



THE ANCHOR

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain." I Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

VOL. 27

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025

NO. 1



NBA Semi-Annual Meeting

Monday, March 10

During the 2023 Annual Meeting, messengers adopted the new operating rationale and a proposal to develop a new way of doing ministry as a Baptist network of churches in the Northshore. At the Annual Meeting on October 7, 2024, a preliminary Operations Manual and a 2025 Budget to launch and fund the new associational ministry model was adopted for the period October 7, 2024, through March 10, 2025. The purpose of the Semi-Annual meeting on March 10, 2025, is to present a final set of guiding documents for adoption by the messengers.



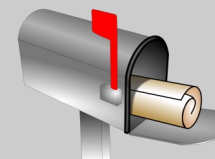
Serving and Strengthening His Churches



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Disaster Relief Training

February 7-8

First Baptist Church
16333 Highway 1085
Covington, LA

[More Information and Registration](#)



Saturday, March 8

Greenwell Springs Baptist Church
19421 Greenwell Springs Road, Baton Rouge

KidMin Expo is Lifeway VBS training and so much more! Along with Lifeway VBS, there will be previews of other VBS opportunities and training for small group leaders, Wednesday night leaders, special event leaders, and anyone that works with children.

[More Information and Registration](#)

Northshore Church News



•**First (Mandeville)** will host the Everyman Conference for men on Saturday, February 22. This is a one-day men's conference where you will be challenged, and encouraged, enjoy good fellowship and sing with a room full of men. Main Session Speakers are Greg Wilton (New Orleans Saints' Chaplain), Ronny Cooksey (Senior Pastor FBC Mandeville), and Waylon Bailey (Senior Pastor FBC Covington). Breakout Sessions by Barrett Kendrick, Preston Nix, Crossroads NOLA, Hope House, Seth Stiles, Mike Bergeron, and more. Other interests include a car show, give-away raffle, and more. Cost is \$35 until February 3 and \$45 after February 3. Registration and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. Opening Session starts at 9 a.m. Event concludes at 4 p.m. "Man Lunch" and snacks provided as well. Pastor is Ronny Cooksey.

•**First (Covington)** invites Adults 55+ to attend their annual **Spring Celebration** on Tuesday, March 18, featuring music and comedy by Matt Gumm, Branson's Comedian of the Year. The program begins at 10 a.m. in the worship center and concludes with lunch at noon. **ONLINE REGISTRATION is REQUIRED** at www.fbccov.org/adults-55. Registration begins on Saturday, February 1. The deadline to register or cancel is noon Friday, March 14. Cost is \$15 (payable at the door) and includes lunch. Note: The church is required to pay the caterer for all who are registered by the deadline so please contact the church by the deadline if you must cancel. **Mother's Day Out 2025-2026** registration is Tuesday, February 11, and Wednesday, February 12, 9 to 11 a.m. for FBC Covington members and returning families. Open registration for new families is Thursday, February 13, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information and tours, email mdo@fbccov.org or call 985-867-9052. Registration will take place at the Preschool. David Rockett is Adult 55+ and congregational care pastor. Waylon Bailey is pastor.

•**Albany First** is seeking an interim parttime worship leader with the possibility of becoming permanent. Contact Darlene at 985-634-8095 or email deneewatts@charter.net. Pastor is Eddie Koch.

•**Collins Blvd. (Covington)** will have revival services beginning Sunday, February 2, at 10 a.m. followed by dinner and a 1:45 p.m. service. Bro. Tom Horton will preach on Sunday. Bro. Lynn Martin will preach at services Monday, February 3-Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. Shannon Burns is pastor.

