



# Baptist Beacon

## Associational Bible Drill

The 2023 Nashville Baptist Association Bible Drill was held at Tulip Grove Baptist Church on April 16. There were 33 participants from 4 churches in the Children’s Drill, 3 students from 2 churches in the Youth Drill, and 2 kids from one church in the High School Drill. Those listed moved on to compete in the state-level drill on April 29.

### Children

#### **Tulip Grove**

Colton Michael Fisher  
Ana Bentschneider  
Wren Southerland  
Madison Echols  
RosieBoswell

#### **Nashville First**

Tatum Rodriguez  
Charli Nabakowski  
Cecily Pope  
Claire Pope  
June Rodriguez  
Curtis Pope

#### **Brentwood**

Wyatt Caldwell  
Willa Claire Clark  
Tatum Forrester  
Clay Greenman  
Kathryn Vaught  
Arye Parker  
Vivian Smith  
Huxton Suggs  
Kylie Taylor

#### **Parkway**

Sally Elias  
Charlie Mundy  
Axel Elias  
Harper Castleberry  
Olivia Rigsby  
Eli Dean

### Youth

#### **Tulip Grove**

Ethan Bentschneider  
Lauren Briggs

### High School

#### **Parkway**

Jay Schremmer  
Mario Espino

## Around the Association

### **First Baptist Joelton**

You are invited to attend a gospel concert, “Sunday Evenin’ Country” on Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 PM. The concert is presented by the Music City Christian Fellowship and will be hosted by Lynn Fox, President, and co-hosted by Melanie Walker, Vice-President. The artists will be Melanie Walker, Music City Quartet, Bev McCann, and Mark Thomas. Free Admission. A love offering will be received.

### **Donelson First Baptist**

Looking for a place to host your next birthday party, bridal shower, baby shower, or graduation? Donelson First has two recently renovated and unique spaces to host your gathering! Contact the office at [office@donelsonfirst.com](mailto:office@donelsonfirst.com) or (615) 883-2889 for more information and availability.

*To see your church event, need, or accomplishment listed here, please call the NBA office or email Alicia at [adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com).*

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## Webinars

### Peer Learning Webinar

Each month, the association will offer a Peer Learning Webinar in which a church leader from our association will share valuable and practical skills and insight relevant to a particular area of ministry.

**Topic:** Partnering with an International Congregation

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, May 16 at noon

**Presenter:** Terry Hudgins, Tusculum Hills Baptist Church

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](http://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning)

Check this page regularly for upcoming topics and presenters.

All previous topics, including last month's webinar, "The Church's Use of Social Media" led by Brett Perkins of The Journey Church, is also available to view at:

[nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](http://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning)

### Churches Planting Churches Webinar

Our Church Planting Strategist leads a discussion about how our churches can plant and grow new congregations in Nashville and the surrounding areas.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, May 30 at 11am

**Presenter:** Dwayne Lewis

**Topic:** Outreach

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches](http://nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches)

## Free Resource

Each month, the association will provide a free resource to the readers of the newsletter. These resources are meant to be practical, helpful, and relatable, just as we are working to be as an association.

The physical building of the Nashville Baptist Association is available to our churches during business hours for special meetings and conferences. We have four conference areas of varying sizes and technology, perfect for planning and training for groups of 5 to 35 people. For availability and other inquiries, call (615) 259-3034.

## Ministry Networks

The Board of the Nashville Baptist Association put together a task force which created a network for helping Kids and Preschool Ministers. Connect with them at one of the events below and look for more information to come on our website.

### VBS Coaches Available for Your Church

Contact Rich Smith, NBA Vacation Bible School Director, to connect your church with a trained kids' minister and/or VBS leader to assist you in preparing your VBS team with your specific plans. This free assistance qualifies your church for curriculum discounts. Text Rich at (615) 829-9834.

### NBA Kids Ministers Network

The NBA has a new network for all those who lead kids ministries in our churches. This network includes vocational, bi-vocational, and volunteer ministers who focus on preschoolers, children, and families in NBA churches. Join us for a **Meet and Greet** on May 11 from 11:30AM to 1PM at First Baptist Church Nashville (108 7th Ave S). There is free parking at the church. Please bring your own lunch.

## Openings and Opportunities

To have your resume forwarded to churches seeking a pastor, worship leader, or other ministry personnel, please submit a current resume to [general@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:general@nashvillebaptists.com).

**First Baptist Church Fairview** is looking for a Children's Director. Please send resumes to [ChildrensSearchCommittee@fbcfairview.org](mailto:ChildrensSearchCommittee@fbcfairview.org).

Job descriptions and more openings can be found of our website at [nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs](http://nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs).

*Nashville Baptist Association has a policy of publishing job openings for ministerial and support positions when a church requests us to do so. In our desire to assist churches to fill vacancies, NBA will continue to offer this service at nor charge. For more information call (615) 259-3034.*

# Pastor Profile



**Ben Pate**  
**Oak Valley Baptist Church**  
[www.oakvalleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.oakvalleybaptistchurch.org)

Ben Pate joined Oak Valley Baptist Church in Franklin as lead pastor/elder in November, 2022. Prior to coming to Franklin, Ben pastored in Phoenix, AZ. Ben loves serving his community along with his wife, Diana, and their four children. Pastor Ben is passionate about preaching, teaching, and leading others to become followers of Jesus.

Pastor Ben grew up as an IMB missionary kid in the Middle East and North Africa. He is a graduate of California Baptist University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now Gateway Seminary). Ben holds a PhD in Biblical Studies with an emphasis on the Old Testament. In addition to Sundays and Wednesdays at OVBC, you can catch Pastor Ben's podcasts, "Theological Sidebars" and "OTXNT" through the week on YouTube, Spotify, or your favorite podcast platform.

**What is your favorite local Nashville restaurant?**

Party Fowl. I am hooked on Nashville hot chicken.

**How would you spend a day off with no ministry responsibilities?**

Get the family into the minivan and head to Dollywood.

**What Bible verse or passage is particularly meaningful to you right now?**

1 John 4:19 – I am always blown away by the concept of God's love for me. It never gets old being reminded that his love was first, it is personal, and was demonstrated to me before I even knew him.

**Is there a quote that has stuck with you and influenced the way you have thought or behaved?**

"...do you not know that from every little town and village and tiny hamlet in England there is a road leading to London? Whenever I get hold of a text, I say to myself, 'There is a road from here to Jesus Christ, and I mean to keep on His track till I get to Him.'... So must we do, brethren; we must have Christ in all our discourses, whatever else is in or not in them. There ought to be enough of the gospel in every sermon to save a soul." – C.H. Spurgeon

**What is one exciting thing God is doing in your church right now?**

God is moving through the teaching and preaching of His Word. We are hearing stories of lives that have been impacted, hearts that have been changed, and relationships that are being restored in response to God's word proclaimed.