



Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association

VOL. 47 MARCH/APRIL 2023 NO. 2

Together We Do What We Cannot Do Alone

Blue's News

Spring is here along with planning ministry events for most of the year. Here are some updates on things happening in ELBA. We are better together than we are apart.

Connect1Child: At the Annual Meeting, ELBA joined LBCH in a project to relieve the need for Foster Parents in Livingston Parish. Bridgett Dickson was hired in January as our Associational Foster Care and Adoption Ministry Coordinator. The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home leadership is excited to be working with her. Bridgett has met with the LBCH social workers and is ready to engage the task. She will be contacting churches and pastors asking for an opportunity to bring Connect1Child to your church. While meeting a need in our community, this ministry also opens the door for the gospel.

Crossover Block Parties: Crossover Evangelism Events are a part of the evangelistic strategy to reach the areas where the Southern Baptist Convention is meeting each year. Our parish is a part of the Crossover New Orleans area for this year. Several pastors and churches have asked that we join Crossover New Orleans with a simultaneous Block Party outreach on June 3rd, one week before the SBC convenes in New Orleans. A Block Party Training will be held at Judson Baptist Church on Saturday, March 18th, 9:00-noon. Lunch will be provided. Jeremy Glascock and Robbie Isom will lead the training. The planning will focus on Low-Budget Block Parties and churches working in harmony to impact our parish for Christ.

ECON-LP: Organizational planning for ECON-LP is under way. David Lane, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, is our leader in developing this conference to equip and train the lay people in our churches to share their faith. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 9th. Contact Bro. David if you want to help with the planning.

Church Strengthening Team: Our Church Planting Team has a name change. Reaching our communities with the gospel requires healthy churches. This team will work with churches to develop a strategy to strengthen the ministries of our churches to become healthy churches that reach the lost for Jesus Christ. Churches should have recently received a church health survey. The team asks you to please administer this survey to your church members or church leadership and then forward the results to the team. This will help our team develop a path to help strengthen our churches to fulfill our Lord's call to reach our neighbors for the Lord.

Lifeway Essentials Conference, First Denham, March 23-24, 2023: You received an email from me a week or so back regarding the Lifeway Essentials Conference. The target group for this conference are pastors, education ministers, and Sunday School Directors. While seating is limited, there is still room for registration for this conference. Sunday School/small groups are the lifeblood of our churches. Evangelism, discipleship, and ministry take place in Sunday School classes. In case you have figured it out yet, I am a Sunday School advocate.

Easter: Easter is just a month off. Are you ready? If not, take advantage of this high holy day to worship and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, point the lost to Jesus, and encourage those who have dropped by the wayside after the Covid-19 pandemic to return to church. Seize the day!

Day Light Savings Time: Just a logistical note—Spring Ahead One Hour early Sunday morning March 12th. This is the time you will lose an hour of sleep. May I recommend that you use Saturday, March 11th as a day to encourage SS class leaders to call their classes to remind them to set their clocks that night so they will not be late to Sunday School the next morning. Who knows? We might have high attendance on the Spring Ahead Sunday.

May God's hand be upon our churches and their pastors as we march toward Easter. Praise God we serve a living Savior.

--Bro. Richard

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES
To Date**

Agape	\$0.00	\$0.00
Amite	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel	\$191.63	\$191.63
Carroll	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Community	\$0.00	\$0.00
Colyell	\$1,838.58	\$1,838.58
Denham Springs, FBC	\$2,770.05	\$2,770.05
Don Avenue	\$655.96	\$655.96
Emmanuel	\$125.00	\$125.00
French Settlement	\$268.00	\$268.00
Gray's Creek	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greater Third Zion	\$0.00	\$0.00
Head of Island	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hebron	\$442.91	\$442.91
Holden	\$206.36	\$206.36
Judson	\$3,371.84	\$3,371.84
Live Oak	\$3,250.67	\$3,250.67
Livingston FBC	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Macedonia	\$0.00	\$0.00
Magnolia	\$200.00	\$200.00
Maurepas	\$0.00	\$0.00
Midway	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Bethlehem	\$200.00	\$200.00
New Covenant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northside	\$576.76	\$576.76
One Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Grove	\$670.97	\$670.97
Red Oak	\$100.00	\$100.00
River of Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	\$359.75	\$359.75
Salem	\$0.00	\$0.00
Satsuma	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Walker	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southside	\$180.21	\$180.21
The New Beginnings	\$92.82	\$92.82
Victory	\$171.32	\$171.32
Walker	\$1,971.94	\$1,971.94
Watson	\$905.90	\$905.90
The Way Church	\$225.00	\$225.00
Community Ch Spfd	\$100.00	\$100.00
Wholly Grounds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$20,025.67	\$20,025.67

Capital One	\$86,460.10
Louisiana Baptist Foundation	\$657,994.86
TOTAL Checking & Savings	\$744,454.96

News from the Churches . . .

