



THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

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Associations welcome two new leaders

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Three Louisiana Baptist associations recently welcomed their new ministry and mission coordinators: Northeast and Morehouse Baptist associations, Steven Kelly, and Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Chris Holloway.

STEVEN KELLY

Kelly, who previously served as director of missions for Gulf Coast Baptist Association and pastor of several Louisiana Baptist churches, assumed his new associational mission strategist roles, Dec. 5. He follows Jerry Price, who retired from the position, Jan. 31, 2022.

“What excites me is this is one of the strongest areas of our Baptist work in the state,” Kelly told the *Baptist Message*. “I consider it an honor to work with some of our leading churches and also the opportunity to help encourage some of our struggling churches. To link the strong with struggling is a wonderful thing, which is one of the roles of the missions strategist. I want to help link people, love pastors and encourage our churches.”

A native of Chalmette,

See **LEADERS**, page 4

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Be a SOUL WINNER

ECON to urge LBC to engage in SBC soul-winning efforts

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

WEST MONROE, La. (LBM) – At the upcoming state Evangelism Conference, Jan. 23-24 in the facilities of the First Baptist Church, West Monroe, speakers will urge Louisiana Baptists to play an active role in two evangelistic efforts tied to the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

See **ECON**, page 2



Fellowship Church: Students embrace discipleship, service

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

PRAIRIEVILLE, La. (LBM) – Service and discipleship have become a way of life for more than

250 students at Fellowship Church, leaders said, and these young people are committed to serving the Prairieville congregation now and for many years to come.

“We are trying to give ownership of this ministry to the students,” Fellowship Church Spiritual Life Pastor Joe Ashley told the *Baptist Message*. “They step into positions where they are trained and serve. We like our kids to get their hands dirty and get off the sidelines. That’s a

big part of being a Christian.

“Our focus also has been on discipleship, where we preach hard messages and talk about topics like fasting, spiritual disciplines and biblical sexuality,” he said. “And kids are here for it.”

Since June 2021, students have gathered every Wednesday evening for both large and small-group discipleship, including 32 who were baptized last year, Ashley said. The discipleship efforts have

equipped the students to serve in various areas of the church, including special needs, children’s ministry, community service days and youth worship band.

“The Lord continues draw the lost and unchurched to our ministry,” Ashley shared. “From the beginning we have stressed the importance for our students to be a ‘bringer’ and they have embraced that challenge.”

See **FELLOWSHIP**, page 3

ECON from page one

SBC EVANGELISTIC PREVIEW

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Team Director Keith Manuel will encour-

age ECON participants to participate in Crossover, a large-scale evangelistic effort held before the SBC Annual Meeting, and the North American Mission

Board SERVE Tour, an effort that seeks to involve participants in service projects as the foundation for evangelism the week-end before the SBC Annual Meeting.

LBC staff will help coordinate enrollment for both initiatives. Manuel hopes to have a team from each association to participate in Crossover and SERVE.

Previously, LBC Executive Director Steve Horn said he was praying for 2,023 people to be saved through these evangelistic efforts.

"We're attempting to encourage our congregations to participate in the SERVE/Crossover tour," Manuel said. "We want to enlist and equip Louisiana Baptists for the opportunity at the SBC in New

Orleans and our state. We're asking each association to pray about having a crossover team and a serve team serve from their area during the weekend before the convention."

MICHAEL W. SMITH

Smith will lead praise and worship by song during two sessions of ECON.

According to his website, Smith has been releasing new music regularly and performing around the world to sold-out crowds for the last 35 years. During his storied career, he's written and recorded over 36 No. 1 songs, been honored with three Grammy awards and 45 Dove awards, one American Music Award, was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall

of Fame and has sold more than 15 million albums.

ECON LINEUP

Speakers who will emphasize soul-winning include: Mark Mittelberg, executive director, Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics, Colorado Christian University (he also will host a book signing); Tim Dowdy, NAMB executive director of evangelism and leadership (he also will share about evangelistic opportunities linked to the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting); Jake Roudkovski, professor, evangelism and pastoral leadership, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Matt Queen, associate dean of the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism and professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; J.J. Washington, NAMB national director of personal evangelism; Jamie Dew, NOBTS president; and John Fream, pastor, Cypress Baptist Church, Benton.

