



TAMPA BAY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

E-News

Coming Alongside January, 2025

Pardon the re-send. Fixes some broken links in the RSVPs below.

NEW PRACTICES FOR A NEW YEAR



Pickleball. I'm not sure where the name came from but it is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. It is growing in popularity so much that many tennis courts throughout the greater Tampa Bay area have been converted to pickleball courts.

My daughter started playing pickleball some time ago and now I've played some myself. You may have seen me on ESPN Sports Center, but probably not.

I used to play singles' tennis on a weekly basis and thoroughly enjoyed it. I gave up tennis a number of years ago and settled for walking for exercise, even though I mostly have been inconsistent. But as I've matured in my years, I've come to recognize that it may be time for something new, maybe something like Pickleball.

New practices and habits can be good for us, and for churches. Sometimes we get stuck doing the same old thing and wonder why we do not see different results. That's why in 2025, the TBBA is excited to be offering, and partnering with others to offer new ways of fulfilling the Great Commission in our region.

Take a look at a few of the new events described in this article and throughout this eNews to learn about some of these upcoming opportunities.

In the past year, for the first time that I know of, a number of TBBA pastors have attended various lunches with other evangelical pastors and leaders to collaborate about new ways to better serve and reach people in our region with the gospel. Pastors are invited to our next meeting to learn more about this on January 15. Because the luncheon will soon be occurring, I sent a Constant Contact with more information about this Regional Pastors Gathering on January 2. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces there.

Darin Saley, along with his wife, Deborah have been an incredible blessing to the pastors and their wives at our annual Innisbrook Marriage Retreat. As a result they have led church marriage conferences, church date nights, small group couples training, and more over the past eight years. On January 16, Deborah Saley will start hosting an ongoing and free Pastors' Wives Dinner Fellowship for wives to enjoy themselves and build friendships with one another.

We will be emphasizing personal disciple making in some new ways. On March 17, we will be blessed to have Dhati Lewis, formerly with NAMB, speak to pastors about growing a Disciple Making Culture in our churches. Dhati is an author and disciple making guru/practitioner. He will be in the central Florida region because he will be a speaker at the Exponential Conference in Orlando. Dhati will speak at Christ Fellowship Church.

Then on April 8 we will have our friend, Dr. Bob Magruder give an Intro to Disciple Making so that any pastor or godly leader can understand how to get started in disciple making. In addition, the TBBA is partnering with Bob so that he can personally help pastors and churches implement sustainable disciple making ministries.

Finally, senior pastors in the TBBA have been praying together for an hour on a monthly basis for over ten years because we know that God can do much more through us and our churches when we are crying out to and trusting in Him. On May 1 we will be having a one day Pastors' Prayer Summit that will be led by our friend, Pastor Paul Purvis. We have not had a Prayer Summit exclusively for our pastors in many years. The Summit will be a 3.5 hour time of prayer, worship, repentance, and renewal and it will take place at Mission Hill Church. Do not miss this fresh and powerful pastoral gathering.

Sometimes new things can be good, even great. We'll keep doing the old things also like monthly J15 Pastors' Gatherings, our Annual Preaching Conference, Evangelism Training, our Annual Spanish Men's Retreat, and more.

Let's try something new and maybe I'll even see you on a Pickleball court in the near future.

Coming alongside ,
Mike

ALL NEW, COMING SOON

With the new year comes some new and exciting opportunities for you to connect and grow in the areas of prayer, collaboration, and discipleship. We hope you will *Save the date* and get involved in these upcoming events.

Senior Pastors Wives Dinner

January 16, 2025

6:00pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

TBBA Office



Pastors Wives Dinner
January 16, 2025

1060 W. Busch Blvd.

Pastors' wives need trusted friends outside of their churches. Join Deborah Saley and pastors' wives for an enjoyable free meal (Carrabbas) and fellowship.

RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org soon.



Creating a Disciple-making Culture in Your Church
with Pastor Dhati Lewis

March 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Dhati is a pastor, author, and disciple making guru/practitioner who makes disciples who make disciples in the inner city.

RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org.

Intro to Disciple-making

April 8, 2025

Dr. Bob Magruder

9:00am - 12:30pm

lunch provided

TBBA Offices

Pastors and leaders are invited to hear about how they can lead their church to start and sustain a disciple making ministry.



RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org

Pastors Prayer Summit

Thursday, May 1, 2025

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

at Mission Hill Church

(lunch provided)

The Summit will be a 3.5 hour time of prayer, worship, repentance, & renewal. Do not miss this fresh and powerful pastoral gathering led by Pastor Paul Purvis.



RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org.

CONTINUING TOGETHER TOUR



Continuing Together Tour

with Dr. Steven Rummage
Executive Director / Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention

February 20, 2025
Idlewild Baptist Church
6:00 p.m.

Dr. Stephen Rummage will meet with pastors and leaders at Idlewild Baptist Church so that he can get to know them and share his vision for the ministry of the Florida Baptist Convention in the years ahead. Do not miss this great opportunity to meet with Dr. Rummage in person.

RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org.

JOIN FLORIDA BAPTISTS IN PRAYER FOR STUDENTS



**Help us pray for every college student
in Florida... by name.**

1 student per day for 40 days.

Florida Baptists are Praying for Students by Name

Join thousands of other praying warriors as we pray for every college and university student in Florida by name. You'll receive a monthly email on the last Thursday of the month. Pray-by-name begins March 5, 2025. *for privacy, we share only first names

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ECAP



EVANGELICAL COUNCIL
FOR ABUSE PREVENTION

**ECAP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, March 25**

Mission Hill Church
10002 N. 56th St.
Temple Terrace
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Lunch provided

Join us to learn more about abuse and child protection for ministry leaders. We believe that child protection is important for ministry leaders because every person is created in the image of God. Furthermore, we believe that child protection is a matter of Great Commission significance and biblical stewardship.

At this child protection workshop you will learn the basics of child protection, tap into helpful resources and find out how ECAP can come alongside your ministry to help you protect the least of these.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness for the importance of abuse prevention and child protection
- Provide ministry leaders with resources to assist them in prevention
- Connect with area churches and ministries that value child safety

Cost and Registration information will be provided soon.

J15 MONTHLY PASTORS GATHERINGS



J15 Monthly Pastors Gatherings

Pastors, join us starting back in January at 11:30 a.m. for a time in the word, earnest prayer, and fellowship during a free lunch.

Regularly meeting every first Thursday
at FBC Tampa (downtown)

DATE CHANGED to January 9, 2025

Every fourth Wednesday at King's Avenue BC (Brandon)
January 22, 2024

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Pastors and Wives Christmas Party

Praise the Lord, about 90 pastors and wives had an amazing time at the Puleo Farm on Monday, December 2, 2024 for our Annual Pastors & Wives Christmas Party. Every year this event has been an incredible celebration of the birth of our Savior at a beautiful venue. This year, in addition to the delicious meal and desserts, the Puleos blessed all the attendees with a coffee bar with fresh ground coffee just like at a favorite coffee shop. Of course there were fun games, singing of Christmas carols, and a devotion about the Word (Jesus) becoming flesh and dwelling among us.



Lunch and Learn with Pastor Gary Payne

We were really excited to get back to our Conference Center on November 18, 2024 for our famous \$5.00 steak lunch and a great time with Pastor Gary Payne, who shared with us about what it takes to start and sustain an effective men's ministry in our churches.

Pastor Gary shared some great insights from decades of men's ministry experience. If you would like some help evaluating or starting a men's ministry in your church, please contact Pastor Mike directly. [Email](#) or call the office (813) 935-3839.

Thank you, Pastor Gary, and thank you to Bill Stump and his staff for making it a great outing. We look forward to our next Lunch and Learn coming in early 2025.

COMMUNITY & MINISTRY



Harvest Bible Fellowship

- HBF would like to donate two adjustable-height tables (30" x 60"), and two small tables and six chairs (image above). Contact Barbara Allen. barbara@hbftampa.com.

Pastor's Library — Books Available

- Pastor Charles Scrivens, who passed away last year, left to his son, Lanse, his entire collection of books that he had amassed over 60-plus years. Lanse has invited our pastors to "come and look at the books" and possibly take some of them home for your collection. Contact Lanse Scrivens by email lanse@lansescriven.com.

El Shaddai Baptist

- El Shaddai church is in need of a free pulpit because of termite damage to their old one. Contact Pastor Felix Walters (813) 352-8002 if you have a pulpit that you are able to give to his church.

Manhattan Baptist

- Manhattan has several pianos and two organs they would like to donate. Contact Sue Turner (813) 841-4585.

Sheldon Road Baptist

- Sheldon Road Baptist is looking for a part time music leader. Does not need to be a member. Please call Pastor Mark Nunes at (813) 545-6374 for more information.

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