



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. 26

DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025

NO. 6

● **First (Mandeville)** will host their annual Live Nativity, "A Mandeville Christmas", on their campus at 1895 Highway 190, Mandeville. This beautiful and realistic walk thru event takes you through 10 scenes beginning with the Prophet Isaiah and ending with the empty tomb. Don't miss this free family event on December 14 and 15 from 6-8 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Pastor is Ronny Cooksey.

● **First (Slidell)** has several events planned for the Christmas season: *Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 8, at 10:30 a.m. Preschoolers and children will open the Advent season with songs and decorating of the worship center. *Adults 55+ will have their Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 13, at 12 noon. *First Baptist Christian School will present "Miracle on Main Street" starring their 1st-6th grade classes on Tuesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in the worship center. There is no cost for admission. *The Orchestra, Adult and Children's Choirs will present "Carols by Candlelight" on Saturday, December 14, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 15, at 10:30 a.m. *Join us for Family Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 18, at 6 p.m. We will visit our widowed ladies and shut-ins.

*Christmas Eve Service will be Sunday, December 24, at 5 p.m. Casey Stark is pastor.

● **SweetWater (Abita Springs)** will meet at the Abita Springs Town Hall on Sunday, December 22, at 6 p.m. for a community Christmas gathering. Ken Schroeder is pastor.

● **Woodland (Springfield)** will host "Stringed Quartet Christmas" a concert of classical Christmas music on Sunday, December 22, at 11 a.m. Join us as we go caroling to bring a little joy to the shut ins of the Woodland community on Sunday, December 22, at 4 p.m. David Whitehead is pastor.

● **Bedico (Ponchatoula)** will have a Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24, with cookies and cocoa, a photo booth, and fellowshiping at 4 p.m. The annual Christmas Eve Celebration will be at 5 p.m. We will be hearing the Christmas Story and singing many of the traditional Christmas songs. Pastor is Jonathan Gers

NORTHSHORE CHRISTMAS

● **First (Ponchatoula)** will present their annual Christmas Spectacular 2024 – "For Unto Us a Child is Born" – on Friday, December 13, and Sunday, December 15, 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 our churches in the Christmas Spirit. There will be Wisemen, shepherds, angels, and banners. The Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra will present the music. You will not want to miss this Christmas event. Chip Vickers is music pastor. David Cranford is pastor.

● **Red Bluff (Folsom)** worship choir will present a Christmas cantata, "The Sounding Joy," on Sunday, December 8, at 3:30 p.m. A time of food and fellowship will follow. A special service will also be held on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Ed Herring is associate pastor, music and youth. Cody Roberts is pastor.

● **First (Covington)** will present *Christmas Together: A Christmas Worship Celebration* Friday, December 13, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, 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 8, at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and includes special guests, Bethlehem marketplace, and more. Pastor is Waylon Bailey

● **Bethlehem (Albany)** will have a Candlelight Service Sunday, December 15, at 5 p.m. Josh Peeler is pastor.

● **Bogue Falaya (Folsom)** will have their Christmas Cantata on December 8 at 5 p.m. A Live Nativity will be presented on Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, 6-8 p.m. A Candlelight Service will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Jeremy Moseley is pastor.

● **First (Pearl River)** will present a Christmas musical entitled "How Great Our Joy" on December 15, at 6 p.m. Pastor is Jakob Harris.

● **Old Zion Hill (Independence)** will host "The Lefevre Quartet" for a "Christmas Night of Worship" on Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the MLC. The address of the church is 25890 Hwy. 442, Independence, LA 70443. Gary Dennis is pastor.

Northshore Church News

• **First (Folsom)** will host a Ladies Conference Saturday, January 18, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, with guest speaker Tara Dew. Tara is the President's wife at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, LA. At NOBTS, she is also an adjunct professor in the ministry to women program, as well as the Director of THRIVE (a Ministry Wives Certificate Program). Tara is a Bible teacher, author, and speaker, who is invited to women's events and retreats throughout the United States. Mark your calendars and plan to worship, fellowship, and hear a message to recharge you into the New Year. Will Robbins is pastor.



• **First (Slidell)** Upward Basketball and Cheerleading registration opened on November 15. Early registration will end Tuesday, December 31. Evaluations for the teams will be Thursday and Friday, January 23 and 24. Monday, January 27, is the last day to register. Visit www.upwardslidell.org to register. Pastor is Casey Stark.

• **Northside (Slidell)** is accepting resumes for a part-time worship leader. If interested, contact Pastor Carey Long at 225-278-0036.

• **Woodland (Springfield)** will host "The Puppet Pulpit" Wednesday, December 11, at 6 p.m. Kids, make sure to invite your parents. A Chili Cook Off will be held Tuesday, December 31, at 4 p.m. Come out and enjoy. David Whitehead is pastor.

• **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. David Rockett is Adult 55+ and congregational care pastor. Waylon Bailey is pastor.



