



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

December 14, 2023  
Volume 138 • Issue No. 14

TO REPORT A  
NEWS ITEM  
OR TO BUY  
AN AD, CALL  
877.234.3832

John 3:16

*Share the Message*

[www.baptistmessage.com](http://www.baptistmessage.com)

## Joseph loved a son who was not his own

By Will Hall  
Message executive editor

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – The Christmas account records so many wonderful expressions of love. But one that often is underrepresented is the love Joseph showed for a child who was not related by blood.

Moreover, we often fail to see that Joseph's love for Jesus is an earthly example of God's love for you and me as his adopted children.

Not much is documented about

Joseph as the husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus. Indeed, not one spoken word from him is included in the Bible.

We do know that Joseph was of the royal bloodline of Christ (Mt. 1:1-16). However, his lineage was cursed because of his ancestor, King Jehoniah (Jer. 22:28-30).

Indeed, we know that Joseph was extremely poor, despite his ties to nobility,



See JOSEPH, page 4

## YEC 2023: Shine your light for Jesus Christ!

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Organizers and participants of the 2023 Youth Evangelism Celebration praised God for the hundreds of students who made decisions for Christ, Nov. 19-20, at the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria. They also were grateful to Him for the estimated 5,100 teens who attended YEC (the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists).

"I would just say that Brandon Lewis, Julie Mitcham and an army of volunteers helped us pull this event off," Louisiana Baptist Youth Strategist Lee Myers told the Baptist Message. "We could not make it happen without their hard work and commitment to youth ministry in the state of Louisiana. Our goal each year is to create an event that students can connect with, hear the Gospel pro-

See LIGHT, page 2



Brian Blackwell photo

A student prayed during a session of the Youth Evangelism Celebration. More than 5,100 teens attended YEC, which is the largest annual gathering of Louisiana Baptists.



Brian Blackwell photo

Students participated multiple times in worship led by WeRecalled. YEC 2023 concluded with a concert by Cain, an award-winning contemporary Christian group.

## 2024 ECON: 'To the ends of the earth'

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

RUSTON, La. (LBM) – The 2024 Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference will encourage participants to embrace an Acts 1:8 evangelistic mindset, Jan. 22-23, at Temple Baptist Church, Ruston.

From pastors, professors, and Baptist collegiate campus directors in North America to a representative with the International Mission Board, the lineup will seek to spur Louisiana Baptists to share the Gospel in their communities and across the globe.

"We're excited to be back in Ruston," Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Director Keith Manuel told the Baptist Message. "We are focused on creating a culture of evangelism in our churches with an emphasis this year on the uttermost parts of the world."

The sessions will feature George Lee, Baptist Collegiate Ministry director, Grambling University, Ruston; John Avant, director and president, Life

See ECON, page 3



# Light from page one

claimed, have the opportunity to respond and also come together as a family of believers.

## SHINE YOUR LIGHT

YEC challenged the Louisiana Baptist youth to share their stories of how Christ changed their lives through messages by Daryl Jones, founder of Point Ministries in Miami, Fla.

In his messages, Jones encouraged students to be

shining lights of Christ to a dark world.

Basing his message on Matthew 5:14-16, Jones told the students Christ has placed them in strategic places to be used by Him to reach others.

"He wants to use you so He may be known," he said. "So, you can't hide. But you're not on your own. Don't sweat it. He's got you."

Jones told the students they are to be representa-

tives of Christ and that God has positioned them for a purpose, which is to make Him known.

"We reflect the light of His Son," he said. "We are to show Truth. We are to show The Way. We are to deliver his message of hope, the Good News."

Jones also used the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, found in John 4, to urge the students to share their stories of how Jesus changed their lives. Just as Jesus offered her living water, He does the same for them and

their friends and family members, he said.

"If you know enough of the Gospel that it saved you, you know enough to share with somebody else," he offered. "If you can't quote the verses don't worry about that. Tell them about where Jesus met you and how Jesus changed your life. And then point them to Him."

## BE ON GUARD

Counselor Clint Davis of Shreveport told the students to chase the desires of Christ rather than the pleasures of the world.

"If we look at America, we're on the cusp of a great crash," he said. "We're on the cusp of falling apart, because our foundations are built on sinking sand, and not Scripture and not the Holy Spirit and not the Word of God. You guys have got to be a generation who builds their houses on a firm foundation."

David challenged the students to be different for Christ when using social media. He suggested they post healthy content, refrain from bullying on posts, not edit their own content and gather a group of friends to fast from social media for a certain

period.

"My challenge for us is to be image bearers for Christ in the world of social media, is to do a little bit here and there to where you can be different where people can come to you and say, 'hey, I noticed that you post so differently than everybody else. Why is that?' And that's the opportunity for you to share the Gospel and share about Christ what Christ has done in your life."

Davis also told the students to flee from sexual immorality and seek out trusted Christ followers for help in this area.

"If you have trauma, if you've been abused, if you've experienced anything within your sexual development, you are not bad, you're not gross, you are not broken and beyond repair," he said. "God is still the God of restoration. He wants to heal and restore those things."

## TRAINED TO SHARE

By the end of the two-day spiritual encounter, several hundred students had made decisions for Christ, with 157 students stepping forward during

See LIGHT, page 8

## Take Your Pick

### The NEW 15 Passenger Ford Transit Forest River Van

- No Commercial Driver's License required
- Lease for as low as \$1,327 monthly



### The 13 Passenger Ford or Chevrolet Starcraft Allstar with 2 Wheelchair Stations

- No Commercial Driver's License required
- Lease for as low as \$1,825 monthly

### The 15 Passenger Ford or Chevrolet Starcraft Allstar with Rear Storage

- No Commercial Driver's License required
- Lease for as low as \$1,894 monthly



America's #1 Church Bus Dealer  
www.carpenterbus.com  
Nationwide Delivery  
800-370-6180

Each New Bus Sold to Churches Comes with a Complimentary 8-Year, Unlimited Mileage Warranty

## INSURANCE FOR CHURCHES

Since 1916

**Spengler-Stewart agency, inc.**  
100 YEARS  
Serving the Insurance Needs of Louisiana

Call 318.442.0269

lardoin@spenglerstewart.com  
www.spenglerstewart.com

LORI ARDOIN & PAUL D. STEWART

## LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE

Will Hall, Editor

### STAFF

Philip Timothy  
Managing Editor

Rhonda Havens  
Advertising Director

Brian Blackwell  
Staff Writer

JoAnne Timothy  
Office Manager

### Board of Trustees:

Jeff Coleman, Larry Evans, Mike Evans, Dale Goodman, Dan Lay, Chad King, Frank McCormack, Alan Miller, Darryl Miller, Jonie Owens, Tammy Sharp, Nicole Tull.



## ADVERTISING

Display [boxed] and classified [words only] advertising must be in writing, and may be submitted by email, U.S. mail or fax.

To the best of our knowledge, all ads in the *Louisiana Baptist Message* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.

For all your advertising needs contact Rhonda Havens at the *Message* at 318.449.4351 or 877.234.3832.

