

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Staff Updates

Pastor Anniversaries

<i>Dennis Sims</i>	1990	Ellerbe Road
<i>Joey Ketchum</i>	2006	Western Hills
<i>Chuck McInturf</i>	2012	Woodridge
<i>James Sykes</i>	2014	Gospel Light
<i>Scott Teutsch</i>	2016	Plain Dealing

New Staff

Airline: *Katie Ashcraft*, Music Assoc., from ETBU
Gray: *Barry Headrick*, Music, from Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Vivian, LA (wife, Carol)

Staff Changes

Bethsaida: *Jay Foster*, Interim Pastor
Blanchard FBC: *James Franklin*, Youth, to Calvary Baptist Church, Harlingen, TX
Broadmoor: *Ren Watkins*, Middle School, to FBC Moss Bluff, Moss Bluff, LA
Emmanuel/Shreveport: *Paul DeRousse*, Assoc. Pastor, retiring
Haughton FBC: *Scott Sullivan*, Education, to Georgia Baptist Mission Board (Discipleship)
Northwoods: *Kevin Smith*, Pastor, resigned
Woodridge: *Steve Efferson*, Assoc. Pastor, from Youth

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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Church News & Other News

Cypress: **TRUE GIRL** and **BORN TO BE BRAVE** mother/daughter and father/son simultaneous events. Sept. 12, 6:30 pm–9:30 pm. For information: mytruegirl.com and borntobebrave.com. For tickets, visit cypressbaptist.org.

Providence Road: **Celebrating 170 years.** Service at 10:45 am, lunch-12 noon. Steve Gilley, guest speaker, Noah Lyons, music.

New Elizabeth: **Former Lakeshore Baptist Church member REUNION.** Sept. 21, 11am. Lunch-12 noon, \$15.00 per person. RSVP by Sept. 14, 318-426-3450 or crbuck@bellsouth.net



UPCOMING Events MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NLBA Annual Meeting/Celebration
 Sunday, October 20, 2019
 6:30 pm Summer Grove Baptist

Branson@Bethany
 December 3 and 4, 2019
 Shows at 9:30am and 2 pm, \$17.00
 Tickets on sale Oct. 1, 2019

UPCOMING Monthly EVENTS	
September 2	Association Office Closed Labor Day
5	Ministers of Music 11:30 am FBC Blanchard
10	North Caddo/Pastors, Staff 11:30 am Belcher Baptist
16	Senior Adult Leader Meeting 9:00 am Association Office
24	Pastors Prayer 9:00 am Association Office

Fellowship Trips

Ellerbe: **PETRA AND ISRAEL**-Feb. 4-13, 2020. Come explore the breathtaking ruins of Petra and walk in the footsteps of Jesus throughout Israel. Cost-\$3,885.00. For more information, Contact *Dennis Sims* at Ellerbe Baptist. 318-798-1988 or dennis@ellerbebaptist.org

Staff Opportunities

PASTOR	MUSIC	YOUTH	CHILDREN	OTHER
Blanchard Mooringport Northwoods Westlake	Emmanuel/Vivian-PT Waller-PT Westwood-PT Summer Grove-FT	Airline-FT Cross Point-PT Freedom-PT Princeton FBC-PT Westwood-PT Vivian FBC-FT Summer Grove-FT Woodridge-FT	Belcher-PT Clarion-PT Freedom-PT Ferry Lake-PT N. Keithville-PT Summer Grove-FT	Ban Suk-Assoc. Pastor/FT English Speaking Emmanuel/Vivian-Pianist Gray-Pianist/Praise Band Haughton-Discipleship/Education Westwood-Pianist Do not wish to receive this publication? Please contact carlene@nwlba.org or 318-686-5736

Baptist News

CELEBRATING 50 years Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association 1969-2019

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

Volume 49, Number 9
September, 2019

NLBA
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA'S YOUNG MEN?

Every born again believer already knows the answer

In recent years we have watched one young man after another attempt mass carnage or threaten violence in some city in America. Sadly, on several occasions, they have been successful. No venue is off limits, not even our churches. These tragedies make national news, but the reality is that every weekend in major cities, hundreds of people are shot or killed, and most of these incidents rarely make news because they involve only one or two individuals at a time.

We are now seeing the fruit of half a century of secularizing America. From the 1960's when prayer and the Bible were jettisoned from our schools as unconstitutional, to today's classroom lessons on determining your true gender and same sex partners, we shouldn't be surprised at the harvest we're seeing. When a nation revels in its rebellion and sin, what else could we expect? *"The wicked strut about when what is vile is honored among men."* Psalm 12:8

The family unit is becoming an endangered species. With the proliferation of fatherless families, and a mom doing the best she can, young men are left to make their own way in society. Boys are growing up in a purposeless world where they have no value, and are taught they're simply a collection of chemicals that can be easily disposed of by abortion. No future, no judgement. *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end is the way of death."* Proverbs 14:12

The restraint that once governed the hearts of young men (*the acknowledgment of God's existence, a coming day of judgement, and some idea of right and wrong*) has been removed by the learned elitists of our day.

