

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

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Chuck Ott, Clerk	Mary Broussard, Historian
Kelly Smith, Treasurer	KaRetha Kelley, Financial Secretary
Jenelle Brown, Secretary	Ginger Glascock, Secretary

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☑ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

2012

- 2 ELBA Office open
- 2-6 January Bible Study
- 6-7 Literacy Workshop, Lanier, Baton Rouge
- 7 Pre-Teen Invasion, Louisiana College
- 9 Ministers Conference, Midway, 10:00 AM
- 10 ELBA Mission Team Meeting, ELBA Office, 3 PM
- 15 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 16 ELBA Council Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM
- 23-24 LBC Evangelism Conf., Louisiana College
- 24 LBREA Dinner at Evangelism Conference
- 24 Senior Adult Luncheon at Evangelism Conference
- 29 Day of Prayer for the SBC
- 30 ELBA Finance Committee Meeting, ELBA Office, 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY

2012

- 3-4 Disaster Relief Roundtable, Camp Living Waters
- 4 Kaleidoscope, FBC, Pineville
- 6 Fellowship Meal, FBC, French Settlement, 5:45 PM
- 6 Executive Board Mtg., FBC, French Settlement, 6:30 PM
- 10-11 VOYAGE, Tall Timbers
- 13-19 Focus on WMU

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE

Application forms for the 2012-2013 Associational Scholarships to Louisiana College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary are available and may be picked up from the Associational Office at 32470 Walker Rd N, Walker, LA. Forms are also available on our website.

Deadline for returning completed forms is **March 22, 2012**. The Scholarship Committee will report to the May 7, 2012 Executive Board Meeting.



MINISTERS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 9, 2012 ❖ 10:00 AM

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

27284 S Satsuma Rd, Livingston, LA 70754

AWAKEN 2012

Guest Speaker: **Wayne Jenkins**, LBC
Director, Evangelism/Church Growth Team

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Wishing you joy as
we celebrate the
birth of our
Lord and Savior

May your Christmas be brightened by the light
of Jesus' incredible love and overflowing with
the Heavenly joy that only He can bring.

David Brown

Freddie Arnold

Jenelle Brown Ginger Glascock KaRetha Kelley

The ELBA Office will close on **December 22, 2011**
for the Christmas holidays and
re-open on **Monday, January 2, 2012**.

return
"Return to Me and I will return to you..." Malachi 3:7

LBC EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

LOUISIANA COLLEGE

JANUARY 23-24, 2012

WWW.LBC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



Volume 35 Issue 12

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

December 20, 2011

HEART TO HEART

THANK YOU

Jenelle and I would like to thank you for your gracious Christmas gifts to us. It is such a tremendous blessing for us to have the privilege of working together with all of you for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Please know that it is our great privilege to pray for each congregation that is a part of the association. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless each church so that many will come to know Christ as Savior and Lord and grow to be obedient followers of Christ.

Awaken 2012 is the Louisiana concentrated effort to prepare, pray, and plead with God to send a spiritual awakening across our state and nation. Participating churches are planning to use the **21 Days of Preparation Prayer Journals** beginning January 2, 2012 through January 22, 2012. We ordered 500 of the journals and have 50 extra copies that will be available to the churches on a first come, first served basis. The bulk price of the journals is \$1.25 each plus any shipping charges. These can be made available to you by calling the ELBA office.

Let me encourage every congregation in the association to join in this prayer emphasis and register your commitment through the LBC website.

LIVINGSTON PARISH PRAYER RALLY. As a part of this prayer emphasis, we will be hosting a Prayer Rally at noon on Wednesday, April 25, at the Walker Ball Park pavilion. Dr. David Hankins, the Executive Director of the LBC will be present with us as a part of the statewide emphasis. Please place this event on your calendar and encourage as many as possible to participate. Brother Paul Taylor, the pastor at Pine Grove, has agreed to be our Prayer Rally Coordinator. More information will be made available after the first of the year. However, we don't need to wait until April 25 to begin praying for a great spiritual awakening in our parish.

COUNTING SHEEP

Occasionally, it is good to take stock of where we are as we seek to serve the Lord. Jesus taught this through the parable of the lost sheep. Luke 15:4 says, *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?* How will the shepherd know whether there is a lost sheep if he does not count them? So, in this article, let me do a little counting and analyzing concerning the churches that make up the association. Some churches either provided no report or reported no changes, so these statistics only reflect what was reported.

Church Membership: In 2011, eight (8) of the churches declined in church membership. These 8 churches lost a total of 130 members, which averages just over 16 people per church. However, 26 of the churches showed an increase in church membership. These 26 churches reported a total increase of 526 members for an average of just over 20 per church.

