

# Santa Rosa Baptist Association

6820 Hwy 87 N Milton, FL 32570 phone:850.623.8873 Fax:850.623.1157

\*An electronic copy of the VIEW is on our website: [www.srassociation.org](http://www.srassociation.org)

Associational Mission Strategist: Jim Waters, [jim@srassociation.org](mailto:jim@srassociation.org)

Administrative Asst.: Patti Smidt, [patti@srassociation.org](mailto:patti@srassociation.org)

Faith & Hope Counseling available at our office, call 850.471.3430 Ext. 3

# VIEW

## Associational Mission Strategist

“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ.”-Colossians 2:1-2 ESV

The sequoias are massive—some of the largest living things on earth. Yet what’s surprising is not their height (sometimes 300 feet high), but their roots (less than 6 feet in depth). They don’t grow deep taproots like you might expect. Instead, their roots spread out wide and intertwine with the roots of other trees. Their strength comes not from isolation, but from connection.

That’s a powerful picture of the church.

In the New Testament, especially in the letters of Paul the Apostle, the church is never meant to function as a collection of isolated congregations competing for space or influence. Instead, we see a body—interdependent, mutually strengthening, sharing resources, encouragement, and mission.

Here are a few parallels:

### 1. Strength Through Interconnection

Sequoias withstand storms not because each stands alone, but because they are literally holding one another up beneath the surface.

→ Churches that cooperate—through associations, partnerships, and shared mission—are far more resilient than those trying to stand alone.

### 2. Shared Resources for Greater Growth

The intertwined root systems allow trees to share water and nutrients.

→ When churches collaborate, they share gifts, leadership, and resources, leading to kingdom impact that no single church could achieve alone.

### 3. Stability in Storms

Even though sequoias grow in harsh environments, their connected root system anchors them.

→ In seasons of cultural pressure or internal struggle, churches linked in fellowship and accountability are less likely to fall.

### 4. A Witness to the World

A grove of sequoias is far more awe-inspiring than a single tree.

→ Jesus said in Gospel of John 17 that unity among believers testifies to the world. A network of churches working together displays something bigger than any one ministry.

### 5. Longevity and Legacy

Sequoias can live for thousands of years. Their survival is tied

to this shared system.

→ Churches that invest in cooperative kingdom work often outlast trends and personalities, building a legacy beyond one generation.

Personally, I want to thank each of you for intertwining roots to the Glory of God and making the SRBA what it is today.

Know as the verse started off, I struggle for each of you and your precious church regularly that you would make an impact in your community that God has placed you. That you would sense our Lord’s presence. That you would sense His leadership and have the strength to follow hard after Him.

Now on to happenings in the SRBA.

### West Region Sunday School/Small Groups Conference

We were blessed to have the West Region Sunday School/Small Groups conference this past weekend at Pine Terrace Baptist Church. As always, Pine Terrace, Nathan Brown, and his Staff were gracious hosts. The Keynote speaker was Ken Braddy, the Director of Sunday School at Lifeway Christian Resources. He shared on the 10 Things no one told me about Group Ministry.

1. Connection and Community are at least as important as content.
2. The number one goal of groups is to make disciples
3. There is more to Sunday School than what happens on Sunday
4. The people in my group are not “my” people. (They are ultimately the Lord’s)
5. Don’t forget to eat with Sinners and Tax Collectors. (resist the holy huddle)
6. If I am not raising an apprentice, I am hurting my church.
7. The number one reason a person joins a group is because they are invited.
8. New groups overcome the “Lego” factor. (turning Inward)
9. People will forget what you say, but not how you make them feel.
10. Pursue healthy devotional life in addition to your time set aside for preparation and bible study.

In addition to Ken Braddy, there were numerous breakout sessions along age-appropriate lines. If you were unable to attend this year’s conference, please put this date, April 17, 2027, on your calendar for next year’s conference.

