



# 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." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

VOL. 25

DECEMBER 2023-JANUARY 2024

NO. 6



## Christmas on the Northshore

● **Bethlehem (Albany)** will have a Ladies Breakfast Saturday, December 2, at 9 a.m. Ladies can bring a new unwrapped toy if they like. The choir will give a special presentation on Sunday, December 17, at 10 a.m. and a short candlelight service with desserts, coffee, and hot chocolate will at 5 p.m. Pastor is Josh Peeler.

● **First (Slidell) Ladies Ministry** will have their *Christmas Tea & Testimonies* on Saturday, December 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Gym. All ladies are invited to attend and bring their daughters. *Hanging of the Greens* service will be Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m. where preschoolers and children will open the Advent season with songs and decorating of the worship center. **Adults 55+ Christmas Luncheon** will be Friday, December 8, at 12 noon. Reservations should be made with the church office by Monday, December 4. **First Baptist Christian School** will present "*Jingle Bells*" starring their 1st through 6th grade classes on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 p.m. in the worship center. The Orchestra and Adult and Children's Choirs will present "*Carols by Candlelight*" on Saturday, December 16, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m. **Family Christmas Caroling** will be on Wednesday, December 20, at 6 p.m. with widowed ladies and shut-ins being visited. **Christmas Eve Service** will be Sunday, December 24, at 5 p.m. Pastor is Casey Stark.

● **New Zion (Covington)** will present "Cradle to the Cross" drive-thru on Saturday, December 2, and Sunday, December 3, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This is a live portrayal of the life of Christ from his birth to his death and resurrection with people, live animals, authentic costumes and vivid scenery. See the story unfold from the comfort of your own vehicle as you follow Jesus through his life and final days on earth. Enjoy a drive to the country and receive a blessing you will always remember. Pastor is Clark Stewart

● **Grace Memorial (Slidell) Adult Christmas Musical, "What Kind of Throne,"** will be Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m. **Christmas Open House Tour** will be Sunday, December 10, 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person with all proceeds going to Macedonia Missions. Children's Choir presents "*The Whole World Sings,*" Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m. **A Living Nativity** will be Saturday, December 16, and Sunday, December 17, 6 to 9 p.m. **Christmas Eve Worship Service,** will be Sunday, December 24, at 10:30 a.m. A **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,** is Sunday, December 24, at 5 p.m. Pastor is Jerry Smith.

● **First (Covington)** will present *Christmas Together: A Christmas Worship Celebration* Friday, December 8, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 9, at 2 and 6 p.m. Don't miss this special time of Christmas worship led by the multigenerational choir and orchestra. **Miracle in the Manger** with live animals for K-6th grade will be Sunday, December 3, at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and includes special guests, Bethlehem marketplace, and more. Pastor is Waylon Bailey.

● **First (Ponchatoula) Music Ministry** will present their annual **Christmas Spectacular 2023 – "I Still Believe in Christmas"** – on Friday, December 8, and Sunday, December 10, at 7 p.m. Everyone on the North Shore is invited to enjoy the story of the birth of Christ and hope that this will help to get churches in the Christmas Spirit. Wisemen, shepherds, angels, and banners will be part of the program along with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra presenting the music. You will not want to miss this Christmas event. Chip Vickers is music pastor. David Cranford is pastor.

● **First (Mandeville)** will present *A Mandeville Christmas Live Nativity* on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Ronny Cooksey is pastor.

● **Woodland Park (Hammond)** will present *A Choral Celebration: Joy Has Dawned* Sunday, December 10, at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will follow. Tim Moffett is pastor.

● **Red Bluff (Folsom)** worship choir and children will present a Christmas cantata "*Come and Behold Him*" Sunday, December 10, at 3:30 p.m. A time of food and fellowship will follow. Everyone is invited to "come and behold" King Jesus. Ed Herring is associate pastor, music, and youth. Cody Roberts is pastor.

● **Bogue Falaya (Folsom)** will present a *Live Nativity* on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 15, 16, and 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. Pastor is Jeremy Moseley.

● **First (Independence)** choir will present "*Call Him Jesus*" Sunday December 17, at 10:30 a.m. The choir is led by Lane Wascom. Mitch Williams is pastor.

● **SweetWater (Abita Springs)** will host a Christmas service on Friday, December 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Abita Springs Town Hall. Ken Schroeder is pastor.

● **Bedico (Ponchatoula)** will have a Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24 with one combined Family Worship Service at 10 a.m. A Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at 5 p.m. with cookies and cocoa at 4 p.m. The Christmas Story will be told along with singing many of the traditional Christmas songs.

