

July 2026



The Connection

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



Vacation Bible Schools Scheduled for July 2026

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Greater New Antioch, Monroe	July 6 - 10	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	IS
Lakeshore, Monroe	July 6 - 10	8:00 - Noon	IS
Mt. Vernon, West Monroe	July 12 - 16	5:45 - 8:00 p.m.	IS
Ouachita, West Monroe	July 12 - 15	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	TT
First, Monroe	July 13 - 16	6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	IS
Cherry Ridge, Bastrop	July 19 - 23	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	IS

Theme Key: IS = Illumination Station

TT = Twists and Turns

📞 318.537.9548

📍 7103 DeSiard Street
Monroe LA 71203

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

🌐 www.nela-morehouse.org

Send Network

Summer Roundtables

Know the parish. Know the people.

Get up-to-date demographics for your community and sign up for our new Demographic Information Tool. Learn how it can help you more effectively reach people with the gospel.

July 28, 2026

NELBA Office

Noon - 2:00 p.m.



Congratulations to Carolyn

Fountain who was elected the 25th president of WMU, SBC during the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting on June 7, 2026 in Orlando, Florida. Carolyn and her husband, Leroy are members of The Well Church and they work together with churches across the state to incorporate missions into their church strategy. She also works with Christian Women's Job Corps at the LBCH to help women with academic success. We know she will do an exceptional job as the national WMU director.

WMU[®]
God's mission.
Our passion.

Churches Connecting

Bonita Road - We are excited to welcome Whit Mcgee to serve as Youth Minister! We are looking forward to all that God will do through the ministry of Whit and his fiancé, Lauren.

Ouachita - Congratulations to two new staff members of the church. Tony Smith (wife, Cindy) is the new youth director, and Reed Bray (wife, Angelica) is the new music director. May God bless your future ministry at Ouachita.

Positions Available

Pastor - Emmanuel, New Hope (Jones), Rescue

Worship Leader - Pine Grove, Watson

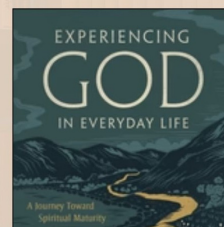
Students/Youth - Cypress

Musician - Greenacres - pianist (Call 318-282-2870 if interested.)

Congratulations on your July Anniversary!

- **Julie Adcock**, Director of Communications * 26 years * Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries (LBCH)
- **Shawna Baugh**, Assistant to Financial Services * 20 years * LBCH
- **Robbie Cook**, pastor * 1 year * Bosco
- **Eddie Davis**, pastor * 10 years * Oak Ridge
- **James Davison**, minister of evangelism and missions * 3 years * Fair Park
- **Wendy Driedger**, local missions and hospitality director * 6 years * North Monroe
- **Bill Dye**, lead pastor * 25 years * North Monroe
- **Hope Edwards**, lead pastor's ministry assistant * 6 years * First, West Monroe
- **Jarrett Fix**, pastor * 4 years * First, Swartz
- **Casey Harold**, global worship pastor * 3 years * First, West Monroe
- **Hope Johnson**, financial director * 3 years * First, Monroe
- **Jacob Knight**, production director * 3 years * First, West Monroe
- **Teresa Lockwood**, Educational Assistant * 20 years * North Monroe
- **Tim Post**, pastor * 34 years * Bethel, Bastrop, Before becoming pastor, Tim served 24 years as music minister
- **William Smith**, pastor * 49 years * Lakeshore
- **Judy Walker**, administrative assistant to Home Place * 23 years * LBCH
- **Sue Wilson**, music minister * 27 years * Pine Hills
- **Michael Wood**, lead pastor * 17 years * First, West Monroe. Before becoming pastor, Michael served 5 years as youth minister.

New Book Study begins in August



Just released June 1, this new book will teach you how to experience God in the day to day and in every season of life.

Join us every other Thursday from August 27 - December 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the NELBA office. Bring your lunch. Drinks are provided.