I recently came across a seventy-five year old booklet printed by our former Baptist Sunday School Board, entitled, **"Why Every Boy Needs a Man In His Life."** Its content seems innocent and naive by today's standard. However, it contains timeless principles. A boy should have a mentor that he looks up to. A boy should have a man to instill confidence and encouragement in him and eventually lead him to Christ. That man should teach life lessons and how to be productive. A boy needs a man to walk him through adolescence, the emotions he will experience, and how to deal with them. That man should also show him how to treat a young lady. The world will laugh and scoff at those ideas, but I believe those values and

37th ANNUAL

MEN'S FISH FRY

BETHANY CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Music

SUMMER GROVE PRAISE TEAM

Matt Tyson
Executive Pastor,
Summer Grove Baptist Church

This year's offering will be to replace mattresses in Cabins 6-9. Mattresses in Cabins 1-5 were replaced from last year's offering.

Monday, September 9, 2019
Serving Time: 5:30 pm
Cost: \$10.00 Register with:
Bethany Camp & Conference Center
318-938-1221

insights from the 1940's will still work today if practiced.

A godly generation of Spirit filled men must rise up. Invest in a young man that God puts in your life. The next generation will be lost if we don't.

Stand Strong Church.

Lane

We Believe We Can Do More For The Kingdom Together, Than Separately. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Compassion Ministries John Anderson



A brand new Compassion ministry called The “Redeemed” Restoration Home for Boys, has been started in a much needed area. This home is a Christ-centered residential facility aiming at improving the lives of young men. “Redeemed” can house a maximum of 12 boys, ages 12 to 17 years old. While staying in this home, the boys will participate in their Kingdom Men Program,

individual/ group counseling, reading/writing summer program, tutoring/ after-school program, as well as many other recreational/leisure activities. The ministry works closely with the families, school system, juvenile services, and the community to bring about the desired change in the lives of these young men.

As with any ministry, the needs are great and ongoing. Here is a list of some major items that are needed: 15 passenger van, towels, soap, dishwashing liquid, deodorant (boys), toothpaste, 24 toothbrushes, cleaning supplies, mop/broom, socks, t-shirts, underwear (boys 12-17), trash bags, light bulbs, laundry detergent, and hand soap.

If you or your church are interested in being involved with this ministry, call Quasean Nicholson at 318-573-0737.

For more information concerning this or any other type of compassion related ministry, contact John Anderson at janderson@nwlba.org or 318-230-3446.

Shreveport Metro BCM Baptist Collegiate Ministry Stephen Craver



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

No – not that one. It's the time of year every parent longs for when once again all the kids are headed back to school. We at the Shreveport Metro BCM love this time of the year as well. The next month will be full of promise and potential as new and returning students fill the campuses of our 6 colleges. Between orientations

and welcome back events our calendars will runneth over, but through all these events our focus will be connecting with as many students as possible hoping to see lives transformed by the Gospel. Please be praying for us as we start this new school year, and be praying for two new staff members.

The first is *Hallie Nicholls*. She graduated from LSUS in May 2019 with her degree in Elementary Education. She is passionate about discipleship and community. She has said that God used collegiate ministry to completely transform her faith. She has spent two summers serving in the Pacific Northwest through the Shreveport BCM. She feels called to minister to international people in the emerging regions of North America.

The second new staff member is *Stephen Craver*, and I am the new Director for the Shreveport Metro BCM. I am coming from Gulfport, MS where for the last five years I served as the Senior Director for the Gulf Coast BSU. Prior to this, I served for one year as an Assistant Director for the BSU at the Jackson County campus of Gulf Coast Community College.



Redeemed Restoration Home for Boys

IMPART. TRUTH. TODAY
Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering
Week of Prayer
SEPTEMBER 15-22, 2019



Congressman Mike Johnson addressed pastors and staff at the August Executive Board Meeting held at North Shreve Baptist Church, on the current issues affecting the country.

ReGroup 2019 was a tremendous success with over 700 in attendance. First Baptist Houghton was the host location for this regional event hosted by LBC and the Northwest Association. Johnny Hunt with NAMB was the



keynote speaker along with dozens of breakout sessions for training in small group ministry.



I attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans from 2010 until 2013, and graduated with an Master of Divinity in Collegiate Ministry. During this time I also worked as an intern for the New Orleans Metro BCM for two years. My wife Crystal is a kindergarten teacher in Shreveport, and we have two amazing kids, Zoey and Jack.

We look forward to working and ministering alongside the churches of the NLBA, and helping to reach our college campuses and North Louisiana with the Gospel!

