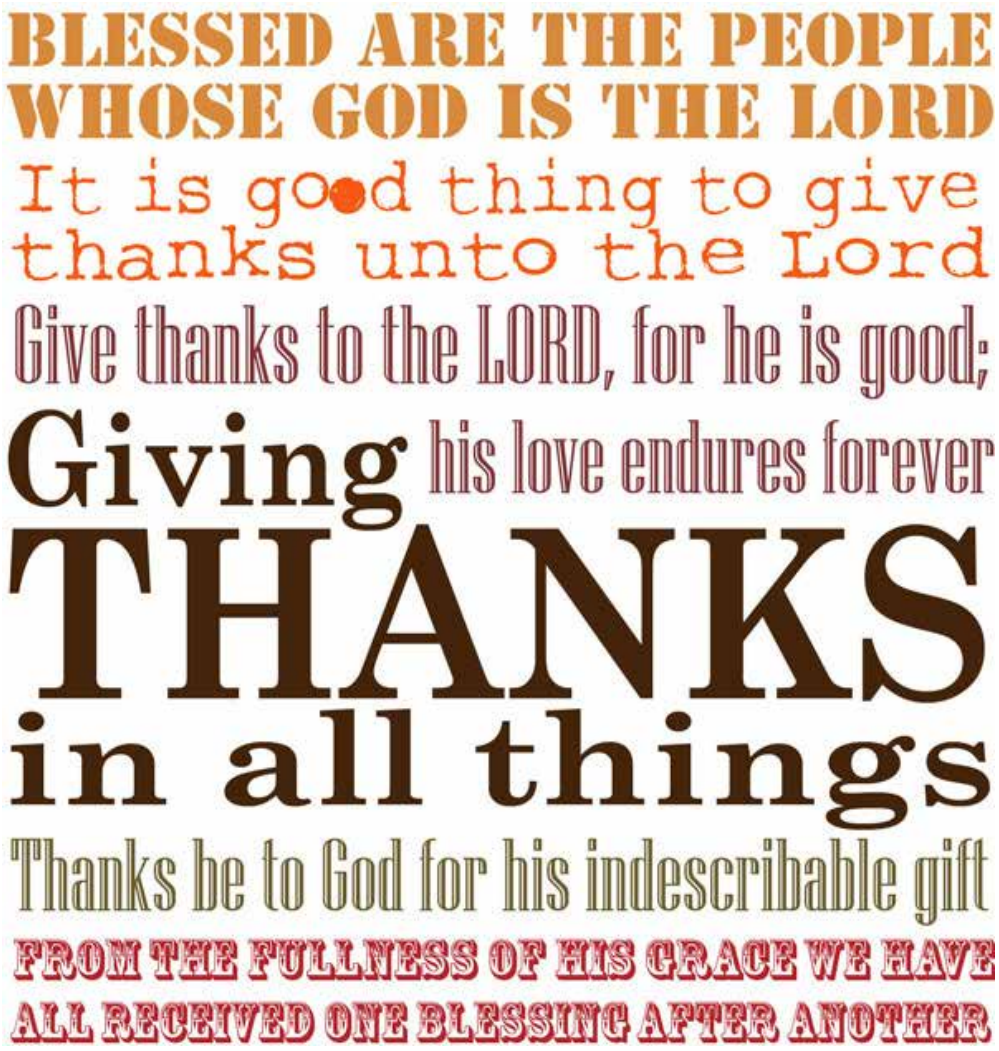


November 2026

The Connector

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

facebook



SBA

The SBA Office will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26th and re-open on Monday, Nov. 30th. 8:30 a.m.



From the Director of Missions

David L. Jones

It is a beautiful fall day as I write this article, and I am so thankful that the Lord saw fit to give us four different seasons to enjoy. Each has its distinctives by design, and fall is one of my favorites. The fresh cool breezes, brilliant foliage colors, and anticipation of two of the most celebratory holidays of the calendar year – Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is such a great time to be a member of the East Texas community and especially the SBA Family! I trust that you and your church family feel the same way as we focus on launching a new church year along with looking to finish 2026 well.