Sunday School Average Attendance: Twenty (20) churches reported a decline in average Sunday School attendance. These churches reported a decline of 218, or an average of almost 11 per church. Ten (10) churches reported an increase in their average SS attendance. The total increase of these churches was 165 attendees or an average of just over 16 per church. The average SS attendance for the entire association increased in 2011 by 458, from 3,476 to 3,934.

Baptisms: Twenty-three (23) churches reported 133 fewer baptisms than last year, an average decline of almost 6 per church. Fifteen (15) churches reported a total of 61 more baptisms over last year, an average increase of 4 baptisms per church. Even with the 61 more baptisms by the 15 churches, the total number of baptisms in the churches declined by 72 from 402 in 2010 to 330 in 2011. Although Sunday School average attendance increased by 13%, baptisms declined by 18%.

So, what is the value of the information? It reveals that we are doing some things well, but can do better in other areas. Therefore, let me encourage each reader of this article to examine your church's progress, or lack thereof, and seek the Lord for his wisdom and power to make a greater impact for the sake of the Kingdom. Next month, I will provide a look at the churches' financial reporting of receipts and missions giving.

TOGETHER for the sake of the Kingdom,

David

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
NOVEMBER 2011**

Contributions	NOV 2011	TOTAL
Agape'	\$132.00	\$683.00
Amite	\$0.00	\$14,658.46
Beech Ridge	\$262.20	\$1,785.36
Bethel	\$161.83	\$1,773.89
Calvary	\$0.00	\$1,421.00
Carroll	\$191.74	\$2,443.60
Central	\$0.00	\$354.34
Christ's Community	\$380.34	\$4,522.42
Colyell	\$0.00	\$5,809.49
Denham Springs	\$687.06	\$7,004.47
Don Avenue	\$405.59	\$5,406.38
Doyle	\$0.00	\$300.00
Emmanuel	\$0.00	\$5,506.04
Faith	\$643.96	\$4,043.80
French Settlement	\$315.96	\$3,170.56
Gray's Creek	\$743.36	\$7,855.14
Greater Third Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00
Head of Island	\$161.35	\$2,105.69
Hebron	\$0.00	\$18,275.48
Holden	\$333.76	\$2,755.72
Judson	\$1,347.66	\$17,730.22
Live Oak	\$965.54	\$14,008.78
Livingston	\$0.00	\$3,717.00
Macedonia	\$0.00	\$600.00
Magnolia	\$354.00	\$4,253.00
Maurepas	\$0.00	\$2,121.94
Midway	\$0.00	\$1,984.38
New Bethlehem	\$25.00	\$363.65
New Covenant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northside	\$437.97	\$4,664.89
One Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Grove	\$432.75	\$4,867.98
Red Oak	\$200.00	\$2,200.00
River of Life	\$0.00	\$250.00
Riverside	\$262.82	\$2,911.81
Salem	\$0.00	\$0.00
Satsuma	\$340.12	\$4,006.40
South Walker	\$0.00	\$1,140.04
Southside	\$428.56	\$1,691.72
The New Beginnings	\$72.21	\$864.69
Victory	\$0.00	\$1,491.37
Walker	\$1,818.87	\$22,819.64
Watson	\$207.39	\$1,366.56
Total Contributions	\$11,312.04	\$182,928.91
Capital One M & M Center		\$10,879.59
Capital One Total		\$79,704.02
Louisiana Baptist Foundation Total		\$196,374.28
TOTAL Checking & Savings		\$276,078.30

News from the Churches . . .

AGAPE' BAPTIST CHURCH welcomes new pastor, **Barry Posey**.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRENCH SETTLEMENT is searching for a Part Time Youth Minister. Send resumes or contact information to palmer@eatel.net, or call (225) 806-5137. **Louis Palmer** is pastor.



SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY BCM REPORT

*The BCM exists to **Reach** the campus of SLU with the gospel of God's grace, to help students to **Renew** their minds and hearts as committed disciples of Jesus Christ, and to **Release** students into the world to make a difference for the glory of God.*

The Southeastern Louisiana University has a current enrollment of 15,414 students to whom the Baptist Collegiate Ministry seeks to minister.

The BCM engages the students by providing a weekly meal to which the students are invited. More than 200 students take advantage of the meal giving the BCM leadership and students a point of contact. In the month of November, the director, Jonathan Clark, has had the opportunity to share the gospel with at least two students.

Jonathan has 25 students involved in leadership and has 26 students involved in leadership training. There are 43 students involved in the Freshman Family Groups and 35 students involved in Covenant Groups for a total of 78 students involved in the small groups.

Each week, the BCM conducts a worship service and recently had from 100 to 112 participants.

Two students are involved in short-term missions and they have a goal of 30 students involved in summer missions. In order to support these summer missionaries, the BCM has set a goal of raising \$5,000 and to date have raised \$3,612.

Please continue to pray for Jonathan and the student leaders as they do the work of evangelism and discipleship in the SLU family.