The Louisiana Baptist Message partners with:



© Copyright 2023 Baptist Message. All rights reserved

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individual: \$14/year  
Group rates available  
Call the Louisiana Baptist Message at 318.449.4343 or 877.234.3832  
Fax: 318-445-8328  
editor@baptistmessage.com  
PO Box 311  
Alexandria LA 71309  
www.baptistmessage.com

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Two weeks before change is desired, send new address (with zip code and street address) and mailing label from this copy of the *Louisiana Baptist Message*. Periodicals postage paid in Alexandria, Louisiana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Baptist Message, 1250 MacArthur Drive, PO Box 311, Alexandria LA 71309-0311

(USPS 042-860) (ISSN 0740-2104)

Published biweekly Thursdays by the *Louisiana Baptist Message*, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303.

Volume 138

December 14, 2023

Number 14



## ECON 2024 from page one

Action Ministries, Buchanan, Mich.; James Pritchard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lafayette; Jeff Ginn, vice-president of mobilization, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va. (also, former pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge); Preston Nix, professor of evangelism and evangelistic preaching, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Thomas Hammond, executive director, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, Sugar Hill, Ga.; and Dean Register, lead pastor, CrossPoint Community Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.

The praise and worship lineup includes Charles Billingsley, an award-winning contemporary Christian artist, Lynchburg, Va.; and Tim Lovelace, an award-winning contemporary Christian artist

and comedian.

The conference also will feature breakout sessions and the senior adult luncheon, both on Jan. 23.

"I hope senior adults across the state will be able to attend the Evangelism Conference this January," Adult Ministry Strategist Jeff Ingram said. "It's always a great two days of worship, fellowship and an encouraging reminder of our responsibility to prayerfully share the Gospel with a world desperately in need of the Good News. The senior adult luncheon at ECON is a well-attended opportunity for individuals and groups to have a meal prior to the program and to meet new friends from across the state."

Manuel asked for prayer as final preparations are made.

"We want to encourage those who attend to



Brian Blacwell photo

Louisiana Baptist Evangelism and Church Growth Director Keith Manuel said this year's Evangelism Conference will focus on creating a culture of evangelism in churches with an emphasis on the uttermost parts of the world. ECON is scheduled for Jan. 22-23 in the facilities of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston.

grow in all areas of church evangelism: personal evangelism, small groups, worship, age-group ministries, missions, and special evangelistic events," Manuel said. "When these ministries grow out

of personal renewal and prayer, that's how you create a culture of evangelism that is contagious in a local church."

**ECON is a free event. For more information, visit LouisianaBaptists.**

**org/ECON.**

**Senior adult lunch tickets can be purchased for \$15 at [eventbrite.com/e/2024-senior-adult-luncheon-tickets-727708073437?aff=erelexpmlt](https://eventbrite.com/e/2024-senior-adult-luncheon-tickets-727708073437?aff=erelexpmlt).**

# ECON

## EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

INSPIRING SPEAKERS | EXCITING WORSHIP  
EQUIPPING SEMINARS | AND MORE!

**JAN. 22-23, 2024**

**TEMPLE BAPTIST | RUSTON**

[LouisianaBaptists.org/ECON](https://LouisianaBaptists.org/ECON)



**Joseph** from page one\_\_\_\_\_

because he could only afford two turtledoves instead of the customary lamb required for Mary's ceremonial purification after she gave birth to Jesus (Lk. 2:22-24; Lev. 12:7-8).

But Joseph's love for a son who was not his biological child is shown in several ways:

-- While betrothed to the pregnant Mary, he was willing to suffer the embarrassment of being accused of either having sex outside of marriage, or, of being married to an adulterous woman ... so that he could be the father of Jesus (Mt. 1:18-25; Lev. 20:10; Dt. 24:1-4).

-- When Herod sought to kill the baby Jesus, Joseph did not hesitate in terms of letting Herod take care of his "problem."

Instead, he fled from his home and his people, and stayed in Egypt for three years until Herod died (Mt. 2:13-23).

-- When Joseph and Mary discovered that the 12-year-old Jesus was lost after a visit to Jerusalem, the Bible says they spent three days seeking their son, only to find Him in the temple engaged in “My Father’s business” (Lk. 2:41-50).

-- In that regard, Joseph loved Jesus enough to teach him his profession (Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3).

There are other examples of men who illustrated the fatherly qualities of God:

-- Noah walked righteously in front of his sons (Gen. 7:1).

-- David prepared Solomon for success (Chron. 22:1-5; 28:11-21), even teach-

ing him to seek wisdom and understanding (1 Chron. 22:12).

-- The father of the prodigal son loved his rebellious child, seeking his silhouette on the horizon so he could be the first to welcome him home and not neighbors bent on enforcing the law (Lk. 15:11-32; Dt. 21:18-21).

-- Meanwhile, Abraham demonstrated faith to his son to the point that “when he was tested, offered up Isaac ... his only begotten son ... concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead” (Heb. 11:17-19).

Truly, Joseph loved a son who was not his own. Moreover, other men in the Bible reflected God-like qualities of fatherhood.

But, even Abraham, who offered to sacrifice Isaac, fell short of God's love for children who are not His begotten.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,”



Submitted photo

Joseph showed exceptional love for a son who was not his biological child, reflecting God-like qualities of fatherhood.

(John 3:16).

Christmas is a time to remember the Savior who was born a babe in the manger. But it also is a time to remember the

Father's love that extends  
beyond His only begotten  
Son to those who would  
be adopted as sons and  
daughters, like you and  
me.

# **CALLED TO PREACH**



# PAUSE

## A WEEKEND FOR PASTORS AND WIVES

Tall Timbers Conference Center  
February 9-10, 2024

\$175/Couple (Now through Jan. 10)  
\$195/Couple (After Jan. 10)



Dr. Gevan Spinney  
PRESENTER



Andrea Spinney  
PRESENTER



Dr. Steve Horn  
PRESENTER



Tyler Hennessee  
WORSHIP

Begins Friday (Feb. 9) at 4:00 pm • Ends Saturday (Feb. 10) at 1:30 pm  
Material, Lodging, 3 Meals, and Campground Access included

Register now at [LouisianaBaptists.org/Pause](https://LouisianaBaptists.org/Pause)



# Hancock reflects on 20 years of service with LBCHFM

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

MONROE, La. (LBM) – Perry Hancock has much to be thankful for this year.

He witnessed numerous faith decisions made among the 6,800 children and adults the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries has served this year, but in July he also celebrated his 20th year as president and CEO of the ministry.

"I am so thankful to the Lord and to Louisiana Baptists for the opportunity to serve at the Children's Home," Hancock told the Baptist Message. "I am blessed every day through our staff, the children and families we serve, and by our churches that support the ministry through the Cooperative Program and in many other ways."

Hancock became president and CEO of the ministry on July 1, 2003. When he came to the role from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he served as dean of graduate studies and associate professor of discipleship, Hancock told trustees of the LBCHFM that he was looking forward to creating a family-style atmosphere among workers and administrators and continuing Louisiana Baptists' desire for the ministry to put children first.

Twenty years later, that vision has become reality.

## NEW MINISTRIES

### *Foster care and adoption*

Connect1Child foster care and adoption network provides individuals and churches a toolkit to be a "helper to the orphan."

In November 2022, a

new model was launched to help associations better engage churches in foster care and adoption ministry. Since its inception, four associations representing 250 churches have participated in this coordination of efforts to serve the foster care community. This model recognizes that an association provides a more streamlined approach to meet urgent needs.

### *Compassion for Kids*

Compassion for Kids offers ministry designed to meet the basic life needs of 2,700 economically challenged children and their families in Northeast Louisiana. Projects are conducted in partnership with local churches and include providing food, clothing, shoes, school supplies and more.

