



2026 Associational Mission Trip Information Meeting

Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30

Lakelands Baptist Association Office

232 Bypass 225, Greenwood

We will be working with the NC Baptists in rebuilding the Hurricane Helene ravaged areas of western NC. This trip will begin on Sunday, April 19 and conclude on Friday, April 24. We will be doing construction work only, as we rebuild homes damaged by the floods. If this interests you and you'd like to know more, please attend this meeting. This will be a no-commitment meeting as we simply share information regarding the trip to help you and your church decide if you want to participate or not. Hope you'll join us!



Shepherd's Hands Ministry

would like to thank every individual and church that provided boots for the children in West Virginia this year. We took in 98 pairs of boots! We would also like to thank those who made stocking caps specifically for this ministry, donated blankets, and Earline Taylor for making personalized goody bags for each child that was on the boot list.



2025 Prisoner Packets

LBA churches & individuals prepared 495 prisoner packets this year!
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!



Please welcome
our new LBA
financial secretary
Heather Jenness

Thank you to
Kim Little for
serving as the
LBA financial
secretary from
July 2024 - Dec 2025



Congratulations!

LBA has awarded for 2025-2026

Jacob Nelson

with the **Sonny Noblin Scholarship Award**
for Ministry Related Education.
Jacob is a member of Ware Shoals First Baptist Church and a student at Erskine College.



Bold Spring Baptist Church
welcomes
Rev. Frank Longshore
as their new pastor

**Please continue to pray for
the following churches
without pastors**

*Beulah, Due West, Turkey Creek,
Walnut Grove, Winona, and Woodfields*

REVIVAL SERVICES

January 11-14
 Sunday, January 11 at 6pm
 Monday - Wednesday, January 12-14 at 7pm

Abney Memorial Baptist Church
 210 Bypass 225, Greenwood

Please be in prayer for our churches, our speakers, and for God to move in a powerful way throughout these services.

Will You not revive us again,
 That Your people may rejoice in You?
 Psalm 85:6

Speakers are Pastor Justin Arender and Pastor Joshua Timms

Pastor 2 Pastor

**P2P will start back up on
 Tuesday, February 3 at 11:00 at LBA office**
 Followed by lunch out, Dutch-treat

SQUIRREL HUNTING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, February 7
 Lunch and First Place prize
 For more details, contact Abney Memorial Baptist Church
 Pastor Justin Arender 636-697-0137



LBA Prayer Intercessors Meeting

Tuesday, February 10 at 10:30
 Lakelands Baptist Association

Sandra Massey, Frances Kidd, Janet Vandiver,
 Virginia Someillan, Bettie Rogers Ward, and Brenda Smith

Associational Executive Board Meeting

February 16 at 7pm

Lakelands Baptist Association office

We ask that LBA Executive Board members and pastors please make a special effort to attend our board meetings and pass on the reported information to your church members

Winona Baptist Church is Seeking Full-time or Bi-vocational pastor

Winona Baptist Church is in the Donalds community of Abbeville County, South Carolina, and is a member of the Lakelands Baptist Association as well as the Southern Baptist Convention.

We firmly believe and support the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000. We are searching for a dedicated Godly man with effective leadership skills, who preaches the infallible word of God without any compromise, and who will be compassionate pastor to our active/inactive members.

If you are praying that God is calling you to this ministry opportunity, please send your resume and references to

Winona Baptist Church
 Attn: Pastoral Search Committee
 1096 Winona Church Road
 Donalds, SC 29638



BLOCK PARTY TRAILER TRAINING

MARCH 5 at 6:00 at LBA office

This training will be valid for all of 2026

and is required yearly for all churches who plan to use the BPT.
 This is the only training for 2026, please make plans to attend.



2025 Church Contributions to LBA

JAN. 1, 2025 - DEC. 31, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Abbeville First | 15,258.00 |
| Abney Memorial | 4,899.96 |
| Beulah | 2,707.10 |
| Bold Spring | 3,500.00 |
| Buffalo | 525.00 |
| Calhoun Falls First | 187.50 |
| Callie Self Memorial | 6,843.14 |
| Calvary | 2,749.70 |
| Connie Maxwell | 6,000.00 |
| Coronaca | 2,974.29 |
| Donalds | 2,000.00 |
| Due West | 700.00 |
| Emerald | 13,829.17 |
| First Damascus | 1,200.00 |
| First Mt. Moriah | 14,920.06 |
| Friendship | 0.00 |
| Greenwood Shores | 0.00 |
| Harris | 24,970.36 |
| Horeb | 0.00 |
| Jordan Memorial | 2,283.00 |
| Lakeview | 0.00 |
| Laurel | 2,400.00 |
| Lowndesville | 1,200.00 |
| McCormick First | 6,000.00 |
| Midway | 4,105.09 |
| New Hope | 250.00 |
| New Journey | 0.00 |
| New Market | 600.00 |
| Ninety Six First | 21,209.41 |
| North Side Greenwood | 23,000.00 |
| Northside Calhoun Falls | 7,339.32 |
| Providence | 0.00 |
| Rice Memorial | 8,753.04 |
| Siloam | 4,000.00 |
| South Main | 16,000.00 |
| South Side | 9,303.67 |
| Temple | 8,628.94 |
| Troy | 0.00 |
| Turkey Creek | 778.96 |
| Walnut Grove | 1,200.00 |
| Ware Shoals First | 5,337.25 |
| West Side Greenwood | 3,000.00 |
| Westside Abbeville | 0.00 |
| Winona | 0.00 |
| Woodfields | 1,000.00 |
| TOTAL 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS | 229,752.96 |

LAKELANDS LEADER

“We’re In!”