Carroll Baptist Church has called Bro. Michael Didon as their Pastor.

Bro. David Brown has retired as pastor from **Gray's Creek Baptist Church, Denham Springs.**

Bro. Carl Sullivan is serving as Interim Pastor, **Holden Baptist Church**

Block Party Training Opportunity

Saturday, March 18th
Judson Baptist Church
9:00am-noon

Crossover New Orleans is an evangelistic outreach event corresponding with the Southern Baptist Convention being held in the New Orleans area. Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association is included in the area for Crossover activity. Your church is being asked to participate in the simultaneous Crossover event by holding an Evangelistic Block Party on Saturday, June 3, 2023.

* In preparation, the Saturday training at JBC, 32470 Walker Rd N, Walker, LA 70785 will begin at 9:00 until noon. Since there is only one block party trailer in the association, the emphasis will be on preparing a low-budget, high-impact block party.

* Please register the locations of your church's block parties to prevent overlap of events in the same area by calling the ELBA office at 225/664-9309.

* The ELBA organizing committee has agreed that smaller churches will be given preference on locations.

Smaller churches should consider partnering with each other or with larger churches.

* The goal is to provide a united effort by our churches as well as reaching people with the gospel.

* Our Block Party Training Team includes Jeremy Glascock (Colyell), David Lane (Judson), and Robbie Isom (Judson). Contact one of these men if you have any questions.

* Lunch will be provided.

Current Churches who are holding block parties are:

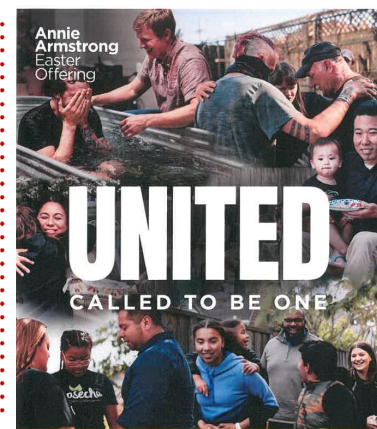
Colyell	Christ's Community	Judson
Live Oak Baptist	FBC, Denham Springs	The Way, Denham Springs

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Week of Prayer
March 5-12, 2023

North American Missions

www.anniearmstrong.com



Ministry News

Amite Church is hosting a **FREE** gospel concert on **Saturday, March 4 at 6:00pm**. A love donation will be received at the conclusion of the concert, and all donations will be given to Sound Radio (KPAE 91.5FM / WPAE 89.7FM).

We hope to see you there, and please feel free to invite family and friends! Remember, this is a **FREE** concert! Doors will open at 5:30pm, and the concert will begin at 6:00pm.

Katelynn Curtis,

Ministry Assistant

Email: kcurtis@amitechurch.org

Work: 225-665-2762

Cell: 337-304-9671



Cost: \$10 (includes boxed lunch)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 28

This is VBS training and so much more!

Register at: [2023 KidMin Expo \(South\) - Louisiana Baptists](#)

Join us on March 4. There will still be full training for Lifeway VBS along with some previews of other VBS opportunities. There will also be training for small group leaders, Wednesday night leaders, special event leaders, and anyone that works with children. So gather your group, register your group, and join our group for a GREAT day of being better.

Schedule: Registration: 8:00am, Opening Rally: 9:00am, and Dismissal: 3:00pm

GLASSES FOR HONDURAS

A team of 9 will be leaving for a Honduras Mission Trip April 10-14, 2023 from New Bethlehem Baptist Church. They have been asked by the Honduras church they work with to bring old glasses, reader glasses, and sun glasses for all ages. They are asking that you please do NOT donate broken glasses.