The Jason Lovins Band, contemporary Christian musical artists from Ashland, Kentucky, will join Smith in leading praise and worship by song.

Additionally, the conference will feature breakout sessions and a senior adult lunch, both on Jan. 24.

While ECON is free to attend, tickets for the senior adult lunch cost \$15 and may be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-senior-adult-luncheon-tickets-457108873947>. For more information about ECON, visit LouisianaBaptists.org/ECON.

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Fellowship from page one

JOINT MINISTRY EFFORT

While most churches employ one student minister, Fellowship Church has taken a different approach.

After a two-year search ended without a hire, Ashley felt led in February 2022 to ask three parents (Pete Jory, Jaimi Ashley and Clayton Wood) if they would consider taking on the role of part-time youth leaders – which they did enthusiastically.

“We had three people who were killing it as youth volunteers and we wondered if God was telling us instead of doing a nationwide search, the ones He wanted were right here in our own church,” he said. “We hired three different skill-sets who see that as a strength and not a point of conflict.”

Jaimi Ashley (the wife of Joe Ashley) said this has been a special and unique season of ministry in her Christian journey. She especially enjoys working with more than 60 adult volunteers who pour into the students each Wednesday night.

“I have never been in a church where we have volunteers who are as excited and committed,” she said. “They are all in. Anything we do, they are there. It’s not an uphill battle. They love our students and provide a place for students to process, heal and grow.”

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Sawyer Bufkin, Chloe Massey and Hannah Womack are among the students who have embraced service.

The three juniors



Submitted photo

Prairieville Church baptized 32 students in 2022. These new Christ followers joined other youth for discipleship to further their spiritual growth.

told the *Baptist Message* their love for Fellowship Church has grown since becoming involved in ministry.

“The situation between our church and youth group is unique,” said Bufkin, who helps

lead a fourth and fifth grade boys class on Sunday mornings and also wears a costume to entertain the kids in a monthly large group session on Sundays. “It’s nice to know we are encouraged to serve. That’s

preparing us for beyond our teenage years, to serve Him for many years in the future.”

Massey, who serves on the student praise team, said the church has modeled how to lead.

“Our youth group is an authentic biblical community,” she said. “As I have gone through high school, the leaders have poured into us. They have encouraged me and showed me how to lead.”

Womack, who also helps lead worship for the student praise team, said her faith has grown since she began serving.

“I have made true, Christ-centered friendships that keep me on the right path and on Jesus,” she said. “It has taught me a lot of humility, leadership skills and what it means to follow Jesus. And it’s reinforced that I need to be a leader outside the church and introduce them to Christ.”

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Leaders from page one

Kelly most recently served as pastor with Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City (2009-2022). Before then, Kelly was the pastor of Circle Baptist Church, Baker (1995-1997), First Baptist Church, Doyline (1998-2002), and First Baptist Church, Many (2002-2009), as well as other

congregations in Iowa and Mississippi.

He also served as a Baptist Collegiate Ministry summer missionary in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, where he sensed the call to ministry and met his wife, Tammilee, who was a partner on his team during the

summer of 1986. The couple has three children, Andrew, Adam and Sarah, and one grandchild.

In 2015, Kelly became director of missions for the Gulf Coast Baptist Association. During his time as bi-vocational DOM, Kelly continued to serve as a full-time pastor with Bayou Vista Baptist Church.

Kelly earned the Bachelor of Science from the Univer-

sity of New Orleans and the Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

As for the future, Kelly said his focus for the first several months will be to build relationships with pastors and churches in the two associations. He will seek to use this time to understand what strategy to undertake to best coordinate the collective efforts and resources of the churches.

"My initial goal is to get to know the pastors and leaders," he said. "People won't follow what you do unless they trust you. I want to get into church offices, sit in worship service, preach in pulpits, and have leaders connect with the work."