• **First (Mandeville)** will host the Everyman Conference for men on Saturday, February 22, 2025. First Baptist is very excited to announce that Caleb Dykes has been hired to serve as Worship Minister. Caleb will begin serving no later than January 1, 2025. He will be an excellent addition to the wonderful team, providing godly and skilled leadership. Pastor is Ronny Cooksey.

• **First (Springfield)** is seeking a full time pastor. Resumes should be sent to First Baptist Church Springfield, P.O. Box 126, Springfield, LA 70462.

Congratulations



Jakob, Abby, & Eleanor Ruth Harris



Eleanor Ruth Harris was born September 29, 2024. Parents are Jakob and Abby Harris. Jakob is pastor at First Baptist Church, Pearl River.

Disaster Relief Training



February 7-8
First Baptist Church
16333 Highway 1085
Covington, LA

[Disaster Relief Training, Covington - Louisiana Baptists](#)



LBC Evangelism Conference

January 27-28
First Baptist Church
16333 Highway 1085, Covington, LA

[2025 Evangelism Conference \(ECON\) - Louisiana Baptists](#)



Mark Your Calendar

Northshore Baptist Association

DECEMBER 2024

- 1-8 Week of Prayer for International Mission and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 23-January 2 Northshore Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY 2025

- 1 New Year's Day (Northshore office closed)



Semi-Annual Meeting
March 10, 2025

SLU BCM Update

This semester has been an amazing time of growth, both spiritually and numerically. We've seen students coming to know the Lord with regularity over the past several weeks as BCM students are getting out onto campus and sharing the gospel with their peers. This has been an emphasis this semester.

Another emphasis has been on discipleship... Discipling our student leaders and encouraging them to disciple others has been truly fruitful. Most of our freshmen students are being mentored and poured into by upperclassmen and staff with God sized results.

Nearly 30 students are planning on going with SLU BCM on our Mexico Mission trip December 14-19. We will be serving with LSU, LSUA, McNeese, Southern, and other BCMs in the state. Our students are excited to take the next step in their faith journey.

In addition to all this, BCM very much appreciates all the lunches our churches have provided over the past semester. We moved free lunch to Wednesdays this past August and we have been averaging between 160-180 students in attendance each week.

God is blessing as the ministry is growing... Leadership training is in full swing (16 students training as new leaders), Fuse worship has been extremely well attended, Spark Group (bible studies) are better attended this semester than I've seen in my time in ministry, and students hungry for the gospel are consistently meeting students that are willing to share the gospel with them.

As the ministry grows, we pray that you will consider partnering with us as we continue to supply the ministry for the demands of growth. So many more students means we run through supplies faster. We have created an [Amazon list of supplies](#) we are constantly in need of replenishing if you would like to help. Please also continue to keep us in your prayers!

Joe Luna
SLU BCM Director

Welcome Pastors & Staff

Caleb Dykes
Worship Minister - First, Mandeville



Caleb, Jordan, & Carsyn Dykes



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.

[REGISTRATION](#)

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
and
Week of Prayer
for International Missions

December 1-8

Goal: \$205 million

ShoreLines

By Don Pucik

Associational Mission Strategist

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. - Galatians 4:4-5

I was born with the name Donovan Donnelly. Following my parents' divorce, my mother did her best to raise me as a single parent in the 1960s. I recall with fondness Mom's bedtime stories, the rich aroma of my grandfather (he liked cigars), my daycare center friends, and long, endless summers... I think I was a happy child. But then things got serious: I started the first grade. As you can see from the image of my "Social Characteristics" on the first-grade report card, I was easily distracted, impulsive, and quite talkative!

Supportive influences surrounded me. My mother and my grandfather were gentle, nurturing fixtures in my little world. Living in a mobile home park on the outskirts of San Antonio, Texas, I spent most of my time outside, running around with neighborhood buddies and creating a vast array of childhood "adventures." But deep down, I felt a little "different" from the other kids. I wasn't different. I just felt different.

Then my mother began dating a young Air Force pilot. I liked him. He was like a dad to me. Then they married... and my stepfather became my father: he adopted me as his son. My young mind easily embraced all the changes. My new name was Donovan Pucik. I really liked that. I didn't feel "different" anymore. I had a Dad *and* a Mom now.

	Social Characteristics-Work Habits					
	S - Satisfactory			X - Needs to Improve		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Uses time wisely		X	X	X	X	X
2. Follows directions		X	X	X	X	X
3. Respects authority		X	X	S	S	S
4. Completes assignments		X	X	X	X	X
5. Accepts responsibility		S	S	S	S	S
6. Contributes to the group		S	S	S	S	S
7. Works well independently		S	S	S	S	S
8. Exercises self-control		S	S	S	S	S
9. Takes pride in work		X	X	X	X	X
10. Respects others		X	X	S	S	X
11. Cares for school property		S	S	S	S	S
12. Controls talking		X	S	S	S	S
13. Practices neatness		X	X	S	S	X
14.		X	X	X	X	X
15.		X	X	X	X	X



Don Pucik

When he signed the adoption papers:

- he gave me his name;
- he assumed complete responsibility for me as his son;
- he gave me all of the rights and privileges of a son;
- he became my father; and
- he *chose* to do it – he chose *me*.

