

October 2026

The Connector

Smith Baptist Association
3226 Old Jacksonville Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701 • 903-581-6139



From the Director of Missions

David L. Jones

It always amazes me when Labor Day sneaks up on me! Pushing through the heat and sometimes misery of “the dog days of August” in East Texas should help me be excited to see that holiday appear! I know many parents are excited that their students are getting back into school routines that will carry them until the May breakout jubilee; for some reason, September always seems almost like a surprise. I guess it is because I haven’t finished everything I planned to accomplish! I hope that is not your story for the summer of 2026. I pray that you and your church were blessed with an exciting summer ministry, and that many have come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord, while others have deepened their relationship with the Lord.

October also brings one of the most controversial holidays on our calendars. To some, Halloween is just a playful time of dress-up costumes and candy for the children. While others deem it the most unholy time of the year, as it is the Satanist high time of the year. Because of this issue, many churches are planning a Fall Festival so that believers can have a safe alternative for bringing their children to play games with friends, enjoy fun and costumes, hear wholesome Christian music, and still get a candy rush that will carry over for several days afterward. If your church is planning one of these Fall Festivals, I pray it will bring joy to all those who attend, provide an opportunity to minister in the name of Jesus to many who do not know Him, help people overcome any fear and anxiety regarding Christians and His Church, and show that believers know how to have fun!

Also, please note the announcements about the new pastors joining the SBA Family. Let us rejoice with these church families that God has answered their prayers for direction in seeking leadership for their respective churches. Fellow pastors, drop these new guys a note of welcome to the SBA Family! Their information is included in this edition of the newsletter.

And thank you for allowing me to be your Director of Missions. Please feel free to contact our office should a need arise for which we can be of service.

Blessings,
Brother David

Happy Birthday

- 10-2 Rev. Mickey Matlock, Pleasant Hill BC
- 10-10 Rev. Jeremiah Dollgener, FBC Swan
- 10-13 Rev. David Mahfood, Gateway BC
- 10-20 Dr. Maurice McMillion, Faith BC
- 10-28 Rev. Mike Midkiff, Faith BC, Quitman

Happy Anniversary

- 10-1-2003 Rev. Mike Morrow
Cross Brand Church
- 10-5-1996 Dr. James Hawkins
Higher Heights Baptist Church
- 10-14-2024 Rev. Scott Moore
Tyland Baptist Church

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE TIME AGAIN!




It's That Time Again! have any questions, contact Paula at 903-581-6139.

For Texas Baptist
<https://www.texasbaptists.org/ministries/church-administration/annual-church-profile>

For Southern Baptist of Texas
<https://sbtexas.com/annual-church-profile/>

Welcome to Smith Baptist Association



FBC Big Sandy Rev. Nate Paine

Unanimously called by the church on September. 20 2026. Welcome to Nate, Laura, and their six children. They have lived in Big Sandy for several years.



FBC Hawkins Pastor Mitchell Yost

Pastor Yost and his wife, Sarah, and five children joined FBC Hawkins on August 2, 2026.



FBC Mineola Rev. Jason Queen

Unanimously called by the church on September 27, 2026. Welcome to Esther and three children: Hannah, Bethel, and Moses. His first Sunday will be October 25th.



Carmel Baptist Church

Dr. Scotty Short preaching on Ezekiel 47:1-5 “Come On In, The Water’s Fine”
Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 for Sunday School, and 11:00 for Worship Service.
Wednesday evenings Bible Study starts at 6:30pm (come at 6:00 for a snack).
Dr. Short has been with Carmel BC since early May, 2026.



SERVE ARP 2026!
 This is the group of people who gathered this morning, ready to head out into our community and SERVE!

Today, AEBC stepped outside the walls of our church and became the hands and feet of Jesus right here in Arp. Our teams headed out to write letters of encouragement to those in nursing homes and the homebound, serve at Arp City Park, help at We Care Too, tackle yard work, and build a ramp for someone in our community.

We are so thankful for every person who gave their time, energy, and heart to make our first-ever Serve Arp Day such a special morning!

This picture represents more than just a group of people — it represents a church family willing to GO, SERVE, LOVE, and MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our community. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve... Mark 10:45

If your church has an event we can help publicize, please contact paula@smithbaptist.org. Include any printed materials you are using to promote the event.

Thank you for allowing us to help you!

