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BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

OCTOBER 6, 2018 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 184 NO. 20 • BRnow.org

BSC board approves amended \$31M budget proposal

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

After much discussion and debate, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Board of Directors approved an amended Cooperative Program (CP) budget proposal for 2019 totaling \$31 million during the board's fall meeting held Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 24-25 at Caraway Conference Center and Camp in Sophia, N.C.

The overall budget total of \$31 million remains unchanged from 2018, yet the amended proposal passed by the board would reduce the proposed amount designated for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) by \$45,000 and reallocate those funds to some of the state convention's institutions and agencies.

The approved budget proposal will now be presented to messengers attending the BSC annual meeting, which is scheduled for Nov. 5-6 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C.

A listening session on the budget is scheduled during the annual meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Tues., Nov. 6. The budget will be presented to messengers later that afternoon for discussion and a final vote at 2:20 p.m.

The budget proposal will be available for review on the annual meeting website the first week of October. It may be accessed by visiting ncannualmeeting.org/program/business/budget.

The version of the board-approved budget amended the proposal that had been recommended by the

[See Budget page 17](#)



BR staff

In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, many Baptist churches across North Carolina are discovering ways to serve their neighbors, even as they work to mend damage to their own homes and church buildings.

Temple Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C., plans to use their facility as a collection site for disaster relief supplies, including food, clothing, baby care items, cleaning products and hygiene kits.

The effort, called "Operation Healing," was set in motion by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, according to Kelly Bullard, pastor of Temple Baptist.

Todd Houston, pastor of Beach Road Baptist Church in Southport, N.C., delivered the Sunday sermon Sept. 23 from the bed of a truck after the church's sanctuary sustained significant damage during Hurricane Florence. (Beach Road Baptist photo)

Todd Lamphere, pastor of global outreach for Paula White Ministries and liaison for the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, told the *Biblical Recorder* that Temple Baptist was "strategically located" and would become a hub where churches could receive supplies to distribute to their congregants.

"Pastor Kelly Bullard and Temple Baptist Church have teamed up with sister churches in the New South River Baptist Association to bring help and healing to hurting communities affected by Hurricane Florence," Lamphere said.

"In the midst of their own struggles, they are reaching out to provide food, baby supplies and personal hygiene to families in need."

[See Healing page 6](#)

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Southern Baptist churches appoint 66 missionaries

By JULIE MCGOWAN | IMB

Southern Baptists celebrated the sending of 66 new international missionaries on Sept. 26, at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., with each new missionary sharing firsthand how God has woven throughout their lives a desire to take His gospel to people who have never heard it.

Each person's story is different, and each story is evidence that God has a role for every church to take His good news to every nation.

"The Lord has always moved my life through stories," said Caroline Reel, who is being sent by her churches Restoration Church in Wake Forest, N.C., and Bullard Chapel Baptist in Tishomingo, Okla., to serve among refugee peoples in Uganda.

"From the missionaries' stories at [Girls in Action] camps when I was a little girl, to storying through the Bible on mission as part of my education, stories have connected me to God's plan to share His life-giving story with the nations," she said.

[See Appoint page 9](#)

Voting is important

Tues., Nov. 6 is Election Day. Where will you be? If you plan to attend the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Greensboro, you could forfeit your vote. Of course, you can – and should – plan to vote early. Your vote is important.

If your work, family responsibilities or other plans are likely to place you many miles from your polling place on Nov. 6, you can still insure the influence of your vote on your county, state and nation.

There are two options you need to consider. You can take advantage of early voting or cast an absentee ballot.

It is important to vote, so here is the information you need to know:

- Be sure you are registered to vote. The last day you can register to vote is Oct. 12.
- Early voting in North Carolina begins Oct. 18 and ends Nov. 1.
- If you want to vote by absentee ballot, your application for the ballot must be mailed by Oct. 30. Your absentee ballot must be submitted by mail no later than Nov. 5.
- If you have heard the discussions about “Voter ID” laws, you may be confused about the necessity of proper identification. This is all you need to know: No photo ID is required to vote.
- If you need to confirm that you are registered to vote, contact your board of elections, secure an absentee ballot, locate your polling place or identify the candidates in your precinct, visit ncvoterguide.org or ncsbe.gov. These are government websites.
- If you would like to learn the views of candidates, the North Carolina Family Policy Council provides a list of the can-

didates for public office at local, state and federal levels. They also publish a voter guide on major moral issues. Visit their website and order voter guides for your church or Bible study group at ncfamilyvoter.com.

In the Sept. 22 issue of the *Biblical Recorder* a guest column on page 3 appealed to our readers to be an informed voter in the coming election. If you missed this urgent request by Ray Waldbusser, please go back and read it.

Another source for insights on Christians’ moral responsibility to vote is Daniel Darling’s excellent blog on the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission’s (ERLC) website on Feb 1, 2016. Darling, vice-president for communications at ERLC, gave three reasons why every American Christian should vote.

I want to summarize his main points with a few of my own personal comments. For the full text of Darling’s article, including his personal comments, visit erlc.com/resource-library, click on “articles” and scroll to “Three reasons why every American Christian should vote.”

Darling said he understands the temptation toward disengagement in the voting process, but believes every Christian should vote. I agree with him.

First, “**We should vote out of love for neighbor.**”

No matter our geographical home, we live in a mission field. Most of our neighbors do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Don’t expect them to take a high moral position on values that shape the social and political climate of the nation. That’s our job. When we vote, we model the values of the Christian faith and we foster a climate for the gospel to spread freely within our

communities.

Second, Darling said, “**We should vote because God has given us a stewardship for which we will be held accountable.**”

Yes, we will be held accountable for the actions we take and the actions we deliberately fail to do. We are called to “*render to Caesar, the things that are Caesar’s.*” I realize Jesus said that in answer to a question about taxes. But surely no one believes paying taxes is our only responsibility to government. The Bible tells us to pray for those in government and other places of leadership. We should also exercise our influence for good in a broken, corrupt world.

Third, “**We should vote because it can help speak up for the vulnerable and help gospel advance.**” Can you think of anyone in our culture who is more vulnerable than the unborn child? That human being, made in the image of

God, has no vote and no way to protect himself. He or she needs you to speak for them. We must elect pro-life candidates to office.

Please prepare to vote and please make every effort to vote. Be informed and pray for every voter to do what is right.

Hurricane Florence appeal

I received this important appeal from Richard Brunson, director of N.C. Baptists on Mission: Mud out and tear out teams are needed following Hurricane Florence. There are thousands of homes in Eastern N.C. that were damaged by Hurricane Florence. We need you and your church or civic group to come and help people do mud outs and tear outs of homes that were flooded. We have 15 different sites that are coordinating these efforts. Please sign up at baptistsonmission.org. Please help these hurting people. **BR**

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President
editor@brnow.org

Seth Brown, Content Editor
(919) 459-5697; seth@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Production Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Dee Dee Vogt
Editorial Aide

Liz Tablazon
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
liz@brnow.org

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Volume 184 No. 20

(919) 847-2127

Fax (919) 467-6180

BRnow.org

Board of Directors: Nate Jones, chair; Tony Honeycutt, vice chair; Angela Brady, secretary; David Clary, treasurer; Kevin Atchley; Frankie Gordon; Lisa Harris; Gerald Hodges; Todd Houston; Cindy D. Jennings; Dan Meyer; Frank Norwood; Jim Pennington Jr.; Donna Robinson; Donnie Seagle; Meredith Snoddy; Marilyn Thurman; Aaron Wallace; Tammy Weeks; and Keith Whitfield

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)
 - Bulk Plan, \$11.50
 - Club Plan, \$13.50
 - Family Plan, \$12.50
 - Single copies, .60 cents each
- Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included.
Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Publication title: *Biblical Recorder*
2. Publication number: 0005-5620
3. Filing date: 9/21/18
4. Issue Frequency: Every other week
5. Number of issues Published Annually: 26
6. Annual subscription price: \$5.99, \$11.50, \$12.50, \$13.50, \$15.99
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511-4294, Wake County
8. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185, Wake County
9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher/editor and content editor: Publisher - *Biblical Recorder*, Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185; Editor - K. Allan Blume, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511-4294; Content Editor - D. Seth Brown, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511-4294
10. Owner: Baptist State Convention of N.C., P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107
11. Known bondholders, etc.: none
12. Tax Status:

- Has not changed during preceding 12 months
- 13. Publication title: *Biblical Recorder*
- 14. Issue date for circulation data below: 9/22/18
- 15. Extent and nature of circulation:
 - A. Total number of copies (Net press run): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 15,884; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 14,068.
 - B. Paid circulation (By mail and outside the mail):
 1. Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 14,734; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 13,008.
 2. Paid in-county subscriptions: none.
 3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other non-USPS paid distribution: 16; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 15.
 4. Paid distribution by other classes mailed through the USPS: none; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, none.
 - C. Total paid and/or requested circulation: Average

no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 14,749; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 13,023.

D. Free distribution by mail

1. Outside-county: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 213; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 265.
2. In-county: None.
3. Other classes mailed through the USPS: 13; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 26.
4. Free distribution outside the mail: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 591; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 595.
5. Total free distribution: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 816; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 886.
6. Total distribution: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 15,566; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 13,909.
7. Copies not distributed: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 318; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 159.

H. Total: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 15,884; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 14,068.

I. Percent paid and/or requested circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 95 percent; no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 94 percent.

16. Electronic copy circulation

- A. Paid electronic copies: Average no. copies, 52; no. copies nearest to filing date, 53.
- B. Total paid print and electronic copies: Average no. copies, 14,801; no. copies of single issue, 13,076.
- C. Total print distribution and electronic distribution: Average no. copies, 15,617; no. copies of single issue, 13,962.

D. Percent paid print and electronic: Average no. copies, 95; no. copies single, 94.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: 10/6/18.

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner: K. Allan Blume, Editor/President.

Offering help, hope after the storm

Many people from across the country have witnessed the destruction and devastation that Hurricane Florence brought to our state when the storm made landfall along the North Carolina coast in mid-September.

But even in the midst of such tragedy, many people from across the country have also witnessed the love of Christ on display as hundreds of disaster relief volunteers from North Carolina and beyond have responded to provide help and hope in Jesus' name to the thousands who have been impacted by this storm.

Hurricane Florence has been classified as one of the rainiest storms ever to hit the United States, and it resulted in unprecedented flooding in eastern North Carolina. Many of the people in the areas that were affected by Florence were still recovering from Hurricane Matthew just two years ago. The effects of Hurricane Florence will be felt across our state for a long time to come, and by God's grace, North Carolina Baptists plan to be there to help those in need.

I'm thankful for the many men and women who are loving and serving others in the aftermath of the storm. I am overcome by the show of support from fellow

Southern Baptists in other states as well as the North American Mission Board who have sent equipment and disaster relief volunteers to help our state in a time of need.

Local and national media coverage of the storm and its aftermath have put a spotlight on the relief efforts of North Carolina Baptists. Many of you saw or read about

our state's governor and our nation's president when they visited our large-scale feeding operation set up at Temple Baptist Church in New Bern, N.C.

What a joy it was to see all of the N.C. Baptists on Mission (NCBM) volunteers in yellow shirts alongside Gov. Roy Cooper and President Donald Trump as they joined in distributing food and encouraging the hurricane victims in the days immediately following the storm.

Thank you for your prayers during these difficult days. I greatly appreciate the extra time and efforts many of our Baptists on Mission staff members are giving as they are literally working around the clock to help

coordinate all the disaster relief volunteers and efforts across the state. I want to also acknowledge my gratitude to Richard Brunson, NCBM executive director,



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer



and Jack Frazier, who is a new employee of the Baptist state convention and NCBM. Jack is our new disaster relief director who began his employment with us just days before the storm hit our state. Please keep all of these people and the victims in your prayers in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Also, thank you for giving financially to support the disaster relief efforts. Since the storm, contributions have come in from almost every state in the continental United States. Disaster relief is one of the many ministries that is supported by your gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Finally, consider how God may be leading you to go and serve others during this time. You can be the hands and feet of Jesus and point them to the One who provides ultimate hope and healing. Baptists on Mission have more information about how you can get involved on their website. Visit baptistsonmission.org to learn more.

