

## **WELCOME, DR. MARTY BLACK**

**On Tuesday evening, January 14, 2025**, messengers of the churches of Concord Union Baptist Association gathered for the purpose of a special called business meeting to hear and act upon the recommendation of the Director of Missions Search Committee. Messengers numbering one hundred plus and representing forty churches were in attendance. Dr. Marty Black was confirmed by acclamation as the new Director of Missions and began his tenure as DOM on Sunday, January 19, 2025.



Dr. Marty Black is no stranger to our Concord Union Baptist Association. He and his wife, Tessa Elkins Black, have deep roots in our area. Both graduated from Spearsville High School and still regard Union Parish as “home”. At the age of twenty-five, Marty Black experienced God’s salvation and was immediately called into ministry. That ministry work has been evident across multiple churches and associations. Bro. Marty began his vocational calling by serving as Student Minister at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Spearsville. He subsequently moved to the pastoral role at Bethel Baptist Church in Lillie and then later to Bonita Road Baptist Church in Bastrop. Dr. Black was pastor of New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe prior to coming to Concord Union Baptist Association.

In addition to his pastoral experience, Bro. Marty has served as an associational missions strategist (DOM) for two different associations – Clear Creek Baptist Association in Northwest Arkansas and North Central Baptist Association just south of Concord Union. Dr. Black holds degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Liberty University. He earned a D. Ed. Min. with a specialization in Church Health from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

### ***A word from Bro. Marty***

*There are no words to describe these past few months and how God has been moving and working to bring about His will. The many thoughts that have been going through my heart and mind are not possible to describe. My wife, Tessa, and I grew up in this area and lived here for almost 40 years. My first pastorate was in this association at Bethel Baptist Church in Lillie, located between Junction City and Bernice. Several times during my tenure here I sat down in the very office I now serve out of and poured out my heart to Barry Joyner and Connie Ward concerning the many challenges of ministry. I have tremendous respect for both men.*

*Twenty years ago, God moved Tessa and I away from the only home we knew. During that time, we had the opportunity to meet, serve, and lead some Godly men and women of faith. I would have never thought that God would eventually bring us back to where it all began. The thought that the Lord would call and allow me to serve as Director of Missions in Concord Union Baptist Association is very humbling.*

*These first couple weeks of serving, Tessa and I have already had the opportunity to go into a few of our churches. We have been down roads we have not been down in years. We have reconnected with people we have not seen in several years. Yes, most of us are grayer and have gained a little weight. For those we have not yet met, we look forward to meeting you and building relationships.*

*I look forward to serving Concord Union Baptist Association, our many churches and partnerships. This association has a rich history of leadership and churches that willingly serve together to advance God’s Kingdom. That is something we want to continue. Please, don’t hesitate to reach out to me and let me know how I can serve you and your church. My mobile number is 318-224-1083.*

*In Christ,  
Marty Black, DOM*



The Concord Union Baptist Association Choir Festival will be held on Monday evening, March 3, 2025, at Cook Baptist Church, Ruston beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year, there will be only one festival. Ms. Lynette Murphy, Association Music Director, would like to invite all of our churches to participate in this special event. No matter the size of your church choir or ensemble, churches are encouraged to participate in this evening of praise and worship. Music Directors should contact Ms. Lynette Murphy at (501) 318-8701 or [arklagirl80@gmail.com](mailto:arklagirl80@gmail.com).

## Ordinations

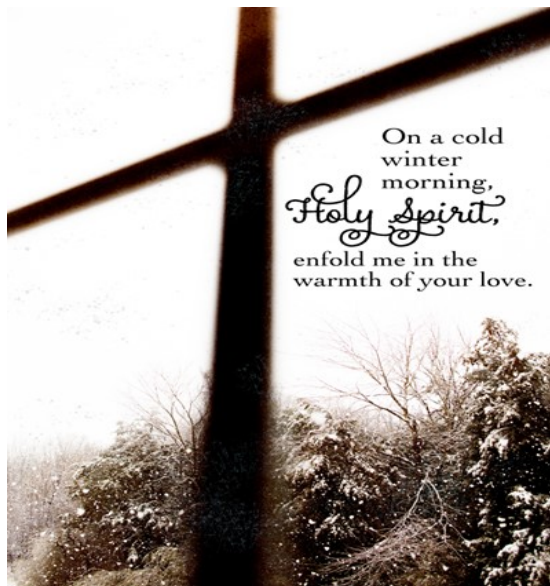
*Conway Baptist Church, Marion ordained James "Jimmy" Tettleton to the office and work of Deacon on Sunday, January 19, 2025. William Englerth is Pastor at Conway B.C.*

