

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; Acts 1:7

But it is perfectly okay to know what's coming up in the Association!

- ♦ **December 22nd - January 2nd**  
ARVBA Office Closed for the Holidays!
- ♦ **February 7th** - Abuse Prevention & Reporting Conference
- ♦ **March 6th & 7th** - Heart & 4 Fields Evangelism Training Event!

Check the Association Website for more dates and events!

# PASTOR SEARCH

Please pray for the following churches as they seek their next Pastor

**Rover Baptist Church**  
**First Baptist, Centerville**  
**First Baptist, Clarksville**

**Congratulations Newly Ordained Pastor Steven Walker!**

## The Good News Letter

December, 2025

### ABUSE PREVENTION + RESPONSE CONFERENCE

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Fair Park Baptist Church**  
**615 Knoxville Ave.**  
**Russellville, AR**

Presented by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Abuse Prevention + Response Team

**“There’s A Reason You Hear Of Wolves In Sheep’s Clothing!”**

As Arkansas Baptists, we are continually working to expand abuse prevention, implement safety practices, policies and procedures, and show compassion and care for survivors of abuse. We grieve for anyone who suffers abuse and we desire for all Arkansas Baptist churches to be safe places. This conference, brought to you in partnership with your local Baptist Association, is another powerful tool to help your church safeguard the most vulnerable among us.

Emily Smith and Craig Jenkins from the ABSC will lead the conference team and the event will resemble the format below. Legal issues such as “Church Safety Policies” and “How to Respond if a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) desires to attend your services will also be discussed.

<p><b>Tentative Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00-10:15 The Essentials: APR Overview Craig Jenkins</li><li>• 10:15-11:00 Session 1: Train/Screen - Emily Smith</li><li>• 11:00-11:45 Session 2: Protect - Guest Speaker</li><li>• 11:45-12:30 Lunch: Panel Discussion</li><li>• 12:30-1:15 Session 3: Report - Guest Speaker</li><li>• 1:15-1:50 Session 4: Care - Guest Speaker</li><li>• 1:50-2:00 Closing - Craig Jenkins</li></ul>	<p>The cost for this event is only \$10.00 which covers lunch and all printed materials.</p> <p>Pre-registration is very helpful! (Click the logo below)</p> <div></div>
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“Churches Doing More Together!”

www.thearvba.com



**The Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association**  
801 Williamson Way  
Russellville, AR 72801

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Russellville, AR 72801  
Permit #150





# Missionary's Heart

At least a week. That is my best guess as to how long it would have taken Joseph and Mary to travel the roughly 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. (Factor in donkey speed, meal and bathroom stops, and frequent other interruptions due to Mary being 'great with child') That means, *on our calendar*, they will leave home this Thursday, arrive at the Inn next Thursday, and Mary will give birth to the Savior that evening.

*On our calendar*, Elizabeth is still trying to get a handle on the new mother gig and Zachariah is continuing to educate his friends with information he wasn't able to share earlier.

*On our calendar*, Wise Men (astrologers) are mapping the stars unaware that, very soon, a brand new one will brighten the night sky.

Today, *on our calendar*, the Inn Keeper is booking his very last room and the shepherds are perhaps 'casting lots' to see who among them will pull night-herding duty for the next week.

*On our calendar*, the Heavenly Hosts are counting the days until the Big Cantata while the Angel of the Lord practices his solo speaking part.

There are a lot of significant (and seemingly insignificant) things *on our calendar* between this Thursday and next. All of them directly, or indirectly related to the birth of Christ. (some of them maybe even true!) Read 'the biblical Christmas Story' again and let me know how close I got with that finely-worded analogy!

*"Between this Thursday and next"...* After I wrote the opening to this article, I realized how much of our existence is orchestrated by the 'betweens'. "Between this Thursday and next" could be changed to "between this minute and next", or "between this year and next, or "between" any other points in time we choose.

Let's take "between March of 2015 and December, 2025". In last month's article, I described that period of time as a privilege. *"For the past ten years, it has been my privilege to serve the greatest Association of churches on the planet!"* There has been a lot of life-orchestration between those points of time!

*Between those points*, the Association gained three new churches and started two new ministries.

Between those points, the churches of the ARVBA helped carry my bride and myself through our respective cancer journeys and my own subsequent health issues. You also helped us celebrate the addition of a new daughter-in-law and son-in-law PLUS a whole herd of grandchildren!

*Between those points*, The Association has 'missioned' thirty-three churches/church plants in three states resulting in more than twenty-five souls saved on site. (We know the Lord continues to work long after The Team returns home)

*Between those points* in time, the ARVBA continued to provide one of the best church camps in the state resulting in more than 528 new believers born into the Kingdom. (And that doesn't even count the hundreds saved at camp in the years prior to 2015!)

All of us, I think, would benefit from looking back at past events *on our calendars* (significant or seemingly insignificant). It's pretty cool to be reminded that God has been personally orchestrating our lives all along!

In a couple of weeks we will find ourselves between two easily identifiable *points in time*. January 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 are already on our calendar and dates are being rapidly penciled in. Please pray that the Lord will lead the ministries of your Association and give clarity and insight to our Association leaders.

On behalf of Myself, my beautiful bride, and Mrs. Tena, I wish you all a

Merry  
Christmas  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bro Danny



Evangelism + Discipleship Training

**March 6-7 2026**

*Presented by*

**The Conway-Perry Baptist Association and  
First Baptist Church, Oppelo  
304 Hwy 9 Oppelo, AR 72110**

One glaring failure in the church today is the lack of meaningful (or any other kind!) of evangelism training. Conway-Perry Baptist Association & First Baptist, Oppello (with the help of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention) are doing something about that and we are invited to join them!

Whether you're a church leader, church planter, or everyday church member, *Heart & Four Fields* will provide you with the practical tools and strategies you need to make a lasting impact on your community. Bro. Danny has already signed up and hopes many ARVBA'ers will follow suit!

Are you ready to take your evangelism and disciple-making efforts to the next level? Online viewers click the logo above OR go to [www.thearvba.com](http://www.thearvba.com) and follow the links!



**VBS 2026 will be here before you know it!**  
Check the Association Calendar for VBS Clinic info as it becomes available!



**All Things BCM 2025!**

Online viewers click the pic to catch up on all that God has done, and is doing, on the ATU campus!

All others can catch up on 'All Things BCM here: <https://techbcm.com/>



**PASTORS' OVERNIGHT  
RETREAT**

**AT COLD SPRINGS RETREAT**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 @ 6:00PM –  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 11:30AM**

**COST: \$40**

**FINDING RENEWAL  
IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE**

A Faulkner Baptist Association event for pastors in  
Arkansas. Reserve your spot with Scott Miller  
At [scott@faulknerbaptist.com](mailto:scott@faulknerbaptist.com)