

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

Dennis Sims	1990	Ellerbe Rd
Joey Ketchum	2006	Western Hills
Chuck McInturf	2012	Woodridge
James Sykes	2014	Gospel Light
Scott Teutsch	2016	Plain Dealing

New Staff

**Bethsaida:** *Bill Stroud*, Interim Pastor  
**Mansfield Rd:** *Mike Loftin*, Interim Pastor  
**Pinecroft:** *Chuck Clinton*, Music/Education, (wife: Lisa)

Staff Changes

**Belcher:** *Matthew Montgomery*, Pastor, resigned  
**Summer Grove:** *Brett Fuller*, Music, resigned, to  
First Baptist Pelham, AL



Fellowship Trips

**Summer Grove:** Israel/Holy Land-10 day trip. February 6-15, 2018. Starting at \$3,498.00 per person. Contact Becky Singletary, 318-686-1470 or becky@summergrove.org  
**Trinity Heights:** 2017 Senior Adult Trip to Branson, MO. November 7-10. Double occupancy: \$495.00/Single Occupancy: \$613.00. Cost includes travel, lodging, 6 shows, 3 dinners and 1 play. Contact Pat Wilson, 318-309-0088, ASAP, to make a reservation.

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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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Church News & Calendar

**North Shreve:** *Mark Lanier* in concert, Sunday, September 24, 6pm. Everyone welcome. Love offering.  
*The Southern Plainsmen* in concert on Sunday, October 15, 6pm. Everyone welcome. Love offering.



SUNDAY NIGHT  
6:00 PM

Cypress Baptist Church, Benton, LA  
Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Belcher Belle Park Brookwood Caddo Prairie Mansfield Road New Bethel Red River Springs of Grace Vivian FBC Woodland Hills	Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Waller -PT Woodland Hills - PT	Ban Suk - PT Barksdale-PT Emmanuel S'port - PT Pilgrim Home - PT Princeton FBC - PT	Bethany - Nursery - PT Clarion - Children - PT N. Keithville - Children's Worker - PT Ferry Lake-PT	Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Ferry Lake-Pianist Northwoods - Secretary- PT

Do not wish to  
receive this  
publication?  
Please contact us at  
[carlene@nwlba.org](mailto:carlene@nwlba.org)

Baptist News

"This Association exists to assist our  
family of churches in reaching and  
discipling people for Christ."

Volume 47, Number 9

September, 2017



IS IT TIME TO RAISE THE  
WHITE FLAG ON THE  
CULTURE WAR?

God has entrusted us with the most  
outstanding nation in the history of the world.  
The United States' freedom, technology and  
wealth have enabled us to be the greatest

gospel sending force the world has ever known. For believers to  
have a cavalier attitude toward the moral freefall that threatens our  
future is both spiritually naive and a terrible stewardship of the  
blessings passed down to us.

Some of our older hymns sounded like battle cries. *A Mighty  
Fortress Is our God, Stand up, Stand up for Jesus, you soldiers of  
the Cross and Onward Christian Soldiers*, were indicative of the  
battlefield, not the playground.

Do you suppose our children or grandchildren will ask one day,  
"Where were you when America lost the culture war?" What did  
we do when America approved of cohabitation, same-sex marriage,  
the proliferation of pornography, abortion on demand (*we might be*

*winning that one*), and the teaching of evolution as the source of life  
in public schools? What did we do when the anti-God forces insist-  
ed on removing any reference to God, prayer and the Bible from the  
public arena?

Do we explain our failure to get involved by saying, "*We didn't  
want the church to have a negative image?*" If John the Baptist  
embraced that philosophy, he would have never confronted King  
Herod, and Jonah would have never gone to Nineveh. If Jeremiah  
had taken a passive philosophy instead of confronting his culture,  
no doubt his popularity polls would have been better. I believe our  
Lord already clarified what the world would think of us when He  
said, "*If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it  
hated you.*" *John 15:18.*

Admittedly, it appears the culture war may be lost. We've read the  
end of the book and we know it's going to get worse before the  
Lord returns for His bride! **Stay strong. God's still on the throne  
and still at work.**

Be Blessed,  
*Lane*

35th Annual  
**MEN'S FISH FRY**

  
Collin Wimberly  
Pastor, Trinity Heights  
Baptist Church

  
Music by : TH' Staff  
JD Jones, Collin Wimberly, Darrell Robertson,  
Caleb Lewis, Dan Lay

**Monday, September 11, 2017**  
Serving Time: 5:30  
Cost: \$10.00  
Register With  
Camp Bethany  
318-938-1221

CAMP BETHANY

Churches Working Together to be more effective.  
Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Upcoming Events