In March 2024, Com-



Submitted photo

Perry Hancock recently celebrated his 20th year as president and CEO of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. He has helped create a family-style atmosphere among workers and administrators and continued Louisiana Baptists' efforts to put children first.

passion for Kids will open the Compassion Center, a 15,000-sq.-ft. facility that will be located on the

Monroe campus and could impact 25,000-50,000 chil-

See **HANCOCK**, page 10

**Merry Christmas**

From **COMPEL OUTREACH**

As we find ourselves in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, may we stop to consider the wonder of the gift of Salvation that comes through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Visit us at [compeloi.org](http://compeloi.org) to learn about Compel Outreach International.**

If you would like to book Bill Britt for your church revival or evangelistic crusade, please call us at (318) 615-5039 or email us at [info@compeloi.org](mailto:info@compeloi.org).



# Morgan to retire after 15 years of ministry to LBC pastors

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – For the past 15 years, Stacy Morgan has championed Louisiana Baptist pastors around the state through multiple roles on the state missions team.

Morgan, who is set to retire Dec. 31 from the Louisiana Baptist communications team, said he is grateful for the opportunity to build relationships with pastors.

“I have enjoyed being able to love and encourage pastors,” Morgan told the Baptist Message. “I’ve met and had the privilege of loving so many pastors over the last 15 years and would encourage them not to grow weary in well doing. Though we may not see the fruit now, we know the laborers do not go unrewarded. Each of us



Brian Blackwell photo

Stacy Morgan has built relationships with pastors across the state during his time on the Louisiana Baptist state missions services team. He will retire Dec. 31 after 15 years of service.

has a role. Some sow, some water, but it’s God Who gives the increase.”

## CALLED TO SERVE

Morgan’s journey be-

gan as a 16-year-old who actively participated in his local church, Winbourne Avenue Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, but had not realized his need for Jesus. One evening, while sitting

under a tree at Dry Creek Baptist Camp, the Holy Spirit brought him under conviction that he needed the Savior.

“It occurred to me that I was a sinner, and I had no hope in this life or the life to come,” Morgan said. “I was overwhelmed by the extent of my sin. I had tried to find solace in the activities I was involved with at church and finally realized I had no hope except in Christ. I cried out for Jesus to have mercy and save me from my sins.”

Seven years later, Morgan had dropped out of classes at Louisiana State University and was working in the petrochemical industry when he realized this was not what God wanted him to do with his life. Though he sensed the call to ministry, Morgan resisted initially.

However, he finally surrendered while serving as an adult chaperone for a

youth camp at the Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

He returned home, made his call public, asked his girlfriend at the time (Jan) to marry him, and made plans to re-enroll at LSU where he earned a bachelor’s degree in 1983. He then attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to further his preparation for ministry, earning the Master of Divinity in 1986. Years later, he would pursue doctoral work at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

While attending LSU, Morgan served as youth director with Oakcrest Baptist Church, Baton Rouge (1981-1982). During the next 23 years, Morgan served the Lord as pastor with several congregations: Pine Grove Baptist Church, Livingston

See MORGAN, page 9

Thank you for giving! With your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering, Louisiana Baptists are able to share God's greatest gift, Jesus, across our state and throughout the world.

For CP gifts to be recorded for 2023, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2023. Any gifts postmarked after that date will be recorded for 2024.

On behalf of Dr. Horn and your entire State Missions Services staff,

*Merry Christmas*

BCM'S  
REGROUP

YEC  
VBS PREVIEW  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

MISSION BUILDERS  
HERE FOR YOU  
ECON



# Summer Grove retires \$12 million mortgage

By **Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LMB) – Summer Grove Baptist Church recently celebrated the last payment on \$12 million debt that was previously owed for its 900,000-square-foot facility.

Members of the church, who purchased a vacant Shreveport shopping mall in 2003 and relocated there a year later, rejoiced during a unique Nov. 26 note-burning service that featured encouraging remarks by Pastor Heath Peloquin, Pastor Emeritus Wayne DuBose, Pastor Emeritus Billy Crosby and former Senior Pastor Aaron Burgner. Prayers were led by Northwest Baptist Associational Missions Strategist Lane Moore and former church member Ronnie Smith, and there was a substantial celebra-

tory atmosphere.

"I'm so proud of our people because they never stopped giving and never gave up," Peloquin told the *Baptist Message*. "This has given us a renewed sense of why God has brought us here to do our part to reach Shreveport and be that light of Jesus to a lost and dying world that needs it. Now, I believe there will be new ministry opportunities because of retiring our debt, and we will have a renewed sense of being able to help more in areas where we have not been able to in the past."

When Peloquin became pastor in 2018, the church still owed \$5.9 million on its facilities. He encouraged the church each year to pray, fast and give toward paying off the balance.

Even during COVID,

See **SUMMER GROVE**, page 11



Submitted photo

Business Administrator Van Lewis, Finance Team Chairman Steen Trawick, Pastor Emeritus Billy Crosby and Pastor Heath Peloquin burned a \$12 million note on Summer Grove's 900,000-square-foot facility, Nov. 26.



LOUISIANA  
**CHRISTIAN**  
UNIVERSITY

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

JOHN 1:14 (NKJV)

"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US,  
AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,  
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

*Preparing Graduates • Transforming Lives*



1140 COLLEGE DRIVE, PINEVILLE, LA 71360 + [LCUNIVERSITY.EDU](http://LCUNIVERSITY.EDU) + (800) 487-1906



## LOUISIANA CHURCH INSURANCE

"Three generations of Galloway's serving Louisiana Churches."



Call us for your church insurance needs

[www.louisianachurchinsurance.com](http://www.louisianachurchinsurance.com) • 800.256.0700

## Light from page 2

the opening session to accept Christ, grow deeper in their faith or pursue a call to ministry.

The threat of severe weather impacted the remaining times of decision. Instead of approaching the stage during an altar call and going to a tent outside to talk further with counselors, students told their adult leaders, who will follow up with them on an

individual basis.

In addition to messages by Jones, participants enjoyed times of worship led by WeRecalled, entertainment by the Exiles and the Skit Guys, and prayers led by students from around the state. YEC 2023 concluded with a concert by Cain, an award-winning contemporary Christian group.

Students and adult leaders also were challenged to share their testimonies with classmates, family members, co-workers, and others. During the Monday afternoon session, Jones encouraged the students to use the Three Circles Gospel conversation tool to share the Gospel with others.

This was the seventh of a multi-year rotation to equip students with various tools to share Christ.

"Somebody else's salvation is not dependent on you, that's between them with the Lord," Jones told the students. "What Christ is calling us to do as our call and our charge is



Counselor Clint Davis of Shreveport told the students during YEC to chase the desires of Christ rather than the pleasures of the world.

contact. His job is conversion. And you never know where somebody is in the moment. Somebody else may have sown the seed, somebody else may have come alongside and watered. You don't know where you fit in the puzzle of that person's life, but know that there's somebody, there are those that are waiting on you, and God has called you to share your faith."

Licensed Contractor



**JAMES L. DAVIS  
CONSTRUCTION**

146 Redemption Ln  
Ruston, LA 71270

### WE FEATURE:

- new church construction,
- church remodel/additions,
- plans and design,
- conventional construction
- steel building construction

318.202.3691 Office & Fax | 318.243.3330 | [james@jamesldavisconstruction.com](mailto:james@jamesldavisconstruction.com)

## ATTENTION:

## INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS



The funds you save with your personal investment account through **Church Finance Corporation** can be used as your emergency fund.



