

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the
hand of the enemy; Psalm 107: 1-2

North American Mission Study

UTAH

Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00PM

Lakelands Baptist Association

Guest Speaker: Andy Roberson

Topic: Lostness

Annie
Armstrong
Easter
Offering



Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering &
Season of Prayer
March 1-8, 2026



BLOCK PARTY TRAILER TRAINING

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

6:00 - 7:00 at the LBA office



This training will be valid for all of 2026
and is required yearly for all churches who plan to use the BPT in 2026.

This is the ONLY training for 2026. Please make plans to attend!

Our Association is lacking in individuals trained in disaster relief. Our DR trailer units have been called on a couple of times recently and we could not go due to not enough people trained to send. Please consider attending this training.

Register online by March 2 at
www.scbaptist.org/events/disasterrelieftraining-9/

Disaster Relief Spring Training 2026

Saturday, Mar 14, 2026 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
EDT

Spartanburg First Baptist Church, Spartanburg

ASSOCIATIONAL MEN'S RALLY & FISH FRY



Monday,
April 27 at 7PM

South Side Baptist Church

505 W. Greenwood St, Abbeville

Speaker TBD

Pastor **2** Pastor

Tuesday, March 3 at 11:00 at LBA office
Followed by lunch out, Dutch-treat

LBA Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 at LBA office

Felix Someillan, Ed Gidewall, Connie Normand, Bettie Ward,
Michael How, Stanley Sprouse

CONNECTIONS Fellowship for Pastors

Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30am at On The Run BBQ

We meet monthly for breakfast and discussion and occasionally meet for dinner with our wives. Open to any pastors. Come join us!



Pastor **2** Pastor

Tuesday, April 7 at 11:00 at LBA office
Followed by lunch out, Dutch-treat

Associational WMU Spring Meeting

April 7 at 7:00PM at Lakelands Baptist Association

232 Bypass 225 in Greenwood

Guest Speaker: Ed Stewart

Final Mission Trip Meeting for 2026 Mission Team

April 9 at 6:30

Lakelands Baptist Association office

This meeting is for everyone going on our
NC construction mission trip April 19-24.

Balances and any unfinished paperwork is due at or anytime before
this meeting.

Please pray for our team, the work being done to rebuild houses
destroyed by Hurricane Helene, and those who will be ministered to
during this trip.

Associational Executive Board Meeting

April 20 at 7pm

Lakelands Baptist Association office

As Pastors and LBA Executive Board members, we hope you will make a
special effort to attend our board meetings to learn what's going on within
the Association and share the reported information with your church
members. We appreciate your continued support of this Association!

CONNECTIONS Fellowship for Pastors

Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30am at On The Run BBQ

We meet monthly for breakfast and discussion and occasionally
meet for dinner with our wives. Open to any pastors. Come join us!

Ministry Health Kits

Health kits provide basic toiletries that can open the hearts of
individuals and remove barriers to sharing the gospel. These
kits are used to minister and witness to people in our own
communities and regions. Scriptures and other gospel
materials in the language of the person receiving the kit are
added.

The standard health kit should include:

- 1 toothpaste (5 oz – or larger.)**
- 1 toothbrush (factory sealed)**
- 1 soap (3.8 oz. or larger bath size)**
- 1 washcloth (colorful – no white)**
- 1 bath towel (colorful – no white)**
- 1 comb**



Placed in a two (2) gallon or larger ziplock bag

Please bring to the Lakelands Baptist Association
232 Bypass 225 in Greenwood

Deadline to drop off is Tuesday, April 28

Ware Shoals First Baptist is Seeking Part-Time Worship Leader

We are seeking a Spirit led and passionate Worship Leader to
join our team, someone who is eager to cultivate an
atmosphere of authentic worship and guide our congregation
into a deeper relationship with God through music.

Key Responsibilities include: worship planning, musical
leadership, team development, administrative duties,
technical communication, and team collaboration.

To apply, please submit your resume or curriculum vitae to:
fbchurchsworshipleader@gmail.com

Please visit www.lakelandsbaptist.org for the
full job description under the *Church Position Openings* tab

Beulah Baptist Church

*welcomes Rev. Jimmy Tucker
as their new pastor*

BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP



If anyone is interested in being a member of the
Baptist Nursing Fellowship or interested in the
being the Lead for Region 3 BNF, please notify
Darlene Lovette by email at Lovette.d@ptc.edu
or text 864-942-7659

Retirement Blessings

Blessed are the beloved pastors whose
ministry has made a difference in big
and small ways in the church and beyond



Rev. James Bannister, Due West Baptist Church
Rev. Bruce Cooley, Winona Baptist Church
Rev. Frank Thomas, Harris Baptist Church

“That One Thing!”

You know this spiritual journey we are on is something else! Like most of life, it seems that it is going way too fast and will be over way too soon. I mean, I am sixty-six years old and I use to think that was old as dirt...in fact, if I'm being honest, I remember when I use to think that fifty-something was old as dirt... maybe even older than dirt. But these days I look around and see lots of young folks which is exciting to me, but I seem to hang out more than ever with some old folks, who are definitely young at heart. I got friends in their 70's and 80's that seem to be having more fun than when they were in their 20's. It seems that once the pressure of expectation gets removed as we age, life just gets mo better...just say'n!

In fact, just three weeks ago, Kim and I were present at Harris Baptist as they had a luncheon on a very cold and snowy day, to honor Frank Thomas, their pastor, who was retiring after a nearly forty-seven-year stint. Only one word can describe that...and that word is “phenomenal.” Can't say I have ever personally known a pastor to stay in one pulpit for forty-seven years other than Frank. So Frank, my hats off to you my friend, for your faithfulness in leading a great church and keeping it a great church for nearly half a century.