*First Baptist Church, Bernice will ordain Reagan Colvin to the work of the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, February 9, 2025. An ordaining council will meet at 3 p.m., with the ordination service to follow at 4 p.m.*

*Weldon Baptist Church, Bernice will ordain Michael Brookover to the work of the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, March 2, 2025. An ordaining council will meet at 3 p.m., with the ordination service to follow at 4 p.m.*

*Culbertson Baptist Church, Farmerville will ordain Billy Gene Rath and John Paul Hancock to the office and work of Deacon on Sunday, April 13, 2025. The ordination service will be held as part of the churches morning worship service which begins at 10:30 a.m.. An ordaining council will be held on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. at Culbertson BC.*

*Pastors and Deacons across Concord Union Baptist Association are invited to participate on these ordaining councils and ordination services.*



### First Baptist Church, Spearsville

*259 Spearsville Road, Spearsville, LA*

will host the

**February 11, 2025**

**Pastor/Staff Conference (10 AM) and  
Executive Board (11 AM)**

*Lunch will be served afterwards.*

*Pastors, Church Staff, and Executive Board members,  
come join us for an hour of encouragement,  
a little business, and a great lunch.*

## Fellowship Baptist Church—Dubach

**"The Church in the Bend Turning Lives to Christ"**  
cordially invites you to our annual

## "Men's Wild Game Supper"

**Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6pm**

**We're located at 6476 Hwy. 151, Dubach, LA  
318-777-3917**

**Our Guest speaker will be Bro. Thomas Patton!  
You will not want to miss his powerful testimony!**

**Bring all the men & boys in your church & family for  
Great Food, Good Fun and Amazing Fellowship!**

# Circle of Love Prayer List



**January 26 - Feb 1, 2025**

**First Baptist Church, Dubach**

Rev. Eddie Robison, Pastor  
P. O. Box 340, Dubach, LA 71235

**February 2 - 8, 2025**

**Mt. Union Baptist Church**

Rev. Marcell McGee, Pastor  
C/o 5583 Hwy. 15, North, Farmerville 71241

**February 9 - 15, 2025**

**Camp Creek Baptist Church**

Rev. Eddie Schexnaydre, Pastor  
177 Camp Creek Church Rd., Spearsville 71277

**February 16 - 22, 2025**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Dr. Reggie Bridges, Pastor  
1515 S. Service Road, West, Ruston 71270

**February 23 - March 1, 2025**

**Pleasant Hill Baptist, Farmerville**

*No Pastor*  
10267 Hwy. 143, Farmerville 71241

## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Lisa Allred  
Mary Ruth Allred  
Andrew Aswell  
Mildred Brantley  
Kayla Coleman  
Mike Collie  
JoAnn Grafton  
Lynda Grafton  
Nell Grafton

Barbara Green  
Rev. Carroll Holmes  
Rev. Bobby Kranz  
Rev. Mickey Manning  
Clay Mook  
Rev. Paul Pearson  
Rev. Jeff Sanford  
Ann Smith  
Rev. Jerry Whitman  
Dale Williams

*Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Verda Prewitt O'Bannon.*

*Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Cassie Christmas*

**Pray for our churches without pastors.**

**2 - Spiritual Awakening Committee Prayer meeting, 2 P.M. at the M&M Center. Anyone is welcome to attend.**

**3-4 LBC KID Min Retreat**

**7-8 LBC Collegiate Evangelism Conference**

**9 Ordination Service for Reagan Colvin at First Baptist Church, Bernice. Ordaining counsel to meet at 3 p.m.; Ordination to Follow at 4 p.m.**

