

CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 28

10:00 A Bible Study

Thursday, January 29

10:00 A Bible Study

Friday, January 30

9:30 A Yoga

Sunday, February 1

8:30 A Common Grounds

Café Open

9:15 A Sunday School

10:30 A Worship Service

11:30 A Deacon Meeting

5:00 P Youth

Tuesday, February 3

9:30 A Yoga

Wednesday, February 4

10:00 A Bible Study

6:30 P Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 5

10:00 A Bible Study

Friday, February 6

9:30 A Yoga

Sunday, February 8

8:30 A Common Grounds

Café open

9:15 A Sunday School

10:30 A Worship Service

11:30 A Winter Social

4:00 P Belles Rehearsal

5:00 P Youth

Tuesday, February 10

9:30 A Yoga

5:30 P Trustee Meeting

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Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

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H H A T S

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Broadmoor Baptist Bulletin

find your place



Annual Deacon Winter Chili/Soup Social

February 8
following worship



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

February 17
11:00 a.m.



Ash Wednesday Self-Guided Service

12P-2P

BBC Sanctuary

A Service Identifying with Christ on His Journey,
Even to the Cross



"Take Up Your Cross"

As we approach the beginning of Lent, I have been wondering if we haven't misunderstood Jesus' requirement to "take up our cross." I used to think that "taking up my cross" generally meant becoming a disciple of Jesus, meaning to lead people to Jesus, meaning to give people a relationship with Jesus, insurance for the afterlife – the "top floor" rather than the "bottom," and membership in the Church ... so that, they could then "take up *their* cross" to become a disciple, who leads people to Jesus, gives them a relationship and insurance and membership ... and so forth.

Now I know that's not what it means. Yes, Jesus wants a relationship, but have you ever noticed what a relationship with Jesus meant for, say, Peter, who feared knowing Jesus publicly? Or for John the Baptist, who went to prison and had his head "removed?" Or for the Apostle Paul, who was always in prison – and was killed? Or for Stephen, who was given the nickname "the Martyr" for his relationship with Jesus? Or John, who was isolated on an island from family and friends for his relationship? Ouch!

And "taking up your cross" has little to do with giving people "eternity insurance," or becoming a member of the Church. It isn't about "identity!" Okay, it is, but it is our identity *with someone who did some things* that angered *some ones* who thought they had the right to "remove" Jesus. Jesus was given a cross, but not because of his

"identity." His problem wasn't with the Atheists, the Agnostics, or the Pagans. It was primarily with the Politicians and the Reverends (uh oh), those who enjoyed power over people.

Jesus warned that those who follow Him must "take up their cross," literally a tool of public derision/shame/execution; and He got a cross because His was not a religion that privileged those in power, those who "lorded over them" (see Luke 22:24-27). His own home church tried to throw Him off a cliff for reminding them God has a history of loving the "wrong people." The Reverends were ready to kill him every time He broke a Ten Commandment (healing/working on the Sabbath). The clencher was when He disturbed the money-handlers and Reverends for making "church" about money (power) rather than prayer (humility). It didn't help that He continually undercut those in power by elevating the poor, outcast, foreigners (see Samaritans), while judging the leaders/insiders to be hypocrites, even banishing them to Hades (see Rich Man and Lazarus).

The cross isn't about identity – it's about identity *with Jesus*. Sometimes, Jesus is at odds with the Politicians and the Reverends. At times, people wearing gold crosses have behaved like those who nailed Jesus to one. It's not about identity – it's about *behavior*.

Lent is Coming!

Dr. Ezell

GET INVOLVED

Affinity Groups

We have started to get groups for Affinity Groups. So far We have a coin collecting, cooking, our Average Church Band, cyber security and embroidery. If any of these interest you, sign up on sheets outside the sanctuary or in the church office. There is still time to submit your ideas if you would like to lead one.

New Bible Studies

"The Scribal Corruption of Scripture: Who Changed the Bible and Why?"

A video lecture series addressing the changes and alterations of the biblical texts and what they mean now.
Wednesdays 10-11AM in Common Grounds Café

"God Said What?!"

Wrestling with Cruelty, Violence, and Vengeance in the Old Testament"

An honest approach to negative images of God.

Thursdays 10-11AM in Church Conference Room

*These Bible Studies will repeat on opposite days upon completion

Greater Bridge Academy

Greater Bridge Academy started this week! Currently they are only having infants. As they continue to grow they have asked if members would like to read to older children. If you are available in the future the help out please let the church office know. This is a great way to welcome our new friends.

Year to Date Financials

12/31/25

Budget 2025:	\$ 954,479.00
Receipts:	\$ 840,277.32 (88.04 % of budget)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 778,635.41</u> (81.58% of budget)
	\$61,641.91

MINISTRY OUTREACH

In Loving Memory

Jamie Chapman *united with this church on January 1, 1986 and departed this life on January 17, 2026.*

Joyce Piper *united with this church on April 17, 2011 and departed this life on January 18, 2026.*

Our Lady of the Lake

Valerie Barnes

Baton Rouge General– Bluebonnet

Larry Davis

Frances Henry

Home from Hospital

Rodney Miller

Florence Davis

Southeast Ministries

During the month of January, we will be collecting tuna.

Can you help?

If you are willing and able to help us spread mulch on the playground please let us know!! Date to be announced.

Together for Hope Lake Providence

Lake Providence is without power. The Together for Hope house is currently being used as a warming center. Interfaith of Louisiana is setting this up. Currently Red Cross is unable to make it to the area due to the roads. They could use 2-3 volunteers with 4WD to go up and help keep the house running and be a presence. If you can help, contact Bobby.

Deacon Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 11:30 A
Common Grounds Cafe