"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" – John 16:33b (NKJV). **BR**

Sardis: Be watchful

Fifth in a series

My wife is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) for a local hospital, so she puts people under sedation before they go into surgery.

I sometimes joke that she puts people to sleep Monday through Friday, and as a pastor I put people to sleep only on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Often, when others find out she is an anesthetist, they wonder aloud that it must be tricky to put someone to sleep. My wife usually responds that putting someone under is not the trick – it's waking them back up!

As I was reading about the church at

Sardis in Revelation 3:1-6, these same conversations kept coming back to my mind within the context of the local church.

The Lord warns the church at Sardis against being alive in name only, while they were truly lifeless and dead. Jesus issues a call for the church to come alive and be watchful.

It is apparent the church at Sardis was once great, because they had a name of being alive.

This sounds like so many churches in modern day America, still living in the glory days of what happened when our grandparents were in church. *"Wake up, be watchful, and repent!"* Jesus says to us.

Ancient Sardis was known for its rich history, military defense and wealth, but the church had grown complacent and had been lulled to sleep without even realizing what happened.

Jesus' command to *"wake up and be watchful"* was an indictment against the church because He *"did not find their works perfect before God."*



CHIP HANNAH
Guest Column



We always look for someone to blame, so whose fault was it that this church was sleeping on the job?

Was it the pastor's fault, or maybe the deacons or better yet the music leaders? As the church is close to death, Jesus gives a warning that *"If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know the hour I will come upon you!"* He calls each of them to repentance, or risk facing His judgement.

Jesus acknowledged there were a

few dedicated people still holding on in a dying church. There was something very different about them, because they had not defiled their garments. The true believers were known to be worshippers that did not compromise nor grow comfortable.

Christians, be encouraged. There is no person or congregation beyond the hope, help and healing of Jesus. So, church, be watchful!

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This article is part of a series on the theme of the 2018 North Carolina Pastors' Conference, "7 Churches of Revelation." This year's event will occur Nov. 4-5 in conjunction with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting. Visit ncpastorsconference.org for more information. Chip Hannah is senior pastor of Peace Baptist Church in Whiteville. Each column in the series is written by a different N.C. leader and refers to one of the seven churches in Revelation.) **BR**

Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. All submissions will be edited by *Recorder* style guidelines. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.

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God's love 'chief motivation' for medical clinic

By SETH BROWN | BR Content Editor

NeighborHealth Center (NHC), a new faith-based community health center in Raleigh, N.C., opened its doors in June to offer primary care and other medical services to local residents, especially those from low-income, refugee and immigrant populations.

"[God] cares for these people," said the center's medical director, Doug Briggs. "Communicating that love to them through our medical work is our chief motivation."

Before joining NHC, Briggs operated a medical clinic in southwest China for more than two decades, where he treated impoverished patients, trained village doctors and participated in public health initiatives.

NHC Executive Director Sue Ellen Thompson said the center sees both insured and uninsured patients, and it is federally qualified to accept Medicaid and Medicare coverage.

In its first two months, approximately 75 percent of NHC's patients were uninsured, said another staff member.

"Pediatrics to geriatrics," Thompson said, explaining how NHC provides ongoing and urgent care, in addition to some prenatal services.

Briggs and Thompson said they hope that as the clinic grows it is able to expand its practice to include a full slate of OB-GYN services, dental care and a residency



program for doctors in training.

"We really have the world at our doorstep here in this part of North Carolina," said Briggs, referring to the ethnic and economic diversity in the state's Triangle region.

Thompson agreed.

"We have the unique opportunity to see people when they are at their most vulnerable," she added.

NHC is partly funded through partnerships with other ministries and local churches.

The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham helps support the clinic financially and through cooperation with a counseling program it launched in 2012 called Bridgehaven.

"Jesus taught us in Matthew 25:31-40 that true faith is marked by care and service to those in need, marginalized and ignored by society," said Matt Humble, associate pastor at The Summit's Durham campus.

"It is a privilege to stand alongside NeighborHealth as they seek to live out the gospel in health-care.

"We know that people will not only have the opportunity to receive medical care but to hear and experience the healing power of the gospel."

For more information, visit neighborhealthcenter.org. **BR**



DOUG BRIGGS

LifeWay workers 'fine' after bullet hits window

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

"Employees are fine" after a bullet destroyed a fifth-floor window at LifeWay Christian Resources' downtown Nashville complex, company spokesperson Carol Pipes told Baptist Press.

"We're just really thankful no one was hurt," said Pipes, LifeWay director of corporate communications, who noted police are investigating the incident. The window, destroyed by the shot, is nearly level to nearby Interstates 40 and 65.

LifeWay President Thom Rainer praised employees Sept. 21 for their response to the event.

"Our employees were naturally shaken by the event, but many continued to work in the office while others exercised the flexibility to work off-site the rest of the day," Rainer said.

Employees were informed of the incident in an email, Pipes said, after police were called to the office at 11:45 a.m. Sept. 20.

According to the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's incident report, a LifeWay employee called police and said he heard a "loud pop" coming from outside the building. No other areas of the building were damaged and no injuries were discovered, police said.

No hate crime, terrorism nor gang activity is suspected, police said, but no suspect has been named. The large glass window had an estimated value of \$5,000. **BR**

Our church is doing a lot!



This was Fruitland's June 2018 graduating class. Fruitland is also training Hispanic church leaders through its Spanish language track at the main campus, as well as satellite campuses in Charlotte, Sylva, Statesboro and Wilmington.

See why leading North Carolina pastors have chosen the Cooperative Program as their main missions support method. Visit www.ncbaptist.org/cp.



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The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

We are helping train men and women for church service through Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville. More than 800 N.C. Baptist churches are led by Fruitland graduates!

Our church has a part in missions, far and wide, through our Cooperative Program. It's a channel of blessings!



Caraway children's camps expand family involvement

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

For more than 50 years, Caraway Conference Center and Camp operated a boy's program in the summer and offered a year-round retreat and conference destination for Baptist churches. Six years ago, Caraway staff began discussing the decreasing summer attendance at the 1,100-acre facility near Asheboro, N.C.

Royal Ambassadors (RAs), the boys mission program of the Southern Baptist Convention, once provided a steady stream of summer campers. But a decline in RA programs resulted in a significant drop in the number of camp attendees. That prompted Caraway's leadership to convert the summer program to a children's camp for boys and girls.

"The demand for boy's week was just not there like it was in our heyday in the '80s," said Jimmy Huffman, Caraway's director.

"There was a time when we ran 1,600 boys during the summer, but it dropped to a low of 400," he said. "We've had a tremendous run with our boy's camp in partnership with N.C. Baptist Men. It's been very successful. Almost 70,000 boys have attended in those 56 years."

Two members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's board of directors asked why there was not a convention sponsored coed Baptist camp for children in the state, according to Huffman.

"They were taking their children to a non-Baptist camp. That triggered us to do something new," he said.

The coed camp for first grade through



Children celebrate during a game at Caraway's summer coed camps. The N.C. Baptist conference center and camp near Asheboro once limited summer camps to boys, but has seen growing success after expanding its programs to include all children. (Caraway Conference Center photo)

sixth grade children has seen "phenomenal success" according to Huffman, comparing the new children's program to Fort Caswell's camp for youth.

Mark Moore, children's program director at Caraway, said Caraway still operates a one-week "boys only" camp, in addition to five weeks of children's camps and a two-night camp around July 4th.

Caraway also offers specialty "parent-child" retreats, Moore said, pointing out how they are unique.

"There are none that exist that do what we do in the recreational programming where the mother-daughter, mother-son and father-daughter can do those things together in a camp setting, yet stay in a private, hotel style bedroom," he said.

Parent-child retreats and coed camps drew approximately 1,000 children this summer, Moore said, estimating the overall boy-girl ratio to be about 50-50, with girls slightly outnumbering boys during the coed weeks.

"We started 'Grand Camp' in 2014, and it has doubled every year," said Jeff Kohns, Caraway's associate director.

Grand Camp allows grandparents and their grandchildren or great-grandchildren, ages 6-12, to enjoy activities and Bible study time together. Some come with one grandchild, but one brought six grandchildren to the camp, Kohns said.

Twelve family units of 37 people attended the first year. This year more than 50 family groups of 154 participants came.

"When we started the camp, I thought this might be a 'one and done' thing," said Kohns, "but it's really become a legacy that grandparents want to leave to their grandchildren."

In 2019 Caraway plans to offer two sessions of Grand Camp – one will run Sunday through Tuesday, with a second camp from Thursday through Saturday.

"We've found that some grandparents are raising their grandchildren," Huffman said, "so this gives them something different to do together, something they don't have to plan – just show up and enjoy it."

Moore sees the camps as Caraway's way of fulfilling the convention's vision of impacting lostness through discipling.

"All of our programs are very intentional to share the gospel of Jesus Christ verbally and practically, but also equip children and the chaperones with how to share their faith," he said.

"All of our summer programs have an emphasis on missions and sharing their faith."

Dan Kiefer, student pastor at Concord Baptist Church in Granite Falls, N.C., has taken boys and girls to Camp Caraway for the last four summers.

"Our kids love going to Camp Caraway," he told the *Biblical Recorder*.

"The children are outdoors swimming in the lake or the pool, going on hikes, playing Gaga ball, learning about archery and air rifles, playing bazooka ball, fishing, carving wood, going down the zip lines, climbing the rock wall and even throwing tomahawks. There is just so much to do at Camp Caraway," Kiefer said.

The spiritual focus of the camp is important to Kiefer.

"In devotions the kids learn to read and apply God's Word on their own," he said.

Adult leaders show children how to have a deep and meaningful daily devotion.

The camp pastor leads worship and a career missionary tells the children how God is working in different parts of the world.

"Camp Caraway is a well-balanced

See Camp page 19

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Healing

Continued from page 1

Bullard is currently asking churches to collect items and recruit volunteers. The site will receive donated items from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the following days: Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 1-5. Churches can call 910-485-8791 to coordinate supply drop-offs and schedule times for volunteer teams to serve.

Temple Baptist had previously scheduled a Christian music festival called “NextFest” to take place Oct. 6, but organizers have since revised the plan to use the time to collect items for Operation Healing.

Churches and families can drop off supplies that day from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be available for purchase, with all proceeds going to disaster relief efforts. In addition, there will be kids’ activities, a blood drive and serving opportunities to pack hygiene and cleaning kits.

Vertical Church, across its three locations in Pembroke, Lumberton and Elizabethtown, is serving nearby communities and recovering from complete inundation at one of its campuses.

Mike Pittman, pastor of Vertical Church, said the Lumberton campus launched services in its new facility only a month before it took on 30 inches of floodwater during Hurricane Florence.

Despite the extensive flooding at that location, Pittman said the vast majority of church members received little damage to their homes and were eager to help their neighbors.

“I’m so proud of our people,” he told the *Recorder*. “Everybody has some sort of damage – little things. But so many of them said we’ll take care of that later, let’s serve.”

Pittman described area residents as traumatized. Hurricane Matthew brought widespread flooding to the area in 2016, and many families still haven’t fully recovered.

“People are asking, ‘How can this happen twice, two-years apart?’” he said, but described the situation as an opportunity for churches to help.

Vertical Church’s campus in Elizabethtown – a former car dealership with multiple loading bays – is being used as a collection and distribution site for supplies, as well as a hub for multiple disaster relief organizations.

“We’re just trying to bring stability to this community,” Pittman said. “It’s a shining moment where people really see the value of God’s church.”

Phil Addison, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Bunnlevel, said his church sustained minor roof and water damage during Hurricane Florence, but he has been coordinating relief efforts in his region.



Woodland Baptist Church in Wake Forest decided to devote their annual BBQ fundraiser to disaster relief for the first time ever. The community event usually raises money for the church’s building fund, but the congregation voted unanimously to donate all proceeds this year to North Carolina Baptists on Mission (also called North Carolina Baptist Men). Woodland Baptist also sent two volunteer teams to New Bern, N.C., to help with hurricane recovery efforts. (Woodland Baptist photo)

Addison, who is also a local firefighter, and members of Friendship Baptist have been working with the Little River Baptist Association, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Baptists on Mission (also called North Carolina Baptist Men; NCBM) and other organizations to serve nearby residents.