"I am looking forward to serving in an area where there is a mix of small and large churches, a university, and a metro area," he continued. "Collectively, I hope to lead the churches of our two associations to work together to impact this region for Christ."

CHRIS HOLLOWAY

Holloway assumed his role with the Gulf Coast Baptist Association on Dec. 1.

Like his predecessor, Holloway serves as a bi-vocational director of missions.

Holloway will continue to serve as pastor of Little Pass Baptist Church, Franklin, and will work at least one day a week as director of missions.

While his role as pastor will prevent him from serving as an interim pastor at other churches on Sundays, Holloway plans to meet with pastors during mealtimes, in the evenings and on Saturdays for special events.

Throughout his time as pastor of multiple churches in the association, Holloway has gotten to know most of the churches in the association, which elected him as moderator for 11 years (2011-2022).

A native of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Holloway committed his heart and life to Christ in 1973 while visiting with his pastor, Earl Pounds, at Butler Hill Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Three years later, he felt the call to ministry and became the volunteer youth pastor with First Baptist Church, Dubach, Louisiana.

During the years that followed, Holloway continued to serve on staff with congregations in Kentucky, as well as with Louisiana Baptist churches: youth pastor, Highland Park, Monroe

See LEADERS, page 6

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Cotton Bowl: Tulane's Anderson gives God the victory

By Brian Blackwell
Message staff writer

NEW ORLEANS (LBM) – Typically, Nick Anderson is a vocal presence on gridiron as an all-conference linebacker for the Tulane Green Wave, but he was at a loss for words as he looked across AT&T Stadium in Dallas, Texas, following a comeback win in the 2023 Cotton Bowl.

Anderson registered five tackles as Tulane, the number 16 team in the nation, erased a 15-point deficit in fewer than five minutes to pull off a 46-45 upset of the 10th-ranked University of Southern California. According to the Athletic website, over the past five years, Foot-



Tulane linebacker
Nick Anderson

ball Bowl Subdivision teams were just 1-1,692 when trailing by 15 points with five minutes to play.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Anderson played four seasons at Tulane. During that time, he amassed 283 tackles, 10.5 sacks and two forced fumbles.

"God has always been the head of my life and my journey," Anderson, who turned to Christ when he was five years old, told the Baptist Message. "My career has been through many trials and tribulations, but He has always shown true to his Word in covering me every step of the way. I'm blessed to be in this position and blessed to have been used as a vessel to help guide this team to a historic

season by using the light that GOD blessed me with as well as his guidance and putting my faith first."

As he looks to the 2023 NFL Draft, Anderson is hopeful that he can continue to give God the glory.

"I know He will bless me with the opportunity to continue to showcase how great he is and how he's been able to work miracles in my life," he said. "I have always said that I would use my platform to give him the glory, and I will continue to do that when I get to the next level. I want to cement my legacy as a man of God who was used to inspire others through my walk and career to have faith in God, themselves, and the journey."

Tulane BCM Director Corey Olivier first met Anderson in 2019, when

the two prayed together before football games. A year later, Anderson asked Olivier if he would disciple him.

"From that point on Nick and I have met together to talk through various books of the Bible, journal entries we made while reading them, and how to navigate through college, football, and life

in general with a biblical perspective," Olivier said. "He also attended BCM small groups and weekly dinner and worship gatherings when his class and football schedules allowed him. Nick has been an ambassador of Christ to his teammates and coaches, and I have no doubt he will represent Christ at the next level."

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CARES Act offers tax refunds to churches

By Will Hall
Message executive editor

WASHINGTON (LBM) – Churches are eligible for the Employee Retention Credit (tax credit), which could amount up to \$26,000 per employee, according to the Internal

Revenue Service website. The ERC is designed to reimburse small businesses, including nonprofits “who continued paying employees while shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic or had significant declines in gross receipts from March 13, 2020, to December

31, 2021,” www.irs.gov instructs. An eligible employer is defined as one whose trade or business during the qualified timeframe (as defined in IRS bulletins) was fully or partially suspended due to government restrictions on commerce, travel or group meetings “(for commercial, social, religious, or other purposes) due to COVID-19” or if the employer “had a significant decline in gross receipts,” per Internal Revenue

