

Santa Rosa Baptist Association

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*An electronic copy of the VIEW is on our website: www.srassociation.org

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VIEW

Associational Mission Strategist

One of my favorite verses is

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:13-15

The KJV substitutes the word "mark" for the word "prize". Every letter I have written the last 35 years, I have signed, "pressing toward the Mark".

Two questions:

What is the "Mark"?

What if the mark we've been aiming for all along isn't the mark our Lord wants us to pursue?

What if, in aeronautical terms, we have been flying the plane upside down and didn't realize our error. We try and pull up, but only crash into the ground.

For years, churches have often measured success by "nickels and noses"—how much money is given and how many people attend. While attendance and giving are important indicators of church health, they don't necessarily tell us whether people are becoming more like Jesus.

The challenge is to change our metrics from simply counting who is coming to asking who is growing.

Are people growing in their knowledge of God's Word? Are they becoming more like Christ in their character? Are they learning to pray, serve, share their faith, make disciples, and live out their faith in everyday life? Are we seeing spiritual maturity taking place?

Jesus didn't command us simply to gather crowds. He commanded us to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

That means our goal as churches must be bigger than getting people in the door. Our goal is to help people take their next step toward becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Perhaps it's time for all of us to ask a different question:

Are we counting people, or are we making disciples?

I recently attended a conference in Jacksonville hosted by Clarity House. The training focused on the importance of changing how we measure success in the church following this same line of thinking.

If this is something you or your church would like to explore or discuss, please reach out to me or the SRBA office.

Happenings:

Here's a polished version that keeps your pastoral tone while improving grammar, flow, and consistency:

Prayer for Schools

The school year is upon us! Many churches prayer-walked their local schools and held special times of prayer during the first week of August. I want to encourage you to continue praying that our Lord would "stir up" our schools and work powerfully through FCA, First Priority, and other Christian clubs throughout the coming school year. Lord, send revival!

Peer Learning Groups

After taking a two-month hiatus, our Peer Learning Groups are back! We are once again gathering to do life together, encourage one another, and grow as leaders.

We recently finished Atomic Habits by James Clear, and we are beginning a new journey through The Road We Must Travel Again by Marc Estes. This is a great time to join us, as we are just beginning a new study. Fellowship lunch will follow each gathering.

Milton — 2nd Monday of the month | 10:30 a.m. | SRBA Office

Navarre — 3rd Thursday of the month | 10:30 a.m. | FBC Navarre

Pace — 4th Thursday of the month | 11:00 a.m. | Immanuel Baptist

Upcoming Annual Celebration

We are excited about this year's 108th Annual Meeting of the Santa Rosa Baptist Association, and I want to encourage you to attend for several reasons:

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"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised." *Psalms 113:3*

Church	07/16/26 08/15/26	2026 Total
Antioch Fellowship	50.00	400.00
Avalon	0.00	5,240.64
Bagdad First	70.53	514.81
Berrydale	438.45	3,122.25
Billory	122.00	2,316.00
Blackwater	576.99	1,794.48
Calvary	0.00	500.00
Cora	793.99	3,691.90
East Side	125.00	1,000.00
Ferris Hill	0.00	9,410.71
Floridatown	150.00	900.00
Friendship	0.00	467.92
GB First	0.00	0.00
Harold First	79.00	572.00

Church	07/16/26 08/15/26	2026 Total
Hic. Hammock	0.00	100.00
Immanuel	0.00	9,500.00
James Street	45.90	347.39
Jay First	411.59	981.82
Live Oak	50.00	350.00
Living Truth	0.00	6,837.00
Midway	0.00	110.00
Milton First	1,285.77	11,015.78
Mission Casa	0.00	250.00
Navarre First	0.00	3,605.12
New Bethel	120.03	1,041.75
New Life	173.35	1,422.16
Olivet	498.63	4,073.67
Pine Level	235.26	2,861.34

Church	07/16/26 08/15/26	2026 Total
Pine Terrace	0.00	14,459.59
Pleasant Home	1,324.97	3,183.35
Providence	0.00	250.00
Replicate	0.00	750.00
S. R. Shores	178.61	1,402.98
Springhill	0.00	450.00
Stump Springs	0.00	300.00
The Point, SBC	84.68	636.55
Wallace	889.11	8,096.07
Woodbine	200.00	1,400.00
Viet. Christian	600.00	600.00
Viet. Living Faith	0.00	0.00
Anonymous Church	800.00	6,601.00
Total GIFTS	9,303.86	110,556.28

Thank
You...

We appreciate all of you and your giving; as you give to your church, the church gives to the association. In this way, we all work together for the Kingdom of God, seeing people saved and lives changed!! Thank you so much!

Upcoming Events

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PASTOR'S PEER LEARNING GROUP MEETINGS:

Milton PLG: Sept. 14, 10:30am, at the SRBA office
FBC Navarre PLG: Sept. 17th, 10:30am @ FBC Navarre
Pace PLG: Sept. 24th, 11am @ Immanuel, Pace

SAVE THE DATE:

September 10 - WEST REGION Youth Leader Retreat - @ 5
 Bridges Church, Panama City Beach. 10 - 4 pm.

Sept. 10 -17 - Maguire State Mission Offering & Week of Prayer

September 12 - REGIONAL Women's & Teens Edify Conference @ Immanuel Baptist, Pace. 8:30 -3:30pm, with Rachel Lovinggood. Vendor Shopping, Lunch, Many Breakout Sessions

September 20 - Floridatown's 70th Anniversary, 10:45 am

Sept. 21-22 - Next Gen Summit @ the FL Bapt. Convention
 Early bird special \$15 til Aug. 21st. Afterward \$30.

Oct. 18 - Santa Rosa Baptist 119th Annual Meeting - At Wallace Baptist Church 3pm -5:30pm. Fellowship Meal after.

Oct. 22 - 23 - Statewide -The Florida Senders Network Meeting - Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater.

November 9-10 - Florida Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference and Annual Meeting "Holy Urgency, Finish What He Started." Pastor's Conference Monday, Nov.9th. The Annual meeting will start Nov. 9th in the evening and end in the afternoon on 10th.

1. Celebrate what our Lord has done this year through the churches of the SRBA.
2. Hear from Dr. Clayton Cloer, President of the Baptist University of Florida, as he comes to challenge and encourage us.
3. Learn about some new directions the SRBA is prayerfully considering for the future.

Theme: Celebrating the Past and Embracing God's Future

Location: Wallace Baptist Church

Registration: 2:45 p.m.

Celebration: 3:00 p.m.

For the first time during my tenure, every church in the SRBA has a pastor serving in its pulpit. What a blessing! With that in mind, I want to ask you to pray for our pastors in the following ways: - Pray that our pastors would be encouraged.

- Pray that our pastors would experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

- Pray that our pastors would persevere in the midst of trials and challenges.

- Pray that God would call more people to come to Santa Rosa County to plant churches.

It is truly a pleasure to serve the SRBA in the AMS role. Recently, I have been preaching a sermon from the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and I believe God has given me some fresh insights into this familiar story. I believe it is a wake-up call for the church to get outside the four walls of our buildings and engage the people and communities around us. I would love the opportunity to share God's Word with you and your congregation.

Dr. Jim Waters, Associational Mission Strategist