“You know those things in life that just happen, and you go with it?” he said.

“Everybody at church has this attitude. We didn’t sit down and look at the budget and weigh the costs. It has literally been, ‘This is the cost and what we’re supposed to be doing. OK preacher, what do we do next?’”

The church’s property has served as a FEMA registration site and hub for recovery teams, in addition to hosting meal preparation and distribution efforts.

Addison said Little River’s associational leader, Marty Dupree, has been a “vital resource” in coordinating disaster relief aid.

“The teamwork of churches makes it happen,” he said.

Beach Road Baptist Church in Southport, whose sanctuary is unusable due to storm damage, replaced their usual Sunday morning worship experience Sept. 23 with a day of community service. More than 140 volunteers fanned out across neighborhoods to discover needs, do work projects and provide residents with needed supplies.

An individual who received a visit sent the congregation a note of thanks, according to the church’s newsletter.

“I want you to know that my heart is full to overflowing,” the message said. “This morning, a group of people came to my house and cleaned up the yard debris! Not just any group, but folks from Beach Road Baptist Church.”

Jim Pennington, pastor of Temple

Baptist Church in New Bern, posted a video on social media with information about how church members and other disaster relief volunteers were serving their neighbors.

Nearly 1,400 volunteers, including 215 from Temple, have completed 300 work projects that were requested by area residents. Job requests have in-

cluded tree, debris and drywall removal, mud-outs, cleaning and other tasks.

Pennington said they are “working hand-in-hand” with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and NCBM.

NCBM opened a feeding site at Temple Baptist only days after Hurricane Florence struck the area.

More than 150,000 meals have been

distributed to date from the New Bern site. In the video, Pennington thanked donors that have given funds to disaster relief efforts.

“Thank you so much,” he said. “You cannot imagine how much it is appreciated, and how much it is needed. We are trying to impact our community for Christ with the hands and feet of Jesus.”

NCBM and teams from other states are operating nine mobile kitchens that are serving more than 50,000 meals per day in New Bern, Jacksonville, Wilmington, Lumberton, Kinston, Hope Mills, Wallace, Whiteville and Bolivia.

These sites, in addition to others, are also hubs for recovery operations.

“This disaster is so big that it will require a long term rebuild response to help get many people back in their homes,” NCBM said in a recent newsletter.

“We are planning on setting up three different rebuild center sites where we can house and feed many volunteers who will be working on homes.”

Visit baptistsonmission.org to donate or volunteer.

The *Recorder* has received similar reports from many other churches in North Carolina. Email editor@BRnow.org with news and story tips. **BR**

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Those who attend the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 5-6 have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions related to various areas of ministry. There are three one-hour sessions occurring Mon, Nov. 5 at 3:30 p.m., Tues., Nov. 6 at 10:45 a.m. and Tues., Nov. 6 at 3:15 p.m. Some sessions are offered only once so please plan accordingly.

A Conversation With Russell Moore

Monday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Auditorium IV

Join a discussion with Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, about contemporary issues in loving our neighbors. The session will be moderated by Matt Capps, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, N.C.

Basic Tools for Gospel Conversations with Josh Reed, BSC senior consultant, adult evangelism & discipleship

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15 p.m., Colony A

Attendees will learn and practice two basic tools for conversational evangelism. We will also discuss transitions into sharing the gospel, as well as calling people to decision.

Church Revitalization for the Sake of Our Neighbors with Sandy Marks, BSC senior consultant, church health & revitalization

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pinehurst

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Pinehurst

Is your church impacting lostness in the surrounding community? Impacting lostness with the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the heart of church revitalization. This session will introduce you to a process and resources available to N.C. churches that desire to return to their mission of impacting lostness by making disciples.

#ChurchToo: Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace with Darrin Coon, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance/American Church Group of N.C.

Tuesday, 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15 p.m., Auditorium IV

Reports of workplace sexual harassment abound with no end in sight. No workplace is immune, including the church and related Christian ministries. These events damage lives, ruin reputations, hurt morale and lead to costly legal actions. However, the church is uniquely called to demonstrate leadership, show compassion, practice humility and provide accountability in addressing this painful issue. This workshop will review practical steps that a ministry can take to prevent and address harassing behaviors before the damage is done.

Community Colleges as a Mission Field (panel discussion) facilitated by Darrick Smith, BSC senior consultant,

collegiate partnerships

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Oak C

Seventy percent of N.C.'s 1.2 million college students are taking classes at community colleges. Statistically, there are about 650,000 students on those campuses who don't yet know Jesus. Community colleges are often smaller, and the typical four-year turnover is cut in half at community colleges. N.C.'s community college system is booming, but being on mission there takes innovation and intentionality. It's not easy. Come learn from church leaders who have stepped into this frontier mission field and are successfully seeing disciples being made.

Contextual Awareness in Discipleship with Walter Strickland, associate vice president and professor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Heritage A

When shepherding young believers from different races and cultures, it is important to ask the question, "How can I lead this person to become more like Christ without causing them to jettison their culture?" Come learn how to pass along the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" to those who are called to walk in faithfulness in different cultures.

Cutting Through the Slew with Josh Reed, BSC senior consultant, adult evangelism & discipleship

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colony A

Attendees will learn and discuss what the apostle Paul calls the "elementary principles of the world." We will seek to understand how this phrase describes basic human motivation, discern its relevance for disciple-making and learn how to apply the gospel to what we discover.

Demonstrating Faith to Our Neighbors: Building Bridges Between Communities of Faith and People in Need with Dan Collison, BSC strategy coordinator

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Olympia

We can be easily overwhelmed by the pressing nature and scope of need among the poor. The power of the gospel is demonstrated when we offer hope and help in a posture of humility and through a disciple-making relationship.

Equipping Families to Be Missional in Their Neighborhoods with Eric Simmons, associate pastor of students, First Baptist Church, Summerfield, N.C.; and Mark Smith, BSC senior consultant, family evangelism & discipleship

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colony C

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Colony C

Most likely, the community around your church is growing, but attendance on Sunday morning is not. Could it be the families of your church do not see their neighborhoods as a mission field? Do they understand why their neighbor-

hoods are their mission field? Come learn about a missional family action plan to help equip families to be missionaries where they live. You will walk away from this session with several great resources and the confidence you need to put this plan into action.

The Generation Next Door: Connecting With Generation Z with Merrie Johnson, BSC senior consultant, youth evangelism & discipleship

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Oak B

Generation Z – the generation born after 1995 – outnumber baby boomers and millennials and make up 25 percent of the population today. As adolescents, their power may be limited, but their habits will become increasingly important. Habits set in this generation's teenage years will influence their lives forever. They are the first generation to grow up in the digital age. They have short attention spans. Visuals matter. Meeting them where they are matters. What is your church doing to reach Gen Z?

Home Team & Away Team: College Ministry in the Established Church with Jonathan Yarboro, BSC team leader, collegiate partnerships

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oak C

For many established churches, building a collegiate ministry starts with the homegrown students they already have fresh out of high school. This desire to make sure we keep our homegrown students grounded while they are away at college often presents challenges to reaching new students on the campuses closest to our churches. This session will give practical tips for caring for those students while they are away while simultaneously building a collegiate ministry that impacts the lostness on nearby campuses.

How Can We Be Great Commission Neighbors? with Andrew Ivester, pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Durham, N.C.; and Melissa Childers, IMB emeritus missionary/lay leader, Durham Memorial Baptist Church, Durham, N.C.

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Oak B

We all have neighbors, both as individuals and as churches. But how do we begin to engage these neighbors for the sake of the kingdom? How can you help create urgency in your congregation to reach your community? Join us as we consider these questions and ask God to help us see our own communities as a mission field. We will discuss pathways to entry, church programming and prioritization, faithfulness and perseverance, and other practical tips as we approach this subject with both urgency and humility knowing that the Lord of the harvest is good, and His Kingdom is unshakeable.

How to Be a Peacemaker in Your Neighborhood with Eddie Thompson, BSC senior consultant, pastoral ministries

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Olympia

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Olympia

According to Jesus, our neighbor is anyone we come in contact with, and that certainly includes people that live all around us. But living in close proximity can become the breeding ground for disputes and hard feelings. And because we are living so far from what God calls us to be, we have forgotten – or don't even know – how to honor Him or love our neighbor. This session will help us look carefully at the power of peacemaking and how it can affect entire communities, while creating opportunities for sharing the gospel and making disciples.

How to Connect With Neighbors Who Are Different From You with Neal Eller, BSC team leader, church strengthening team, and Ken Tan, BSC senior consultant, leadership development

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Cedar C

Often we ask people to connect with Jesus, and we haven't even connected with them. Experience a highly participatory, active and fun session to learn the first step of connecting with your neighbor to build a loving relationship. Also, learn how you can be trained to teach "The Six Stages of Cultural Mastery" to leaders in your church.

How to Develop a Biblical Leadership Pipeline with Sammy Joo, BSC senior consultant, Asian ministries

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Bear Creek

One of the integral parts in ministry is leadership. In this session, we will discuss biblical leadership and how leadership can be developed and used in the context of Korean churches.

How to Partner With Ethnic Churches to Reach Ethnic Communities with Sammy Joo (see info above)

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Pinehurst

God has brought the nations to North Carolina, and it is imperative for us to reach and make disciples among the nations. God has provided strategic partners to reach the nations – ethnic churches. This session will provide practical ways to work with ethnic churches to reach ethnic communities for Christ.

How to Reach International Students with Tom Knight, BSC senior consultant, collegiate partnerships, and Yana Conner, BSC consultant, collegiate partnerships

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Arrowhead

For the second year in a row, more than 1 million international students have chosen to study in the United States. Many of these students enrolled in our

See Breakout page 8

Breakout

Continued from page 7

colleges come from countries that are hostile to Christians, and many have never heard the gospel. Yet, many churches do not think of international students when they think of missions. This breakout session will help you and your church learn practical steps in understanding international students and sharing the gospel with love, friendship and cultural awareness.

Impacting the Diversity in Lost Pockets with Russ Reaves, BSC strategy coordinator

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Heritage B
Within North Carolina’s pockets of lostness, there is a wide diversity of hard-to-reach population segments. In this session, we will discuss and share real-life examples of how we are working together with associations and churches to identify and build strategies to engage those population segments.

International Partnerships to Reach Our Neighbors of the World (panel discussion) with Tanner Marquis, BSC catalyst, Peoples Next Door NC

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Turnberry
How could partnering with our missionaries working among unreached people groups globally help your church to more effectively reach the unreached peoples who have migrated from around the world to be your neighbors? Hear from church leaders about how global partnerships have better equipped and empowered them to reach the unreached nations who are now their neighbors. Attendees will also hear from International Mission Board leaders about how your church can partner with missionaries working among unreached peoples from around the globe in places like East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and more.

Loving Our Neighbor in the Context of Discipleship with John Malek, senior pastor, Sharpe Road Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C.

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oak A
During this session, we will discuss how to love our neighbors in the context of discipleship by addressing the biblical texts of Luke 10:25-37, John 15:7-10 and 1c John 2:1-6. We will answer three questions: Who is my neighbor? What does loving and discipling my neighbor mean? And how do I disciple them?

Loving Our Neighbors Across Our Nation with N.C. Baptists on Mission staff

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Cedar A
This breakout session will cover ways to love our neighbors across the United States. Come learn more about missions partnerships and projects in the Appalachian coalfields, Pennsylvania, New England, the Rocky Mountains and Hawaii. The session will also cover disaster relief in Puerto Rico.

Loving Our Neighbors Around the World with N.C. Baptists on Mission staff

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Cedar A
Join several Baptists on Mission staff members to discover ways to love our neighbors through international missions partnerships and projects. Come learn more about opportunities in places like Honduras, Cuba, Guatemala, Armenia, Haiti, Kenya, South Africa and the Roma partnership.

Loving Our Neighbors in Our Community and State with N.C. Baptists on Mission staff

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cedar A
Join several N.C. Baptists on Mission staff members to discover ways to love our neighbors here in our own state. This session will cover ministries like Operation Inasmuch, missions camps, health screening and dental

buses, disaster relief, Baptist builders, compassion ministries, Deep Impact, Deep Impact Kids and more.