Continued on Page 2



**“Tell of His glory among the nations,  
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. “ 1 Chronicles 16: 24**

Church	03/15/26 04/15/26	2026 Total
Antioch Fellowship	50.00	200.00
Avalon	0.00	0.00
Bagdad First	67.54	243.81
Berrydale	1,397.42	1,397.42
Billory	324.00	1,187.00
Blackwater	263.76	912.60
Calvary	0.00	250.00
Cora	855.66	2,030.42
East Side	125.00	500.00
Ferris Hill	3,077.52	5,259.02
Floridatown	150.00	600.00
Friendship	0.00	467.92
GB First	0.00	0.00
Harold First	79.00	281.00

Church	03/15/26 04/15/26	2026 Total
Hic. Hammock	0.00	100.00
Immanuel	4,750.00	4,750.00
James Street	45.68	151.16
Jay First	168.74	440.66
Live Oak	50.00	150.00
Living Truth	0.00	3,995.00
Midway	0.00	110.00
Milton First	1,507.16	5,568.76
Mission Casa	50.00	100.00
Navarre First	0.00	1,746.97
New Bethel	139.83	570.61
New Life	282.20	685.85
Olivet	430.74	1,967.88
Pine Level	573.48	1,543.98

Church	03/15/26 04/15/26	2026 Total
Pine Terrace	2,053.30	8,584.53
Pleasant Home	0.00	862.32
Providence	0.00	0.00
Replicate	450.00	750.00
S. R. Shores	239.04	779.10
Springhill	225.00	225.00
Stump Springs	0.00	0.00
The Point, SBC	95.60	285.38
Wallace	1,246.58	4,068.90
Woodbine	200.00	800.00
Viet. Christian	0.00	0.00
Viet. Living Faith	0.00	0.00
Anonymous Church	850.00	3,401.00
<b>Total GIFTS</b>	<b>19,747.25</b>	<b>54,966.29</b>



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

Continued from Pg. 1

#### **PASTOR'S PEER LEARNING GROUP MEETINGS:**

- **Milton** Peer Learning Group, Monday, May 11th, @ SRBA office - 10:30 am
- **Navarre** Peer Learning Group, Thursday, May 21st @ Navarre First 10:30 am
- **Pace** Peer Learning Group, Thursday, May 28th, @ Immanuel, 11 am

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**May 7 - National Day of Prayer**, Theme: Glorify God Among the Nations-Seeking Him in All Generations." Noon @ Jernigan's Landing, So. Willing St., Milton - Bring Lawn Chair.

**June 1-6 - Crossover 2026**, Southern Bapt. Conv. Orlando. An evangelistic emphasis in the city of the SBC in Orlando.

**June 7-10 - Southern Baptist Convention, Orlando.** Theme: Walking Worthy.

**June 20 - 9am-2pm, New Life Car & Bike Show**

**July 14 - 8am 4 pm @ Jay First Registration, Dental Bus**

**July 20-24 - Mobile Dental Bus - Jay First**

**August 3 - WEST REGION - 9-3pm. "Practical Preaching",** speaker Stephen Rummage @ Olive Baptist, Pensacola.

#### **Administrative Assistant's Day**

We had 15 attend our annual celebration of Administrative Assistants' luncheon. We have had two long-term assistants retire this year Mrs. Barbara VunKannon (26 years at Calvary, 14 years at Friendship) and Mrs. C.B. Hardy (30 Years at Pine Terrace). During the luncheon I compared the work of the administrative assistant to a hinge on a door. Administrative assistants are the hinges of ministry and organization—quietly carrying weight that allows everything else to move.

#### **Peer Learning Groups**

We are having a great time at our Peer Learning Groups in Milton, Navarre, and Pace. We are currently doing life together (our first priority) and then engaging with the book, Atomic Habits by James Clear. If you have not been able to make it to one of our groups, I want to encourage you to come and do life with us in May. Here are the dates in May.

Milton- May 11; 10:30; SRBA Office

Navarre-May 21; 10:30; FBC Navarre

Pace-May 28; 11:00; Immanuel Baptist

In conclusion, I simply ask you to pray for the following:

- Churches without pastors and their interims. Woodbine (Tim Bullington) and Olivet (Chip Fox)
- Churches in the SRBA would be impactful in the communities in which our Lord has placed them.
- Plead to the Lord that He would give us Santa Rosa County for the Name and Fame of our Lord Jesus.

It is truly a pleasure to serve you and your precious church.