•**First (Slidell)** Kids Ministry will have their **Boys Lego Challenge** on Saturday, February 1, 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the gym. There is no cost to attend. Bring your own set of Legos and your imagination. The **Parade Outreach Event** this year will be during the Titans Parade on Friday, February 14, starting at 4:30 p.m. on the front lawn with food, cups, candy, and hot chocolate. The annual **Ladies Valentine Banquet** will be Friday, February 14, at 12 noon at Pinewood Country Club. Ladies who are widowed or single over the age of 60 are invited. The event is sponsored by Deacons and wives. **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading** will begin their season February 22 and will run through April 5. **Adults 55+** will meet for their luncheon on Friday, February 28, at noon in room 150 at the church. The cost for lunch is \$5 per person. All families are invited to attend **Family Fun Night** on Friday, March 21, with games, pizza and lots of fun for kids of all ages

A poster for the 'Southeast Regional Biblical Counseling Conference'. The poster features the text 'SOUTHEAST REGIONAL BIBLICAL COUNSELING CONFERENCE' at the top. Below that, it says 'BIBLICAL COUNSELING IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS'. There are two photos of speakers: 'DR. NICOLAS ELLEN' and 'DR. JIM NEWHEISER'. A QR code is labeled 'SCAN TO REGISTER!'. At the bottom, it says 'APRIL 11-12, 2025' and 'SLIDELL, LA'. Logos for 'ibcd' and 'NORTHSHORE CHURCH' are also present.

First Slidell will host the Second Annual **South East Regional Biblical Counseling Conference** April 11-12. **Registration is now open.** Casey Stark is pastor.

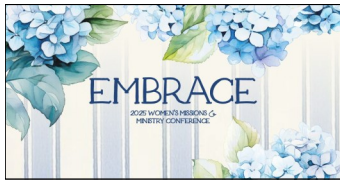


**Week of Prayer for
North American Missions and
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

March 2-9

2025 Goal: \$78 million

[Annie Armstrong Easter Offering](#)



**Women's
Missions & Ministry
Conference**

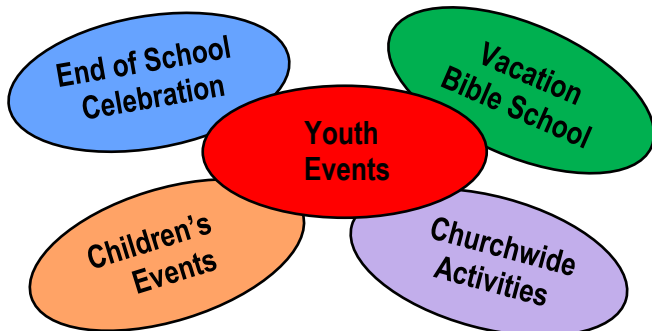
March 28-29

Embrace is a conference which incorporates Bible study, missions education, women's topics, and worship to equip all Louisiana women to realize their God-given value and purpose as they grow in Christ.

[More Information and Registration](#)

Plan Ahead

Reserve the NBA Block Party Trailer Now



Call your NBA office at 225-567-5086 for more information.

**Welcome Pastors
& Staff**

J.P. Handy
Pastor - *Jerusalem, Hammond*



J.P. and Juliana Handy



Colby Rimes
Connections Pastor
First, Covington

Colby Rimes



**A Weekend for
Pastors & Wives**

February 7-8

Pause is a retreat that is provided for lead pastors and their spouse who serve in a Louisiana Baptist Church.

[More Information and Registration](#)

Collegiate Evangelism Conference (CEC) 2025

February 7-8

[More Information and Registration](#)

ShoreLines

By Don Pucik

Associational Mission Strategist

It is easy for us church leaders and pastors to become preoccupied with what we can do to make the church grow numerically. Indeed, churches ought to be attracting and reaching people with the gospel! Church gatherings should be well conceived and led with excellence. Pastors should abhor mediocre, boring, and repetitive programming. However, in a way that they cannot quite identify or describe, many church leaders intuitively sense something is missing. The missing emphasis lies in a lack of attention on the health of the church.



Don Pucik

Does church health matter? Although dozens of metaphors exist in the New Testament describing the church, the image most applicable to developing a philosophy of church health is a “body” or organism. In the same way a doctor assesses a human physical body, leaders can conclude that the church as the Body of Christ is either healthy or unhealthy. The New Testament writers use the word “church” (ἐκκλησία) to describe both the universal church and the local church, as well as any distribution of believers in a region. Therefore, to describe the health of a congregational “body” is to evaluate a group of people against a biblical template of what they should be and do together.