You pay \$10 for your book and we will cover the rest of the cost. Come by today to get your book!

Upcoming Major NELBA Events Mark your Calendar!

9/17

Leadership
Conference
NELBA Center
9:30 a.m. - Noon

9/27

Student IMPACT
North Monroe
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

9/28 - 9/30

Sr. Adult Revival
Mon. - McClendon
Tue. - North Monroe
Wed. - Fair Park

10/5

Annual Meeting
First, Swartz
6:30 p.m.

Pastor/Staff Fellowship

Victory, Monroe
July 21
11:30 a.m.

Come enjoy lunch and
fellowship with other
pastors and staff in
our association.

Lunch



From the Associational Mission Strategist



Last month marked 36 years that I have served fulltime in vocational ministry. I have done all of this as a Southern Baptist. I actually got saved in a Missionary Baptist Church but started attending an SBC church when I was in about 8th grade.

Over the years, I have told people that I am “A Company Man”. In other words, I love and support being a Southern Baptist. I don’t necessarily agree with all that we do, but I believe in what we are.

I sensed my ministry calling while on a 10-week mission trip with the Baptist Student Union (BCM) while in college. I attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for my Master of Divinity degree. I was a Home Mission Board (NAMB) church planter in Iowa early in my service in pastoral ministry. I pastored 6 SBC churches. I currently serve denominationally working with 67 SBC churches. I believe in the cooperative work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I write this shortly after returning from the annual convention in Orlando, Florida. For days I have read news articles and posts on social media about the event. Collectively, these reports land all over the spectrum. Some are celebratory while others are condemning. Honestly, every national convention I have attended was exited with different perspectives, the only difference being the issues addressed.

The enemy loves divisions, conflict, bickering, and factions. We are told by Jesus that Satan comes to “steal, kill, and destroy”. He is also “the father of lies”. It is in his best interest that the SBC fail and the churches scatter and do their own thing. We are also told elsewhere in scripture that we are to “resist the Devil and he will flee.”

The enemy started dividing people in the Garden of Eden when only two humans existed. It has been his tactic ever since. Jesus built His church in the New Testament and said that “the gates of hell will not prevail against it” and “a body divided against itself will not stand.” His longest prayer in the gospels beseeches the Father regarding the church – “May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me.”

As we are less than two months from Serve Tour Monroe and all that this will accomplish through our collective unity, let’s remember that this is the plan of the Savior of the World. He loves it when we come together in His name for His glory. May the news reports out of NE Louisiana be a resounding statement of God’s goodness as the Head leads the hands and feet to serve to declare the Gospel!

For His Kingdom,

Steven L. Kelly



NELBA faces seen at the SBC.



NELBA Events

July 2026

- 2 **Associational Office is closed**
- 21 **Pastor/Staff Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.,**
Victory
- 28 **SEND Network Summer Roundtable,**
Noon - 2:00 p.m., Associational
Center

August 2026

- 3 **Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship & Prayer,**
8:00 a.m., Associational Center
- 16 **Morehouse Serve Tour Kick-off Rally,**
6:00 p.m., First, Bastrop
- 19 **Ouachita Serve Tour Kick-off Rally,**
6:00 p.m., First, West Monroe
- 21-22 **NAMB Serve Tour**



Louisiana Baptist Events

July 2026

- 6 -9 **Kid's Camp 2**
- 10 - 12 **Kid's Camp 3**
- 13 - 16 **Kid's Camp 4**
- 20 - 23 **Children's Mission Camp**
- 24 - 26 **Mini Mac Camp**

August 2026

- 8 **ReGroup North, Temple Baptist,**
Ruston

(All state camps are at Tall Timbers, Woodworth)

SERVE TOUR Ministry Project Sign-ups are online NOW!

Serve Tour is coming to Monroe, West Monroe and Bastrop August 21-22, 2026. There are over 45 projects to choose from. Register to serve at any project site by using the QR code below or by going to the following website.

<https://www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour/monroe-serve-tour/>



Spots are filling up fast so register today!