Bulletin: 2021-11. Other notices modify the timeframe for eligibility and qualify “recovery startup businesses” for the tax credit and provide other details. The tax credit is part of the 2020 CARES Act which was passed to help keep businesses and families afloat when the U.S. economy was shut down during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020-21. Dale Lingenfelter, Louisiana Baptist’s associate ex-

ecutive director and chief financial officer, explained that the ERC is different than the Paycheck Protection Program. “It is not a loan like the PPP. It is a true tax credit,” he told the *Baptist Message*. “You must file amended 941s,” he said, adding that churches will need to be patient as their applications are processed due to backlogs with the IRS. See REFUNDS, page 8



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Leaders from page 4

(1978-1979), mission pastor, Myette, Franklin (1980-1985), pastor, Calvary, Goodwill (1985-1989), pastor, Oak Hill, Many (2004-2011), pastor, Little Pass (2011-present), and Cypremort Point, Franklin (2018-2022). He and his wife, Linda, have six children, Heather, Julie, Amber, Matt, John and Luke,

and 11 grandchildren. Holloway earned the Bachelor of Science from Louisiana Tech University and the Master of Arts and Doctor of Religious Studies from Trinity Theological Seminary, Evansville, Indiana. He hopes to continue building upon the foundation Kelly laid as DOM.

“The fellowship among the pastors has really changed the last few years and our churches have become much closer,” Holloway said. “It’s essential for that to happen if we will continue to reach our area for Christ. We are able to do what we do because of the cooperation among pastors.”

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EPHESIANS 3: The mystery is revealed

This is the third installment of a six-part series for the January Bible study on the book of Ephesians.

By Will Hall, Baptist Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – In the first chapter of the Book of Ephesians, Paul set the tone for his explanation about redemption by emphasizing that “the means” for salvation is “in Christ.”

In Chapter 2 Paul described this “blessing” as the “grace” of God -- again “in Christ” -- and he contrasted “grace” with “works” to help readers understand the enormity of the gift.

In Chapter 3, Paul expanded his message, adding depth to the concept of the “mystery” mentioned earlier -- “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven and which are on earth—in Him” (Ephesians 1:1).

Importantly, his instruction throughout this letter was framed, in large part, in the context of addressing the Judaizers who had plagued his ministry and the expansion of the church by demanding that new Christians be circumcised and held to the standards of Mosaic Law.

Within this perspective, Paul explained that “the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ” (Ephesians 3:6), a direct reference to Isaiah 49:6, which prophesied that Jesus would come not just for the benefit of Israel but also “as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” Moreover, in addressing the “mystery,” Paul clarified that “the Gentiles should be fellow heirs ... through the Gospel” or “in Christ” (v. 6) -- and thus not through circumcision or the Mosaic Law as demanded by

the Judaizers.

Paul then noted that he was specifically called to “preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (v. 8).

He added that the purpose of “the church” includes making known this “ manifold wisdom of God ... to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,” indicating that the church’s mission on earth extends also to heaven.

A number of biblical scholars explain that this means the purpose of the church is to share the Gospel in such a way as to ultimately glorify God to the universe.

Paul also underscored this point to the Corinthians (“apostles ... made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men,” 1 Cor. 4:9) and to a Jewish-Christian congregation (emphasizing that their witness was also to “an innumerable company of angels,” Hebrews 12:22).

Likewise, Peter touched upon this point, stating that angels “desire to look into” the Gospel mystery (1 Peter 1:12).

Finally, Paul closed this part of his letter to the church of Ephesus by offering to pray -- “I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” -- that this congregation would “be strengthened ... rooted and grounded in love ... and ... know the love of Christ” (vv. 14-19).

Importantly, Paul’s message to the Ephesians should encourage us, knowing that the Gentiles to whom the “mystery” applies includes you and me, and that our Gospel witness includes a heavenly audience.