What does a healthy church look like? Here are four ways to think about church health...

Healthy Churches Worship and Fellowship Together. In Acts 2:42-47, the daily worship gathering of the church was a public and corporate focus on “*the apostles’ doctrine.*” The study of truth was central to the early Christians and served as a foundation for their shared life together (“fellowship” or κοινωνία). Mentioned twice in the passage, eating together indicated intimacy and acceptance in the ancient (and modern) Middle Eastern culture. They prayed together. They experienced a deep reverential fear, sensing and seeing God’s activity in their midst. God’s presence also generated joy and praise within the fellowship (Psalm 16:11). Outsiders liked these people. It is no wonder that new believers were coming into the church every day!

Healthy Churches Make Disciples. In Matthew’s expression of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20), Jesus commanded the remaining eleven disciples to “*make disciples of all the nations.*” A healthy church makes disciples—but what is a disciple? When a person becomes a disciple of Jesus, it means that this person was not always a disciple. A life was changed and a disciple was “made.” The concept of making a disciple suggests a process that is spiritual, intentional, and relational.

Healthy churches have developed clear responses to three questions:

What is a disciple? (Meaning)

How do we make them? (Method)

How do we know when we have made them? (Metric)

The essence of discipleship is “follow-ship.” Just as men and women followed Jesus during his earthly tenure on earth, disciples today need to envision themselves as following a living Jesus who goes before them every day. To follow Jesus is to embrace his mission and reflect his life—to live as he lived (1 Jn. 2:6). To follow Jesus is to experience personal transformation into his likeness, and that transformation occurs through his active presence in the believer’s life.

Healthy Churches Seek the Presence of God. Everything in the church rises and falls on the presence of God. In his book *God’s Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul* (1994), Gordon Fee

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(Continued from Page 4)

argues that the entire corpus of Paul's teaching cannot be properly understood apart from his constant reliance upon and experience of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Bible, God's presence is the leading indicator of the spiritual health of the people of God. For example, Moses refuses to advance to the Promised Land apart from the accompanying presence of God (Ex. 33:15). Jesus directed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were "clothed" with the Holy Spirit (Lk. 24:49). Markers of God's presence in the Bible include a sense of awe (Rev. 1:17), a sense of his love (Eph. 3:17-19), a crushing awareness of personal sin (Isa. 6:1-5), and a deep desire to confess sin and make things right with others (Luke 3:8-14). Throughout the book of Acts, the church carried reports of God's activity to one another (Acts 11:18).

Healthy Churches Demonstrate Love for One Another and the World. Jesus exhibited great compassion for people (Mt. 9:36-38). Healthy churches understand that Christ-followers will demonstrate his compassion to others as well, sharing his heart for a broken and lost world. If his heart is "*moved with compassion*," how can the heart of the church beat in any other way? Christ's love extends beyond the church to the world. The consequence of an intimate, dependent relationship with Jesus is that the disciple begins to share Jesus' concern. He will lead his disciples to care about the spiritual condition and well-being of every person that they meet. Like Paul and Moses (Rom. 9:3; Ex. 32:32), the disciple of Jesus will experience a burden for hurting and lost souls—a visceral response to human need. Over time, the thoughts and actions of the disciple will begin to align with the heart of Jesus. This is equally true within the church. Love for other believers is expressed in many different reciprocal behaviors—also known as the "*one another*" commands of the New Testament.

How does a church overcome its relational deficits and dysfunctions? Love is the key. For example, love that heals relationships appears in the way members are "*extending grace to one another*" (Rom. 15:7). In 1 Th. 2:3, Paul refers to the Thessalonians' "labor of love." Healthy churches are populated by people who are prepared to work—to exert themselves even when it hurts—in order to love others within the Body. Healthy churches are loving churches.



We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God granted to the churches of Macedonia [NBA]: During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity. — 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 HCSB

Northshore Baptist Association Church Contributions

The NBA defines a member church as one which does the following (among other things):
Contributes financially to support the work of the Association.

