

Northeast Baptist
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February 2026

The Connection



TOGETHER

2026

A Cooperative Listening Tour

February 19 at 9:30 A.M.
NELBA office

Dr. Steve Horn will be here to listen to you and discuss our commitment to the Cooperative Program. He is having meetings throughout the state in 2026.



Annie
Armstrong
Easter
Offering

YOUR GENEROSITY IS
more than a gift

Week of Prayer is March 1 – 8

 North American
Mission Board

AnnieArmstrong.com
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is a registered trademark of WMSU

100% of your gifts
fuel missionaries
and their ministries

From the Associational Mission Strategist



In the summer of 1986, I surrendered to the gospel ministry. It wasn't a formal thing, but a statement to God that I recognized that he had set me apart to do something for Him. I thought it was to be an international missionary, but I didn't really know. I just knew I was available. I had the capacity to do other things professionally, but the calling to do God's thing weighed on my heart.

I went to seminary kicking and screaming. I was called to ministry, but I was already tired of sacrifice at the age of 22 after 4 years of college. I grew up without money and married into little money. I knew entering a full-time Master of Divinity program would take at least two and a half years. This was a commitment to leanness for a couple of newlyweds. My wife worked in a department store, and I was a security guard working night shift. It wasn't easy.

One thing I saw at the seminary that benefited me was a number of really sharp people who had significant potential for greatness in the secular world but chose sacrifice to serve God. I remember doctors, CPAs, engineers, and corporate executives that surrendered to ministry that were much older than me and were submitting to training. I went to New Orleans Seminary with the starting quarterback from the University of South Carolina and a fullback that played in the backfield with Bo Jackson at Auburn. These people could have done other things that people would have applauded.

The call to ministry is generally not convenient and it leads to service that is often not glamorous or lucrative. However, it is driven by an inward compulsion of the Spirit that is not grasping for physical things but is tuned into a frequency that most don't hear.

When is the last time you told your pastor & staff, "Thank you for answering the call of God"? When is the last time you approached your pastor and said, "I appreciate that you obeyed God and love me"? Have you ever commented to those who lead your congregation, "I know you could be doing other things, but thank you for being God's hands, feet, and voice to me"?

If you ever look at your pastor and think, "He looks tired", it is because he is. The call is heavy, the responsibility is great, and the appreciation is often lacking.

After reading this, I want to challenge you to regularly consider how you can build up the Man of God who is trying to build up you. His calling is to present God's truth to you. Your calling is to make that easier.

I am recruiting "Pastoral Encouragers". Will you answer the call?

Steven L. Kelly
Associational Mission Strategist

Congratulations on your February Anniversary!

- ✝ **Jacob Bailey**, children's ministry associate ~ 2 years ~ North Monroe
- ✝ **Kyle Bryan**, pastor ~ 4 years ~ Clark Springs, Eros
- ✝ **Gordan "Skip" Dean**, pastor ~ **35 years** ~ Highland, West Monroe
- ✝ **Larry Eubanks**, pastor ~ 2 years ~ Watson, West Monroe
- ✝ **Bill Haley**, music minister ~ **10 years** ~ Clark Springs, Eros
- ✝ **Elizabeth Miller**, women's ministry director ~ 3 years ~ North Monroe
- ✝ **Willie Jean Shields** ~ financial secretary ~ 36 years ~ Highland, West Monroe
- ✝ **Travis White**, young married adults minister ~ 1 year ~ First West Monroe

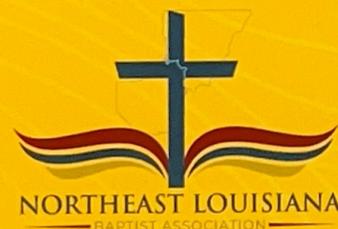


SEND RELIEF SERVE TOUR MONROE

In cities across the United States, Send Relief is working with churches to identify pressing needs. Send Relief staff will provide team trainings, prayer guides, debriefings and rallies to help encourage and equip them on mission. Churches can participate in this nationwide service event free of charge.

Volunteers will help in communities in Monroe, Louisiana, by serving local churches, bivocational pastors, low-income schools and other organizations needing assistance. Projects may include light construction, painting, landscaping and hosting neighborhood grill walks or block parties.

In association with:



servetour.org

August 21 – 22, 2026



Churches Connecting

First West Monroe – Men’s Forge Conference will be Saturday, February 7. Join us for a day of spiritual growth and fellowship as you navigate how to be a leader in your home, workplace and life. All men are encouraged to attend. Register at <https://forgedmen.cc/>.

Loch Arbor – They will have a weekend revival from February 27 through March 1. The guest preacher will be Dr. Terry Young, pastor of Airline Baptist, Bossier City. Everyone is invited!

Positions Available:

Pastor – Cheniere, Emmanuel, Oak Hill

Worship Leader – Highland, Watson

Students/Youth – Cypress

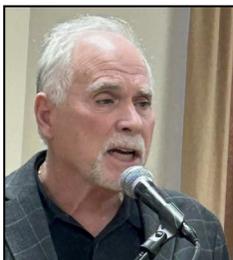
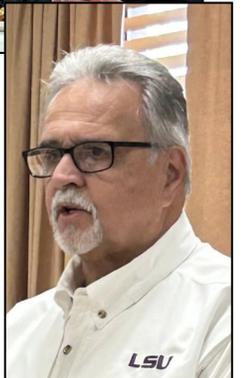
Children’s Minister – New Chapel Hill, Mt. Vernon (part-time)

Musician – Pine Grove, (pianist or guitarist) If interested call 318.669.4790.

Connection Deadline: February 15.



Our Annual Senior Pastors’ Retreat was held January 10 & 11. Thanks goes out to our speakers Dr. Reggie Bridges (Temple, Ruston), Kevin Richard (director, Granberry Counseling Center) and AMS Steve Kelly. Worship was led by Neill Roshto (First, Swartz).



Our first unified Executive Board meeting of the Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association was held January 20 at First Baptist Church in Bastrop. On January 1, our two associations formally became one.



Calendar of Events

Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association

February 2026

- 2 **Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship & Prayer,**
8:00 A.M. at Associational Center. All pastors & staff are invited.
- 12 **Book Study continues**
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 19 **Steve Horn's Listening Tour,** 9:30 A.M., at Associational Center
- 24 **Pastor/Staff Informal Lunch,** 11:30 A.M., El Paso, 165 North, Monroe. Dutch Treat.
- 26 **Book Study continues**

March 2026

- 2 **Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship & Prayer,**
8:00 A.M. at Associational Center. All pastors & staff are invited.
- 11 **Book Study Continues**
- 17 **Pastor/Staff Fellowship,** 11:30 A.M., McClendon, West Monroe
- 19 **Book Study Concludes**



Louisiana Baptists

February 2026

- 15 **Focus on WMU Sunday**
- 6-7 **Pause Retreat: A Weekend for Pastors & Wives,** Tall Timbers, Woodworth
- 28 **Disaster Relief Training,** First Baptist Lafayette

March 2026

- 1-8 **Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter offering**
- 8 **Church Bible Drill**
- 14 **KidMin Expo/VBS Training,** Temple, Ruston
- 28 **M-Jam,** Kingsville Baptist, Ball
- 29 **District Bible Drill**

