The SBA Connector

March 2026

facebook

STAFF VACANCIES

I am amazed at how different this past February has been here in East Texas; we have run the gamut from freezing ice to 80-degree spring-like days. It is so confusing to know how to plan one's wardrobe! As I have visited area churches, I have noticed how difficult HVAC folks have been treated, heat today and A/C tomorrow. Many years ago, as a college student at Calvary BC with Dr. Johnny Beard, I had the privilege of being that HVAC guy, along with my other custodial duties. My heart goes out to all the guys and gals who help keep our church facilities running smoothly and efficiently. You folks are often the unsung heroes of our church families. Please accept these words of encouragement, and thank you for all you do to help ensure that our ministries are more successful for God's Kingdom.

Let me encourage you to make calendar notes about the variety of ministry opportunities promoted in our monthly newsletters. We want all SBA churches to share your ministry emphasis with us so that we can promote and encourage the greater SBA Family to be mindful, engaged, and supportive of everything we do collectively to reach people for Jesus. The following are things we wish to highlight for your attention and prayerful support.

- Church Messenger Updates, Connect Church & SBA Websites, SBA Student Scholarships,
- TJC & UTT Beach Reach, Assn. Bible Drill on 4/11 & State Bible Drill on 4/25 at Flint BC,
- Pastor/Staff fellowship: ***CDPF-AM (Coffee, Doughnut, Prayer, Fellowship*** @ 8:30 am) on the 2nd Wednesday-SBA Office, 3rd Wednesday-TBD & 4th Wednesday-TBD (Starting in April '26),
- July Semi-Annual Meeting with a focus on Evangelism – date, time & place TBD,
- Churches seeking a pastor: Dean BC, FBC Big Sandy, FBC Hawkins, FBC Mineola, Hopewell BC, New Generation, and Pine Springs BC.

It was a privilege to attend Dean BC service, where they honored Dr. Bob Sexton as Pastor Emeritus, along with his wife, Sue, and their extended family. I also thoroughly enjoyed sitting in on Ian Wade's excellent Wednesday night Bible Study on eschatology at Westwood BC. I am so blessed to be your Director of Missions, and I hope to visit your church in the very near future. Should you have a need or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Blessings!
Bro. David

Congratulations to Dr. Bob Sexton. On Sunday, February 15, 2026, Dean Baptist Church bestowed the honorable title of Pastor Emeritus on Dr. Sexton. May God continue to bless you as you continue your journey with Him.

(pictured with the Sexton Family)

TRAINING SESSION

HANDLING PROTESTERS

This training event will equip church leaders and safety teams to respond wisely and legally if protesters come onto church property or attempt to disrupt a service.
Participants will hear from local law enforcement, an attorney, and church safety directors as they walk through real-world scenarios Together, they will outline practical policies, communication plans, and roles so that churches can protect their people, honor their testimony, and work in partnership with authorities while respecting everyone's legal rights.

Thursday, March 19, 2026 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Flint Baptist Church
11131 FM 2868, Flint, TX 75762

Register on the Events Page at
www.Txchurchsecurity.com

Smith Baptist Association Scholarship Opportunities

East Texas Communities Foundation is offering scholarships for the 2026-27 academic year and will begin accepting submissions on January 1, 2026.

Deadline for all applications will be March 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

ETCF will offer their matching feature on the scholarship application website. This is the best place for students to start the process. The matching questionnaire, a list of all 2026 ETCF scholarships and detailed eligibility requirements are located on ETCF website at **http://etcf.org/scholarships/available-scholarships/**

• Sammy Joe and Martha Jean Calhoun Family Scholarship for Ministerial Studies

- Major in a field related to ministerial studies that would prepare them for a career in the ministry (including, but not limited to, areas such as pastoral ministry, youth ministry, Christian ministry, religious studies, missionary studies, etc.)
- GPA of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in his or her high school studies
- Preference for a member in good standing of the Smith Baptist Association
- Attend an accredited college or university in the state of Texas as a full-time student

• Smith County Baptist Ministers Scholarship

- GPA of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in his or her high school or college studies (prior recipients may re-apply)
- Dependent children of ordained Baptist ministers serving congregations in Smith County, Texas, that are members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas
- Attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student

Certificate in Ministry Course Schedule

- Introduction to Missions (MIN 1126.01)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

$175 per course
(includes BGCT scholarship)
or $50 course audit fee

Dr. Danny Pickens, Instructor

ETBU.edu/cim /903.923.2180/ christianstudies@ETBU.edu

March Birthdays

Mar. 6 - Dr. Kelly Burton
FBC Alba

Mar. 17 - Rev. Carl George
Macedonia, Chandler

Mar. 18 - Rev. Scott Moore
Tyland, Tyler

Mar. 19 - Rev. Chris Legg
South Spring, Tyler

Mar. 25 - Rev. Bruce Rudd
Mt. Sylvan, Lindale

Mar. 30 - Bro. Kenward Goode
East Lake, Chandler

Happy Anniversary

Mar. 6 - Dr. Tom Buck
3-6-06 FBC Lindale

Mar. 13 - Rev. Pike Wisner
3-13-11 FBC Tyler

CROSS BRAND PRESENTS

THINGS Above

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:2

MARCH 7, 2026 | 9:00 - 4:30

CROSS BRAND | TYLER, TEXAS

Deaf Friendly Conference | Interpreters Provided

Ticket Price:

$50

PURCHASE TICKETS

ALISA CHILDERS

CANDACE PAYNE

HILLARY MORGAN FERRER

AMY DAVISON

Encouraging women to rise above cultural confusion and anchor their faith in the unchanging truth of God's Word.