**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY,**

**START AN EMERGENCY FUND!**



**LOUISIANA  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION**

\*Rates are subject to change. The Louisiana Baptist Foundation is not soliciting funds but is endorsing its ministry partner Church Finance Corporation in providing investments for individuals.



**Church Finance  
CORPORATION**

LBInfo.org | [contact@LBInfo.org](mailto:contact@LBInfo.org) | 1.877.523.4636 | [churchfinancem.org](http://churchfinancem.org) | [info@churchfinancem.org](mailto:info@churchfinancem.org) | 1.877.841.1777



## Morgan from page 6

(1985-1989); Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville (1989-1995); New Horizon Church, Baton Rouge (1995-2000); and Jerusalem Baptist Church, Hammond (2001-2008).

In 2008, Morgan accepted the call to join the Louisiana Baptist pastoral leadership team as church administrative strategist. He remained in that role until 2019, when he was named Louisiana Baptist communications associate for stewardship and the Cooperative Program.

During his time on the state missions services team, Morgan served 11 churches as an interim/transitional pastor; started the Shepherd's Rest ministry which provides support for a pastor to take a brief sabbatical (up to four Sundays) with the assurance that the church where he serves will have pastoral oversight at no cost to the pastor or congregation;

served as a GuideStone Financial Services representative for Louisiana for eight years; developed numerous resources to aid churches with finances and policies; helped promote generosity and the Cooperative Program; crafted a comprehensive conflict resolution strategy; and cultivated strong relationships with the associational missions strategists.

### GRATEFUL THOUGHTS

Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn said he is thankful for Morgan's service to Louisiana Baptists.

"We are grateful for the ministry of Stacy Morgan," Horn said. "Due to the nature of Stacy's varying assignments throughout his tenure, literally every church in our Convention has benefitted from his ministry. Stacy has been a faithful servant to his fam-

ily, his Louisiana Baptist family, our churches, and most of all, His Lord."

Louisiana Baptist Communication Team Director John Kyle added: "When we were searching for a

Cooperative Program/stewardship strategist, we needed someone with a pastor's heart and a heart for missions. Stacy Morgan was that person. Even though he's served on the

state missions services staff for over 15 years, his heart has always been with the local church. He has been as asset to our communica-

See MORGAN, page 10

## LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

### Immediate Job Openings

#### SOCIAL WORKERS Needed in Shreveport and Baton Rouge:

Full-time positions include salary, benefits, and paid vacation. 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.

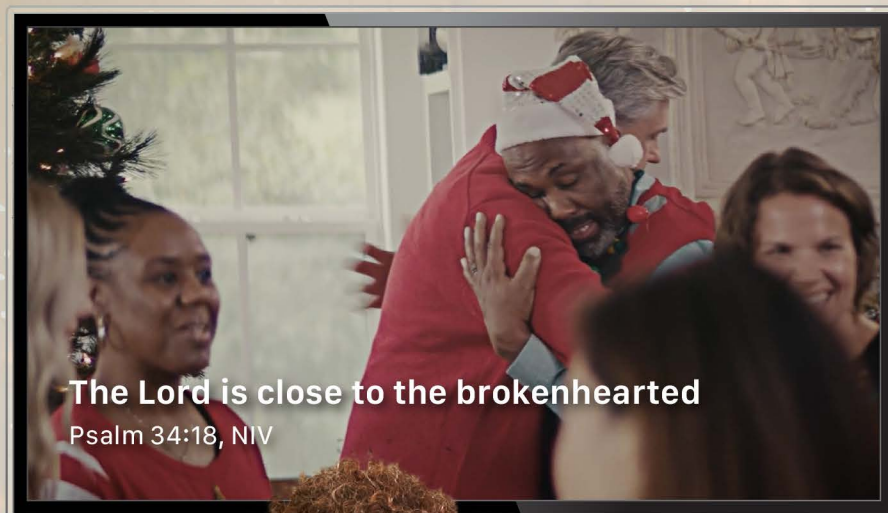
Please send resume to Susan Nolan at [snolan@lbch.org](mailto:snolan@lbch.org) or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

#### CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR Needed in Baton Rouge:

Granberry Counseling Centers is looking for a full-time Christian counselor in Baton Rouge. Must be fully or provisionally licensed as LPC, LMFT or LCSW. Two years post licensure experience is preferred in private practice settings.

Please send resume to: [kathy@lbch.org](mailto:kathy@lbch.org) or Granberry Counseling Centers, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

[www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)



Thank you, Louisiana Baptists, for sharing the gift of God's truth with those who don't know Jesus.

Visit [LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou](http://LouisianaBaptists.org/hereforyou) to learn how you can let your community know you're part of this effort.

HereforYou.org  
LOUISIANA BAPTISTS



# Hancock from page 5

dren and their families annually in one of the state's poorest regions. The regional center will provide weekend food backpacks and school supplies for children, a baby store for infants and toddlers and support for foster care families. Additionally, the center will provide space for a mission church that could provide Bible studies at the facility and resources for existing compassion ministries and pursue the establishment of new church-

based compassion works. *HomePlace Ministry* Since its inception in 2010, HomePlace has offered homeless women and their children a place to stay for six to 12 months at no cost to the residents, and their stay can be extended. More than 500 women and their children have participated in the program. While there, the women may work toward their high school equivalency and receive life and job training through the Christian Women's Job

Corps. There are to develop care strategies for child victims of human trafficking and residential care for women who are victims of domestic violence.

## Granberry Counseling

Granberry counselors have helped more than 30,000 clients, including 600 pastors and their families, since its inception. Today, the ministry employs licensed, professional Christian counselors who operate out of 12 locations around the state.

Counseling is available at no cost to any Louisiana Baptist minister, his spouse and/or dependent children through a partnership with Granberry and the LBC Pastoral Leadership team.

## Ministerial Care Program

The Ministerial Care Residential Program was launched in 2018, and allows Louisiana Baptist

terminated ministers and International Mission Board missionaries on stateside assignment (transitioning to a new ministry or recently retired) to receive a free apartment on the LBCH-FM's campus in Monroe for up to one year.

## CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Hancock has celebrated many victories, but he also has seen the landscape change as some children's homes closed across the nation. He and his staff realized early in his LBCHFM tenure that the entity needed to broaden its vision or else suffer the same fate. In response, Hancock and his team explored the question "Where are the other children and families who need love, care and hope in Christ?" The answer was revealed in an overwhelmed state foster care system.

"We then discovered that foster children all across our state had the same need for care," he said. "At that time there were over 4,000 children in the system and only 3,000 homes approved for placement. So, we developed a state-wide foster care ministry that we now call Connect1Child. The Children's Home recruits foster families, provides training, and supports those families throughout the year.

"As we continued to ask, 'Where are children and families in need?' we discovered a heart-breaking reality," he said.

"Louisiana has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the nation. Domestic violence creates homelessness for children and their mothers. So we established HomePlace, our family care ministry. Those families can stay with us for 12 months. In that time, mothers receive parent training, life skills and more. Those who have not graduated high school can attend classes at our Women's Learning Center. We also offer a career track for those who need to enhance their job skills.

