

April 2026

The Connection



Steven L. Kelly - Associational Mission Strategist
Alise Wyant - Ministry Assistant

...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
I Corinthians 15:3, 4

*May your Easter
be filled with JOY!*



Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship & Prayer

Monday, April 13
Association Center
Monroe, LA

All pastors and staff are
invited to join us!



☎ 318.537.9548

📍 7103 DeSiard Street
Monroe LA 71203

✉ office@nela-morehouse.org
steve@nela-morehouse.org

🌐 www.nela-morehouse.org



AUGUST 21-22, 2026

Sign your church group up to participate.

If you have not registered for our early access, please do so by going to www.servetour.org and clicking on the Monroe link. Our local budget is based upon the attendance estimates received via this early registration site, so please make every effort to submit a number for your church.

Submit a project to be considered for SERVE TOUR

We need local churches to submit projects that they will be directly involved with in their community. These include things like light construction, painting, landscaping and hosting neighborhood grill walks or block parties. Pastors were emailed the link to submit projects last month. **The deadline is April 23**, so let's get those project ideas in!

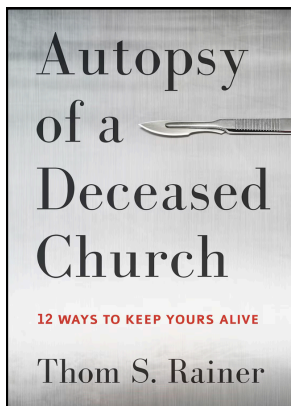


Thanks to all who attended the most recent book study, "Celebration of Discipline".

We begin a new book study this month! Join us!

**April, 16, 30 and May 14
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Bring your lunch & drinks are provided. Pick up your free copy of the book at the Association Center.



Churches Connecting 

Cheniere - Welcome to their new pastor, Clayton Bryan (wife, Gracie and daughter, Sophie). May God bless your new ministry as you serve Him at Cheniere!

Ouachita - "Judgment House", a powerful live drama will be presented April 1-3 at the church free of charge. Each night will begin at 5:30 with performances beginning every 15 minutes. Youth and church groups are welcome! Call the church office for more information.

Email us about your church events by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

Positions Available

- Pastor** - Emmanuel, Oak Hill, New Hope (Jones), Rescue
- Worship Leader** - Highland, Watson
- Students/Youth** - Cypress
- Students/Music** - Ouachita
- Children's Minister** - New Chapel Hill, Mt. Vernon
- Musician** - Pine Grove (pianist or guitarist), Greenacres (pianist on Sundays 9:00 am - Noon) Call 318-282-2870 if interested.



We had a great time visiting together March 17 at the Pastor/Staff Fellowship. Thanks to McClendon Baptist Church for hosting!



Congratulations on your April anniversary!

- **Colby Armstrong**, student pastor * 3 years * Victory
- **Terry Barnes**, pastor * 4 years * Parkview
- **Steve Beard**, pastor * 4 years * Crossfire: North LA Cowboy Church
- **Kris Brackin**, Financial Manager * 22 years * Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries
- **Caleb and Heather Brown**, youth directors * **5 years** * Clark Springs
- **Clay Corley**, student minister * 2 years * Cheniere
- **Pattie Diaz**, operations manager * 26 years * First, West
- **Larry Eubanks**, pastor * 2 years * Watson
- **Mark Fenn**, associate pastor * 34 years * First West
- **Janet Hollis**, senior adult/pastoral care assistant * 3 years * First West
- **Susan Holloway**, contributions assistant * 17 years * La. Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries
- **Jana Hutzler**, school-based ministries director * 17 years * First West
- **Jeff May**, pastor * 6 years * Cypress
- **Mallory Sanchez**, music director * 8 years * Bayou Oaks
- **William Sikes**, student minister * 1 year * First Swartz
- **Woods Watson**, adult groups pastor * 22 years * First West

From the Associational Mission Strategist



Last August, I had the opportunity to participate with the North American Mission Board in "Serve Tour Columbia".

This was a two-day regional missions event in Columbia, South Carolina. There were just over 1,000 volunteers from 14 states who led out in 47 significant ministry projects throughout the greater Columbia area.

Since then, I have been engaged in preparation for our own Serve Tour in Monroe/West Monroe/Bastrop on August 21-22, 2026. I want to share with you what is going on locally to make ours happen.

Dr. Bob Webber, former superintendent of Ouachita Parish Schools, has taken on the role of Project Manager. He is currently contacting pastors and churches throughout the region to consider submitting project proposals for the event. These are due for submission on the online portal by April 23. Each pastor has received this link via email. These projects will be funded by the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

We are hoping for a wide-ranging variety of projects to be submitted. Some will be physical in nature, such as building repairs, painting, and the installation of laminate flooring at smaller churches that need sprucing up. Others will be community oriented to impact schools and public spaces near our local churches by blessing teachers, improving playgrounds, renovating teacher lounges, and doing general clean up. There will be creative outreach done through what is called "grill walks" in which we enter apartment complexes and trailer parks and give away hamburgers and directly share the gospel. Beyond this, any ministry idea you can dream up that can be done over 2 days will be considered to be attempted locally.

This is still over 4 months away, but an event of this magnitude takes many months to put together. We are encouraging each church in NELBA to go online to www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour and register at the Monroe event page with an estimated number of people that will participate from your church during the weekend. These numbers are used by NAMB to make decisions about how many projects can be planned in our region.

This is something that has not been done in Louisiana since the inception of Serve Tour except in 2023 in the New Orleans area. So, something like this will not happen in our area again for many years to come.

I am beyond excited about what this can do for our collective ministry in northeast Louisiana. I encourage our church leaders to take advantage of this unique ministry gift to our area. Like any gift, you must open it to receive its benefits.

With Anticipation,

Steven L. Kelly
Associational Mission Strategist

Flourish
Ministry Assistants Conference

APRIL 20 Fairview Baptist, Coushatta APRIL 22 Maplewood Baptist, Sulphur
APRIL 21 First Baptist, Pineville APRIL 23 First Baptist, Covington

All Conferences 9:00am - 3:00pm

LouisianaBaptists.org/Flourish26

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CHURCH'S ... VBS ... Information

We need church name, dates, times and VBS theme sent to the office for publication in our June issue.

Call: 318.537.9548 or
Email: office@nela-morehouse.org

NELBA Events

April 2026

- 3 **Good Friday**
- 5 **Easter**
- 13 **Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship & Prayer**,
8:00 a.m. at Associational Center.
All pastors and staff are invited.
- 16 **Book Study** for “Autopsy of a Deceased
Church”, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
Associational Center
- 21 **Flourish Ministry Assistants Conference**,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., First Baptist, Pineville
- 30 **Book Study** for “Autopsy of a Deceased
Church”, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
Associational Center

May 2026

- 4 **Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship, & Prayer**,
8:00 a.m. at Associational Center
- 7 **National Day of Prayer**
- 10 **Mother’s Day**
- 14 **Book Study Concludes**
- 19 **Executive Board** and Pastor/Staff
Fellowship, 11:30 a.m., Lakeshore
- 25 **Memorial Day** (Associational Center closed)



Louisiana Baptist Events

April 2026

- 11 **Disaster Relief Training**, Temple, Ruston
- 17 **Embrace Women’s Conference**, First
Baptist, Zachary
- 21 **Flourish Ministry Assistants Conference**,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., First Baptist, Pineville
- 25 **State Bible Drill**, Calvary, Alexandria

May 2026

- 3 **Seminary Sunday**
- 17 **Children’s Ministry Sunday**
- 31 **Disaster Relief Sunday**