Now, I'm pretty sure that Frank would have continued preaching for another few years if he'd thought that was in the best interest of Harris. Like Ryan Eklund, another great pulpiteer in our association, who retired from South Main Baptist, and then went on to pastor Buffalo Baptist for another ten years. Earl Hartley, Reuel Westbrook, Wayne Wiggins, Alvin Hodges, Hal Lane, Doug Kauffmann and others, were the same. They retired from a place, but never retired from ministry. You see, it's hard for these guys to just quit, in fact, it's nearly impossible, because they were called, set apart, and loved so many things about ministry...but mostly the Word itself.

Which is why the one thing many continued to do after retirement was to continue to give out the gospel...to preach. It's ingrained in who they are! As they studied the Word over a lifetime, being true students of the Word, they learned what I have learned, that learning the Word is an inexhaustible adventure...you never know it all and it continues to breath new life into you every time you pick it up and study it. And that is what is so addictive about the Word...it never gets old and you never exhaust gathering more and more every time you read it. And most people, especially preachers, don't want to keep that newness to themselves, but would rather continue to give it out until their lives are exhausted, because they know the Word of God never will be. And so, they continue to preach and teach!

I'm kinda getting to that point myself, if I could be honest. Not so much about the retirement part, but that will come one day if the Lord allows me to live long enough, but more about gaining a clearer understanding of the inexhaustibleness of the Word of God and how much I love sharing it with whomever and whenever. I will never forget the surprise, or silence, I heard over the phone many years ago, when a pastor called me up and asked me if I would consider preaching revival at his church. After checking calendars, I immediately said, “Yes!” After a moment of silence, the pastor said to me, “Well, don't you need to pray about it first?” To which I said, “Of course not! The Lord called me to preach as a young man and I don't have a choice as to whether I will preach or not, it's only a matter of when and where, unless I am providentially hindered from doing so.”

The joy of preaching or teaching, giving out the Word, never stops coursing through your veins. Right now, I am so grateful and humbled that Harris Baptist asked me to fill the pulpit for a short-term while they look for a long-term interim

pastor. It's such a privilege to study and share with others the daily newness of the Word, and they are such a great and loving church...it's awesome. And then, some weeks ago, I got to pinch hit at Lander's BCM as the advertised speaker was hunkered down with a sickness, so at the last minute, Scott called and said, “Hey, you want to do storying Thursday night?”

Now to be honest with you, college kids make me nervous, cause, well, they are kinda young, relatively speaking, and well, I'm kinda old, literally speaking. I always wonder if I can connect with them. And the truth be known, I probably can't, but the Word always seems to bridge that gap. And when I walked in that night to about 125 or more students expecting me to have something to say to them that would help them spiritually deal with life, it can be frightening. While I may be at a loss for words sometimes, God's Word never falls short, so I proceeded to simply give them the Word...and well, God took care of the rest like He always does.

But afterwards, the greatest blessing of the evening came when a senior girl, I think...I mean, I know she was a girl, just not sure if she was a senior. Anyways, she came up to me and told me that a study I had done with a small group of Lander students a couple of years before, at Scott and Katie's request, had stuck with her. She had put a one-page schematic of the whole Bible we worked through on her dorm wall, and had added to it over the ensuing two years, and had even taken her mother through that same study.

Now to be honest, I was immensely humbled and grateful to have been able to impact her in this way. And later, as I processed that night, I have thought how blessed I am to be able to do what I do, to study the Word and have a platform to give it out, and then to be incredibly blessed to see its impact on other's lives. You know, that's simply why we exist as churches and why most pastors never quit until they draw their last breath. Cause the only thing I have that I can give to others that will last forever, is my love for God's Word. You know... that's it...period!

Many of you know that I have copied the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, in its entirety, all 750,000 or so words of it. But, because I loved doing it so much, I have begun attempting to copy the Bible again. It's just my favorite spiritual discipline, and doing so truly speaks to my heart the best. So, when my daughter Addie found out I was copying it again, she sweetly said, “Diddy, you need to copy one for each of your children to have.” Now that touched me more than I can say, but of course, I reminded her of my age and said I most definitely didn't have enough years left to do so, but I appreciated her words so much!

You know, I hope that my children will remember me in some good ways when I'm gone, I also know they will remember my humanity as well, my failures, my struggles, that their daddy's feet were made of clay. It's just the way it is, you know? But while they are remembering the good, the bad and the ugly of me being their dad, the one thing I pray they will always remember, more than anything, and I pray that this one thing will always temper everything else they remember about me...and that is that their daddy loved the Word of God so much that he copied it, word for word, until his dying day, and that he gave it out faithfully all his days. And if they remember that one thing, that will be enough for me!

You see, if you live long enough, you grow to realize that life is fleeting at best, and the only thing that matters and lasts forever is the Word of God. So, love it, write it on your heart, and give it out! To do so will be a life well-lived, cause that will be the one thing...the only thing that ever truly matters. And that one thing is what matters most!



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

MAR / APR 2026



Lakelands Baptist Association Periodical Paid At
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Road To Life 2026



Featuring

TIM TEBOW

Thursday, April 16

Lander University, Finis Horne Arena

Get Tickets: ticketstripe.com/road-to-life-2026



Lakelands Baptist Association

Student Serve Day
Saturday, May 2
1pm-8pm

Hosted by
South Main Baptist Church

Dinner provided by the Lakelands Baptist
Association's Feeding Unit

Email
bradford.russ@southmain.church
for more info and to sign up your students

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Remaining balance: \$224,350.81

We are grateful for your continued support!