Loving Our Neighbors Who Struggle With Addiction with Matthias “Matty” Ponce-de-Leon, pastor, Arlington First Baptist Church, Jonesville, N.C.

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cedar B
Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Cedar B
North Carolina has a segment of its population that few pastors and churches are equipped to engage with the gospel, and this population is growing at an alarming rate – individuals struggling with drug and alcohol addictions. This breakout session will provide participants with a greater understanding of this growing segment of our population, a system to respond to addicts and their families that reach out to your church for help, as well as other resources to help you assist those struggling with addiction.

Loving Our Unchurched Neighbors in Rural North Carolina with Jonathan Blaylock, pastor, West Canton Baptist Church, Canton, N.C.

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Heritage B
Is it possible that many churches have plateaued or are declining because we have forgotten the art of neighboring? We are aware of urban churches that are multiplying, but what can rural churches do to reach their neighbors? Learn from a rural North Carolina pastor who will share simple, yet intentional, ways to reach neighbors in the natural daily rhythms of life.

Loving Your Neighbor Through Immigration Issues (panel discussion) with Amaury Santos, BSC Hispanic strategy coordinator; Larry Phillips, BSC contract strategist, Baptist Immigration Services; and John Faison, Center on Immigrant Relations executive director

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15 p.m., Bear Creek
Come and learn how the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Baptist Immigration Services assists our churches in loving their immigrant neighbors. Immigrants today face various obstacles and issues coming from different cultural contexts. Engaging immigrants with the gospel can happen in many ways. Come learn how you can join this strategic effort.

Loving Your Neighbor With Special Needs with Donnie Wiltshire, BSC senior consultant, special ministries

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Heritage A
People with special needs are our neighbors who have developmental disabilities and delays of various types. This breakout session will look at the overwhelming demographics in our state and the need for churches to bring the gospel message and the love of Christ to persons and families impacted by these special needs.

Making Disciples Among Hindu, Buddhist and Animistic Neighbors (panel discussion) with facilitator: James Cooper, BSC catalyst, Peoples Next Door NC

Panelists: International church planters
Tuesday, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Arrowhead
Now that God has brought unreached people of Hindu, Buddhist and animistic faiths here to our cities, towns and communities, we have an incredible opportunity and responsibility to reach them with the love and gospel of Jesus. This session will equip you to discover, naturally encounter, intentionally engage and make disciples of your neighbors of other faiths.

Making Disciples Among Muslim Neighbors (panel discussion) with Facilitator: Chuck Baker, catalyst, Peoples Next Door NC, BSC

Panelists: Church planters among Muslims
Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Arrowhead
Now that God has brought Muslims from across

the globe here to our cities, towns and communities, we have an incredible opportunity and responsibility to reach them with the love and gospel of Jesus. In this session, you will be trained and equipped to more effectively reach your Muslim neighbors. Hear from church engagement catalysts, local church practitioners, and planters who are working to see the gospel go out among Muslims here in North Carolina and around the world.

Multifamily Housing Part 1: Engaging Our Neighbors with K.O. Grissett, Joe Maye, Brian Norris, BSC catalysts, Office of Great Commission Partnerships

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Oak A
Hear the stories of several churches who are strategically and faithfully engaging their neighbors in multifamily housing communities, loving them well, sharing the gospel relationally, making disciples and starting gospel communities.

Multifamily Housing Part 2: Loving Our Neighbors with same people as above

Tuesday at 10:45 a.m-11:45 a.m., Oak A
Develop a biblically practical plan around one of three approaches to enter and engage a particular multifamily housing community in your area. Strategically plan your next steps to pray fervently, engage with people, speak the gospel, start seeker studies, identify and equip key leaders, launch a sustainable ministry, and exit with care.

Operation Reach: Who Is My Neighbor? with Mark Gray, BSC team leader, church planting; Ralph Garay, BSC senior consultant, Asian church planting; and Eric Cook, associational missionary, Union Baptist Association

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Heritage B
This breakout session will introduce a practical training opportunity to assist churches in identifying unreached and unengaged population clusters in our communities. Learn more about the people in our local communities who are and are not being engaged with the gospel. Discover where new works may be needed to ensure that all people in our state are being reached. Hear from a church planting consultant and an associational missionary about the effectiveness of an Operation Reach event.

Praying Our Neighbors to Christ with Chris Schofield, BSC director, Office of Prayer

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Auditorium I
Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Auditorium I
This breakout session will examine how to pray biblically and effectively for lost family, friends and neighbors in your world.

Sharing Christ With Your LGBT Neighbor with Ma-leah Allard, director, New Beginning Support Ministry; and Steve Harris, BSC strategy coordinator

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Cedar B
The LGBT lifestyle is a segment of our population that isn’t going away. It represents people who are in great need of a Savior just like all of us. This breakout session will explore the LGBT culture as Meleah Allard shares her own story of her lifestyle as a lesbian, how the gospel brought her freedom and how God has called her back into this culture to minister the love of Jesus Christ. Participants will discover the unique characteristics of those who are part of the LGBT lifestyle, how the gospel can transform anyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and how Christians can minister both truth and love through the power of the gospel.

Singles in Your Neighborhood: More Diverse Than You Think (panel discussion) with Ashley Allen,



Who is my Neighbor?
LUKE 10:29

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2018

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... he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus,
"And who is my neighbor?"



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Appoint

Continued from page 1

66 stories

Years ago as a young couple in Ecuador, Patrick and Victoria Regalado learned of the great need for Hispanic pastors in the United States. In 1988, they arrived in New York City to reach Latinos for Christ.

"The last 10 years we have traveled to the Americas and around the United States equipping church leaders," Patrick said. Now the couple feels that God is leading them to Latin America to equip pastors and leaders. They are sent by Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., to the Americas.

God used the 2015 refugee crisis to move missions from "a good idea" to God's priority in the lives of Stephen and Amy Morgan, who are sent by Lakeshore Church in New Orleans, La., to European peoples. "We aren't special," Amy said. "We feel God's hand has been in our education and experiences directing us toward missional service."

The path to missions service started eight years ago for Stephen and Kimberly Park, sent by Saddleback Valley Community Church in Anaheim, Calif., with a simple prayer: "God use us to do whatever it takes to reach one more for Jesus." The Parks will share God's love in Spain.

God saved Jeff Johnson* close to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, and gave him a passion to share the gospel, with a special burden to share with Muslims. Growing up in a Roman Catholic home in Oaxaca, Mexico, the Lord used a missionary to share the gospel with Sophia Johnson*, and in 1998 on her first mission trip to Cuba, God called Sophia to take His gospel to the nations. The Johnsons are sent by Immanuel Baptist Church to the people of North Africa and the Middle East.

As a refugee in the Philippines, Ruby Ng* felt the love of many missionaries. She thanks God for making her one as Hope Baptist Church sends Ruby and her husband, Peter*, to share the gospel with the 400,000 Vietnamese living throughout Taiwan.

4 exhortations

International Mission Board President David Platt welcomed his son, Isaiah, 5, to help share the biblical story of Daniel, found in Daniel 6.

Platt offered four exhortations to the new personnel as they go out into the world with the good news of God's love. Reading from Daniel 6, he gave the first exhortation: "May your only offense be obedience to God's Word." In the story of Daniel, other people were opposed to God's law, but they knew that Daniel would be obedient, no matter what it

cost him. "Real holiness is risking your life for the spread of God's Kingdom," Platt said. "Offend people with obedience to God's Word. Remove obstacles to the gospel, but don't remove the offense of the gospel."

Second, Platt exhorted: "May your deepest joy be found and your greatest work be done daily on your knees." When told not to pray to anyone but the king, Daniel decides, "You can take my life, but you can't take my time with the Lord," Platt explained. "Live like that! ... God, give us this kind of prayer!"

"Prayer is more precious to him than life," he added. "Is prayer more precious to you than life?"

Third, Platt said: "May your constant protection be the presence of God." He told how Daniel was tossed into the lion's den for insisting on praying to God, and God delivered him from the lions. Daniel testified to God's protection, saying, "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him" (Daniel 6:22).

"The same God who sent His angels to shut the mouths of lions is the same God who is leading you and is with you every step of your journey – the same God!" Platt said. "May your constant protection be the presence of God. ... Here's the greatest news: even if none of us was here, you would not be alone. You have nothing to fear, for He is with you!"

Finally, Platt exhorted: "May your life cause nations to give glory to God. In a world of many gods and many kings, tell the world there is one God of gods, and one King of kings. This is the point of the story. God designs our lives for the display of His glory."

"God loves you for the sake of His glory among the nations," Platt said. "His love is not intended to center on us, it is intended to spread through us. If we would just get that, it would change our posture in Christianity today."

Worthy

"Revelation 4:11 says, 'Worthy are you, our Lord, to receive glory, honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created,'" shared Rose Sharkey*, who is sent with her husband, Alvin*, by Open Door church. "God is worthy to receive glory by the proclamation of His name among His creation who do not know Him," Alvin added.


The Sharkeys are going to share God's glory among Buddhist peoples of South Asia.

The next IMB Sending Celebration will be Nov. 14 in Richmond.

*Name changed **B**

2018 ANNUAL MEETING THEME: 'WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?'

by Chad Austin, BSC Communications

 In the well-known parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus is asked a question by an expert in the law that serves as the theme for this year's Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) annual meeting.

"Who Is My Neighbor?" is the theme of the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Nov. 5-6 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C. The theme is based on Luke 10:29.

N.C. Baptist leaders say the question is a pertinent one for today and one that they hope N.C. Baptists will ask themselves.

"We see the reality that God is bringing people from all around the world to our state," said Simon Touprong, pastor of Vietnamese New Hope Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Touprong also serves as chairman of the BSC's Committee on Convention Meetings, which develops the annual meeting theme and schedule. "Many of these people are from places that have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and are in need of knowing Christ through evangelism and relational discipleship.

"We hope messengers who attend this year's meeting would become more aware of the importance of impacting lostness in their communities and be willing to get involved in reaching individuals from the various people groups who are living in North Carolina."

Additional details about the annual meeting, including a complete schedule, information about becoming a messenger and hotel reservations are available online at ncannualmeeting.org.

Meeting highlights

This year's meeting will include

sermons, reports, times of worship, breakout sessions, exhibits and more that are aligned with the event's theme.

Based on feedback from attendees provided through evaluations, this year's meeting includes a revamped schedule, highlighted by more opportunities for attendees to attend breakout sessions that provide practical training and equipping in a variety of ministry areas.

Three separate times are allotted for breakout sessions over the course of the two-day meeting.

BSC ANNUAL MEETING

Where: Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, N.C.

When: Nov. 5-6, 2018

Info: ncannualmeeting.org

Those times are Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and Tuesday afternoon. In recent years, attendees have had the option of attending breakout sessions only on Tuesday afternoon.

The breakout sessions are aligned with the event theme and offer biblical and practical training and equipping in a variety of ministry areas.

A complete list of breakout session times, titles and descriptions are available online at ncannualmeeting.org/breakouts.

"The new schedule will give N.C. Baptists the opportunity to attend more sessions at a variety of times throughout the meeting," Touprong said.

Messengers from N.C. Baptist churches will also elect officers, vote on a 2019

Cooperative Program budget, conduct other convention business and hear various ministry reports throughout the meeting.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, will deliver his annual address to messengers during the opening session on the evening of Mon., Nov. 5.

Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe and current BSC president, will deliver the annual president's address on Tuesday morning, Nov. 6.

John Mark Harrison, pastor of Apex Baptist Church, will deliver this year's convention sermon on Tuesday evening, Nov. 6.

Prayer emphasis

Once again for 2018, the BSC's Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening has produced a 30-day devotional prayer guide that can be used during the 30-day October prayer emphasis leading up to the annual meeting.

The guide includes daily scripture readings, devotions and prayer prompts. It is available as a free download at prayfor30days.org.

At the website, individuals may also sign up to receive prayer prompts via text messaging and devotional emails each day in October.

Pastors' conference

In addition, the 2018 N.C. Baptist Pastors' Conference will be held prior to annual meeting Nov. 4-5 at the Koury Convention Center. The seven letters to seven churches in Revelation 2-3 will serve as the expository theme of this year's conference.