# Northshore Church News

- **Bedico (Ponchatoula)** Upward Basketball and Cheer program will kick off in January for boys and girls in grades PreK to 6th grade. Register [here](#).
- **First (Folsom)** is currently looking for a Ministry Assistant of Technology & Support to provide assistance with technology and other administrative needs. Please email Pastor Will Robbins at [pastor@fbcfolsom.com](mailto:pastor@fbcfolsom.com) or call 985-773-4408 with any questions or inquiries about this position.
- **First (Slidell)** Upward Basketball and Cheerleading [registration](#) is going on now. Early registration will end Sunday, December 31. Evaluations for the teams will be January 25 and 27. January 27 is the last day to register. Pastor is Casey Stark.
- **First (Mandeville)** will host a Pastors Guided Prayer Time for all pastors and ministry staff on Monday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m. Pastors and staff are encouraged to join at FBC Mandeville as this time is dedicated to seeking God for our lives, churches, and the Northshore. For any questions contact Pastor Ronny Cooksey at [ronny@fbcmandeville.org](mailto:ronny@fbcmandeville.org).
- **First (Covington)** Young at Heart (a time of fellowship and great food for adults 55+) will meet Tuesday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m. featuring an inspirational message by Carl Doescher and lots of Christmas music. [Registration](#) is required online by noon Friday, December 1. Cost is \$15. \*Young at Heart will also meet Tuesday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m. featuring Mike Vaughn, country/gospel singer and songwriter. [Registration](#) is required online by noon Friday, January 12. Cost is \$15. \*[Registration](#) is open for K5 through 7th grade soccer. Cost is currently \$65 and is \$75 after January 7. Registration ends January 31. \*Childcare workers are needed in Mother's Day Out. Contact [MDO@fbccov.org](mailto:MDO@fbccov.org) for more information on how to apply for these paid positions. Waylon Bailey is pastor.



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
and Week of Prayer  
for International Missions**  
December 3-10  
**Goal: \$200 million**

[www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/](http://www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/)



## Mark Your Calendar

### DECEMBER 2023

- 3-10 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 22-January 1 Northshore Office closed for Christmas and New Year's holidays
- 25 Christmas Day

### JANUARY 2024

- 1 New Year's Day (Northshore Office Closed)
- 16 Executive Board Meeting @ First, Ponchatoula, 10 a.m.

## Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 16  
10:00 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
325 E. Pine Street, Ponchatoula

All member churches are entitled to send their pastor (or the church's designee) and one other designated person to represent them in the conducting of associational business.



FOR  
UNTO US

A CHILD IS BORN

*unto us  
a son is given  
and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder*

AND HIS NAME  
SHALL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR

**THE MIGHTY GOD  
THE EVERLASTING FATHER  
THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

ISAIAH 9:6



# ShoreLines

By Don Pucik

Associational Mission Strategist

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. - Isaiah 9:6-7*

Christmas is not always a happy time.

- For some, it is a reminder that they feel terribly disconnected and alone.
- Many first responders, medical staff, "essential personnel," and military service men and women will miss some or all the holiday gatherings with their families, who will miss them deeply.
- When someone dear has died, this day will be reminder of the absence. Grief can resurface, barricading the heart from joy.
- And there are other losses, crises, and hurts that can kill the traditional spirit of celebration... an unhappy marriage or divorce, a family tension or conflict, unemployment, illness, and countless other forms of human pain and suffering.



**Don Pucik**

Isaiah was a sensitive man who was weary of living in such a world of hurt and loss.

Isaiah lost king Uzziah after a prosperous 58-year reign. Admired for his efforts at religious reform and his personal devotion, Uzziah had impacted a nation—and a young man named Isaiah. Uzziah's passing cast a long shadow over the future of the nation. Isaiah's hero and spiritual leader was dead.

Isaiah began to seek God more than ever during dark and disturbing times. The world seemed as if it was reeling out of control. Then God gave Isaiah a powerful vision of His glory and power (Isaiah 6). Later, in Isaiah 9, God revealed details concerning a future Messiah who would restore order to a chaotic and corrupt world. Convinced of the rule of God in his life and in the world around him, Isaiah was transformed by one of the earliest prophecies concerning the coming Savior!

Let me say it again: Isaiah was gripped by a vision of the kingdom of God ushered in by the birth of a child – it would color the rest of his life and work.

You may feel life is reeling out of control and the world is a dark and painful place. And it is. You are not wrong about that. Isaiah saw it too and longed for change... real hope that Someone was going to come and reshape, reform, renew, and recreate all of life! Peering through time to observe what God was doing behind the scenes in human history, Isaiah saw the child... and he penned a poetic song describing the Son of God upon whose shoulders all authority will rest: *Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!*

That child was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, but He is near you at this moment. He knows you. He loves you.