**11 - Pastor's Conference (10 a.m.) and Executive Board (11 a.m.) at FBC, Spearsville**

**13 - North and South Regions WMU meeting concerning Missions Market, 2 p.m. at the Missions and Ministry Center.**

**February 2025**  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS



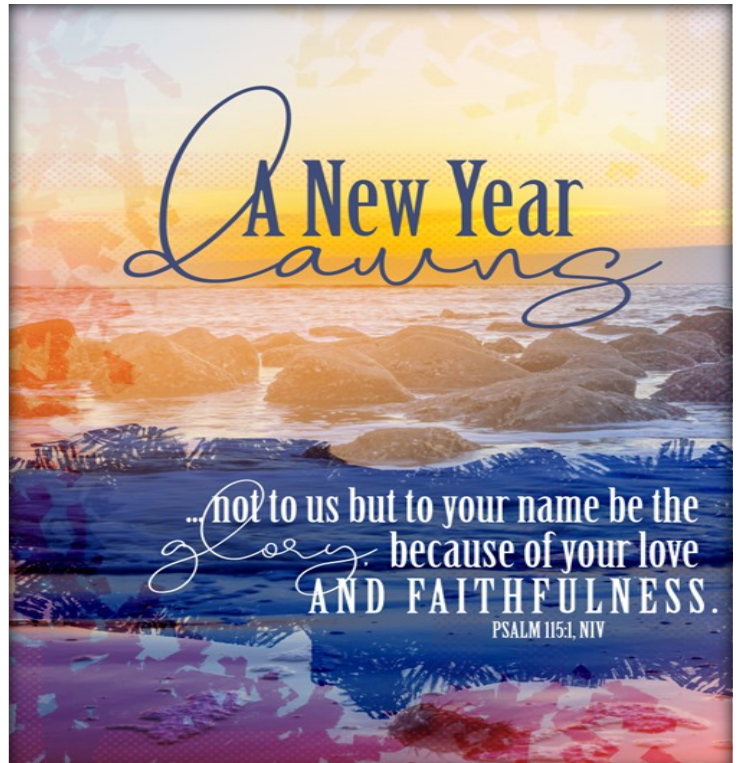
## ROCK CORNER BAPTIST CHURCH

*invites you to join them for*

### Revival Services

Sunday, February 2 - Wednesday, February 5  
6:30 p.m. each night

Faith's Journey from Branson, MO will lead us.  
See you there and bring a friend!



**“THANK YOU from CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MINISTRY”** Harlin and Karen Knight and Team have shared a very detailed letter of thanks concerning their 29th mission trip to the Native Americans. The 2024 mission team had 14 team members representing 4 different churches. Worship services were held at three of the churches: **Living Springs BC**, Cuba, NM; **Maranantha BC**, Shiprock, NM; and, **Victory BC**, Red Valley, AZ. **The service at Maranantha resulted in 9 people praying for salvation and 1 rededication!** The team collected and distributed 1567 shoebox gifts, blankets, throws, new and used coats, clothes, crochet dolls, and miscellaneous gifts. Special gifts were prepared for the Pastor's families that included coffee, creamer/sugar, spam, Vienna sausage, crackers and blankets. The team purchased 325, 20-pound bags of Blue Bird flour, 325 4-pound buckets of Morrell lard, and 325, 10-pound bags of pinto beans for the food distribution. Bro. Harlin, Mrs. Karen and their team wish to express their appreciation to ALL who contributed shoebox gifts and money. *“You never cease to amaze us how faithful you are to support the Christmas Shoebox Ministry even after 29 years.”* Serving in Christ, Harlin & Karen Knight and many others.