"Finally, we found another answer to our question," he said. "It was easy to see. Where are the children? They are in every neighborhood across our state. They live every day with the challenges of poverty. The poverty rate in our state is 53 percent higher than the national average. These children and their families are all within just a few miles of a Louisiana Baptist church. So, we established Compassion-ForKids, our community outreach ministry. The Children's Home partners with LBC churches to provide life essentials for children and families in need. Every project includes a presentation of the Gospel just like our other ministries.

"These are the ways the Lord has opened doors for LBCH in challenging times," he said. "Those challenges have resulted in greater opportunities

<p><b>Family Health Insurance at Group Rates</b></p> <p>GROUP, INDIVIDUAL, MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, DENTAL</p> <p><b>Melvin Thomas</b></p> <p><b>318.465.1006</b></p> <p><b>melvin.thomas@bcbsla.com</b></p> <p>411 Ashley Ridge Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71106</p>
---



<p><b>May This Christmas Season Be Filled With The Light Of God's Love!</b></p>	
---	--

# Morgan from page 9

tions team. His wisdom, perspective and input will be missed."

## PRESSING ON

Looking ahead, Morgan anticipates spending more time with Jan, traveling to see his children and a grandchild who is expected to be born in January, serving as interim AMS with the CENLA Baptist Association and as interim pastor for churches in the state.

"When I took this position, I had some concern

I would remain a church man," he said. "Christ didn't die for a convention, He died for his church. It's important in our work that our ministry is not about an organization, but it is about Christ's church. Local congregations come and go but the church of God endures eternally."

Reflecting on his ministry, Morgan said, "I hope that I've been faithful to shepherd the flock of God which He purchased with His own blood. Faithfulness to the call of God – that's what really matters."



## Summer Grove from page 7

the church remained faithful in giving extra toward the mortgage, including \$100,000 in the final four weeks before the debt retirement. God also has blessed their faithfulness through an increase in worship attendance from 800 in January to 1,304 in late November, and baptisms (30 this year, compared to 28 in 2022).

"As time passed, I began to see God changing the mindset of our people," he said. "They began to see debt not as this mountain to climb but as a means through which God revealed Himself. We realized God had this and began to see Ephesians 3:20 fulfilled."

Crosby, who served as pastor of Summer Grove from 1971-1979 and then as interim pastor in 1997-1998 and 2012, shared how God impressed upon him in 2012 to place a treasure chest (like one King Josiah used to raise money for the temple) inside the worship center at Summer Grove. He placed an offering inside the chest at the conclusion of his message on Easter Sunday 2012 and others followed with their gifts, collectively, of \$60,000.

The chest remained inside the worship center until the retirement of the debt, with members placing \$3,241,287 inside the chest since 2012.

At the conclusion of the service on Nov. 26, Peloquin asked Crosby to close the chest to mark God's faithfulness to retire the debt.

"It was an awesome moment," Crosby said. "I'm 90 and I have made it to see the chest closed and the debt retired. I just gradually closed it and then I lifted my hands and praised the Lord. It's been so neat to see people continue to give all these years."

Dubose, who served as pastor of Summer Grove from 1980-1994, said he is thankful for the sacrifice members made to pay off the debt.

"I am thankful for the generous, and in many cases, the sacrificial giving spirit of God's people at Summer Grove," he said. "It should be noted that God has mightily used Pastor Heath, who had a passion to get us out of debt and guided us to the place where we could have the note burning. The people of Summer Grove gladly proclaim to God be the glory, great things He has done."

Paying off the \$12 million mortgage now frees up the church to tackle deferred maintenance, renovate existing parts of the campus, and increase its Kingdom impact through mission efforts that include sponsorships of five church

plants and support for three missionary families. Summer Grove also provides food and clothing for needy families with children in Shreveport, Bossier and Stonewall schools, as well as counseling and emergency assistance for others through its Compassion 360 ministry.

For churches facing a mountain of debt on their facilities, there is hope, Peloquin said.

He suggested they pray for wisdom and seek the Lord, have designated days of giving, fasting, and prayer throughout the year, and do not back down from "doing the hard thing" of paying down debt.

"Nobody gets excited about paying off debt, especially on an older building, but our people saw this as an opportunity for us to be a good witness in our community," he said. "God never intends for us



Brian Blackwell photo

Billy Crosby, who served as pastor of Summer Grove from 1971-1979 and then as interim pastor in 1997-1998 and 2012, ceremonially closed "Josiah's chest" signifying the end of special offerings to pay off the congregation's mortgage.

to be in debt, but you must tackle it. As you continue to pay down debt, celebrate along the way. Paying down the debt is not just for the people inside your worship center but for the

community to see that Jesus is alive and He moves on behalf of His people. We know it's all Him because it's too large of a task for man to do alone."

### Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

[www.evangelistsammoore.org](http://www.evangelistsammoore.org)

Sam Moore is a vocational evangelist. He has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days, and Wild Game Supper Events. Call or email to schedule your 2024 events.

479.381.1170 [evangelistsammoore@gmail.com](mailto:evangelistsammoore@gmail.com)



## LOUISIANA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

### Immediate Job Openings

#### SOCIAL WORKERS Needed in Shreveport and Baton Rouge:

Full-time positions include salary, benefits, and paid vacation. 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.

Please send resume to Susan Nolan at [snolan@lbch.org](mailto:snolan@lbch.org) or LBCH, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211.

#### CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR Needed in Baton Rouge:

Granberry Counseling Centers is looking for a full-time Christian counselor in Baton Rouge. Must be fully or provisionally licensed as LPC, LMFT or LCSW. Two years post licensure experience is preferred in private practice settings.

Please send resume to: [kathy@lbch.org](mailto:kathy@lbch.org) or Granberry Counseling Centers, PO Box 4196, Monroe, LA 71211. [www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)

Your church family is protected under our roof.

Call for your **FREE ESTIMATE** that includes **A PRICE!**

**800.368.7833**

**HAHN ROOFING**

An Owens Corning PLATINUM Contractor

[www.hahnroofing.com](http://www.hahnroofing.com)

Residential & Commercial



LAFAYETTE, La. (LBM) – A spiritual awakening is gaining momentum among college students and young adults at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

Since 2019, the group has grown from 25 college students and 15 young adults to 100 college students and 50 young adults, with 12 students and three young adults having been baptized since January (compared to none in 2019).

Scott English, who serves as the minister to young adults, attributes the growth to an emphasis on evangelism and discipleship.

“There are a lot of good quality young people who are being responsive to the Gospel and obedient to the Lord’s calling on their lives,” English told the Baptist Message. “They are embracing the need to share Jesus and be disciples.”



**Brian Blackwell** photo

Each week, college students and young adults at First Baptist Church, Lafayette, meet separately for Bible study on Sundays and discipleship sessions on Wednesdays. They also meet at other times throughout the week as they sharpen each other further to become fully devoted followers of Christ. Since 2019, the group has grown from 25 college students and 15 young adults to 100 college students and 50 young adults.



# Merry Christmas

“

The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory,  
the *glory* of the one and only *Son*,  
who came from the Father,  
full of *grace* and *truth*.