The King is here. It's the bottom line of the Christmas season. ~ DP

*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.**

	Sept-Oct	YTD		Sept-Oct	YTD		Sept-Oct	YTD
Albany First	768.87	4,262.85	Killian First	-0-	661.00	Wardline	500.00	2,000.00
Antioch	25.40	133.30	Lee Hill	-0-	-0-	Westside	1,417.29	7,735.82
Bayou	100.00	500.00	Lee Valley	-0-	-0-	Woodhaven	113.00	607.00
Bedico	1,080.00	5,591.00	Life	-0-	-0-	Woodland	-0-	587.76
Bethlehem	1,247.00	3,913.00	Lighthouse	-0-	3,686.48	Woodland Park	2,638.87	11,919.09
Blood River	597.00	3,290.39	Loranger	2,015.61	6,428.75	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,676.46</b>	<b>226,787.76</b>
Bogue Falaya	690.81	2,165.18	Manchac	-0-	-0-			
Calvary	50.00	450.00	Midway	-0-	-0-	Expenditures	44,653.97	213,970.77
Celebration (Cov/Mand)	500.00	2,500.00	Millville	-0-	-0-	Church Receipts	44,676.46	226,787.76
Celebration (Slidell)	500.00	2,500.00	Mt. Calvary	115.34	525.00	Additional Income	-0-	-0-
Coburn	-0-	-0-	Natalbany	355.24	3,081.27	Balance		147,115.49
Collins Blvd.	150.00	600.00	New Beginning	300.00	900.00	Designated Accounts		915,257.75
Cornerstone (watchcare)	-0-	258.74	New Beulah	135.33	685.63			
Countryside	-0-	-0-	New Hope	-0-	-0-			
Covenant	100.00	675.00	New Life Community	250.00	1,125.00			
Creekside	300.00	900.00	New Zion	-0-	1,577.55			
Cristo para Todos	-0-	-0-	Northshore	1,833.34	9,166.70			
Crossbrand	346.88	2,381.24	Northside	401.04	2,452.60			
Crossgate	-0-	100.00	Old Zion Hill	927.43	4,551.27			
Crossroads	1,124.50	5,622.54	Ponchatoula's First	2,979.58	16,775.55			
Ebenezer	569.54	2,746.98	Red Bluff	1,014.15	2,040.68			
Emmaus	-0-	300.00	Redemption, Lacombe	100.00	1,000.00			
Evans Creek	298.08	1,264.42	Redemption Christian	-0-	-0-			
First, Covington	5,833.34	29,166.70	Ridge Memorial	-0-	125.00			
First, Folsom	1,396.36	5,043.52	River Fellowship	525.42	2,923.97			
First, Hammond	367.96	2,174.09	Serenity	165.27	774.48			
First, Independence	200.00	1,000.00	Springville	136.10	676.44			
First, Madisonville	-0-	-0-	Still Water	-0-	-0-			
First, Mandeville	2,500.00	12,500.00	SweetWater	243.77	1,356.38			
First, Pearl River	996.25	4,512.65	Tammany Hills	644.30	2,293.53			
First, Slidell	1,566.66	7,833.30	The Bridge	200.00	1,000.00			
First, Springfield	73.29	455.80	Thompson Road	533.96	2,579.54			
First, Tickfaw	-0-	-0-	Trinity	397.00	3,881.00			
French Corner	476.50	2,348.23	True Life	200.00	1,000.00			
Grace Community	183.70	3,016.77	Victory	-0-	-0-			
Grace Fellowship	453.32	3,399.64						
Grace Hispanic	-0-	-0-						
Grace Memorial	1,684.00	9,557.00						
Greater St. James	-0-	-0-						
Hebron	600.00	3,000.00						
Iglesia Agua Viva	-0-	-0-						
Iglesia Buenas Nuevas	206.96	1,022.42						
Iglesia Cristo Redentor	166.68	833.30						
Immanuel	168.49	940.20						
Jerusalem	1,212.83	5,712.01						



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

### Northshore Baptist Association

**Location:**

16333 Highway 1085  
 Covington, LA 70433

On the campus of FBC Covington  
 West Entrance

**Mailing Address:**

70380 Highway 21, Suite 2 #254  
 Covington, LA 70433

Phone: 225.567.5086

**E-mail:**

[Office@NorthshoreBaptists.net](mailto:Office@NorthshoreBaptists.net)

**Website:**

[www.NorthshoreBaptists.net](http://www.NorthshoreBaptists.net)

### Your NBA Staff

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**DEADLINE FOR  
 FEBRUARY-MARCH  
 NEWSLETTER:  
 January 15, 2024**