**NORTHWEST  
LOUISIANA  
47th BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING**

  
**Dr. Jarrett Stephens,**  
Teaching Pastor,  
Prestonwood Baptist Church  
Dallas, TX

**Monday,  
October 9, 2017  
Airline Baptist Church**

Evening Schedule:  
5:30-6:45 Ministry Tables  
Light Supper  
6:45-7:00 Pre-Service  
Worship  
7:00-8:30 Worship Service

*Choirs by*  
**AIRLINE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
&  
CYPRESS  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

All churches are requested to elect messengers and invite the  
organization to attend. Make sure your church is represented.  
Messengers are duly elected by cooperating churches two from each  
church member association, plus one for each 50 members or fraction  
thereof, not to exceed 50. New Mission churches do not have  
messengers, unless voted on from sponsoring church as a part of  
their organization.  
Each church is to provide their own chalice cup.  
GUEST ARE WELCOME

*Please Post This Brochure In Your Church*



*Well, it's that time of year again.*



Kids are back in school. What does that mean?

For the parents, it means a break, for the kids, homework,

and for the churches, **Opportunities!**

If a church wants to make an impact in their communities, I believe that working with their local school is one of the greatest assets we have to be able to do just that.

*North Keithville Baptist Church* is a prime example of what one church that has a heart to reach their community can accomplish.

Starting with just one meeting that consisted of the Principal and a few of the staff a little over a year ago, a vision has turned into a major food ministry for their church.

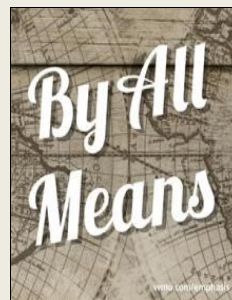
The opportunities are out there. The question is, are you willing to embrace them?

For more information about Compassion Ministry please contact me, John Anderson at [janderson@nwlba.org](mailto:janderson@nwlba.org), or on my cell at 318-230-3446.

## ASSOCIATION UPCOMING DATES 2017

*Special EVENTS to Mark Your Calendars:*

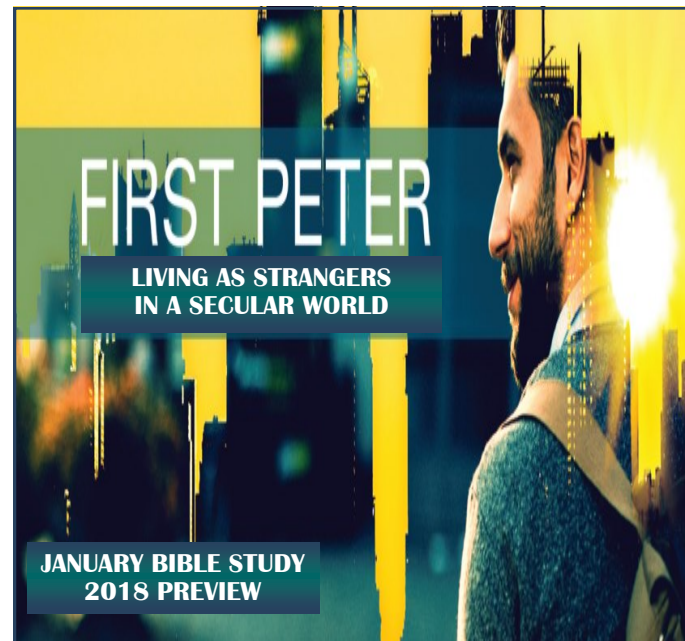
September 11	Men's Fish Fry/Camp Bethany
September 18	B@B Reservations begin
October 2	B@B Tickets Go On Sale
October 9	Annual Meeting
	Airline Baptist Church
October 19	NLBA Staff Wives Fellowship
	FBC Bossier
November 28-29	<i>Branson @ Bethany</i>
	9:30 & 2:00 on Tuesday,
	9:30 on Wednesday, \$15.00



## RefresHer 2017

CAMP BETHANY  
Saturday,  
September 16, 2017  
Registration-8:30 am  
Program-9:00 am

For more info, contact Rhonda Berry  
at [splashberry@yahoo.com](mailto:splashberry@yahoo.com) or 318-415



Dr. Charles Ray, Jr., Professor of New Testament and Greek, NOBTS, will be our presenter this year. Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for a powerful Bible study event in your church!

**PLACE:** NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE  
**DATE:** MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017  
**TIME:** 9:30AM-NOON **COST:** \$10.00  
**REGISTER:** [louisianabaptists.org/jbs18](http://louisianabaptists.org/jbs18)



In August, the BCM took students to Collegiate Week, a retreat for college students hosted by Lifeway. This was the last year for this event to be held in Glorieta, NM. God has used that place for decades to speak to students and leaders, to call us to special purposes, and to prepare and refresh us for the coming academic year. God will continue to use Collegiate Week at the new location, Falls Creek, in Oklahoma.