John 1:14 [NIV]

”



LOUISIANA  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION



**Nugent Music & Audio**  
 192 Pinegrove Drive  
 Pineville, LA 71360  
 Tel: 318.473.9999  
 Email: [info@nugentmusic.com](mailto:info@nugentmusic.com)











***Nugent Music & Audio is a church's one stop location for all their audio and video needs. We offer audio, video, lighting design, installation, training. We also can set up your church service to stream on all the most popular platforms.***



# Lafayette from page 12

## GROWING IN CHRIST

Each week, the college students and young adults meet separately for Bible study on Sundays and discipleship sessions on Wednesdays. They also meet at other times throughout the week when they sharpen each other further to become fully devoted followers of Christ. The group's leaders gather every Tuesday for prayer and purposeful in-person outreach, and others are invited to join them.

Additionally, they share the Gospel on the University of Louisiana campus and in other areas of the community, participated in a missions trip to Boston, Massachusetts, and helped to lead revivals at other churches.

Dylan Randolph, a ULL junior, is among the students who were on the team that led revival services at Vatican Baptist Church, Carencro, in 2022 and Gibson Baptist Church in early October 2023. He is grateful for a church that gives students an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

"This has been a really good way to help prepare me for my next step in life, which is ministry," Randolph said. "Every time we have mission opportunities like this, we never have a shortage of people who want to go.

"God's been working through us a lot and it's become a beautiful community of followers," he said. "God has a lot more in store for us. Please pray that we will get out of the way of our own desires and do what God has called us to do."

Likewise, Anna Spence has enjoyed the multiple opportunities to serve alongside other young adults.

Spence, who joined FBC Lafayette in 2020, serves on the young adult worship team and pre-school department.

"I grew up in church and have always felt like everyone should find a place through serving, volunteering or connecting," she said. "I feel like we have been given good opportunities to connect through there. We have so many opportunities and there's always a need. Church should be part of your life and serving is an important thing.

"I have really enjoyed the priority our church has made in the young adult ministry," she said. "This age range isn't always offered opportunities to plug in with actual ministry. It's been neat to watch our ministry grow and find people our age."

Matthew Elrod, another ULL junior, who now serves as a BCM small group Bible study leader, said his time at FBC Lafayette and at the campus Baptist Collegiate Minis-

try have helped him grow deeper in his faith. In the past year, Elrod attended Bible studies on Sundays and Wednesdays and, on Oct. 8, professed his faith through baptism.

Though he accepted Christ in seventh grade, he never followed through with baptism. But the Holy Spirit convicted him through a conversation with a classmate about the importance of being baptized.

"Once I got baptized, it was like this weight was lifted off my shoulders," he said. "I decided to go through with baptism because it's a step of obedience God calls us to do. I wanted to move from just saying I was a Christian to living and acting like one. I am grateful for this community we have where we hold each other accountable. We help each other grow closer to Christ and are about leading others to know Him."



Submitted photo

Scott English, minister to young adults, baptized Matthew Elrod, a University of Louisiana-Lafayette junior, during a service, Oct. 8.



**HIXSON BROTHERS**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
Since 1907  
701 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA 71301 • 318.442.3363  
2701 Military Hwy • Pineville, LA 71360 • 318.640.1678  
11886 Hwy. 84 West • Jena, LA 71342 • 318.992.4158  
445 W Bontemps St. • Marksville, LA 71351 • 318.253.5979  
www.hixsonbrothers.com

## SEEKING A PART-TIME WORSHIP MINISTER

First Baptist Church of Mandeville, La is seeking a part-time Minister of Worship. FBC Mandeville is a growing church with a great worship team and tech team. Mandeville sits on the beautiful Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain and is 50 minutes away from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. You can learn more about us at [www.fbcmandeville.org](http://www.fbcmandeville.org). This position requires 1.5 days per week in the office, weekly worship team rehearsals, two worship services on Sunday mornings, and occasional special events. Come join a thriving church and a terrific staff!

# ETERNAL SAVINGS

## 6X BETTER THAN A BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT\*

SHORT TERM FUND RATE

### 3.45%

CURRENT YIELD\*\*

Increase your ministry influence with a better rate of return on your church savings.

Learn more: 877-523-4636 • [contact@LBFinfo.org](mailto:contact@LBFinfo.org)

\*Based upon internal data. \*\*Rates subject to change.

LOUISIANA BAPTIST FOUNDATION





**DAVIS CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY**, 4313 Hwy. 18 East Quitman, Mississippi 39355 Melton & Sandra Davis. 30-plus years experience, Family-Owned and Operated. Variety of fabrics available. Work done on-site. All Work Guaranteed. Call for estimates: 601.776.6617. If remodeling your sanctuary, please give us a call about upholstering your pews!

**1 x 10 Western Cedar**, naturally insect and decay resistant - \$1.99 a foot or \$1.49 a foot by the bundle. Call Ace Hardware at 318.757.8482 for more information.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** in Jena, LA is seeking a full-time worship pastor. Please email resumes to [nmw387@gmail.com](mailto:nmw387@gmail.com).

**EARNEST LITTLE** available for supply and interim in the Central Louisiana area. Please call 318.663.2770.

**Petrus**  
FEED & SEED

FEED / SEED / FERTILIZER  
FARM / LAWN & GARDEN  
SUPPLIES

2914 N Bolton Ave,  
Alexandria, LA  
318.443.5929 / 318.442.2325

RUBBER STAMPS  
SIGNS – BADGES  
SEALS – FLAGS  
BRONZE PLAQUES  
**Ed. Smith's Stencil Works**  
est. 1867

Manufacturers of  
MARKING DEVICES  
SINCE 1867  
4315 Bienville St. – New Orleans  
504.525.2128

**FIND It Fast**  
In The Classifieds

## SEEKING ASM

Bienville & Webster-Claiborne Baptist Associations are receiving résumés for an Associational Mission Strategist. Mail to Mission Center, PO Box 1099, Minden, LA 71058-1099.

## SEEKING A FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER

First Baptist Church Mansfield, La is seeking a full-time worship leader. Salary is negotiable. Please send résumés to [churchoffice@firstmansfield.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstmansfield.org)

## SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Doyline, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Mail résumés to Treasurer, P O Box 511, Doyline, LA 71023 or email résumés to [danny.darden@yahoo.com](mailto:danny.darden@yahoo.com).

## Seeking a full-time PASTOR

Bistineau Baptist Church in Heflin, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail résumés to Bistineau Baptist Church, 195 Bistineau Church Rd, Heflin, LA 71039 or email to [amyplunkett66@yahoo.com](mailto:amyplunkett66@yahoo.com).

## Seeking a full-time YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

First Baptist Ruston, LA has a position with a large young adult group, lots of potential. Please send inquiries to Brenda Martin at [brenda@fbcruston.org](mailto:brenda@fbcruston.org).

## FULL-TIME PASTOR

New Hope Baptist Church in Choudrant, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send your résumés to [nhbcpssc2023@gmail.com](mailto:nhbcpssc2023@gmail.com).

## SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Seeking a full-time youth minister at Bonita Road Baptist Church, 7204 Pine Grove Loop Rd, Bastrop, LA 71220. Résumés can be emailed to [simple7ministries@yahoo.com](mailto:simple7ministries@yahoo.com)

## SEEKING A FULLTIME YOUTH PASTOR

Fulltime youth pastor, great opportunity leading a large youth ministry with lots of potential. Please send your résumé to Ed Colvin at [ed@fbcruston.org](mailto:ed@fbcruston.org) or [brenda@fbcruston.org](mailto:brenda@fbcruston.org)

**YOUTH MINISTRY**  
Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lisbon is seeking a **part-time youth ministry director**. Email your résumés to [rockysprings1845@gmail.com](mailto:rockysprings1845@gmail.com) For a list of responsibilities, go to [www.rockysprings1845.com](http://www.rockysprings1845.com)

## SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church in Natchitoches, LA seeking full-time pastor. A parsonage is available seminary preferred, college accepted. Send send résumés to: [calvary312@gmail.com](mailto:calvary312@gmail.com)

## Seeking a Bi-Vocational PASTOR

Macedonia Baptist Church in Effie, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail your résumé to Macedonia Baptist Church, Attn: Randy Littleton, PO Box 186, Effie, LA 71331 or email your résumé to [mbceffie@gmail.com](mailto:mbceffie@gmail.com).

## SEEKING

Undershepherd David Cox is seeking a church body to love and care for. Please call 318.461.2526 or 318.461.9388.

**Houston River Baptist Church**  
**FULL TIME POSITION**  
Children's Ministry Director  
Send a cover letter and résumé to [hrcbchildrensearch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcbchildrensearch@gmail.com)  
Visit [houstonriver.org](http://houstonriver.org) for church info.

**FULL TIME PASTOR**  
First Baptist Church of Many, LA., is looking for a full time Pastor.  
Please mail résumés to:  
First Baptist Church • P.O. Box 239 • Many, LA 71449  
or email to [fbcmany@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcmany@yahoo.com)

**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR**  
Fellowship Baptist Church in Dubach, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send a cover letter and your résumé to Fellowship Baptist Church at [resumes@fellowshipbaptistchurchdubach.org](mailto:resumes@fellowshipbaptistchurchdubach.org)

**SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR**  
Central Baptist Church, Springhill, LA., is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Please send your résumé to the Central Baptist search committee in the mail: Central Baptist Church, Youth Pastor Search Committee, 504 W. Church St., Springhill, LA 71075 or email: [centralyouthpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:centralyouthpastorsearch@gmail.com)

Seeking a full-time or part-time **STUDENT MINISTER**  
Plain Dealing Baptist Church, Plain Dealing, LA is seeking a full-time or part-time student minister. Please send résumés to: Search Committee Plain Dealing Baptist Church, PO Box 543, Plain Dealing, LA 71064 or email to [pdcla@gmail.com](mailto:pdcla@gmail.com)

**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR**  
Paron Baptist Church, Sterlington, La. seeks a full-time pastor. Please send résumé by mail to the church office Attn: Pastor Search Committee, Paron Baptist Church, 676 LA-2, Sterlington, La. 71280, or by email to [paronoffice676@gmail.com](mailto:paronoffice676@gmail.com). For more information on Paron Baptist Church please visit [www.paronbc.com](http://www.paronbc.com).





**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@baptistmessage.com** or call **318.449.4345**. To get your event in the paper, please submit your information three to four weeks prior to the event.

ON THE MOVE

■ David, wife Rachel, Rose is the new pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles.  
■ Jimmy Clark is the new pastor at Singer Baptist Church, Singer.  
■ Christian Vige is the new Music Minister at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.  
■ Lloyd and Ginger Bye retiring from Lakeside Baptist Church in Pineville. Come to their retirement party December 31, 2-4 p.m. at Lakeside Baptist Church, 120 Allen Street, Pineville, La. 71360.  
■ Allen, wife Christy, O’Kelley is the new pastor at Sugartown Baptist Church, Sugartown.  
■ Neil Everett has announced his retirement as pastor of First Baptist Church, Calhoun  
■ Phillip Boone has been called as the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Bunkie.  
■ Bob Holloway has announced his retirement from Watson Baptist Church, West Monroe.  
■ Alise, husband Stan, who is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Bastrop, Wyant will be serving as the ministry assistant for North-east & Morehouse Baptist Association starting November 7.  
■ Caleb, wife Courtney, Adams called to serve as interim student minister at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles.  
■ Brian, wife Jana, Watson is the new worship leader at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.  
■ Allise Lane, North Monroe Baptist Church, Monroe, was recently honored for 50 years of service as accompanist.

REVIVAL

■ Cotile Baptist Church, Boyce: Winter Revival, December 15-17, (Friday & Saturday, 7 p.m.) Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Evangelist: Randal Creel. Pastor: Rob McLane.  
■ Stonewall Community Center, Stonewall: Men of Prayer, January 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Kyle R. Williams, World Recovery, LLC. Coordinator: Thomas Gatti.  
■ River of Life, Iota: Harvest Sunday, January 7, 10 a.m. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Gary DarDar.  
■ St. James Baptist Church, Holden: Revival, January 14-17, Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Randy Ede.  
■ New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe: Revival, January 20-22, Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Marty Black.  
■ Simsboro Baptist Church, Simsboro: Evangelistic January 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m. Evangelist: Kyle R. Williams, World Recovery, LLC. This is an evangelist service before ECON the next day. Pastor: Jason Cole.  
■ Alabama Baptist Church, Arcadia: Revival, January 28-31; Thursday-Saturday noon and night service, 6:30 p.m. with meal beginning at 5:45 p.m. Sunday, 10:40 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: Mike Courtney. Worship: Mackey and Gail Willis. Pastor: Roland Hebert.

LAGNIAPPE

■ Temple Baptist Church, Ruston Firm Foundation Christmas Concert, December 8, 6 p.m. Pastor: Reggie Bridges  
■ Faiview Baptist Church, Coushatta: Where is He? -- Drive through nativity, December 8-9, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Matt Endris.  
■ Sugartown Baptist Church, Sugartown: Christmas Hymns, December 8, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Worship: TMSB The Medicare String Band. There will be good food and friendly smiles. Bible Study 10 a.m. and Sunday Services 11 a.m. Pastor: Allen O’Kelly.  
■ Tom Hebert Road Baptist Church, Lake Charles: The Christmas Experience at Red Oak Farm, December 8-9. Park at the church and catch a ride on the trolley to Red Oak Farm. From there you will walk through and experience the story of Christmas with drama, live animals, and music. Pastor: Carl Whitley.  
■ Houston River Baptist Church, Sulphur: Journey to Bethlehem, December 8-10 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. Take a step back in time and experience the Christmas story firsthand as you receive a guided walk through Bethlehem. Pastor: Lonnie Gothrup.  
■ First Baptist Church, Minden: We Have A Savior—Christmas Concert (featuring First Minden’s Choir and Orchestra, December 9-10, Saturday, 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10:45 a.m. For more information call 318.377.4334. Pastor: Leland Crawford  
■ First Baptist Church, Mandeville: A Mandeville Christmas – Live Nativity, December 9-10, 6-8 p.m.; Christmas Eve candlelight service, December 24, 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. Pastor: Ronny Cooksy.  
■ First Baptist Church, Bernice: Mark Lanier in concert, December 10, 11 a.m. Pastor: Michael McIntosh.  
■ Open Door Baptist Church, Ragley: The ODBC Worship Team presents One Glorious Night, December 10. 10 a.m. an December 11, 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Jim Miers.  
■ First Baptist Church, Pineville (Lecompte campus): Christmas in the Country, December 10, 4-8 p.m. There will be food, crafts, hot chocolate, games, live music, jumpers, Living Nativity, carriage rides. Pastor: Stewart Holloway.  
■ Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Coushatta, Southern Plainsmen in concert, December 10, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Mike Fort.  
■ Philadelphia Baptist Church, Deville: Ringing in the Season, Celebrating the Savior, December 10-11, Sunday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 6 - 8:30 p.m.; Monday, 6:30-8 p.m. Pastor: Philip Robertson.  
■ Beulah Baptist and Union Springs Baptist: “Glorious Impossible” Christmas Cantata, December 10, 6 p.m. being held by the combined choirs of Beulah Baptist Church and Union Springs Baptist Church in Sabine Parish. The Cantata will be held at Beulah Baptist Church, 3417 Hwy 481, Mansfield in the Lula Community. Everyone is invited and will be blessed. Refreshments will be served after the Cantata.  
■ Wilda Baptist Church, Boyce: Mark Lanier in Concert, December 10, 6 p.m. Pastor: Joey Rudisill.  
■ First Baptist Church, Lafayette: A Joyful Christmas, December 10, 9:30 & 11 a.m. This is a multigenerational celebration of the birth of Jesus by the worship ministry; Christmas Eve Service, 9:30 & 11 a.m. This is a family event. There will be no childcare