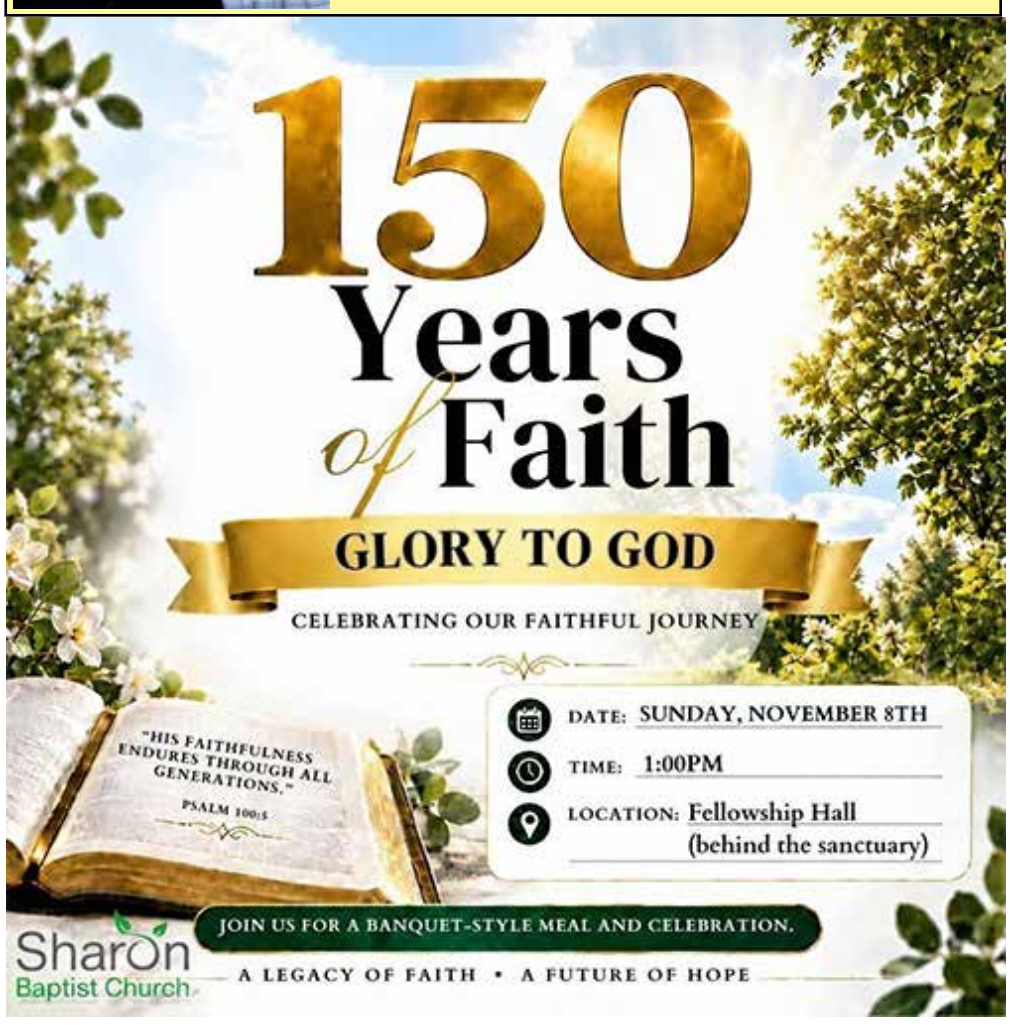
This SBA Connector highlights several SBA church activities celebrating anniversaries and community outreach events that we wish to promote so that we can all rejoice in what the Lord is doing among us. The new Brag' N Post features the results of what has happened in our SBA Churches as a continuation of the promotional listings in previous editions. If you wish to have your church included in these special features, please send a copy of your promotional material to Paula@smithbaptist.org by the second week of the month prior to the following month's publication. Also, please send your pictures and/or report highlights to Paula ASAP after the event. We all want to celebrate what the Lord is doing in the hearts and lives of His people, because these testimonies are a tremendous encouragement to everyone!

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have been privileged to attend the SBCT Annual Meeting at FBC Forney on October 25-27, where I was asked to help man the Texas Baptist Directors of Missions Association's booth. Several SBA pastors and staff are scheduled to attend, and I look forward to sharing some ministry time with them. I am also scheduled to attend the Texas Baptist Annual Meeting in Waco on November 15 -17 to help man the Texas Baptist Directors of Missions Association's booth again. There, too, are several SBA pastors and staff scheduled to attend, providing an opportunity to spend some ministry time with them as well. Please continue to pray for all our church leaders - local, state, national, and international - as we strive to present the Gospel to a lost and dying world. My prayer is that we will all always be people of the Bible and committed to the Great Commission!

Blessings,
Brother David



Welcome to Smith Baptist Association
Gaitha & Steve Athans
He is Part-Time Music Director
Tyland Baptist Church, Tyler
October 4, 2026
Moved from Colombia, Missouri