(903) 535-9155 | @CROSSBRANDCC | CBCCTX.ORG | 11915 FM 2015 TYLER, TX

CROSS BRAND COWBOY CHURCH · TYLER, TEXAS

IN CONCERT

Chuck Crain

FROM PRESLEYS' BRANSON & RFD TV

Sunday March 1, 2026 5:00pm—6:15pm

Pine Springs Baptist Church

2155 CR 334 Tyler, Tx 75708

903-520-8389

Everyone Welcome!

Love offering requested!

Sunday, March 1, 2026

5:00-6:15 p.m.

Pine Springs Baptist Church

2155 CR 334, Tyler, TX 75708

BSM News • • •

The UT Tyler and TJC Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) participate in Beach Reach, an annual spring break mission trip (**March 7-14, 2026**) to South Padre Island, offering free van rides, midnight breakfast, and beach evangelism to share the gospel with college students. Coordinated by UT Tyler BSM Director Joe Osteen, this initiative focuses on meeting physical needs to create opportunities for sharing Christ. - Baptist Press

Key Details for UT Tyler & TJC BSM Beach Reach:

Purpose: To serve, love, and share the gospel with college students on spring break.
Activities: Providing free safe rides, serving midnight breakfast, and direct beach evangelism.
Cost: Approximately $500.
Impact: In 2023, the initiative across Texas resulted in 17,765 safe rides, nearly 10,000 gospel conversations, and 183 professions of faith.
Sign-up: Interested students can register via the UT Tyler BSM website. UT Tyler BSM

Joe Osteen, a key leader in the statewide initiative, notes that Beach Reach acts as a "concentrated gospel opportunity" in the midst of the spring break party environment.

Tyler Junior College BSM: Get Involved for other activities taking place on the TJC Campus.

R.A.s & G.A.s

G.A.
Mini Camp &
G.A. Day
2026
Friendship

March 20-21, 2026
Timberline Baptist Camp
Lindale, TX.
$35 per person for Saturday
$75 per person for Friday-Saturday

"This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; 10 that you will see the difference between good and bad and choose the good; that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ." Philippians 1:9-10 (ICB)

Daughters of the King

G.A. Camp 2026

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord. Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

Timberline Baptist Camp
Lindale, TX.

May 29-June 2
$230 per person

RA Camp Out at Camp Tyler

New Event!

February 27-March 1, 2026
Camp Tyler
Whitehouse, TX

- Tent camping
- Canoeing
- Fireside Devotionals
- Food and Fellowship

See your RA leader to register

For questions, email us at ra.smithbaptist@gmail.com

We are ambassadors for Christ - 2 Cor. 5:20

Royal Ambassadors Super Saturday

April 18th, 2026
3:00-7:00 PM
Southside Baptist Church

GAs are invited to participate!

Registration for competitors: $6
Meal combo: $6
Other concessions available
All proceeds directly benefit SBA RAs

Only RA-approved cars are allowed to race (except in the "Outlaw" class)

Get your kits and rules from Kirk or Ben at ra.smithbaptist@gmail.com

RA Camp 2026 at Timberline

Mark your calendars for this summer's RA camp! From outdoor adventure and lasting friendships to missionary testimonies and intentional discipleship, it's going to be another great year.

May 29th-June 2nd
Timberline Baptist Camp
15363 FM 849, Lindale, TX 75771

Registration opens soon.
All registrations, paperwork, and payments will go through your RA leader.

RA Camp
At Timberline Baptist Camp

2026

WHEN:
May 29th-June 2nd

WHO:
Boys who have completed 2nd grade-11th grade

HOW MUCH:
$245 per camper
($50 deposit due May 11th)

Early bird discount! Register by May 1st and pay $235

Mini Camp Option

Any camper has the option of staying only 2 nights.
Cost is $150 ($25 deposit due May 11th)

Questions? Email us at ra.smithbaptist@gmail.com

Printable Medical Release

. . . On the Road

Thursday, April 30th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
location TBD

Pastor/Staff Fellowship, Encouragement, and Resource-filled Lunch Workshop

Topics to be included are Leadership, Spiritual Formation/Discipleship, and Church Revitalization. This is not a conference, but a casual lunch to share resources and discuss pastoral and staff ministry issues. The leadership team consists of Jeff Lynn, Senior Strategist for Church Health and Leadership, Phil Todd, Spiritual Formation Team Leader, and Anthony Svajda, Pastoral Ministries Associate.

This event is open to any church in the Smith Baptist Association that would like to strengthen its opportunities to enhance its ministries.

Sponsored by Southern Baptist of Texas Convention

Adults 55+ Car Show
Sat, Apr 18, 2026 8 AM - 3 PM

FBC Adults 55+ invites your family to our 2026 annual Car Show! Bring your pop-ups, lawn chairs, and a good pair of walking shoes, and enjoy over 100 of East Texas's best show rides.

Registration: 8AM-10AM
- *Free (Donations benefit Flint Missions)*
- *Plenty of Trailer Parking*
- *Pre-Registration is Optional*
- *Vendor Setup: 8AM-10AM*
- *Vendors must pre-register by April 11th to secure a spot*

Contact Information:
Email: events@flintbc.net
Call: 903-894-7649