**Camp Living Waters
Youth Winter Retreat
February 19-21, 2012**



Cost: \$60 (includes program, meals, lodging, & t-shirt)

What a great event to get the year started for students in grades 7-12. This year will be one of the best yet!!! With **Rob Wilton** as our speaker and **The Upward Call** as the worship band, you will want to reserve your group's space early. For more information go to www.camplivingwaters.net or call 985-345-1831.

Thank You . . .

We sincerely appreciate the expression of love and generosity that was shown to us through the Christmas gifts this year. What a blessing it is to serve the Lord as we work together in Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association.

KaRetha Kelley

Ginger Glascock

Church Growth Corner

Freddie Arnold



The Prayer Room

At Christmas many of us are involved in giving and receiving gifts.

Some gifts soon wear out or are broken. Others become obsolete. Still others soon lose much of their appeal. We thank others for these gifts. How much more we should thank God for His gift of salvation! This is a gift that never wears out or breaks or becomes obsolete. And it will be just as beautiful and appealing in ten thousand years as it is today. It is also the costliest gift anyone will ever receive; it was purchased with the blood of Christ. Truly this is a gift that should never be taken for granted.

When we are praying and asking God for many things, let us not forget to thank Him for the gift of eternal life. And let us not forget to ask God to make us more effective in sharing the good news of this gift with others.

Review of 2011:

It has been a very good year overall and a very fast moving year. As I look back at the year it helps me to see that we accomplished a great deal for the Kingdom of God and Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association.

In **January**, we conducted a well attended and effective Disaster Relief Training event, and began planning and training for the ELBA Mission Trip. In **February**, the Great Expectations Sunday School Leadership Training was held that was also well attended. Planning and training began for the ELBA Mission Probe to be held in March. **March** brought the conducting of the ELBA Mission Probe, continued planning and training for the ELBA Mission trip, and ended with the ELBA VBS Clinic. **April** started off with the Impact Evangelism Training Conference and ended with the Association Leadership Planning Conference in Pineville LA. **May** began with bad tornadoes in Alabama that required assistance from our Disaster Relief Teams and closed out with budget planning activities for ELBA. **June** ushered in intensive training for our July mission trip. Vacation Bible School covered the entire month of June across the association. **July** brought on the time for final arrangements to be made for the mission trip and the actual trip itself, which was a tremendous success for all participating. **August** is the usual time for the "ELBA Forge" youth event that requires planning and preparation for weeks in advance, but is a fantastic event every year. Planning for the ELBA Annual Meeting kicks in to high gear this month in preparation for the October meeting. **September** provided a time for another Sunday School Leadership Training Conference that created an exciting time of fellowship and training to kick off the new year of Sunday School work. **October** ushers in the time for accountability for the past year and planning and promotion for the new year of work. Attendance was outstanding for The Round Pen of Life at the Livingston Parish Fair, a new evangelistic event for ELBA. YEC, CrossOver 2011 Northshore and the Louisiana Baptist Convention kept us busy in **November**. One of the highlights of the year comes in **December** with the annual ELBA Ministers' and Mates Christmas Banquet. Cross Country Music and Comedy Team did a great job of tickling our funny bone and encouraging our hearts with song.

I know this article is long, but it has been a fantastic year, and I just wanted to share the highlights with you. I am expecting 2012 to be an even greater and more productive year than 2011.

Planning For 2012

January 23-24: Evangelism Conference at Louisiana College at Pineville, LA.

February 3 & 4: Disaster Relief Training at Camp Living Waters in Robert, LA.

Training for all areas of Disaster Relief will be available. Those wanting to participate need to be 18 years old, watch the video and register on the LBC website at www.lbc.org/dr. If your ID Tags are three years old, you need to recertify.

Elaine and I want to express our appreciation for the generous Christmas gift that was presented to us and wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Freddie Arnold

2012 ELBA Adult Reading & Writing Workshop

April 19 & 20: 5:30 PM—8:30 PM
April 21: 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

ELBA Office

32470 Walker N Rd, Walker, LA 70785

Cost will be about \$30—\$35. Deadline is March 29.
For more information, call Anna Cook, 439-8051 or
Jenelle Brown, 664-0121 or 664-9309.

PRETEEN INVASION

Know What You Believe

January 7, 2012

Louisiana College

For all 4th, 5th & 6th Graders

For More Info: www.LBC.org/Invasion

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Kaleidoscope

February 4, 2012

Fist Baptist Church Pineville

Theme: Restored

"Reaching all women at their points of
knowing, living and growing in Christ"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Disaster Relief Training

February 3-4, 2012

Camp Living Waters

Loranger, LA 70446



Feeding, Chaplaincy, Chainsaw,
Shower/Laundry, Water Purification, Assessment,
Mudout, Communications

Tom Long: 985-345-1831; brotom@bellsouth.net