Happy Birthday to You…



November 1 **Dr. Michael Gossett**
Green Acres Baptist, Tyler

November 6 **Rev. Roger Hickman**
Whitehouse Baptist Fellowship, Whitehouse

November 21 **Dr. Gil Lain**
Bethel Baptist, Tyler

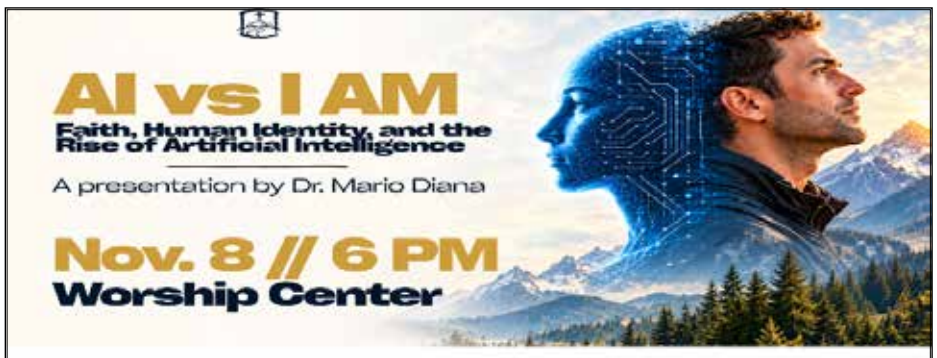
Staff Vacancies in SBA





November 11th- SBC office - 8:30 a.m.
November 18th - FBC Mineola - 8:30 a.m.

Don't forget to RSVP if you are planning to attend 903-581-6139 or paula@smithbaptist.org.



AI vs. I AM: A Presentation by Dr. Diana

Sun, Nov 8, 2026 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Flint Baptist Church

AI vs I AM: Faith, Human Identity, and the Rise of Artificial Intelligence

Join us for an evening with Dr. Mario Diana as he explores artificial intelligence, human…

See Details



Annual Church Profile

Due Monday, November 2nd

Return to
Smith Baptist Association
3226 Old Jacksonville Hwy. , Tyler, TX 75701
or paula@smithbaptist.org

Sammy Joe Calhoun & Martha Jean Calhoun Family Scholarship for Ministerial studies.

Deadline is 3-1-2027.

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.

ETCF
East Texas Communities Foundation
Simplified Charitable Giving

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

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

Questions?
East Texas Communities Foundation
903.533.0208 or 1.866.533.3823

Application opens January 1, 2027, and closes March 1, 2027

ETCF
East Texas Communities Foundation

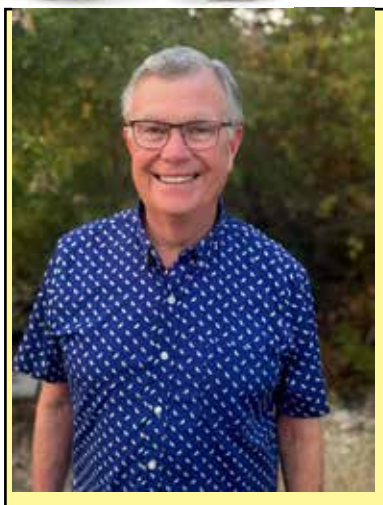




A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT OUR ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT AND CAMP OUT!



The new Brag' N Post features the results of what has happened in our SBA Churches as a continuation to the promotional listings in previous editions. If you wish to have your church included in these special features, please send a copy of your promotional material to Paula by the second week of the month prior to the following month's publication. If questions, contact Paula at 903-581-6139 or paula@smithbaptist.org.



Pastor, Dr. Gil Lain, will be receiving the ***"Leaders Legacy Award"*** from the SBTC. This will be announced at the annual meeting in Forney.

This is given once a year to only one pastor in the state of Texas.

The Leaders Legacy Award is an annual honor established in 2021 by the Southern Baptists of Texas Foundation (SBTF) and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) Executive Board's Executive Committee.

Purpose & Funding Recognition: Honors individuals who have distinguished themselves through dedicated service to Christ via the SBTC or the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Endowment: Funded through an initial corpus and ongoing support from the foundation's Leaders Legacy Endowment. Congratulations! Dr. Gil. Proud that you are part of the Smith Baptist Association.

Dr. Gil Lain, Bethel Baptist Church, Tyler

submitted by church member

Antioch Baptist Celebrates 175 years

The first picture is of all in attendance for our 175th Anniversary. Second is receiving the declaration of October 13 being ***"Antioch Baptist Church Day in Smith County"*** by the members of the County Commissioners Court. ***submitted by Pastor Stephen Nipp***





First Baptist Alba

celebrated their 25 year Silver Celebration in their remodeled sanctuary on Oct. 25th. Along with the celebration they included an Appreciation Celebration for their pastor and wife Dr. Kelly and Karen Burton. They have served FBC for 15 years and are looking forward to many more.



FBC Tyler, Marvin Methodist, and Christ Church Episcopal joined together for their 3rd-year Block Party ***submitted on Facebook***

Our 3rd annual Brick Street Block Party filled downtown Tyler with families, laughter, and so much fun! We loved partnering with Marvin Methodist Church and Christ Church Episcopal to serve our community together in the name of Jesus Christ.
To every volunteer who gave their time and energy to make this night possible - THANK YOU! Your hospitality and hard work helped our neighbors feel welcome and loved.

And a special shoutout to Clayton Cox and Pastor Pike Wisner for being such good sports about getting pied in the face after receiving the most candy donations! Now that's a sweet victory!