**NOTE: Full content of Karen's letter will be attached to the email version of the newsletter or can be requested from M&M Center.**

## CONCORD UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

3481 Highway 33, Ruston, LA 71270  
P. O. Box 606, Ruston, LA 71273

**Dr. Marty Black,**  
*Director of Missions*

**New Email:**

[dom@concordunionbaptistassociation.net](mailto:dom@concordunionbaptistassociation.net)

**Nancy Collie,**  
*Ministry Assistant*

**New Email:**

[admin@concordunionbaptistassociation.net](mailto:admin@concordunionbaptistassociation.net)

Office Phone: (318) 255-9030

**Website:**

[concordunionbaptistassociation.net](http://concordunionbaptistassociation.net)

**Missions & Ministry Center**

**Office Hours: 8 AM - 4 PM**

**Monday thru Thursday; Closed Fridays**

### Granberry Counseling Centers

*a ministry of the Louisiana  
Baptist Children's Home*



**DENA M. MELNA,**  
**LPC**

**Serving Concord Union  
Baptist Association  
Missions and Ministry  
Center**

**Appointments are required.**

**SCHEDULE by calling**

**(318) 450-4660 or 1-877-345-7411**

**or via email: [dena@lbch.org](mailto:dena@lbch.org)**

### Concord Union Churches without Pastors

Downsville BC

Enterprise BC

Fellowship BC\*

First, Bernice

Liberty BC\*

Litroe BC\*

Mineral Springs BC\*

Mt. Ararat BC

Mt. Tabor BC

Nazareth Hispanic\*

Pleasant Hill, Farmerville

Spencer BC\*

Weldon BC\*

\* *Interim Pastor currently serving*

## Church Happenings...

**Robert Grafton** has resigned as Minister of Music at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston to serve **FBC, Bernice** as Minister of Music.

**Frank Nihart** has retired as Minister of Music at **FBC, Farmerville.**

### PASTORS/MINISTERS/STAFF NEEDED:

**Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston** has an open position for Minister of Music. This is a part-time position and interested individuals should email Rev. Paul Watts at [paul@ebcruston.org](mailto:paul@ebcruston.org).

**Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Dubach** is seeking a Pastor. Send resumes to: 118 Pea Ridge Road, Dubach, LA 71235 or email to [msbaptistlouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:msbaptistlouisiana@gmail.com).

**Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Rocky Branch** is seeking a permanent bi-vocational pastor to serve in our small community. Parsonage is included. If interested, please email resume to [phbc1026721@gmail.com](mailto:phbc1026721@gmail.com) or contact Bro. Gary Chapman at 318-366-0540.

**First Baptist Church, Spearsville** is seeking a part time Youth Minister. Please contact Bro. Neil Everett@ [fbcspcarsville@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcspcarsville@yahoo.com)

**Fellowship Baptist Church, Dubach** is seeking a Full Time PASTOR. Please send resume and cover letter to [resumes@fellowshipbaptistchurchdubach.org](mailto:resumes@fellowshipbaptistchurchdubach.org).

**First Baptist Church, Ruston** is seeking a Full time YOUTH PASTOR, great opportunity leading a large youth ministry with lots of potential. Please send resume to Ed Colvin at [ed@fbcruston.org](mailto:ed@fbcruston.org) or [brenda@fbcruston.org](mailto:brenda@fbcruston.org).

**Paron Baptist Church, West Sterlington** is seeking a part-time WORSHIP LEADER. Resumes may be sent to [paronoffice676@gmail.com](mailto:paronoffice676@gmail.com).

### Newsletter Options

If you are reading this issue of *The Tidings*, then you either received a printed copy through the U.S. Mail or you received an email edition or you visited [concordunionbaptistassociation.net](http://concordunionbaptistassociation.net) and are reading the newsletter on our website. To those of you who are reading the email edition or seeing the website edition, we want to thank you so very much! These options save our association a lot of money.

To those of you who have traditionally received a printed copy of the newsletter via the post office, IF you are receiving the printed copy in addition to an email edition, please let us know so that we can delete your name from the print list. IF you are receiving the printed copy and are willing to receive the newsletter via email or through the website, please send an email to Nancy at [admin@concordunionbaptistassociation.net](mailto:admin@concordunionbaptistassociation.net) so that we can delete your name from the print list.

The cost of the bulk mail permit combined with the printing cost for 400+ newsletter is increasing! We would like to reduce the cost by further reducing the number of printed copies, if at all possible. Can you help us? Thank you!



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