	<i>Nov-Dec</i>	<i>YTD</i>		<i>Nov-Dec</i>	<i>YTD</i>		<i>Nov-Dec</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Albany First	387.96	5,504.92	Lee Hill	-0-	-0-	Wardline	-0-	2,550.00
Antioch	10.78	176.07	Lee Valley	-0-	-0-	Westside	1,220.57	6,783.40
Bayou	100.00	650.00	Life	-0-	-0-	Woodhaven	150.00	734.00
Bedico	1,531.00	8,203.00	Lighthouse	2,109.15	5,506.15	Woodland	-0-	1,409.20
Bethlehem	-0-	4,058.39	Loranger	-0-	5,421.28	Woodland Park	822.40	10,709.89
Blood River	842.64	4,244.46	Manchac	-0-	-0-	TOTAL	47,656.97	261,020.68
Bogue Falaya	-0-	1,156.21	Midway	-0-	-0-			
Calvary	-0-	200.00	Millville	-0-	201.64	Expenditures	48,535.95	251,815.51
Celebration (Cov/Mand)	750.00	3,000.00	Mt. Calvary	52.25	655.69	Church Receipts	47,656.97	261,020.68
Celebration (Slidell)	750.00	3,000.00	Natalbany	311.58	3,904.52	Additional Income	-0-	-0-
Coburn	-0-	-0-	New Beginning	300.00	1,200.00	Balance		155,637.50
Collins Blvd.	-0-	600.00	New Beulah	682.87	1,282.30	Designated Accounts		944,207.85
Countryside	-0-	-0-	New Hope	-0-	-0-			
Covenant	-0-	475.00	New Life Community	50.00	1,300.00			
Creekside	600.00	1,200.00	New Zion	-0-	50.00			
Cristo para Todos	-0-	-0-	Northshore	2,000.00	12,000.00			
Crossbrand	-0-	-0-	Northside	283.80	2,425.06			
Crossgate	-0-	50.00	Old Zion Hill	972.78	5,334.75			
Crossroads	1,009.16	6,054.96	Ponchatoula's First	3,398.05	18,362.88			
Ebenezer	602.96	3,332.04	Red Bluff	-0-	2,103.68			
Emmaus	-0-	300.00	Redemption, Lacombe	100.00	1,200.00			
Evans Creek	-0-	837.34	Redemption Christian	-0-	-0-			
First, Covington	11,749.97	38,000.00	Ridge Memorial	50.00	150.00			
First, Folsom	1,284.86	7,789.81	River Fellowship	418.04	2,973.20			
First, Hammond	502.18	1,680.06	Serenity	189.00	1,085.58			
First, Independence	200.00	1,200.00	Springville	97.26	838.24			
First, Madisonville	611.00	611.00	Still Water	-0-	-0-			
First, Mandeville	2,500.00	15,000.00	SweetWater	189.55	1,458.32			
First, Pearl River	899.57	6,433.12	Tammany Hills	651.64	3,924.37			
First, Slidell	2,017.14	8,421.48	The Bridge	-0-	1,000.00			
First, Springfield	100.35	971.14	Thompson Road	547.88	3,638.98			
First, Tickfaw	-0-	-0-	Trinity	969.00	5,782.00			
French Corner	422.21	2,855.79	True Life	100.00	1,000.00			
Grace Community	375.00	1,325.00	Victory	-0-	-0-			
Grace Fellowship	121.80	1,875.96						
Grace Hispanic	-0-	-0-						
Grace Memorial	2,739.00	13,566.00						
Greater St. James	-0-	-0-						
Hebron	300.00	3,000.00						
Iglesia Agua Viva	-0-	-0-						
Iglesia Buenas Nuevas	194.24	1,229.52						
Iglesia Cristo Redentor	200.00	1,200.00						
Immanuel	83.16	1,051.46						
Jerusalem	1,106.17	6,782.82						
Killian First	-0-	-0-						



Take a look at our newly designed website
www.NorthshoreBaptists.net



Timothy 2:1-4
is the prayer watchword for everything we do in the Northshore Baptist Association.



SBC ANNUAL MEETING and Pastors' Conference
June 8-11
[More Information](#)

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**DEADLINE FOR
APRIL-MAY
NEWSLETTER:
March 15, 2025**