Smith Baptist Association



Took place on September 27th, at 3pm at the St. Paul Bapt. Church - Jacksonville, TX. for the 3rd annual "Men's Gathering."

SAVE THE DATE!



RSVP by October 12th

RA TURKEY SHOOT + CAMPOUT

October 16-17, 2026
Timberline Baptist Camp

\$10 per person, plus \$5 per meal
(Friday - **Sammy Joe Gathoun & Martha Jean Gathoun**)

Each group will bring an adult meal to share. Provide them.
Family Scholarship for Ministerial studies. Deadline is 9-1-2026.
Ask your RA leader about your group's meal arrangements.

SEE YOUR RA LEADER TO REGISTER

For questions contact Nick Wiggins
903-520-1265
ra.smithbaptist@gmail.com



WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Turkey Shoot 2026

Schedule

Friday

2:00-7:00 PM - Church groups arrive, set up camp, and horse around. We will be tent/hammock camping at Camp Kobe.
7:00 PM - Dinner
8:30 PM - Fireside chat

Saturday

Breakfast (Kirk's famous breakfast burritos)
9:00 AM - Marksmanship Events
11:30 AM - Lunch
12:30 PM - Team building challenges
-Awards/Clean up
3:00 PM -Hang out or head home

SMITH COUNTY BAPTIST MINISTER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created through the generosity of a donor who was the child of a Baptist minister. This scholarship will be awarded to dependent children of ordained Baptist ministers serving congregations in Smith County, Texas, that are members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

This scholarship is awarded for one year. Recipients may reapply as long as their parent remains a Smith County Baptist Minister.

The following will be required with your on-line application:

- A screenshot of your high school or current college transcript.
- One reference completed by a teacher who has in-classroom experience with you and a character reference.
- A letter from your church stating that your parent is an ordained minister serving a congregation that is in Smith County, and a member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

You can start your application process at:

www.etcf.org/scholarships/available-scholarships

High School Residency - graduating senior or graduate public, private high school, homeschool. Preference is given to individuals that are a member in good standing of the Smith Baptist Association.

GPA - at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

College/University Attending - May attend any accredited college or university in Texas.

College Major - a field related to ministerial studies that would prepare them for a career in the ministry.

Financial - FAFSA required

Length of Support - Renewable for up to 3 years or until the degree program is completed for a total of 4 years.

<https://etcf.org/scholarships/available-scholarships/>



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

TRACTOR TREAT 2026



Wednesday, October 28th
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Candy, Food, Tractor Hayrides, Inflatables, Photobooth, Dunk Tank
and so much more free fun for the whole family!

TRAVELIN' TOM'S COFFEE TRUCK

Coffee truck on site for additional purchase
Scan QR code for more information



Church Staff Vacancies

Churches Celebrating Milestones

Noonday Baptist Church - 150 years - October 11, 2026, Rev. Scott Gorbett
16701 CR 196 Tyler TX 75703-2422

Antioch Baptist Church - 175 years - October 11, 2026, Rev. Stephen Nipp
14321 CR 1252 Tyler 75709-6133

Sharon Baptist Church - 150 years - November 8, 2026, Rev. Erik Switzer
12216 Fm 3226 Arp 75750-9310



BRECKENRIDGE VILLAGE Presents

A MORNING OF WORSHIP & PRAYER
— Generation to Generation —

 **OCTOBER 22ND**
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

 **MEHLING CENTER**
15062 FM 1145
Tyler, TX 75704

REGISTER FOR FREE!



Coffee Donuts Fellowship Prayer in the A.M.

You are invited to attend

SBA OFFICE - 10/14
2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.
3226 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75701

FBC MINEOLA - 10/21
3rd Wednesday of each Month at 8:30 a.m.
204 N. Johnson St., Mineola, TX 75773

**JUNTAS MENSUALES
PARA PASTORES BAUTISTAS
HISPANOS**

SABADO, 10/11
Smith Baptist Association Office

**Para Mas Informaciones
Contactar (903) 780-7902**

This Pastor's Conference was held at Tyland Baptist Church. October 1-3. Twenty East Texas Pastors and wives attended.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Jose Sanchez 903-780-7902.



CONFERENCIA DE PASTORES 2026

DE 1-3 de Octubre de 2025
Tyler, Texas

Hosts: FABIO Y MÓNICA CASTELLANOS (HOSTS)

Mas informacion (903) 780-7902 Jose Sanchez