Yep! Finally, we are in our new home! No more ifs, ands or buts...we are in! Whoop! Whoop! Now I know that makes me a whole lot more excited than you, but it was a journey that we are sure glad to be done with. We actually got in a week or two before Thanksgiving, so we have enjoyed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's celebrations...all in our new home.

And now, since we are in and the year-end celebrations are done, Kim and I are ready to just settle in and enjoy the home that the Lord has blessed us with. And a huge shout out to all those who helped us along the way in one way or another. Apart from the paid contractors, a huge thanks to Randy Day, my son and sons-in-law, Zack, Andre, Justin, and Ben. And then there's Reiny, Tim, Tripp, Luke, TJ, Colby, Kareel, my brothers in Augusta, especially Gary...and literally, so many others who had a tiny part or a huge part in helping us complete our new home. They all showed up at just the right time and helped in just the right way. Now, no one person built the house, but all had a part in the building of the house. Yep, when Sam O'Shields, who is both one of our pastors in Lowndesville and an inspector for the county, signed off on our CO, Certificate of Occupancy, which enabled us to move in, it was a special moment! Next will be turning this house into a home...and well, that's Kim's specialty!

I knew I was finally home when Friday morning, I walked out my back door as pickup trucks began rolling down the drive. As they stopped, about a dozen men, family and friends from the community, all with guns, got out of their trucks and let loose a glorious pack of beagles to chase rabbits on our new property. Those beagles filled the air with the sounds that only born and bred true southern rednecks can appreciate, the sound of a pack of hunt'n hounds hitting the trail of a rabbit as they chase it through the briars and brambles...oh that sound, that glorious sound of hounds on the hunt. Yep, that morn'n when I stepped out of my door on my place to hunt with friends over a pack of hounds, I knew finally, we were home. What a wonderful feeling that was!

But, unfortunately today, its back to the real world as I have to go deal with some trespassers on some of our hunt'n land. It used to be you could sneak onto someone's private posted property, and get away with it...but not anymore!

You see, cameras are everywhere these days, and that includes the woods. Yep, most hunters install trail cameras in the woods to monitor deer activity...and occasionally, trespasser activity. Now I don't like confrontation any more than anyone else, but right is right and wrong is wrong. Cameras don't lie, and when someone is where they are not supposed to be, confrontation is sometimes necessary. You see, its not just a legal issue, it's a safety issue as well, as most hunters want to know where other hunters are to avoid accidents.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 3: Pastor2Pastor at 11am at LBA
Mar 3: WMU NA Mission Study at 7pm at LBA
Mar 5: Nominating Committee Meeting at 10am at LBA
Mar 5: Block Party Trailer Training at 6pm at LBA
Mar 31: Connections Fellowship at 7:30am at Besto's

So, later today, I will go and have a conversation and “kindly request” that those trespassers cease and desist trespassing with their horses and atv's on private property. Now, I am not the owner of the property, but I have been given permission to hunt this property and have been requested to watch over it on behalf of the land owner. And that's simply what I'm doing.

But I got to think'n about all this and kinda drew an analogy in my mind regarding eternity. You see, one day, I'm gonna leave my new house and property. It could be sooner or it could be later... only God knows. And God knows when I leave my new home that I just moved into, whether it will be to go either to a nursing home (yep, it does cross my mind these days) or to glory. My preference would be to skip the whole nursing home scenario and go straight to glory...but that probably won't be my choice, right?

But when I finally get to glory, my last and eternal home, two things will come to mind. First, I will look around at all God has prepared for me, and realize that I am finally in! No ifs, ands or buts...I am in! What joy that will be to move into my eternal home...finally! And secondly, I will realize that I did not get there by myself, as I will realize all the people, parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers, pastors, friends, spouse, etc., who helped me by being faithful to proclaim the Word of the Lord to me...or who just prayed for me, so I could fully understand the nature and depth of my sin and receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord.

But in that first moment in heaven, I will also fully realize that not everyone gets into heaven...and that there are no trespassers there. Those who are not of the sheepfold, but are the goats, will be separated and cast out into everlasting darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth and separation from God...for all eternity.

You see, heaven will either be our eternal home, by the grace of a loving and forgiving God, or heaven will be a forbidden place for all who try to slip in undetected as a trespasser. Jesus has said there is only one door, one invitation, one way to be welcomed into heaven, and that is as an adopted child of the King, thru the shed blood of Christ and Christ alone.

As we begin this new year, I hope and pray it will be with the reality that heaven is real...but so is hell. And may our passion and purpose be to let Christ shine in our hearts for all to see so that others will enter heaven by the only way, by way of the Righteous One, the perfect, spotless Lamb of God.



BUILDING FUND UPDATE

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Amount needed for loan payoff: | \$401,534.14 |
| Building Fund Saving: | \$83,780.10 |
| Remaining balance: | \$317,754.04 |

We are grateful for your continued support!

How to Become a Christian

Jesus Christ was with God the Father before the world was created. He became human and lived among humanity as Jesus of Nazareth. He came to show us what God the Father is like. He lived a sinless life, showing us how to live, and He died on a cross to pay for our sins. God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is the source of eternal life. Jesus wants to be the doorway of new life for you. In the Bible, He was called "Lamb of God" (John 1:29). In the Old Testament, sacrifices were made for the sins of the people. Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb offered for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He is waiting for you now.

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. By faith, receive Jesus Christ as God's Son and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness by dying on the cross.

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You may pray a silent prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you.

"Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen." After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for a baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

The Holy Bible, Book of Romans 10:9-13

Lakelands Baptist Leader

JAN / FEB 2026



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We had soooo much fun at the Christmas parties for the church secretaries and the pastors and their wives!

