they attended as a teenager had authentic leadership and members.

It should be obvious how much importance the next generation places on the general idea of being honest about your beliefs and working to live up to those standards. Young people clearly want a church that is not pretending to be something it is not, while actually striving to faithfully follow their biblical convictions. They aren't looking for perfection, but they do want honesty. *I'll combine the next three findings as well.*

2. SUPPORTIVE, NON-JUDGMENTAL & FORGIVING

The age old challenge for those who minister to young people has been, *"How do you love and encourage young people whose life decisions run counter to scripture, without running them off?"* We know the Bible states that man is fallen in nature, and when we sin we need forgiveness. Young people want to know that when they sin God can forgive them, and equally that people in the church can forgive them too.

49% of those who dropped out as a teenager, said that their church was very judgmental of their life choices. The definition of "judgmental" was never given in the research, but we know that reading God's standard from scripture is enough to expose anyone's sin. Our nature is to avoid accountability, whether it's from God or the person on the other end of the pew. Removing yourself from church is always an easy solution.

3. INSPIRATIONAL, CARING & WELCOMING round out the last three characteristics young adults wished their church would have been when they were teens and college age students.

By becoming a more Christlike congregation, churches will inevitably be more inviting to the next generation.

Blessings,
Lane

Pastor, is it time for a Church Check Up? How are your vital signs in these 7 areas?

LBC and your Association are partnering together on Monday, September 27, for a **Fresh Start workshop**.

Dinner will be served at 6 pm. This pastor and staff workshop will expand your church's effectiveness in these seven areas.



- **Evangelism**
- **Sunday School/Discipleship**
- **Fellowship**
- **Ministry/Missions**
- **Worship**
- **Leadership**
- **Stewardship**

Bethany Camp & Conference

Trey Miller, Director



months. I definitely had my reservations and fears when the Camp Committee asked me to step in as Acting Director, but I felt honored that they were willing to trust me with the immense responsibility of leading the camp. This responsibility was not light, but it has been a burden I have enjoyed carrying. The job would have been nearly impossible if it hadn't been for the amazing support I received from members of our association.

The August Executive Board meeting was such an enjoyable time. Getting to see Robert and Joan's legacy honored by the naming of the "Cole Kitchen" was a special moment for me and for the camp. Robert has been such an influential mentor in my life and I was glad that he and Joan were present as the Board voted for me to become the next Director.

I am excitedly stepping into the Director role with the knowledge that it is God's perfect timing and that my partners in ministry will continue to guide me. I thank all of you for the opportunity to lead such an important ministry and I look forward to your continued support as we seek to serve the LORD together.



AUGUST EXECUTIVE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Leadership session began with an update from Congressman Mike Johnson on the status of several pending bills in Washington and how they will impact the church, along with an update concerning the southern border. The Camp Committee had a time of dedication and ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Activity Center. During the Business Session, Robert and Joan Cole were honored by the Association for 32 years of ministry to Bethany.

Also, in Business Session, the 2022 proposed budget for the Association was presented in the amount of \$589,750, plus a Camp proposed budget in the amount of \$700,000. Both budgets were decreased from 2020 and will be voted on at the October Annual Meeting.



WMU/MISSIONS

Rhonda Berry



September already! We have certainly been challenged these last eighteen months. Through all the challenges and blessings God has remained who He is...our God, our Leader, our Comforter. He will continue to be all He is and that's the comfort that I cling to. He also expects us to continue in the tasks He has set before us. RefreshHer this year is addressing just that; how to minister to those close at hand. RefreshHer 2021 is a Fresh Start Gathering after months of change and re-starts. We invite YOU to come join our Gathering on Saturday, Sept 11. Check-in begins at 8:30 am, program begins at 9:00 am. We will meet at Brookwood Baptist Church.

Our focus will be on local mission opportunities. We will hear from representatives from several local ministries. Mission Trips as we once knew them have been slowed to some extent, but our mission hearts are still active. We will hear of ways to serve Jesus locally.

Our mission study this year is about Prague. We will spend time learning about spreading the Gospel in Prague. We may not be able to go, but we can surely pray for these people.

Make checks payable to: NLBA-RefreshHer. Send registration to Pat Broussard, 2059 Shadywood Lane, Shreveport, LA 71105. Most of you have received the notices with costs: by 9/1, \$15, after 9/1 \$20 and at the door, \$25. I hope that you will join us. You do not have to be a member of WMU to come; we welcome all. It might surprise you what a great day it will be. Box lunches (included with cost) will be from Biscotti's.

We have a Facebook page to stay connected with one another. If you want to join, go to NLBA Association WMU. We would love to hear what your groups are doing. We will post your pictures, but we must have written parental consent for anyone under 18 in the pictures.

A Pastor's Perspective



Don Crook,
Pastor,
Fellowship Baptist Church,
Benton, LA

When I was called by God to be a minister, I thought up to this point, that God didn't make mistakes but surely this might be one. In the beginning, I was given some advice; don't take anything personal. I fell back on that advice until I realized that to be a minister is PERSONAL. There are times that people decide to change churches for apparently no reason at all and you're told it wasn't your fault. Or a sermon God gave you that you believed was a great message, but the congregation didn't respond. Or the lack of church members willing to step up and serve, and of course that special person who complains about something ten minutes before you preach that really sets your mood! Then God shows you the personal picture of ministry. Someone arrives at church emotionally broken. Perhaps this person just lost a spouse, or their adult children are away from the Lord and they are barely holding it together. Then you see Christ take over. You see Christian growth in this person and a hunger for more of Christ. God sends a new Christian spouse and you see joy and happiness replace brokenness.

Or maybe a young man speaks to you on the street and at first you don't recognize him. Then you realize you baptized him many years before. You realize that the bride of the young couple you just married was dedicated by you when she was a baby. You officiate the funeral for a member of a family that you have known for so long, that you are not just the minister, but part of the family. Then you thank God that ministry is personal.

And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
Galatians 6:9

Don Crook has been the pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church since 2006. Don and his wife, Janet, have 9 children and 16 grandchildren.

39TH ANNUAL MEN'S FISH FRY

BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER



Randy Harper,
Pastor,
Bellaire Baptist Church



Drew Ley,
Music,
Bellaire Baptist Church

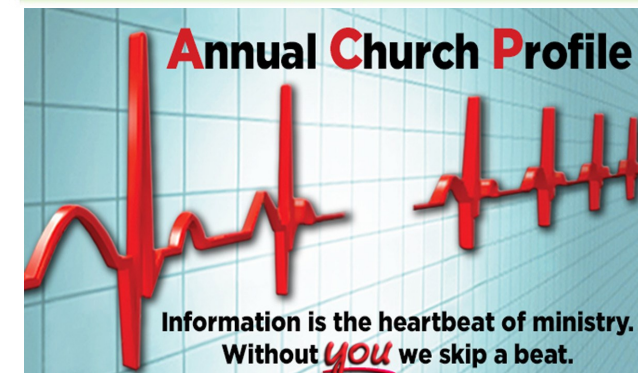


Monday, September 13, 2021

SERVING TIME: 5:30 PM Cost: \$10.00

To REGISTER:

BETHANY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
318-938-1221



Information is the heartbeat of ministry.
Without **you** we skip a beat.

ACP's
have been
mailed
and are
Due in by
September
20, 2021.