The pastors' conference is free to attend, but attendees are asked to register in advance. The first 500 registrants will receive a number of free books and resources from conference sponsors. Learn more at register at ncpastorsconference.org.

CONNECT NOW

VIDEOS

There are a plethora of inspirational and training videos available to you for download through our Vimeo site.

vimeo.com/ncbaptist

PODCAST

We are striving to become a better resource for you. Our new N.C. Baptist podcast will host various trainings we offer throughout the year. Find us by searching iTunes for N.C. Baptist or visit ncbaptist.podbean.com.

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Access tons of FREE resources and information specifically catered to your needs by signing up for our mass emails. Go to ncbaptist.org/signup and fill out the form to tell us what you would like to receive.

ncbaptist.org/signup



N.C. BAPTISTS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN OCTOBER PRAYER EMPHASIS

Pray for 30 Days

prayfor30days.org

All N.C. Baptists are invited to join in the annual “Pray for 30 Days” emphasis throughout the month of October, leading up to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina 2018 annual meeting, scheduled for Nov. 5-6 in Greensboro, N.C.

Several resources are available to assist in these efforts by visiting *prayfor30days.org*.

The “Pray for 30 Days” website features a 30-day devotional prayer guide that is aligned with the theme of “Who Is My Neighbor?” based on Luke 10:29.

The prayer guide is available as a free download at *prayfor30days.org*, or printed copies may be ordered for \$2 each by visiting the N.C. Baptist online store at *ncbaptist.org/store*.

Each N.C. Baptist church was mailed one

complimentary copy of the guide in September.

The prayer guide includes daily scripture readings, devotions, prayer prompts and reflection questions.

Visitors to *prayfor30days.org* may also sign up to receive the devotions each day in October by email. Daily prayer prompts are also available via text messaging as well. Text the phrase “Pray30Days” to 313131 to receive the daily prayer prompts during October.

Prayer prompts will also be shared through social media along with an accompanying graphic each day in October.

Be sure to follow @ncbaptist on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, like and share the prayer prompts, and encourage others to join you in prayer.

More resources on prayer for revival and spiritual awakening are available at *prayfor30days.org*.

- Literacy Missions Conference
Oct. 13
Charlotte, N.C.
ncbaptist.org/literacymissionsconf

Scorecard
Oct. 16
Fayetteville, N.C.
ncbaptist.org/scorecard

BeDoTell Fall Retreat
Oct. 19-21 and Nov. 9-11
Oak Island, N.C.
bedotell.com/fall-retreat

Side-by-Side Training
Oct. 23
Winston-Salem, N.C.
ncbaptist.org/sidebyside

N.C. Baptist Women’s Retreat
Oct. 26-27
Sophia, N.C.
embracenc.org/womensretreat18

Gospel Conversations Training
Nov. 3
Greensboro, N.C.
ncbaptist.org/gospelconversations

N.C. Baptist Pastors’ Conference
Nov. 4-5
Greensboro, N.C.
ncpastorsconference.org

N.C. Baptist Annual Meeting
Nov. 5-6
Greensboro, N.C.
ncannualmeeting.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions

In keeping with this year’s event theme, attendees at the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will be able to receive equipping in a variety of ministry areas through 40 breakout sessions that will be offered.

BSC consultants, as well as pastors, missionaries, seminary professors, lay leaders and others, will be among the individuals who will lead breakout sessions that will focus on loving our neighbors. The annual meeting theme is “Who Is My Neighbor?”

The meeting includes a revamped schedule that includes more

opportunities for attendees to participate in breakout sessions. Sessions will be offered on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and Tuesday afternoon. In recent years, sessions have been only offered on Tuesday afternoon.

All sessions are free for attendees. A complete schedule and a list of breakout session titles and descriptions are available online at the *ncannualmeeting.org/breakouts* website.

ncannualmeeting.org/breakouts



N.C. Baptist Pastors’ Conference

The letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 will serve as the expositional theme for the 2018 N.C. Baptist Pastors’ Conference, scheduled for Sunday and Monday, Nov. 4-5 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The event is free, but all attendees are encouraged to register in advance in order to receive a free bundle of books and resources by the event sponsors.

Sunday’s session begins at 6:05 p.m., and Monday’s session resumes at 8:25 a.m. Speakers include: Thabiti Anyabwile of Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C.; J.D. Greear of The

Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Chris Griggs of Denver Baptist Church in Denver, N.C.; Tony Merida, of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, N.C.; Russell Moore of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Clint Pressley of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.; and K. Marshall Williams of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

Matt Capps, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, N.C., is this year’s pastors’ conference president.

ncpastorsconference.org



2019 Disciple-Making Conference

John Stonestreet, president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, will be the keynote speaker for the 2019 Disciple-Making Conference, scheduled for Tues., Feb. 26, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

The conference will emphasize worldview and apologetics and how to be salt and light in a rapidly changing culture.

Stonestreet is passionate about promoting a biblical worldview for today’s culture.

He is a speaker, writer and author of several books, including A

Practical Guide to Culture.

The event will also feature numerous equipping session options from a number of experienced pastors and church practitioners. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes registration, program materials and lunch. Plan to bring your entire church staff to this event.

disciplemakingconference.org

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 5-6 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, here is your schedule of the meeting:

Monday afternoon, Nov. 5

- 2:00 Exhibits/registration open
- 3:30 Breakout session one (one-hour session)

Monday evening, Nov. 5

- 6:00 Worship through music – N.C. Baptist Singers
- 6:15 Call to order – Lee Pigg
Invocation – Steve Strickland
Worship through music – N.C. Baptist Singers
Please remain standing for the pledges
Pledges
Committee on Convention Meetings – Simon Touprong
- 6:45 Greetings
Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention – Ashley Clayton
Southern Baptist Convention seminaries – Daniel Akin
North American Mission Board video
International Mission Board
- 7:10 Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina – Michael C. Blackwell
- 7:35 Worship through music – N.C. Baptist Singers
- 7:45 Partnership introductions
North Carolina Baptist Men – Richard Brunson
Office of Great Commission Partnerships – Zac Lyons
- 7:55 Committee reports

- Committee on Nominations – Robin Fisher
Historical Committee – Dale Robertson
Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – Jonathan Blaylock
- 8:15 Scripture reading and prayer – Yana Conner
Worship through music – N.C. Baptist Singers
- 8:35 Executive director-treasurer address – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
Benediction – Paul Cao
At the conclusion of the Monday evening session, you are invited to an ice cream social with convention leadership. Please join us in the lobby area.

Tuesday morning, Nov. 6

- 7:30 Listening session
2019 Budget Proposal – Pinehurst
- 8:00 Exhibits/registration open (close at 6:30 p.m.)
- 8:30 Worship through music – Aliento de Vida (Breath of Life)
- 8:35 Call to Order – Lee Pigg
Scripture reading and prayer – Joel Stephens
- 8:45 Institution and Agency Reports
North Carolina Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf
Biblical Recorder – K. Allan Blume
North Carolina Baptist Hospital – Leland Kerr
- 9:00 Miscellaneous business
- 9:15 Board of Directors report – Marc Francis
- 9:45 Worship through music – Aliento de Vida (Breath of Life)
- 10:00 President’s address – Lee Pigg
- 10:30 Benediction – J.D. Grant
- 10:45 Breakout session two (one-hour session)

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 6

- 1:30 Call to order – Lee Pigg
Worship through music – Kenny Lamm
Scripture reading and prayer – Santosh “Sonny” Werghis
- 1:45 Election of officers (fixed order of business)
President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
- 2:00 North Carolina Baptist Men – Richard Brunson
- 2:15 Worship through music – Kenny Lamm
- 2:20 Board of Directors report (fixed order of business) – Marc Francis
Proposed 2019 Budget for Cooperative Program and North Carolina Missions Offering – Jeff Isenhour
- 2:50 Presentation of officers
- 3:00 Benediction – John Rosal
- 3:15 Breakout session three (one-hour session)

Tuesday evening, Nov. 6

- 6:30 Worship through music – All Nations Choir
- 7:00 Call to Order – Lee Pigg
Committee on Convention Meetings – Simon Touprong
Evaluation
- 7:10 Scripture reading and prayer – Andrew Hopper
- 7:25 Worship through music – All Nations Choir
- 7:50 Convention Sermon – John Mark Harrison
Benediction – Amy Pardue Boone
Adjourn

FBC Woodstock looks to Morton as Johnny Hunt successor

The Christian Index, LifeWay & Baptist Press

Members of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., voted overwhelmingly Sept. 16 for Atlanta-area pastor Jeremy Morton to serve alongside Johnny Hunt as co-pastor.

Morton, 37, senior pastor of First Baptist Church (FBC) in Cartersville, preached in both morning services Sept. 16 in view of a call to serve alongside Hunt, who has been named as senior vice president for evangelism and leadership for the North American Mission Board.

“Jeremy will ultimately become the senior pastor,” according to an FBC Woodstock news release, “but not until he and Pastor Johnny feel the timing is best for the church.”

“Since I was a teen, pastor Johnny Hunt has been one of my heroes,” Morton told *The Christian Index* of the Georgia Baptist Convention. “Now, to work at his side as co-pastor is an honor more meaningful than I can describe.”

Hunt, in praying through the time

of transition, said, “I asked the Lord to show me His man. I feel that Jeremy fits every quality I felt needed to lead FBCW to its best days.”

Morton, a native of Warner Robins, Ga., has led FBC the past five years, previously serving 13 years as the founding pastor/church planter of Cross Point



JEREMY MORTON

Baptist Church in Perry, Ga. A graduate of Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Morton is currently working on his doctor of ministry degree in expository preaching through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Carrie have three children, Zeke, Madie and Abe.

Since Hunt arrived at FBC Woodstock in 1986, worship attendance has grown from 200 to more than 6,000 and small group attendance has grown from 100 on Sundays to more than 5,500 weekly. In missions, under Hunt’s leadership, First Baptist has planted 130 churches. This year the church reported giving \$2.1 million toward missions causes. **BR**

9
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2019

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BENJAMIN QUINN
Assistant Professor of Theology and History of Ideas and Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, SEBTS

JAMES HORTON
Senior Pastor, Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Edenton, N.C.

J. CHRIS SCHOFIELD
Director, Office of Prayer, Baptist State Convention of N.C., Cary, N.C.

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The mission and resources of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

BSC Communications

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of receiving and reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), the committees of the convention and the boards of the related entities (North Carolina Baptist Foundation, *Biblical Recorder*, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and North Carolina Baptist Hospital). The committee begins its work with the recommendations sent by North Carolina Baptists and when exhausted, or in the event too few recommendations have been received for a specific place of service, the committee seeks to find candidates who meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the convention bylaws.

The full report from the Committee on Nominations can be found on the BSC's Annual Meeting website, in the Oct. 6 edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website (*BRnow.org*) and in the Book of Reports provided to each messenger who completes their registration at the annual meeting.

On behalf of the committee members listed below, I want to thank each North Carolina Baptist who completed and submitted a recommendation. It is not too early to begin thinking about those individuals whom you wish to recommend for consideration by the 2019 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations at *ncbaptist.org/recommend*. Your input is essential to the committee's work and the ongoing effectiveness of the missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Robin Fisher, Chair

2018 Committee on Nominations Members

Charles Brust, Bladenboro; Robin Fisher, Rocky Mount; Kenn Hucks, Monroe; David Jones, North Wilkesboro; Jonas Perez, Concord; Beth Wooten, Beulaville; Ben Curfman, Clyde; Michael Davis, Charlotte; Mark Golden, Waynesville; David Helms, Pendleton; James Keku, Browns Summit; Jennifer Thoppil, Mount Airy; Carolyn Fowler, Murfreesboro; Sam Harvin Jr., Spring Lake; Connie Millsaps, Franklin; Josh Pruitt, Rutherfordton; Jason Wilkinson, Wake Forest; and Mark Brady, Moyock

The Committee on Nominations report follows the BSC's bylaws directive to "nominate persons for election by the Convention to the committees listed in Article I.C.1 (b) – (d) of these Bylaws, such other committees as may be assigned to it, the chair of such Convention committees, the Board, the members of the boards of trustees and directors to be elected by the Convention of the Related Entities, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention."

