



Kingdom Partners
Philippians 1:3-7

The ENCOURAGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026

Encourage - Equip - Engage

Fan the Flames REVIVAL SERVICES

of the Holmes Baptist Association

Monday Nights of April

April 6 - Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
Pastor Luke Owens

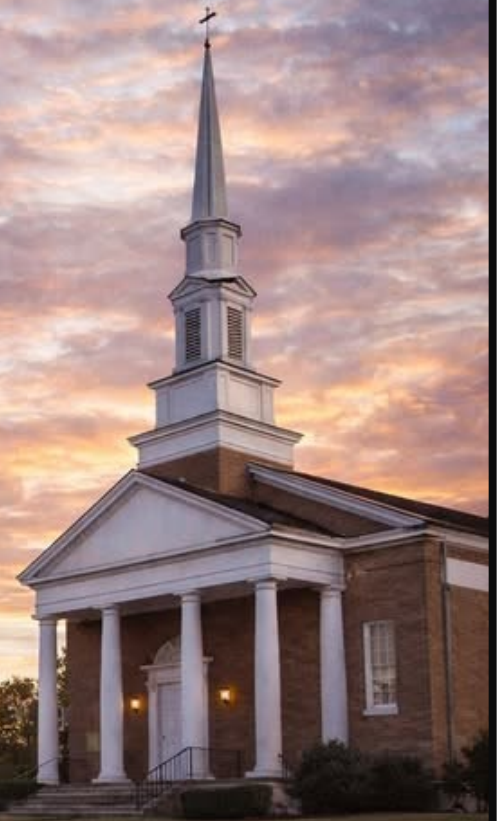
April 13 - Shady Grove Baptist Church
Pastor Chris Nelson

April 20 - Hickory Hill Baptist Church
Pastor Joel Davis

April 27 - Union Hill Baptist Church
Pastor Buck Tidwell

6 pm Fellowship Meal • 6:45pm Evening Worship

April 27 will also be our Annual Vision & Victory Service!



Calling & Development Pipeline



"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." — Matthew 9:37

When we look across churches of our convention today, the need is clear. Many congregations are without pastors, and fewer men are stepping forward to answer the call. But Jesus' words remind us—this is not a new problem. It is a Kingdom opportunity.

Our response must be more than prayer alone— it must include intentional action.

We are working to establish a strategy to be known as the Calling & Development Pipeline, in which we are aligning our efforts with God's mission:

- Encouraging those God is calling
- Equipping them for faithful ministry
- Engaging our churches in raising up leaders

Based on this need, are we only praying for laborers... or are we helping raise them up?

Raising Up the Next Generation of Pastors

A New Path Forward for Holmes Baptist Association

Across our association—and throughout the Southern Baptist family—there is a growing reality we cannot ignore: many churches are without pastors, and fewer men are answering the call to ministry. This challenge is especially evident in our rural and bivocational contexts, where the need is both urgent and ongoing.

But this is not simply a problem to solve—it is an opportunity to respond.

At Holmes Baptist Association, we believe the answer is not found in searching harder, but in developing leaders more intentionally.

What if, instead of looking outward first, we began looking within our own congregations? What if God is already raising up the next generation of pastors right in our churches?

Introducing the Calling & Development Pipeline

To respond to this need, Holmes Baptist Association is implementing a **Calling & Development Pipeline**—a relational strategy designed to help churches identify, affirm, and prepare men for pastoral ministry.

This approach is built around a simple but powerful process:

IDENTIFY → DISCERN → DEVELOP → ASSESS → DEPLOY

How It Works



IDENTIFY

Churches recognize faithful men who demonstrate spiritual maturity and leadership potential.



DISCERN

Men explore and clarify their calling through a guided cohort experience with biblical teaching and encouragement.



DEVELOP

Leaders are equipped through cohorts, triads, mentoring, and real ministry opportunities.



ASSESS

Readiness is evaluated based on character, competency, and consistency over time.



DEPLOY

Prepared leaders are connected with churches and ministry opportunities aligned with their calling.

A Relational Approach to Ministry

Through **Pastor Cohorts, Triads,** and weekly **Pastors Breakfast** gatherings, leaders are not developed in isolation, but in community—encouraged, equipped, and strengthened together.



CALLING & DEVELOPMENT — PIPELINE —

Developing Pastors from Within Our Churches

Why This Matters

- Many churches are currently without pastors.
- Fewer men are entering ministry.
- Rural churches need sustainable leadership solutions.

By developing leaders from within, churches gain pastors who already know their community, already have relational trust, and are prepared for the unique challenges of local ministry.

The Role of the Church

- Pray for God to raise up leaders
- Identify faithful men
- Affirm their calling
- Invest in their growth
- Release them into ministry

The Role of HBA

- Encourage churches and leaders
- Equip through relational development
- Engage churches and candidates
- Provide structure and ongoing support



TRUE NORTH

A BEARING CHECK FOR US ALL

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Our response must be more than prayer alone—it must include intentional action.

Through the Calling & Development Pipeline, we are not only praying for laborers...

WE ARE RAISING THEM UP.

Every Church Strengthened. Every Leader Equipped. Every Community Engaged with the Gospel.



RANDY mThoughts

Randy S Torrance

Mission Strategist

Holmes Baptist Association

The Cost of the Shift:

Why Our Mission Requires Renewed Commitment

Across the Holmes Baptist Association, we are witnessing—and actively leading—a significant paradigm shift in how ministry is done. This shift is not about doing more events or adding more programs. It is about becoming more intentional, more relational, and more focused on advancing the Kingdom of God through Encouraging leaders, Equipping churches, and Engaging communities.