EPHESIANS 4: United by obedience to Christ

This is the fourth installment of a six-part series for the January Bible study on the book of Ephesians.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Ephesians 4 offers a transition in Paul’s letter, pivoting from an emphasis on instruction about doctrine to focus, instead, on the application of the prin-

ciples defined by doctrine.

In that regard, Paul emphasized unity through obedience, meaning that if we are “in Christ” (and He is in

See EPHESIANS, page 8

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Ephesians from page 7

us) that it should be evident in the way we “walk.”

Within this mindset, he called the Christian community in Ephesus to experience this peace which is manifested from “one body and one Spirit ... one hope ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above

all, and through all, and in you all” (vv. 3-6).

Subsequently, he identified how Christians differ in gifts – “apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers” – yet are unified in purpose “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the

edifying of the body of Christ” (vv. 11-12). Paul repeats this point, by explaining that “the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (v. 16).

Then Paul underscored that how we “walk” after being welcomed “in Christ” should be different from how we behaved before we were saved.

Previously we existed “in the futility of the mind ... darkened ... alienated” and that “because of the

blindness” of the heart, were given to “lewdness ... uncleanness with greediness: (vv. 17-19).

Now, if we are “taught by Him,” we should walk in a new way (ending our “former conduct”) by being “renewed in the spirit of your mind” and by putting on “the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (vv. 21-24).

Paul summed up his guidance on this matter by condemning lying, anger and stealing, and even cautioned against speaking unwholesome words (vv. 25-29).

“Do not grieve the Holy

Spirit” he warned. “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (vv. 30-32).

Although written to the congregation in Ephesus, Paul’s words have application to the whole body of believers, and particular meaning for us who compose the church today. Paul did not call believers to a “go along to get along” conformity to achieve the agendas of men, but to submit in unity to the Holy Spirit for the purposes of God.

Refunds from page 6

But Lingenfelter said the refund should be worth the wait, covering each “quarter for which you qualified within all of 2020, and the first three quarters of 2021.”

He added that any wages used to qualify for the PPP loan package could not be used in qualifying for the ERC, but noted that “If you got PPP, you still qualify for the ERC. You just can’t include the timeframe you used to qualify for

PPP in requesting the ERC.”

Lingenfelter urged churches to consult with their respective CPAs, cautioning that many companies have popped up recently to “assist” with filing for the tax credit and they often charge a “commission” that is a large percentage of what is refunded.

Additional information is posted on BaptistMessage.com.

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Westview sees spiritual revival among students

By **Brian Blackwell**
Message staff writer

DERIDDER, La. (LBM) – A spiritual awakening is gaining momentum among the students at Westview Baptist Church.

Since November 2021, 17 students have decided to follow Christ at the Deridder congregation. Seven of those have been baptized since Sept. 18, 2022, and another seven are awaiting baptism in a church that averages 115 in Sunday worship.

Most of the decisions took place at a 2022 summer camp held at the Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center in Woodworth and at the 2021 Youth Evangelism Celebration in Alexandria.

“Our church is seeing a revival because of our students,” Pastor Jason Hoychick told the Baptist Message. “They are inviting their friends and some of them, along with their

families, are getting saved. It’s creating an excitement in our congregation, who are experiencing first-hand that if you witness to your friends and invite them to come, you can reach many for Christ.”

Meanwhile a renewed emphasis on discipleship is helping students grow deeper in their relationships with Jesus.

Hoychick said the primary vehicle for discipleship has been a Wednesday night Bible study. However, he added that students have grown through other opportunities such as a Sunday evening question and answer time on various topics. In the fall that forum drew 13 youth for the two-and-a-half-hour event and produced one profession of faith.

“Teenagers are so hungry to understand God’s Word that they would give up a Sunday night to come to discuss biblical and spiritual matters - even though there

were no food or games involved,” Hoychick said. “I’m telling you, God is doing something special here.”

Keith Bell, WBC minister of youth, has been amazed of the students’ desire to grow deeper in their faith.

“It’s been absolutely amazing to witness the transformation of our students,” Bell said. “To see them continue to ask questions, so they can have meat and not just live on spiritual milk, is so encouraging to a youth leader and to our church. Our students continue to see their friends get saved and that fires them up to keep living for Jesus.”