Bethany Camp & Conference Warren Jackson



I'm amazed at how God is working at Bethany Camp & Conference Center. We are blessed with an incredible team. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a little about our leadership team as well as to extend a special invitation to YOUR leadership team.

Trey Miller ... If you have been to Bethany in the past eight years, you know Trey. He is always available and ready to serve. Since January, Trey has assumed the title of Operations Director. He leads his group of guys in the overall maintenance and grounds-keeping of Bethany. He loves this place. When he and I talk about vision and where Bethany is headed, he gets as “fired up” as I do and excited about the future. Trey has a great relationship with these young men he leads. Watching them together, they work hard and laugh hard. He brings joy to his team and to ours.

Linda Jackson ... Linda joined the team in January as our Guest Experience Director. She serves our guests behind the scenes every day. Her responsibilities include supervision of the entire dining experience and the housekeeping team. Also, she is a vital part of creating the atmosphere for our guests to relax and have a great experience. Her gifts in hospitality show when you see the little details and “feel at home.”

Renita Williams ... Renita has served here almost six years and she is the friendly voice you hear on the phone and the smile you see when you visit the office. Renita is not only the guest relations person, but is my assistant and does an incredible job. She brings excitement when you are “working through” the details of your reservation. Renita loves to see every group have an incredible experience and prepare our team for your group.

David Smart ... David joined us in January and serves as Trey's right-hand man. David mostly handles the day to day maintenance of the camp and buildings. He and his family have served in several churches. He brings experience in leadership to our team. He is a get-it-done man and loves for your group to have everything you need. He is a servant and loves people.

Well, this is our leadership team and we work every day to continue to carry forward the vision of Bethany Camp & Conference Center. Our daily goal is to create a place where “life feels a little bit better” and where you can experience the Lord without distraction.

As far as an invitation for YOUR team

Christmas Parties @ Bethany. This is a great opportunity for you and your staff, Sunday School class, Bible Study group, choir, or any ministry team to come to Bethany in December. For a per - person cost, you can have your lunch or dinner in our lodge, a prepared menu that you get to select from, two hours for your party, fully decorated and ready for you. You don't have to set up or take down either. For more information, please contact Renita and schedule your lunch or dinner.

We would love to have you!



Bethany
Camp & Conference Center
Bethanyc3.com

A Pastor's Perspective



*Larry Earhart, Pastor
Salem Baptist Church,
Plain Dealing, LA*

DON'T FORGET TO LOVE

If we had been around to be contacted by the First Baptist Church of Ephesus for a resume in the year 96 AD, most of us would have been very excited. To serve a church founded a short time before by the great Apostle Paul, served by the powerful preacher Apollos, possibly even to be the successor to Timothy, would have been awesome to be mentioned as one thought worthy to minister to such a historic group. Some there might even be a part of the original group of founders.

Look at the praise heaped on them by Jesus in the record of John. To the eye they were a dedicated group of believers determined to stay clear of the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. For sure, they were personally committed to moral purity and expected all of their fellowship to share that commitment. Jesus gave recognition to their dedication to labor for Him, (Rev 2:2-3) “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.” (ESV) What a fascinating opportunity, a church filled with God-fearing, faithful workers who have stayed true to the doctrinal guidance of Paul. There was no chance of being misled by those who would try to change the word they had been given. It at least appears they were as dedicated to the Word as were the Bereans.

This was a great church, with a great history, serving in one of the most challenging environments of the era. In the midst of our excitement the crushing words of Jesus would tend to “burst our bubble.” (Rev 2:4) “Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” (KJV)

Over the years I have heard several ideas about this “first love” but remain convinced of the real problem. They were doing all the right things, but were doing them without a heart of love. Jesus really summed up our responsibility when he instructed the questioning lawyer, Matt. 22:37... “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

I suspect that many of the problems our churches and ministers experience today can be traced to this same issue. Too often churches seem to be doing the “right thing” out of a sense of duty, without the heart of love expected by God. We can meet regularly, give faithfully, pray dramatically, present the Word powerfully, but without the heart of love, doing “the right thing” just translates to religious activity without success.

The high attrition rate for ministers can likely be traced to this same lack. The ritual of ministry becomes the “duty” rather than the labor of love - love for God, love for God's Word and love for God's people.

In Jesus' last lessons before His betrayal (John 13-17), four times He instructed them (us) to love one another. There is a very encouraging promise of love in John 15:9 with the admonition for them (us) to serve in love. “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.” And in His prayer for them (us) He closed with this, (John 17:26) “And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” So, while we are living in AD 2019 not AD 96, may God help us, Pastors and Churches, to love the work, the Word, and one another like He loves us.

Larry Earhart pastors the oldest church in our Association, Salem Baptist, organized in 1844. Larry and his wife, Nancy, have two daughters.