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL EYEGLASS COLLECTION DRIVE

- 1 APPOINT A COLLECTION PROJECT CHAIRPERSON. (NOTE: THIS PERSON MAY NEED ADDITIONAL HELPERS FOR PUBLICITY, COLLECTING, PACKING)
- 2 CHOOSE YOUR COLLECTION SITES. (IE: SCHOOL, CHURCH, LIBRARY, LOCAL BUSINESSES, PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT)
- 3 PROMOTE YOUR COLLECTION DRIVE IN YOUR SCHOOL, CHURCH OR LOCAL NEWSLETTER.
- 4 SPREAD THE WORD AMONG YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF OTHER GROUPS TO WHICH YOU BELONG.
- 5 PREPARE YOUR COLLECTION BOX(ES). USE ANY RECEPTACLE YOU WISH AND ATTACH THE PRE-MADE SIGNS.
- 6 PLACE YOUR COLLECTION BOX(ES) IN AREAS WHERE THEY WILL BE MOST VISIBLE AND EXPOSED TO THE MOST AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC.
- 7 CHECK LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENTS AT HOTELS, STORES, SCHOOLS, ETC. FOR UNCLAIMED GLASSES.
- 8 WHEN YOUR COLLECTION BOXES ARE FULL, YOU CAN DROP THEM OFF AT THE ELBA MINISTRIES CENTER, LOCATED AT 9126 COMAR DR, WALKER, LA 70785.

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Randall Gill at 225-963-7848 or randallgill@gmail.com

Thursday, April 20th
Guinn Auditorium @ 11:00am

Senior Adult HymnFest

Featuring:

**Scotty Blackwell
Ben Waites
& Dr. Rick Brewer**

No cost for event.
Food Trucks will be available to purchase lunch.

More Ministry News

The Christian Social Services Team Updates

Meet **Bridgett Dickson**—She has been called to the position of our Associational Foster Care and Adoption Ministry Coordinator. She will develop, organize, and coordinate associational foster care and adoption ministries with member churches. Her responsibilities will be to: develop, organize, and coordinate associational foster care and adoption ministries; recruit and secure foster care and adoption ministry directors for each church within the association; provide basic training for church directors to develop associational foster care and adoption ministries; provide ongoing support and training for church directors; present foster care and adoption ministry reports to the association; develop relationships with the Department of Children and Family Services and other area community partners to identify existing resources and understand ongoing needs within the local foster care community; and serve as a point-of-contact for DCFS and community partners to disseminate information related to foster care/adoption among churches within the association. She will be contacting your church soon!



Meet **Ellie Hughes**—She is our newest Counselor Intern with The Christian Counseling Center. Ellie is a 2017 graduate of Doyle High School and holds a BA in Communication from Southeastern Louisiana University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Ellie uses an integrative approach to counseling including techniques from Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, Play Therapy, and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. She also serves as the children's ministry intern at Hebron

Baptist Church. For appointments, she can be reached at 225/664-0760.

EASTERN LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

for the school year
2023 - 2024

Completed forms are to be returned to the ELBA office no later than April 14, '23.

Scholarship awards will be reported in the May 1, 2023 Executive Board meeting.

Completed applications should be returned to:

ELBA Scholarship
Committee
P O Box 305
Walker, LA 70785

Contact the ELBA Office for an application

Eastern Louisiana Baptist Association RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Walker, LA 70785

PO Box 305 ❖ 9126 Comar Drive
Walker LA 70785

PH (225) 664-9309 FAX (225) 664-9349
www.elbmissions.org info@elbmissions.org

Dr. Richard Blue
Associational Missions Coordinator
richardblue8@gmail.com
(225) 305-0675

The next ELBA Newsletter will be mailed in May. Updates will be emailed as needed. If you are not presently on our email list and would like to be included, please send the information to info@elbmissions.org.



ELBA Leadership Meeting REMINDERS

Association Council Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2023
ELBA Office—10:00am

Executive Board Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023
Riverside Baptist Church
Hwy 16, Denham Springs, LA
5:30pm Meal 6:30pm Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesdays Pastor Prayer Time—10:00am

MARCH 2023

- 4 DR Training - FBC Lafayette
Kid Min Expo – Greenwell Springs BC
- 5-10 Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering – NAMB
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 18 DR Training – FBC Covington
- 23 Lifeway’s Essential Conf. - FBC, DS
- 27 LBC Luncheon – The Way Church, DS
- 31 Senior Fest – NOBTS

APRIL 2023

- 2 Personal Evangelism Day
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 **Easter Sunday**
- 16 Baptism Sunday
- 17 **Association Council – 10am ELBA**
- 21-22 EMBRACE Women’s Conf. – Natchitoches

MAY 2023

- 1 **Executive Board – 6:30pm Riverside**
- 6 M-JAM, Tall Timbers
- 7 SBC Seminary Day
- 14 Mother’s Day
- 21 Children’s Ministry Day