Hoychick said he is blessed to serve at a church that invests in the next generation and believes God has greater things in store for Westview Baptist in 2023.

“I have pastored 22 years, but never have quit youth ministry,” Hoychick said. “That love has not changed and I’m thankful we have leaders like Keith Bell and



Submitted photo

Westview Baptist Minister of Youth Keith Bell baptized Lilly Escoto. She is one of seven students baptized since September 2022.

his wife, DeAnna.

“Our teenagers get it and are living out how we as Christians are supposed to,” he continued. “Churches need to wake up and learn they can learn from their youth groups. If we invite people and are excited about what we offer, they will come.”

“There is not a perfect teenager or one that has figured out everything about Jesus,” he said. “But they know God loves them and offers them a peace. If we all had the same passion to reach our friends that this youth group does, our world would be a very different place.”

Evangelist Tim Lee

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SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Albany, La., is searching for a full-time Pastor. Please send your résumés to pastorsearchbethlehem@gmail.com or for additional information call the church at 225.567.3666.

FULL TIME PASTOR
Cooper Baptist Church, Leesville is seeking a full time pastor. Please send résumés to 853 Cooper Church Rd. Leesville LA 71446. Call 337.537.3735 with any questions.

SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH OR FULLTIME YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTER
Cherry Ridge Baptist Church is accepting résumés for a P/T Youth Minister or a F/T Youth/Children Minister. Résumés may be e-mailed to crbapt@gmail.com or mailed to Cherry Ridge Baptist Church, 1005 Cherry Ridge Rd, Bastrop LA 71200.

HOUSTON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH Sulphur, LA Seeks a Full Time Worship Minister
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Three full-time social workers needed, one for Baton Rouge, one for Alexandria and one for Shreveport. Positions include salary, benefits, and paid vacations. LMSW licensure required. A minimum of two years' experience in child welfare or related field preferred. Must demonstrate proficient speaking and writing skills. Must be able to work independently. Some travel required. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and families and be an active member of a local Southern Baptist church.
Send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.
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Vernon Baptist Association (VBA) is seeking to hire an Associational Mission Strategist VBA is a family of 40+ churches in Vernon Parish currently partnering with two new church plants, a vibrant benevolence ministry, and sits near a military base. Any interested candidates can submit résumés, ask questions, or request a job description by emailing vernonbaptistassociation@gmail.com or mail to: VBA, 620 S 3rd St, Leesville, LA 71446.

SEEKING PASTOR
New Ouachita Baptist Church in Enterprise, LA is searching for a pastor. Please send résumés to New Ouachita Baptist Church
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COTTAGE PARENTS:
Husband and wife teams are needed. Full-time positions include salary, benefits, paid vacation, and training. Basic job description is to provide love, care, and hope in Christ for children in need. Applicants should not have children living at home under the age of 18. Applicants must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and be active members of a local Southern Baptist church. Part-time positions are also available.
Please send resume to: Susan Nolan at snolan@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

COTTAGE MANAGERS:
Full-Time and Part-Time Positions Available: Christian women needed to serve in HomePlace, a transitional living ministry for homeless children and their mothers. Must have a sense of call and commitment to a ministry of service to children and families.
Please send resume to: Jonann Byargeon at jonann@lbch.org or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.
LOUISIANA BAPTIST Children's Home & FAMILY MINISTRIES
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EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have a Revival, Homecoming, a new pastor, a community outreach or a concert? The Baptist Message would love to share your church news with the rest of the state. It is very easy to do, just send in your information (who, what, where and when) to philip@baptist-message.com or call 318.449.4345. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three weeks prior to the event.