Among other considerations for nominees, the bylaws state "It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention, the Board, and the boards of trustees and directors of the Related Entities shall come from churches with a membership under four hundred (400)." This is indicated in the committee's report by (O) for 400 and over and by (U) for under 400 in church membership.

The bylaws further direct that, "The Committee on Nominations shall include in its report at a minimum the name, church, home town, association, occupation, and sex of each nominee, the name of the committee or board on which the nominee is to serve together with such summary information as will make clear to this Convention the diversity and breadth of representation provided by the slates of nominees." For the purposes of this report, "occupation" is indicated by "minister" or "lay person."

Board of Directors, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

NOTE: Board of Directors terms that begin in 2019 are staggered based on action taken by the messengers at the 2017 Annual Meeting in order to restore balance to the rotation of board members.

Region 1 – Kevin Buzzard, 2019-2019 term, Sawyer's Creek (U), Elizabeth City, Chowan, minister, male; Wanda Guest, 2019-2021 term, Conway (U), Conway, West Chowan, lay person, female; and James Harrington, 2019-2022 term, Fellowship (U), Elizabeth City, Chowan, minister, male

Region 2 – Willie Porter, 2019-2022 term, Englewood (O), Wilson, North Roanoke, lay person, male; and Jordon Willard, 2019-2022 term, Trinity (U), Tarboro, South Roanoke, minister, male

Region 3 – Jeff Blackburn, 2019-2022 term, Hyde Park (O), Lumberton, Robeson, minister, male; Timmy Chavis, 2019 unexpired term of J.R. Hopson, Bear Swamp (U), Maxton, Burnt Swamp, minister, male; Joey Dockery, 2019-2021 term, Mount Calvary (U), Dublin, New South River, minister, male; and Pat Hash, 2020 unexpired term of Nathan Morton, St. Pauls First (U), St. Pauls, Robeson, minister, male

Region 4 – David Baker, 2019-2021 term, Green Level (U), Apex, Raleigh, minister, male; Timmy Blair, 2019-2022 term, Piney Grove Chapel (O), Lillington, Little River, minister, male; Earl Echols Jr., 2019-2021 term, Ebenezer (O), Durham, Yates, minister, male; Drew Grumbles, 2019-2022 term, Brassfield (U), Creedmoor, Flat River, minister, male; Pat Kilby, 2019-2021 term, Cary First (O), Cary, Raleigh, minister, male; Linda McLaurin, 2019-2022 term, Ephesus Baptist Church of Spring Hope (U), Nashville, Tar River, lay person, female; John Ryman, 2019-2021 term, Hillcrest (U), Raleigh, Raleigh, minister, male; and Billy Stines, 2019-2022 term, Buies Creek First (U), Erwin, Little River, minister, male

Region 5 – Jim Cohn, 2019-2019 term, Walnut Cove First (U), Advance, Pilot Mountain, minister, male; Mark Collins, 2019-2022 term, Reidsville First (O), Reidsville, Dan Valley, lay person, male; Scott Faw, 2019-2022 term, Calvary (U), Landis, Rowan, minister, male; Brenda Hicks, 2019-2022 term, Oak View (O), Kernersville, Piedmont, lay person, female; Andrew Hopper, 2019-2021 term, Mercy Hill (O), Summerfield, Piedmont, minister, male; Charlie Martin, 2019-2021 term, Cornerstone (U), Winston-Salem, Pilot Mountain, minister, male; Ryan McMillian, 2019-2022 term, Osborne (O), Eden, Dan Valley, minister, male; Walter Overman, 2019-2019 term, Main Street (U), Kernersville, Pilot Mountain, minister, male; Rick Speas, 2019-2022 term, Old Town (O), Winston-Salem, Pilot Mountain, minister, male; Ruth Warner, 2019-2019 term, Saint Paul (U), Greensboro, Piedmont, lay person, female; and

Steve Wilson, 2019-2021 term, Trading Ford (O), Salisbury, Rowan, minister, male

Region 6 – David (Dac) Croasmun, 2019 unexpired term of Karen Walters, Trinity (U), Monroe, Union, minister, male; Jonathan Homesley, 2019-2022 term, Lake Wylie (U), Charlotte, Metrolina, minister, male; Kenn Hucks, 2019-2021 term, Sardis (O), Monroe, Union, minister, male; Timothy Madaris, 2019-2022 term, Union (U), Monroe, Union, minister, male; and Phil McRae, 2019-2021 term, New Home (U), Peachland, Anson, minister, male

Region 7 – Carrie Afanador, 2019-2022 term, Perkinsville (U), Boone, Three Forks, lay person, female; David Jones, 2019-2022 term, Baptist Home (O), North Wilkesboro, Stone Mountain, minister, male; Len Moore, 2019-2021 term, Hinshaw Street (U), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, lay person, male; Travis Suits, 2019-2022 term, Laurel Springs (O), Deep Gap, Three Forks, minister, male; and Kevin York, 2019-2019 term, Friendly Grove (U), West Jefferson, Ashe, minister, male

Region 8 – Chris Alford, 2019-2022 term, Freedom (U), Gastonia, South Fork, minister, male; Phil Bailey, 2019-2022 term, Campfield (U), Ellenboro, Sandy Run, minister, male; David Bame, 2019-2022 term, Mill Spring First (U), Mill Spring, Polk, minister, male; Shawn Berryhill, 2019-2019 term, Montford Cove (U), Union Mills, Green River, minister, male; Shanon Brower, 2019-2022 term, Liberty (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, lay person, female; Walter Creighton, 2019-2021 term, Sandy Ridge (U), Conover, Catawba Valley, lay person, male; Nick King, 2019-2021 term, Penelope (U), Hickory, Catawba Valley, minister, male; Sally Matheny, 2019 unexpired term of Todd Rudisill, New Bethel (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, lay person, female; Matt Mills, 2019-2019 term, Mount Pleasant (U), Forest City, Sandy Run, minister, male; Anton Roos, 2019-2021 term, Lake Lure (U), Lake Lure, Green River, minister, male; Paul Scott, 2019-2021 term, Big Springs (O), Ellenboro, Sandy Run, minister, male; and Keith Stephenson, 2019-2019 term, 2nd Baptist (O), Rutherfordton, Green River, minister, male

Region 9 – Johnny Byrd, 2019-2022 term, North Point (U), Weaverville, Buncombe, minister, male; Steve Frazier, 2019-2019 term, Riverside (O), Waynesville, Haywood, minister, male; Clark Henderson, 2019-2022 term, Newbridge (O), Weaverville, Buncombe, minister, male; Steve Honeycutt, 2019-2021 term, Long Branch (U), Leicester, French Broad, minister, male; and Jason Miller, 2019-2022 term, Dutch Cove (O), Canton, Haywood, minister, male

Region 10 – Noah Crowe, 2019-2022 term, Robbinsville (U), Robbinsville, Graham, minister, male

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Bobby Boyd, Woodlawn (O), Conover, Catawba Valley, lay person, male; John Lee, Wilson First (O), Nashville, South Roanoke, lay person, male; Cameron McGill, The Lake Church (U), White Lake, Bladen, minister, male; Lyndell Pate, Rockwell First (O), Rockwell, Rowan, lay person, male; Marian Phillips, Oakley (U), Siler City, Sandy Creek, lay person, female; Gary Stanley, Salem Fork (U), Dobson, Surry, lay person, male; Eric Vernon, Sanford First (O), Sanford, Sandy Creek, lay person, male; Sterling Wall, Lexington First (O), Lexington, Liberty, lay person, male; and Jay Westmoreland, Charlotte First (O), Fort Mill, S.C., Metrolina, lay person, male

Resolution in Appreciation for the Life of Billy Graham

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Resolutions Committee – Jonathan Blaylock, pastor of West Canton Baptist Church in Canton, and Kristopher Estep, teaching pastor of Barberville Baptist Church in Waynesville – wrote this resolution that will be voted on during the BSC annual meeting in November.)

WHEREAS, Billy Graham was born on November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham, often called “America’s Pastor,” exuded a Christlike witness in American culture that spanned seven decades; and

WHEREAS, The life and ministry of Billy Graham is a testament of God’s promise to His church to raise up evangelists for the sake of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe, people, language and nation (Ephesians 4:11; Revelation 7:9); and

WHEREAS, In his lifetime, Billy Graham traveled to 185 countries on six different continents proclaiming the gospel to an estimated 215 million people, and he ministered to countless government and world leaders; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham was an innovator in the advancement of the gospel through new technological mediums of his time; such as a radio ministry, television ministry, and internet ministry; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham’s relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention was one of affection, cooperation, and church membership; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which is based in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham saw a vision for a training and retreat center for lay Christians and pastors become a reality at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham’s life modeled integrity, modesty, lifelong fidelity to one’s spouse, and humility despite worldwide acclaim; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 5-6, 2018, grieve the passing of Billy Graham on February 21, 2018, while also celebrating, honoring, and commemorating his life and ministry as a beloved Southern Baptist who traveled the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Billy Graham; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That we desire to celebrate Billy Graham’s legacy by committing ourselves to sharing the gospel, living lives of personal holiness, and finding joy through an eternal peace with God accomplished by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

NEXT ISSUE:

Look for more information about events before and during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting.

The *Biblical Recorder* also publishes a special convention issue of the paper. If you are a registered messenger, you should receive one. Make sure you stop by our booth at the Pastors’ Conference or in the exhibit hall during the meeting. Prizes available in the exhibit hall.

Ronnie Parrott to be nominated as Pastors’ Conference president

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

Ronnie Parrott, lead pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville, N.C., will be nominated for the 2020 N.C. Pastors’ Conference president when the group meets in Greensboro’s Koury Convention Center, November 4-5.

“Ronnie represents the best of this young generation of leaders and will make a significant contribution to move our state convention forward,” said Clay Smith, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Matthews. “I trust his judgment to recruit quality preachers that will speak to the unique challenges of North Carolina pastors and wholeheartedly look forward to nominating him to serve as our future Pastors’ Conference president.”

Before coming to Christ Community Church in December 2016, Parrott served seven years as an executive leader with pastor Ronnie Floyd at Cross Church in Springdale, Arkansas, during Floyd’s two terms as the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He previously held a variety of church staff roles, including one at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Smith said Parrott “played a key role in helping to execute the national annual meeting focusing on

prayer, evangelism and revival,” when he worked with Floyd. Parrott, 37, is a graduate of Boyce College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., earning the masters of divinity degree in Great Commission studies and doctor of ministry in Executive Leadership.

Christ Community Church has an average worship attendance of 575 people. Parrott told the *Biblical Recorder* he has worked to strengthen the church’s

partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, significantly increasing Cooperative Program giving from \$2,792 in 2016 to \$10,000 in 2018.

The church has baptized 49 people in his 22 months as pastor. A statement from the church said Parrott “has a heart for multiplication that results in churches revitalized and planted. He’s committed to praying for God to awaken our churches to share the gospel and win souls for the name of Jesus Christ.”

“Ronnie has a heart for local church pastors,” Smith added, “and has served with me to initiate a relational network of young pastors in the Charlotte area.”