provided and no Sunday school or PM services. Pastor: James Pritchard.  
■ First Baptist Church, Moss Bluff: Christmas at First, December 13, Looking for snow? We hear there will be some in Moss Bluff on December 13th! Join First Moss Bluff for Christmas at First for food, games, snow slides, live music and SANTA! Pastor: Brian Carter.  
■ Bayou Vista Baptist Church, Morgan City: Christmas Drama, December 10, that will depict stories from the birth of Christ; Children’s Choir will present Christmas musical, December 17, 6 p.m.; Christmas Eve Candlelight service with the Lord’s Supper, December 24, 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday school or evening service. Pastor: Eric Green.  
■ First Baptist Church, Sterlington: Firm Foundation Christmas Concert, December 13, 6 p.m. Pastor: Ben Hackler.  
■ Temple Baptist Church, Jena: Firm Found Christmas Concert, December 17, 6 p.m. Pastor: Justin Caples  
■ East Ridge Baptist Church, Lake Charles: Hope Awakes in Bethlehem, December 17, 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy the choir as they sing about the birth of Jesus. Pastor: Alan Weishampel  
■ First Baptist Church, Welsh: Welsh First Baptist and First United Methodist Welsh are working jointly to present a Community Christmas cantata, December 17, 9a.m. at First United Methodist and 6 p.m. at Welsh First Baptist. Pastor: Pat Deshotel.  
■ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, DeRidder: A Visit to Bethlehem (live nativity) December 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 6-8 p.m. Pastor: Danny Hill.  
■ Watson Baptist Church, Watson: Christmas Night of Worship, December 16, 7 p.m. Featured artists: Andrew Belmore, Madison Hope, Quint Adkins. This is a free event. Pastor: John Pemberton.  
■ Alto Baptist Church, Alto: The Alto Baptist Church Choir will present the Christmas musical, “Noel! Born Is the King,” Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM. Music minister Jay Ellerman. Pastor: Alan Miller.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: What a Beautiful Name – Christmas Concert, December 17, 6 p.m. Pastor: David Rose.  
■ Calvary Baptist Church, Merryville: A Night in Bethlehem (Walking live Nativity), December 15-16, 6-8 p.m. This is a self-guided interactive event for free. There will be refreshments served and each family receives a 2023 personalized Nativity ornament. Pastor: Jim Miers.  
■ Coteau Baptist Church, Houma: Mark Lanier in concert, December 17, 9 a.m. Pastor: Wayne Hunt.  
■ Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Lison: Cantata – Glorious Song, Marvelous Light. December 17, 11 a.m. Pastor: Chris Stephens.  
■ HIS Church, Pineville: House Band Christmas Concert, December 17, 6:30 p.m. Supper is provided but desserts are needed. Pastor: Steve Speer.  
■ Longview Baptist Church, Deville: Christmas Candlelight Service, December 17, 6 p.m. Pastor: Robby Poole.  
■ Trinity Baptist Church, Natchitoches: A Promise Kept – The Blessing of Christmas, December 17, 6 p.m. Adult Choir Presentation in the TBC Sanctuary. Pastor: Logan Brock.  
■ New Hope Baptist Church, DeQuincy: Mackey Willis Family in concert, December 17, Pastor: Roland Hebert.  
■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Christmas Cantata – Star of Wonder, December 17, 10:15 a.m. Music minister: Mike Boone. Pastor: David Newton  
■ Lighthouse Baptist Church, Independence: Greg Sullivan Ministries in concert, December 17, 11 a.m. Pastor: Gene Hoyt.  
■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold:

Christmas at the Springs cantata and concert with special guests Mark Lanier and Andrew Ishee, December 17, 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Pastor: James Hester.  
■ First Baptist Church, Merryville: Broken Vessels in concert, December 17, 6:30 p.m.  
■ First Baptist Church, Merryville: Broken Vessels in concert, December 18, 6:30 p.m.  
■ Norris Ferry Baptist Church, Shreveport: Firm Foundation Christmas Concert, December 22, 6 p.m. Pastor: Tracy Graham.  
■ First Baptist Church, New Orleans: Christmas services, December 24; morning worship, 11 am.; Christmas Eve candlelight service, 5 p.m. Pastor: Chad Gilbert.  
■ Simpson Baptist Church, Simpson: Candlelight Service December 24, 5 p.m. Make our Christmas Eve by Candlelight service a special, treasured part of your family’s tradition to celebrate Christmas together. Pastor: Rob Fleshman  
■ Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 10:30 a.m. to worship the Lord through song. The choir and congregational singing of favorite old carols will take place at that time. There will be no evening services on Christmas Eve. Pastor: Rick Aultman.  
■ Bistineau Baptist Church, Heflin: Mark Lanier in concert, December 31, 11 a.m. Pastor: Richard Methvin.  
■ East Jena Baptist Church, Jena: Mark Lanier in concert, December 31, 6 p.m. Pastor: Mike Wilkinson.  
■ Mangham Baptist Church, Mangham: Men’s Chili Cook-Off, January 13, 6 p.m. Guest Speaker: Buster Duplissey. All men are invited to attend and participate. Pastor: Rick Aultman.  
■ Plainview Baptist Church, Hornbeck New Year’s Eve Concert, January 31, 7 p.m. Featuring the Southern Plainsmen Quartet and the Mattingly’s. Pastor: George Treutlein

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.

YKW WFQ VNUR BQSW NKW I ZUQIW EXSR XS WN

WFQ BQI, ISR WFQUQ EIB I CXZFWM WQCLQBW XS WFQ

BQI, BN WFIW WFQ BFXL EIB VXDQ WN YQ YUNDQS.

ONSIF NSQ: PNKU

Clues:  
R = D; N = O

Answer to November 23, Scripture Crypto:  
Jude six



# SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

JUST  
**\$15**

@ **ECON**  
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Join us for lunch and fellowship **PRIOR** to afternoon worship with:



Charles  
**BILLINGSLEY**

Worship



Tim  
**LOVELACE**

Comedy

## JAN. 23, 2024

TEMPLE BAPTIST | RUSTON

**To Register: [LouisianaBaptists.org/SAL](https://LouisianaBaptists.org/SAL)**

For additional information, contact:

Jeff Ingram, Adult Ministry & Church Administration Strategist at 318.448.3402