



**Kingdom Partners**  
Philippians 1:3-7

# The ENCOURAGER

March 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Encourage - Equip - Engage

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### -Men's Bible Study. Third Monday; March, 6:30 pm, HBA Office – Conference Room

We had our first session last month with five in attendance as we began looking at a study of being God's Uncommon Man by Coach Tony Dungy. This study is produced by Right Now Media. Please encourage your men to join us for the second and third sessions.

### -Continuing Together Tour. Monday, March 11, 2025, 6:00–8:30 pm - Church on Bayshore, Niceville.

Our regional opportunity to meet Stephen Rummage and hear his vision for the Florida Baptist Convention and to learn about the convention's blueprint to help fuel the church in its mission. This will be a perfect opportunity to learn how we can be part of what God is doing in Florida. If you desire to go, please register or learn more at: [flbaptist.org/continuing/](http://flbaptist.org/continuing/). We can carpool if there are any that need a ride.

### -3:16 on 3/16. Sunday, March 16 – Local Church Emphasis

The churches of our state and national convention have been encouraged to put an emphasis on John 3:16 on March 16 (3/16). Plans are being finalized to enter into this particular weekend with an evangelistic emphasis through door-to-door evangelism, outreach activities and presenting a clear message of the Gospel message from the pulpits of our churches. Watch our Facebook page and your email for finalized plans and activities.

### -Healthy Church Summit. Saturday, March 31, 6:30-8:00 pm, HBA Office – Conference Room

We will welcome our West Regional Catalyst, Brian Nall as he shares "Nine Orderly Steps to Church Health", covering such areas as; Church Renewal, using Mission Insight demographics to help identify potential ministry opportunities and discussing how a healthy church functions.

### -Vision & Victory Dinner / Semi Annual Gathering

Plans are being made for our Semi-Annual Gathering. This will take place in April, and will include our annual Vision and Victory celebration dinner. Plans include testimonies of victory from a few of our churches and a casting of vision and overview of our Strategic Plan of Ministry for our association. Full details are not finalized and will be announced as they are.

### -Annual Summer Mission Trip. July 12-19 – Saluda Baptist Association, Anderson, SC

We will be returning to Anderson, SC for our annual mission trip in July. Our mission trip leadership team will be meeting with Brother John Watkins of the Saluda Baptist Association to discuss ministry needs and areas of service. Please begin praying about joining us for this experience of life-changing ministry

**West Pittman BAPTIST CHURCH**

## WILD GAME SUPPER MARCH 8 2025

Activities begin @ 2pm

**Guest Speaker "The BearMan"**  
James VanSteenhouse  
Supper @ 4pm/Guest Speaker @ 6pm  
DOOR PRIZES, Vendors, Children's activities, and Supper  
**FREE!!!!**

For More Info Call 850-956-4100  
1603 Bradley Rd., Westville, FL

## Homecoming Service

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church will have their Homecoming on Sunday, April 6th @ 10am. Bro. Phil McMillian will bring the message and The Smith Family from Pensacola will bring the special music. Lunch to follow. Everyone welcome!

## ASSOCIATION PRAYER CALENDAR

### MARCH

- ◆ March 9 – Caryville Baptist Church, Caryville (Pastor: Matt Pate)
- ◆ March 16 - Evergreen Baptist Church, Westville (Pastor: Mitch Holsonback)
- ◆ March 23 – Week of Prayer: Florida Baptist Children's Home
- ◆ March 30 - First Baptist Church, Bonifay (Pastor: Shelly Chandler)

# HEALTHY CHURCH SUMMIT

“How did we get here” Sounds like a simple enough question but all too often this question is neglected to be asked and answered within church ministry. In general, the question falls to “What must we do? If not careful, a pile of the “must do” on the church calendar and the ‘emergencies of the moment’ will fill our day only see that little has changed within church health or Kingdom advance. Frustration is still high. Holy outcomes are still low.

Dr Brian Nall will lay out several orderly steps that churches of any size or setting may take to overcome unhealthy obstacles and see the dawn of a new day of church health. Please join us on Monday, March 31 for a time of insight. This meeting will be held at 6:30 at our Associational Office Conference Room.



**HOLMES**  
Baptist Association

## HEALTHY CHURCH SUMMIT

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR**

“NINE ORDERLY STEPS TO  
CHURCH HEALTH”

**MONDAY**  
**MARCH 31 6:30 - 8:00 PM**  
**HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOC. OFFICE**

**ENCOURAGE  
EQUIP ENGAGE**



**Dr. Brian E. Nall**

Brian Nall is our Regional Catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention. In ministry for more that 25 years, he is the author of **An Uphill Journey and Toward Revitalization.**

**What is Project 3:16?** you ask. Project 3:16 is a 16-day emphasis on evangelism hosted by our association in conjunction with the North American Mission Board and our state convention. 3:16 is in reference to John 3:16 and the date for Sunday, March 16. With 3/16 being on a Sunday, we are encouraging each of our pastors to preach on that scripture on that day, and consider making evangelism an emphasis during the first 16 days of March.

In preparation of the March 16 Evangelistic Weekend, we will host an **Evangelism Workshop on Friday, March 14 at 6:30pm** at the association office conference room with Dr Robin Jumper, Professor of Evangelism and Missions at the Baptist University of Florida in Graceville. This free workshop will feature training in evangelism, but also a time encouragement and vision casting for that weekend’s activities.





## RANDYm THOUGHTS...

Randy Torrance, Mission Strategist - Holmes Baptist Association

Vision & Victory

March 2025

When I look back over the past several months of serving as your AMS, I see many victories within our association. Not my victories – but victories of our churches and ministries. Everything from celebrations of new pastoral leadership and pastoral anniversaries, church events and ministry successes, associational events and activities such as pastor forums, ministry workshops, our annual mission trip and local mission opportunities, including times of worship, training and encouragement.

When I consider these accomplishments, I am reminded of the importance of giving praise to God for all that has been accomplished. It is through these accomplishments that we should give God the glory. Let me explain something at this point. I do not believe that God is primarily

honored by our accomplishments, I believe He finds pleasure in our obedience. If we are found obedient to the teachings of scripture, then I believe we are found pleasurable in His sight.

However, that is not to say that we should not celebrate the accomplishments of our ministry activities. I believe that such Celebration, if it is done with a desire to give God the glory, it is found pleasurable in His sight.

As is traditional, we will gather together to celebrate the victories of our churches and hear the visions of their leaders. **Our annual Vision & Victory Celebration Service on Tuesday, April 8 at West Pittman Baptist beginning at 6:30 pm.** This will also be our Semi-Annual Gathering of the association, its churches and leadership. We will welcome our newly elected Executive Director/Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Dr Stephen Rummage, as our speaker for the evening.

We will have opportunities for our churches to share testimonies of visions and victories for their congregations and ministries. I will briefly share an overview of our strategic plan which will serve as our vision for associational ministries and will facilitate a Pastors Panel, as we have in recent meetings, prior to hearing the vision of Dr Rummage for our state convention.

Please make an effort to clear your calendar and be a part of this annual celebration. The evening will close with a finger food and dessert fellowship, so please bring something to share as we celebrate the Visions and Victories of the churches and ministries of our association.

-Randy Torrance  
Mission Strategist



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