Parrott is the first announced candidate for president of the 2020 N.C. Pastors’ Conference. ■



RONNIE PARROTT

Committee Continued from page 13

Biblical Recorder

Kelly Bullard, Temple (O), Wade, New South River, minister, male; Chris Hefner, Wilkesboro (O), Wilkesboro, Brushy Mountain, minister, male; Lesley Hildreth, The Summit (O), Wake Forest, Yates, lay person, female; Larry Whichard, Kennebec (O), Fuquay-Varina, Little River, minister, male; and Bartley Wooten, Beulaville (U), Beulaville, Eastern, minister, male

North Carolina Baptist Foundation

Geron Gambill, Snyder Memorial (O), Fayetteville, New South River, minister, male; Harold (Hal) Koger, Calvary (U), McLeansville, Piedmont, lay person, male; Marion Krege, 2020 unexpired term of Roy Krege, Mt. Calvary (U), Banner Elk, Three Forks, lay person, female; Harvey Montague, Macedonia (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, lay person, male; Matt Thomas, Access Point (U), Hertford, Chowan, minister, male; and David Webb, Crestview (O), Boiling Springs, Greater Cleveland, minister, male

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

No vacancies

Committee on Convention Meetings

Miriam Acevedo, Calvary – Hispanic Congregation (U), Cherryville, South Fork, lay person, female; Tim Ameen, Immanuel (O), Clinton, Eastern, minister, male; Paul Cao, 2019 unexpired term of Jeff Stephens,

Vietnamese (U), Whitsett, Piedmont, minister, male; Joey Chafon, Oak Grove (U), Youngsville, Tar River, minister, male; Tonya Edwards, 2020 unexpired term of Chris Canuel, Beulaville (U), Beulaville, Eastern, lay person, female; Chris Fox, Bethany (O), Forest City, Sandy Run, minister, male; Ruth Murray, Southside (U), Wilmington, Wilmington, lay person, female; Nathaniel Williams, Cedar Rock First (U), Castalia, Tar River, minister, male; and Larry Burns, Chair, Mulberry (O), Charlotte, Metrolina, minister, male

Committee on Resolutions and Memorials

Joel Stephens, Hopewell (O), Miland, Union, minister, male; Bob Weathers, Shallotte First (O), Shallotte, Brunswick, minister, male; Ben Whitmire, Locust Grove (O), Weaverville, French Broad, minister, male; and Kenny Gooden, Chair, Union Grove (O), Yadkinville, Yadkin, minister, male

Historical Committee

Susan Bales, Bethlehem (O), Knightdale, Raleigh, lay person, female; John Fidler, Union Chapel (U), Zebulon, Tar River, lay person, male; Woodrow (Woody) Freeze III, Lowe’s Grove (U), Durham, Yates, minister, male; Marc Sanders, Grove Park (O), Whitsett, Mount Zion, minister, male; and Allen Murray, Chair, Oak Grove (U), Lake Toxaway, Transylvania, minister, male ■

BRnow.org



SEBTS military week spotlights chaplaincy, church planting

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS Communications

With more than 100 military community students, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) is making strides in its efforts to engage these students and bring awareness to ministry opportunities within the military community.

Affiliated SEBTS military personnel and students gathered for panel discussions and various meetings for the seminary's first Military Community Focus Week, Sept. 4-7.

"Discipling, training and caring for our military community is incredibly strategic for long term global, gospel impact," said Mark Liederbach, dean of students and vice president for student services. "Our hope is to build a welcoming, strategic and caring community for our military men and women."

During one of the panel discussions, participants addressed possible strategies for planting churches near military bases. They also considered what it looks like for a church to minister in that context.

Bruce Ashford, provost at SEBTS and a panel moderator, asked panelists how churches can operate with intentionality

in serving military families.

"You have to be intentional about reaching the military community and meeting the needs that they have, not the needs that you think they have," explained Brian Collison, a church planter and pastor at Pillar Church of Woodlawn in Alexandria, Va.

U.S. Army chaplain Tim Stokes, who serves at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, noted the churches that "tend to grow and the churches that tend to actually reach them are the ones that are truly preaching the gospel unashamedly."

That week, another panel discussion was held for students interested in the types of expectations and experiences involved in chaplaincy ministry.

Jim Houck, coordinator of military affairs at SEBTS, opened the discussion by asking panelists what key distinctive features existed between chaplains and pastors.

Doug Carver, executive director of chaplaincy for the North American Mission Board, responded, "You live with the people that you serve." Carver formally served as the U.S. Army's 22nd Chief of Chaplains and was the first Southern Baptist appointed to this position in 50 years.

Panelists also discussed the impor-

tance of building relationships with fellow service members for the sake of the gospel. Chaplain Thomas Watson asked, "Are we building the relationships to have the credibility and opportunity to speak into people's lives?"

"I'm a missionary in uniform just like we send missionaries to the 10/40 window," noted Watson, who serves as a North Carolina National Guard chaplain and with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in military ministry. "I went, too, but I went in uniform."

One attendee asked panelists how they are mentored and find people of like-mindedness to keep them grounded. For Chuck Gilbertson, a chaplain for the U.S. Army, opportunities like that developed for him as a student at the seminary.

"Coming to Southeastern is, for me, that chance to [re-focus] spiritually," Gilbertson said.

This type of spiritual refresher that Gilbertson has found at Southeastern is the type of ministry Houck and others at the school have discussed providing for military personnel at SEBTS.

An executive session on ministry to the military was held with both internal SEBTS leaders and external military partners along with a separate strategy meeting.

One of the ideas discussed involved providing focused opportunities where military personnel can come together and be spiritually refreshed.

U.S. Army Chaplain Samuel S. Lee, command chaplain to U.S. Forces Korea, Combined Forces Command and the United Nations Command, facilitated a discussion that week on the foundation and relevancy of military ministry. The discussion centered around understanding the importance of professionalism, the character qualities that should be found in a chaplain, and the vital role spouses play in chaplaincy ministry.

Multiple speakers from the week shared their thoughts on what they hope to see come out of a week like Military Community Focus Week. Carver described the outcome as three-fold:

1. familiarizing students with the ministry of chaplains,
2. creating awareness of the growing opportunity for church planting near military communities both nationally and internationally,
3. and discussing ways SEBTS can more intentionally reach out to veterans and their families in the community.

The week concluded with a dinner for all military personnel and their families on the seminary's campus. **BR**



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Breakout

Continued from page 8

BSC senior consultant, Embrace; Molly Lydick, member, Imago Dei Church, Raleigh, N.C.; Mary Wallace Wilson, women's ministry director, Providence Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.; and Tabatha Frost, pastor's wife, Providence Baptist

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Colony C

Sadly, when churches say "single adult," the immediate thought is "not married," and a host of characteristics and reasons for a single status are given. Yet, single adult women are much more diverse than their marital status, and they aren't all the same. However, many don't feel welcome in a church or even that there is a place for them within the body of Christ. This panel will focus on how to reach the growing demographic of "single women" without viewing them as anomalies. Panelists will include a recent college graduate, a working professional who has never been married, a pastor's wife who works with single adults and a widow.

The Soul Winner's Pulpit with Daniel Dickard, senior pastor, Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C.

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colony B

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15 p.m., Colony B

Evangelistic preaching is a priority of our pulpit ministry, but personal witnessing often escapes us. The embers of your pulpit ministry will stay lit to the degree that you, as a pastor and church leader, continue on the hot trail of personal witnessing. Join us as we discuss practical ways to complement personal witnessing and pulpit evangelism.

Understanding the Impact of Various Worldviews on Our Neighborhoods with Scott Thompson, vice president for academic affairs, Fruitland Baptist Bible College

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 3:15-4:15 p.m., Turnberry

While everyone lives or works in a neighborhood, not everyone lives with their neighborhood. If Christians are go-

ing to minister in our neighborhoods, we must understand the impact of various worldviews on our neighborhoods and learn to love our neighbors with the truth as we minister to their needs. Understanding worldviews is an important aspect of successful discipleship.

Understanding Your Neighborhood with Chuck Campbell, BSC strategy coordinator

Tuesday at 10:45-11:45 a.m., Cedar C

This session will explore 10 simple tactics to start engaging people who live around us in order to proclaim the gospel in contextualized and relevant ways.

Using the Church Renewal Journey to Awaken, Equip and Commission Church Members with Bob & Phyllis Foy, Mission Service Corps Missionaries, Church Renewal Journey Ministry

Monday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Old North

This session provides an overview of the Church Renewal Journey and the five different lay-led revival weekend options available to your church. These weekends focus on awakening the laity to understand how God wants to use every member of the church for Kingdom work; how every believer is equipped for ministry by the Holy Spirit; commissioning church members of all ages as missionaries to their communities, empowering the church through kingdom-focused prayer; and sending the church into its Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Using Sunday School and Small Groups to Impact Our Neighbors with Rick Hughes, BSC senior consultant, Sunday School/small groups; and Jeff Holder, pastor, Society Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C.

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Oak C

Is your Sunday School or small group stuck in a rinse and repeat mode? In this session, we will look at both theoretical and practical steps to turn Sunday School and small groups from an inward focus to an outwardly focused missional mindset.

Come learn how to bring unchurched neighbors into biblical community.

Walking by Faith: Simple Discipleship Across Cultures with Sarah Davenport, member, Imago Dei Church, Raleigh, N.C.

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Heritage A

The Bible is filled with stories to draw us closer to God. As we are called to share across the world, 2 Timothy 2:2 encourages us to formulate our teaching so that it is reproducible. In this session, we will look at a few successful tools to help us encourage and disciple those of other cultures here and around the world.

Walking With Our Neighbors in Hard Times with Meredith Snoddy, women's ministry director, Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, N.C.

Tuesday at 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oak B

Sometimes reaching our neighbors

with the gospel is hard because life can be messy. How can we reach a woman with the gospel when her life seems to be falling apart and we have grown weary? This breakout session will focus on biblical and practical ideas for reaching our neighbors and finding encouragement from God's Word for staying the course.

Who Is My Neighbor? Understanding Pockets of Lostness with Cris Alley, BSC team leader, strategic focus team

Monday at 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cedar C

North Carolina has 250 identified pockets of lostness. Think of a pocket of lostness as a gospel desert – a small geographic area with a large percentage of lost people. This session will show where pockets of lostness are located, explore why they exist and introduce the steps your church can take to eradicate lostness in N.C.'s gospel deserts. **B3**



As the new academic year was kicking off at the massive, 70,000-student Wake Tech Community College in Raleigh, Patrick Austin was becoming Bay Leaf Baptist Church's first collegiate ministry director.

Knowing that countless students who don't yet know Jesus go to classes every day at the North Campus of Wake Tech, the closest college campus to Bayleaf, Patrick decided to focus all of his energy on reaching those students.

Immediately, he began spending time on campus talking to students and sharing the gospel with them. Every single week he meets students and has numerous gospel conversations with them.

Not even once, however, has he had a student respond with a decision to follow Jesus. As a matter of fact, Austin had not even had a student agree to meet him for a follow-up conversation – until he took a Timothy.

After weeks and weeks of frustration, a young man named Jared joined Austin on campus.

Together, they introduced themselves to students and shared the gospel with them. And to Austin's surprise, several of the students expressed a desire to have follow-up conversations with them.

Austin learned a valuable lesson: ministry isn't meant for "Lone Rangers."

Every Batman needs a Robin. Every Bo needs a Luke. Every Shirley needs a Laverne. Every Maverick needs a Goose. Every Paul needs a Timothy. Every Patrick needs a Jared.

Luke 10 tells us that Jesus sent out 72 of His followers ahead of Him, not alone but in pairs. Missionaries are more effective when they have a co-laborer in the gospel.

We need someone to encourage us when the work is hard. We need someone to pray for us. We need someone in the trenches of ministry with us. Who is your Timothy? Your Jared? Who do you need to invite to join you in ministry?

If you would like to learn more about Austin's story and how his ministry at Bay Leaf and Wake Tech is going, check out the breakout session on community college ministry at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting Nov. 5-6, where Austin will be on a panel of missionaries faithfully serving community college campuses.



JONATHAN YARBORO

EDITOR'S NOTE – Jonathan Yarboro is team leader and strategist for Collegiate Partnerships with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact (828) 406-3202, or jyarboro@ncbaptist.org.

4 Questions for Church Bus Buyers:

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Budget

Continued from page 1

board's Budget Special Committee and approved by the board's Executive Committee in July.

The original 2019 budget proposal included an increased allocation to the SBC, bringing that allocation to 41.5 percent – an increase of \$155,000 for the SBC portion of the CP budget – while reducing allocations to all state convention ministry groups as well as the convention's institutions and agencies. Institutions and agencies include the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, the *Biblical Recorder* and the N.C. Baptist Foundation.

The amended budget calls for redistributing \$45,000 from the funds designated for the SBC and reallocating them to some of the BSC's institutions and agencies, as well as Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

Of the reallocated funds, \$30,000 would go to the *Biblical Recorder*, while the Baptist Children's Homes, Fruitland Baptist Bible College and the N.C. Baptist Foundation would all receive \$5,000 each.

The \$45,000 in reallocated funds would reduce the convention's proposed SBC allocation from \$12.865 million to \$12.82 million, but would still reflect an increase in the percentage allocated to the SBC by the state convention for the 13th consecutive year. The 2018 budget included a 41 percent allocation to the SBC. The 2019 proposal passed by the board would increase that total to 41.35 percent, an increase of \$110,000.