ON THE MOVE

- **Robert, wife Amanda, Davis** is the new pastor at Maple Springs Baptist Church, Logansport.
- **Chad Ballard** is the new pastor at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe.
- **Taylor Auttonberry** is the new children's minister at First Baptist Church, Calhoun.
- **Corey McKinney** is the new youth minister and **Tyler Williams** is the minister of music/worship at Hebron Baptist Church.
- **Russell Hinson** has retired as pastor from First Baptist Church, Holden.
- **Stephanie Jeffreys** is the new part-time ministry assistant on the LBC's Missions & Ministry Team.
- **Erin Young Jones** is the new LBC's children/youth missions strategist.
- **Ken Bryan** retires as music minister at First Baptist Church, Calhoun.
- **Brad Watson** new as pastor of First Baptist Church, Vidalia from Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton.
- **Graceann Slaton** is the new children's minister at Koran Baptist Church, Haughton.
- **Chris Robinson** is the new minister of student at Rose Park Baptist Church, Shreveport.

REVIVAL

- Bellevue Baptist Church, Jena: **Revival meeting**, January 22-25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Scotty McDowell**. Pastor: Gary Norris

LAGNIAPPE

- **Steve Bennett, Pastor Emeritus of FBC Moss Bluff**, is available for conferences, revivals, or supply. Call 337.263.7114
- **Alton Achord** is available for supply. Call 318.715.8874.
- **Singer Baptist Church in Singer is seeking a bi-vocational Southern Baptist pastor.** The position entails conducting Sunday morning, Sunday evening worship services and mid-week prayer service and other pastoral duties, i.e., funerals, weddings, etc. Salary and housing benefits will be determined. Applicants must be a leader who is prayerful, wise and steadfast; must be people oriented and possess strong pastoral skills; have good preaching and teaching and counseling skills; have the ability to assimilate with the people and the culture of First Baptist and possess strong pastoral skills and be passionate about reaching out to young people and families. Contact Jimmy Clark at 337.912.9882 or email résumé to jbc14@bellsouth.net.
- **Louisiana Life March, Lafayette**, January 14, 9 a.m. Festival de la Vie: Lafayette. The event will be held at Parc International with speakers, prayer and special music.
- **Louisiana Life March, Monroe**, January 15, 1:45 p.m. Meet in the purple parking lot at First Baptist Church, West Monroe. March will leave the church at 2 p.m., cross the Endom Bridge then continue to the Anna Gray Noe Park in Monroe for a program. Everyone is invited to participate.
- **Life March South: Baton Rouge**, January 21, 10 a.m. the march begins at the Louisiana State Capitol lawn. Guest Speaker: Dustin Bertrand.
- **Life March Northwest: Shreveport, Bossier**, 10 a.m.- noon, January 21. The march will begin travel from Bossier City across the Texas Street Bridge to Travis Street Parking lot across from Government Plaza in Shreveport.
- **Life March Southwest: Lake Charles**

Those attending the march should meet at Veterans Memorial Park, Lakeshore Drive in Lake Charles, 6-8 p.m., January 21.

- Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: **21st Annual Men's wild game dinner**, January 21, 2023, 5 p.m. Cost: \$10 per person and all proceeds go toward Brotherhood Disaster Relief. Speaker: Johnny Morgan, Obedience 2 Death Ministries of Denham Springs. The meal of 'wild and tame' game will be in the church gym.
- Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton: **Brian Free and Assurance in concert**, January 27, 2023, 7 p.m. The public is invited. A love offering will be taken. Pastor: Brad Kirby.
- Homewood Baptist Church, Alexandria: **Today's Southern Gospel benefit sing, January 28, 6 p.m. Featuring: Greg Sullivan, Brian Free and Assurance, and New Ground.** Cost: There will be no admission, but a love offering will be taken. Pastor: Jimmy Koonce
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Columbia: **Greg Sullivan Ministries with New Ground in concert**, January 29, 6 p.m. Pastor: Jerry Hendrixson.
- Cheniere Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Fifth Sunday Singing with area churches**, January 29, 5 p.m. Everyone is invited. Pastor: Zach Anderson.
- Loch Arbor Baptist Church, Monroe: **Salt, Light, Song: Women's Conference**, January 29, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Speaker: **Joan Pugh**. Cost: \$30 with t-shirt and \$20 without shirt. Pay by Jan. 8. To register go to www.locharbor.com or to church's Facebook page. Pastor: William Sikes.
- **Women's Winter Retreat, Mansfield**,

February 18, 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Clista Calhoun Event Center, 101 Monroe St. Mansfield (Previously held at Clara Springs Baptist Camp).