This year, I was challenged by *Caleb Crider*, a trainer for the IMB. He took the training concepts used with missionaries preparing to deploy and applied them to our work on the college campus. I found this helpful not only for campus ministry, but also for any Christian seeking to live a life on mission. Here are just some of the ideas that he shared with us.

- **Follow the Holy Spirit**--The “sending” passages in Scripture are accompanied by the promise of God to go with us. We must be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading as we make disciples.
- **Make Connections**--Take advantage of the open invitations you already have to connect naturally with people. Think about the organizations you are involved with, the sporting events you attend, or the activities you participate in. There are plenty of people with whom you naturally interact.
- **Look for a “person of peace”**--God goes before us and prepares people to receive us. Look for these people to invest in directly or to be a “gatekeeper” to others.
- **Understand the gospel**--Be comfortable sharing the message of Christ to others. Practice it. Share the gospel clearly in a way that fits you naturally.

*Pray for us as we seek to make disciples on the campus mission field.*

Jamey Drodody, BCM Director 797-1946, [jdrodody@gmail.com](mailto:jdrodody@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING Monthly EVENTS

September 4	Office Closed Labor Day
7	Ministers of Music 11:30 am Woodridge
12	North Caddo 11:30 am Trees Baptist Church
26	Pastors Prayer 9:00 am Association Office

## A Pastor's Perspective



Marvin Cooper,  
Pastor  
Bethany Baptist Church  
Bethany, LA

### Focused on Jesus

*Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith*

If we expect to ever be what Christ saved us to become, we are going to need to learn how to avoid the distractions of the everyday activities of life here on planet earth. The relentless pursuit of the American dream as a lifestyle has overwhelmed and hindered far too many of us in the church today. When I woke up this morning I had to make a choice that each of us must make each and everyday. I had to decide what I would

**focus** my thoughts and affections upon as I began another day.

Because life is demanding and full of activity we must learn to **focus** our minds on what is best for us. I cannot think of anything greater to **focus** on each day than Jesus Christ and His Word. I have discovered that when I remain **focused on Jesus** life seems much more manageable and rewarding. Jesus said to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all of our needs would be given to us (*Matthew 6:33*). To seek after something requires us **to focus** upon that which we are seeking. If we truly desire to live for God, we must **focus upon Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith. The Apostle Paul said, *If then you were raised with Christ, seek (focus on) those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind (focus) on things above, not on things on the earth.* (Colossians 3:1-2) Many of us want to do God’s will, but we fail **to focus**.

Take the time today to **focus on your relationship with Christ** and make a genuine effort to obey Him and it will change your life. If you have failed in the past, do not give up, forget the past and keep **focusing on** the future so that you may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of you. The Apostle Paul said, *I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* (Philippians 3:12-14 NLT) What are you focused on today? It is an undeniable truth that to remain faithful to God we must stay **FOCUSED ON JESUS**.

*Rev. Marvin Cooper came to Bethany Baptist Church in February of this year. Prior to moving to our Association, he pastored in Meridian, MS, for 13 years. Marvin has been in ministry for 20 years with his wife Stephanie.*

**Call me crazy**, but I like numbers. For example,

I like the numbers 10, 21, 56 and 77. These were the numbers our four children wore when they were in high school athletics. We just cancelled our land line phone which we had used for 30 years, that was 1313. I have always said double negative means a positive. I also like 13:21 as in Hebrews 13:21 which I pray often that the Lord Jesus will equip me and enable me to do this work each day. I could go on and on, but there is a reason I have shared all of this craziness. I have a new favorite number! It is eleven.

With Camp Fuego moving on, we started over with a new **NLBA Youth Camp**. As expected our numbers were low but we had a great camp! *Eddie Briery, Aaron Watson, Brandon Digilormo* and *Luke Teutsch* did an outstanding job. Trey Miller and two of our summer staffers joined the team and led the recreation program. We were “all in.” After Wednesday there had not been a single decision of any kind. We were a little discouraged, but Eddie felt God leading him to preach a simple message.

One young man stood up to declare he had prayed the prayer with Eddie and had become a Christian. We all celebrated loudly. It was an awesome moment. Then after church group times that night eight more confessed they also prayed that prayer.

(That made 9). Then after the last worship

service Friday morning, Aaron Watson came to me and said, “we had 2 more this morning!” **That makes 11!!!**

Even with our small group God showed up and did what He does. **Praise His Name.**

*Keep praying as we keep serving Him!*

Camp Bethany  
318/938.1221  
Fax: 318/938.1220  
[www.campbethany.com](http://www.campbethany.com)