The baby born in Bethlehem was the Son of God. But God seeks others to become part of His family. He seeks you and me. When a person trusts in the Person and work of the Son, God the Father adopts him or her into His family.

What does it mean to be "adopted" by God? For me it means...

- I was not always a son, but now I will always be His son. "*But when the fullness of the time had come*"
- I have a new Father or authority in my life. I am not alone in this world. "*God sent forth His Son*"
- I have a Father who paid a great price to make me His son. The life of Jesus is the "value" He placed on my life. "*to redeem those who were under the law*"
- I have a Father who wants to be intimate with me. "*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts*"

For this believer in Christ, my true relationship with God is that of an adopted child... He chose me as His own by sending His Son into our world as a baby in Bethlehem!

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	1,025.17	5,119.96	Killian First	-0-	-0-	Wardline	-0-	2,550.00
Antioch	37.86	165.29	Lee Hill	-0-	-0-	Westside	675.82	5,562.83
Bayou	100.00	550.00	Lee Valley	-0-	-0-	Woodhaven	116.00	584.00
Bedico	607.00	6,672.00	Life	-0-	-0-	Woodland	-0-	1,409.20
Bethlehem	-0-	4,058.39	Lighthouse	-0-	3,397.00	Woodland Park	2,047.09	9,887.49
Blood River	677.53	3,401.82	Loranger	584.45	5,421.28	TOTAL	38,410.41	213,363.71
Bogue Falaya	378.93	1,156.21	Manchac	-0-	-0-			
Calvary	-0-	200.00	Midway	-0-	-0-	Expenditures	41,628.44	203,279.56
Celebration (Cov/Mand)	500.00	2,250.00	Millville	-0-	201.64	Church Receipts	38,410.41	213,363.71
Celebration (Slidell)	500.00	2,250.00	Mt. Calvary	136.20	603.44	Additional Income	-0-	-0-
Coburn	-0-	-0-	Natalbany	875.74	3,592.94	Balance		156,516.48
Collins Blvd.	150.00	600.00	New Beginning	300.00	900.00	Designated Accounts		938,302.62
Countryside	-0-	-0-	New Beulah	-0-	599.43			
Covenant	-0-	475.00	New Hope	-0-	-0-			
Creekside	-0-	600.00	New Life Community	250.00	1,250.00			
Cristo para Todos	-0-	-0-	New Zion	-0-	50.00			
Crossbrand	-0-	-0-	Northshore	2,000.00	10,000.00			
Crossgate	-0-	50.00	Northside	381.69	2,141.26			
Crossroads	1,009.16	5,045.80	Old Zion Hill	885.82	4,361.97			
Ebenezer	364.92	2,729.08	Ponchatoula's First	2,929.64	14,964.83			
Emmaus	-0-	300.00	Red Bluff	539.92	2,103.68			
Evans Creek	-0-	837.34	Redemption, Lacombe	200.00	1,100.00			
First, Covington	2,916.67	26,250.03	Redemption Christian	-0-	-0-			
First, Folsom	1,307.19	6,504.95	Ridge Memorial	-0-	100.00			
First, Hammond	651.78	1,177.88	River Fellowship	249.98	2,555.16			
First, Independence	200.00	1,000.00	Serenity	191.67	896.58			
First, Madisonville	-0-	-0-	Springville	116.34	740.98			
First, Mandeville	2,500.00	12,500.00	Still Water	-0-	-0-			
First, Pearl River	1,063.41	5,533.55	SweetWater	382.52	1,268.77			
First, Slidell	1,278.00	6,404.34	Tammany Hills	691.29	3,272.73			
First, Springfield	261.91	870.79	The Bridge	300.00	1,000.00			
First, Tickfaw	-0-	-0-	Thompson Road	496.61	3,091.10			
French Corner	1,019.78	2,433.58	Trinity	1302.00	4,813.00			
Grace Community	330.00	950.00	True Life	200.00	900.00			
Grace Fellowship	714.64	1,754.16	Victory	-0-	-0-			
Grace Hispanic	-0-	-0-						
Grace Memorial	2,513.00	10,827.00						
Greater St. James	-0-	-0-						
Hebron	600.00	2,700.00						
Iglesia Agua Viva	-0-	-0-						
Iglesia Buenas Nuevas	191.54	1,035.78						
Iglesia Cristo Redentor	200.00	1,000.00						
Immanuel	163.45	968.30						
Jerusalem	1,295.69	5,676.65						



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.

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DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH NEWSLETTER: January 15, 2025