Keynote Speaker: Teresa Harmening, Paris, Texas (Facebook -Teresa Harmening Ministries); **Guest Speaker: Jann Franklin, local author from Grand Cane.** Pre-gegristration \$20 per person or \$25 at the door. Deadline to pre-register is February 10. Online-email Womenswinterretreat23@gmail.com. Give names of guests attending and you may pay on PayPal@ Womenswinterretreat23@gmail.com OR mail check or money order to Women's Winter Retreat, 21350 Hwy 174, Converse, LA 71419. Follow us on facebook at Women's Winter Retreat. For additional information or questions, contact Jeanine at 318.623.1695 or Cindy, 318.521.0439.

REMEMBRANCE

■ **LEESVILLE, La. (LBM) -- Wallace Blake Palmer**, 87, of Leesville, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Dec. 20. Following services at First Baptist Church, Leesville, he was buried at Good Hope Cemetery in Anacoco under the supervision of Labby Funeral Home in Leesville. Born on July 16, 1935 to his parents Joseph & Hazel Hill Palmer in Hugo, Oklahoma. A 1957 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Arts, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1961. Two years after graduating from Southwest-



Wallace Blake Palmer

ern, Wallace married Beverly Kay Tate on August 30, 1963. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in 2022. Palmer served as pastor at Garvin Baptist Church in Garvin, Oklahoma from 1956-1961, Calvary Baptist Church in Trinity, Texas from 1961-1963, Beall Chapel Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas from 1963-1967, Northside Baptist Church in Lafayette, Louisiana from 1967-1975, First Baptist Church in Leesville, Louisiana from 1975-2001, and Good Hope Baptist Church in Anacoco, Louisiana from 2005-until his retirement in 2017. He served on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas for 10 years, and was on the Board of Trustees for Byrd Regional Hospital. Beginning in 1989, he made 25 mission trips to Brazil. He also took seven trips to the Holy Land leading six of them. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing golf and spending time with family (especially his grandchildren). He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Carolyn Bloodworth. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Beverly of Leesville; sons, Joseph Wayne Palmer and his wife Alba of Kenner, Louisiana, and Paul Blake Palmer and his wife Jessica of Katy, Texas; grand-children, Taylor Marie Palmer, Logan Elizabeth Palmer, Haley Catalina Palmer, Andrea Christina Palmer, Kaylee Lynn Palmer, Kylie Nicole Palmer; great grandchildren, Dante Alexander Lichau, Aiden Nicholas Lichau, and Mila Rose Serrano. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Alzheimer Association, First Baptist Church of Leesville, or Good Hope Baptist Church of Anacoco.

Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

QCNVNDJVN M NAPLVN UXX QCMAYI DJV QCN

NXNRQI' IUBNI, QCUQ QCNK SUK UXIJ JEQUA QCN

IUXHUQMJA OCMRC MI MA RCVMIQ ZNILI OMQC

NQNVAUX YXJVK.

INRJAP QMSJQCK QOJ: QNA

Clues:
X = L; N = E

Answer to December 15 Scripture Crypto:
Mark ten:thirty-five



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John
FREAM



Matt
QUEEN



Jamie
DEW



Jake
ROUDKOVSKI



JJ
WASHINGTON



Tim
DOWDY



Mark
MITTELBERG



Jason Lovins
BAND



Michael W.
SMITH

Schedule

Monday, 1:00 pm

John Fream, Matt Queen,
Jason Lovins Band

Monday, 6:00 pm

Jamie Dew,
Jason Lovins Band

Tuesday, 9:00 am

Jake Roudkovski,
JJ Washington,
Jason Lovins Band

Tuesday, 1:00 pm

Tim Dowdy, Michael W. Smith,
BREAKOUTS

Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Mark Mittelberg,
Michael W. Smith

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JAN. 24, 2023

Reservations required
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Questions?

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