This is the right shift. It is a needed shift. And it is a Kingdom-focused shift. But we must also recognize something honestly and clearly: This shift carries real and growing resource needs. Historically, much of associational ministry has centered around events—meetings, annual gatherings, and occasional training opportunities. While valuable, those efforts required limited ongoing investment.

This year, we are leaning into something deeper:

- Ongoing Pastor Cohorts, Triads, and Connections
- Intentional church renewal strategies
- Community engagement initiatives and mission opportunities
- Leadership development and calling out those called to ministry

These are not one-time efforts. They are relational, ongoing, and mission-driven commitments. And while they may not always be more visible than events, they are often more impactful—and more resource-intensive.

Shared Mission Requires Shared Investment - The work of the association is not separate from the work of the local church—it is an extension of it. When churches give through the association, they are:

- Strengthening and encouraging fellow pastors
- Helping equip churches that are in seasons of transition or need
- Expanding gospel engagement across our communities
- Investing in the next generation of ministry leaders
- Supporting collective mission efforts that no single church could accomplish alone

At the very time when ministry opportunities are expanding, we are also seeing a concerning trend: We have seen a slight decrease in our giving percentages of our affiliated churches. We understand that every church faces financial pressures, changing attendance patterns, and shifting priorities. These are real challenges. However, we must also ask an equally important question: *What happens to Kingdom impact if our shared investment decreases while ministry opportunities increase?*

This paradigm shift is not just about strategy—it is about stewardship. It is about aligning our resources with our mission. It is about investing in what God is doing among us. It is about ensuring that we do not miss this moment of opportunity. This is not merely cooperative giving – This is Kingdom partnership.

The question before us is not simply financial. It is spiritual. *Do we believe the work we are doing together is worth investing in?*

- If we believe that encouraging pastors strengthens churches...
- If we believe that equipping churches expands ministry...
- If we believe that engaging communities advances the Gospel...

Then the answer becomes clear.

So, I want to extend a prayerful invitation to you and your church:

- Reevaluate your current level of giving
- Reflect on your church's role in our shared mission
- Prayerfully consider renewing—or even increasing—your commitment

For some, this may mean returning to a previous percentage. For others, it may mean taking a step of faith toward greater generosity.

This is not about pressure—it is about stewardship. It is about aligning our resources with what we believe God is doing among us. I truly believe that if we remain united in purpose and faithful in our investment, the impact of our churches together will far exceed what any one of us could do alone.

Thank you for your partnership, your faithfulness, and your commitment to the Gospel.

Serving together,
Randy S. Torrance



Love Offering

As you may or may not know, Bro. Randy fell at the end of last year and broke his finger, which ended up requiring surgery at the beginning of this year. During the Administrative Team meeting, it was decided to ask for love offerings to help offset the medical costs as Bro. Randy does not have insurance. We are asking our churches to pray about this need and to give what they feel led to give. Checks can be made out to Holmes Baptist Association. Please add on the memo line: Randy Torrance Love Offering.

You can send checks to Holmes Baptist Association
402 E North Ave Bonifay, FL 32425.

*Shared on behalf of the Administrative Team

Rooted & Rested

— MINISTRY WIVES FELLOWSHIP —

Monday, May 11 • 6PM
Gully Springs Baptist Church

For the wives of our associational pastors

Rooted in Christ,
Rested in His Grace

Sponsored by:
The Holmes Baptist Association



- PASTOR COHORTS -

THE POSTURE OF A GODLY LEADER

GROWING IN CHRIST. LEADING WITH PURPOSE.

STARTING
MAY 5

6:00 PM

AT THE
HOLMES BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION OFFICE

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION



HUMILITY

The Foundation
of a Godly
Leader

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8



PATIENCE

The Wisdom
of a Godly
Leader

JAMES 1:2-4



LOVE

The Heart of
a Godly
Leader

JOHN 13:34-35



FAITH

The Fuel of a
Godly
Leader

HEBREWS 11:1



PASSION

The Contagion
of a Godly
Leader

ROMANS 12:11



JOY

The Overflow
of a Godly
Leader

NEHEMIAH 8:10

COME. CONNECT. GROW. LEAD WITH PURPOSE.

Strengthening pastors. Encouraging one another. Impacting our world for Christ.

HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MISSION TRIP TO MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

Meridian
MS

SHARING
THE GOSPEL

MINISTRY PROJECTS

PRAYER

JULY 11-18

CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE FOR DETAILS: **850.547.4079**

ASSOCIATION PRAYER CALENDAR:

- ◆ April 12 Caryville Baptist Church, Caryville (Pastor: Matt Pate)
- ◆ April 19 Evergreen Baptist Church, Westville (Pastor: Mitch Holsonback)
- ◆ April 26 Grace Church, Bonifay (Pastor: Stacy Stafford)



Associational Mission Strategist:
Randy Torrance
Email: HolmesbaptistAMS@gmail.com
Cell #: 386.209.7936

CONTACT US:
402 E North Ave Bonifay FL 32425
Holmesbaptist.org

Administrative Assistant:
Tanya Rushing
Email: Holmesbaptist@gmail.com
Office Hrs.: Mon– Thurs. 8am–3pm



New Beginnings Director:
Kristin Baker
Email: holmescopregcenter13@yahoo.com
Office Hrs.: Th 1–8pm; F 9am–2pm