The 2019 budget also calls for a 2 percent salary increase for state convention staff. In a separate measure, the board approved a goal of \$2.1 million for the 2019 North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO), which remains unchanged from 2018.

NCMO gifts support the 18 different ministries of Baptists on Mission/N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM), church planting, mission camps, mission mobilization projects and associational projects.

The board also approved a distribution proposal for 2019 Cooperative Program receipts that exceed next year's operating budget. Those funds would be allocated as follows: one-third to the SBC, one-third to in-state church planting efforts and one-third to be divided equally among the Baptist Children's Homes, the *Biblical Recorder* and Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

Both the 2019 NCMO goal and recommended distribution of CP funds in excess of the 2019 budget total will also be presented to messengers at the BSC annual meeting.

Update on 2018 budget and special offerings

Beverly Volz, BSC director of account-



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Board of Directors surround Richard and Leslie Brunson to pray about the relief efforts being organized by the North Carolina Baptists on Mission Richard Brunson leads the organization. (BSC photo by Chad Austin)

ing services, reported to the board that CP receipts from N.C. Baptist churches totaled nearly \$18.5 million through Aug. 31, which is about 11.5 percent behind for the year and about 4 percent less than the same time period a year ago. Despite the shortfall, Volz said the convention is still operating in the black.

Volz said giving to NCMO totaled more than \$660,000 through the end of August, which reflects a 2 percent increase from 2017. The total does not account for any funds received during the offering's statewide emphasis in September.

Volz reminded board members that NCMO funds the disaster relief ministry of NCBM, which is providing relief and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence that struck North Carolina Sept. 14.

Additionally, contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions by N.C. Baptists totaled more than \$5.7 million and \$9.6 million, respectively, through Aug. 31.

Board officers elected

The board also elected a new president and vice president for 2019.

Clay Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Matthews, N.C., and Melanie Wallace, a member of Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell, N.C., were elected board president and vice president, respectively.

Ginger Brown, a member of First Baptist Church in Cary, N.C., was reelected as the board secretary.

They will begin their terms of service during the board's first meeting of 2019 in January.

In addition, members of the various board committees also elected new com-

mittee chairmen for 2019, who will also serve on the board's Executive Committee. They are: David Richardson (Business Services Special Committee), associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Creedmoor, N.C.; Bob Jordan (Christian Life and Public Affairs), pastor of Zion's Tabernacle Baptist Church in Lumberton, N.C.; Al James (Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee), member of Hales Chapel Baptist Church in Zebulon, N.C.; George Hunnicutt (Communications Committee), pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church in Monroe, N.C.; Chris Hughes, (Convention Relations Special Committee), member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Boone, N.C.; and Tracy Smith (Evangelism and Discipleship Committee), pastor of Ratcliffe Cove Baptist Church in Waynesville, N.C.

Other business

In other business, the board approved three new appointees to the Fruitland Baptist Bible College Board of Directors. The appointees will serve four-year terms beginning in 2019.

They are: Jerry Durmire, member of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Hiddenite, N.C.; Ken Houston, member of Crossroads Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C.; and Al James, member of Hales Chapel Baptist Church in Zebulon, N.C.

The board also gave final approval for the BSC to enter into a land conservation agreement with the Piedmont Land Conservancy that would permanently protect from future development a 235-acre tract of land located across the highway from the main campus of Caraway Camp and Conference Center. The convention would receive approximately \$564,000 as part of the agreement, which would be placed in a fund reserved for future capital projects at Caraway.

Convention and Caraway officials said they had no plans to develop the land designated for conservation, and the agreement still permits the land to be used for all current camp programs and activities, such as hiking and primitive camping.

Additionally, the board approved a motion granting the convention authorization to transfer ownership of a property located in Durham to Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel church. The transfer would take effect in January 2019 following the execution of a memorandum of understanding between the state convention, the Yates Baptist Association and Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel.

The BSC has owned the property since acquiring it from the Executive Committee of the SBC at no cost in early 2014. The SBC had tried unsuccessfully to sell the property since it was deeded to them in 2008 by Trinity Baptist Church upon the dissolution of the church.

Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel, a Hispanic church plant in search of a permanent meeting space, began worshiping at the location in 2015.

Members of the congregation have worked hard since that time to rehabilitate and renovate the property, transforming it into a vibrant ministry center.

"The convention believes that Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel has earned the privilege of having the property legally transferred to its ownership," said John Butler, BSC executive leader for business services. "Without the church's incredible investment of time and money, the property would have little value at this time."

According to terms of the proposed agreement, the building could also be used to help launch other church plants in addition to other missions and ministry meetings and endeavors by the Yates association. Should Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel dissolve, ownership of the property would be transferred to the Yates association.

Retiring board members

At the conclusion of the meeting, BSC Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. recognized 40 board members – including both board officers – whose terms of service expire this year: board president Marc Francis; board vice president John Mark Harrison; Allan Barlow; Johnny Blevins; Bruce Buckner; Rick Byrd; Lawrence Clapp; Greg Clark; Mickey Cogdill; John Compton; Eric Davidson; Darrel Davis; John Elledge; Jose Espinal; Dan Farnsworth; Daniel Flynn; Jeff Isenhour; Neal Jackson; Ken Jones; Jim Kilby; Mitch King; Matt Ledbetter; Bob Lowman; Bob Lynn; Jerry Moseley; Mike Motley; Michael Owens; Dan Page; Jim Pollard; Boyce Porter; Connie Queen; Earl Roach; Jim Robertson; Richard Rockwell; Tommy Ross; Brent Thomas; Steve Tillis; Michael Waters; Chris Winchester; and Judy Yarbrough. **B3**

October 14

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

October 21

The Object of Our Prayer

**Focal Passage: Matthew 6:9a;
Psalm 103:1-5, 11-13, 19-22**

One of the biggest adjustments I had to learn as a new husband was to change my jargon and lingo when I was with my wife. As I spent most of my time with dormmates and friends, I had to learn how to more coherently converse with her. (Trust me guys, calling her “bro” and “dude” doesn’t work!)

I had to learn that how I viewed my wife determined how I talked with her. Likewise, the way we view God forms how we communicate with Him.

In Matthew 6, Jesus teaches us something fundamental about prayer. The most basic and foundational element of your prayer life should be to focus on seeing God as your loving Father. In this framework, your prayer life can thrive.

Apparently, the disciples saw prayer as a struggle, while prayer was a normal rhythm of life for Jesus.

In Matthew 6:9-13, we see a clear structure and model for our own lives as apprentices to Jesus – and the first step

is to reshape our minds around how we view God.

God is, as He makes clear, our loving Father who works on behalf of us.

You can find a poetic reflection on this reality in Psalm 103.

The psalmist declares qualities that help shape our hearts and minds about our heavenly Father. We see a call to praise the God who forgives, redeems and satisfies us as we remember the benefits we have in Him.

He has compassion on us (v. 11-13), just as a father has compassion his children.

We have access to Him as our father, and therefore the benefits are accounted to us as His people.

As we begin this study, Jesus is calling us first to reform our minds about how we view God. After that, the praise and the petition will follow.

When we realize to whom we are talking, we can then pray properly. And this gives us hope in our prayer life.



TYLER FRANK
*Young Adult Pastor,
Biltmore Church, Arden*

**Focal Passage: Matthew 6:9b;
Psalm 96:1-9**

The Medal of Honor is a well-known award given to those who have distinguished themselves in military combat by going beyond the call of duty. The prestigious award is given to the recipient with gratitude and thanksgiving from government officials and is recognized even by civilians as something worthy of honor, respect and admiration.

In Matthew 6, once we first see God as our loving Father, we can then petition that His name be honored above all. With thanksgiving and gladness, our foundational prayer can be “hallowed be thy name.”

With this refrain, Psalm 96 becomes a poetic commentary on what it means to honor God as holy. First, we must declare His works and His praise for what He has done (vv. 1-3).

Declaring, singing and telling are all

phrases to describe the honoring of God.

Next, the majesty and splendor of God must awaken us to praise (vv. 4-6). In the end, God is the only thing that can hold any true worth and honor. Man-made idols can never last (v. 5).

The rest of the psalm is a description of the entire world giving honor and worth to God (vv. 7-13).

The peoples, the heavens and earth, the sea and fields, everything in the world should give God true honor.

As the cosmos gives honor to its creator, we too must come to our Father with prayers and petitions that seek to honor Him. Our most foundational belief and request to God is to be fully honored in our lives. In fact, that’s what it means to be a Christian (1 Corinthians 10:31). Yes, God wants to hear our requests. Our good Father desires to hear from His children.

But before this, we must reframe our minds and hearts around this reality: God’s glory. When God’s glory is our first and foremost concern, the petitions and requests found in the model prayer can then fall into place.

October 14

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

October 21

True Compassion

Focal Passage: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-15

Humans are moved by compassion. The sense of joy we feel when we see it is innate. We love to fill our social media timelines with stories of people being extraordinarily kind to other people. Part of the reason why we love to see compassion on display is because we don’t see it often enough. We are also bombarded by senseless tragedies and natural disaster. Compassion sometimes seems like an exception to the rule.

But as believers, we are called to live this way all the time. As Paul concludes his letter to his beloved Galatians, he admonishes them to be a people of compassion. Paul taught that compassion and bearing each other’s burdens are demonstrated in several ways. He notes that the church should seek to restore other believers who have fallen into sin. The Galatian believers are also challenged to make good of the resources that God has given them by providing for the needs of others in the faith.

The importance of a lifestyle of compas-

sion is emphasized when Paul discusses sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:8)

Whether we choose to sow to the flesh or to the Spirit, we will reap consequences from our choices. To be compassionate toward others is to sow to the Spirit. For this reason, Paul says, we do not give up. We know that the grace and compassion we show to others will reap eternal benefits.

Paul ends his letter in the same way he began – putting on display the person and work of Jesus. The apostle reminds us again that there is nothing we can add to what Christ has already done. Our salvation is by faith. What matters now, Paul says, is that we are new. And because we are new, we are free to live generously and compassionately. We forsake the notion that our good deeds somehow earn us merit with God. But as those who have been justified by faith, we seek to honor God by loving one another.



ANTENESHIA SANDERS
*Member,
The Summit Church,
Raleigh-Durham*

Focal Passage: James 1:2-15

Life can be hard, there’s no denying that. We are faced with sickness, broken relationships, failure, lack and loss. Sometimes we face all of those at the same time. If you’re not in the middle of a difficult situation right now, then you probably know someone who is. Jesus even told His disciples that they would definitely have trouble in this world (John 16:33).

It seems strange that scripture would tell us to consider all our trials as joy. How can we be joyful about things that are so painful? As James is writing to a group of displaced and persecuted believers, he answers this question for us. In our trials, God is doing something holy. As our faith is tested by hardship, God is producing endurance and faithfulness in us. He is growing us up into mature Christians.

As believers, maturity is what we want

With Perseverance

– it is our goal. We want to be those who are faithful and obedient. We want to be those who trust God. As we persevere through difficulty, this is the type of character produced in us. And being the loving Father that He is, God does not leave us on our own when life gets tough. He knows that we need wisdom to faithfully endure. He promises that if we ask in faith, He will give us all the wisdom that we need.

We must also be careful not to assume that God is somehow tempting us in our troubles.

A sinful response to suffering is not from God, but from a lack of faith in Him. Instead, we rest in the fact that God is present in our trials, providing for us and making us more like Jesus.

We have a great hope, knowing that our present reality is not all that there is for the Christian. We can endure difficult seasons in this life, because we know that there is another life to come. Until then, we rejoice in the fact that God is present in our trials, providing for us and making us more like Jesus.

Visit **BR**now.org

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



Camp

Continued from page 5

camp that teaches kids how to be followers of Jesus while also providing an awesome camp experience. It reminds me of what camp was like when I was a kid – except the cabins are air conditioned,” Kiefer said.

Arvil Pennington, associate pastor of preschool and children’s ministries at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro, said their boys and girls “love their experience” at Caraway.

“It allows them to get away from their electronic devices and enjoy and interact with nature. Children need to be learning interactive life skills by socializing with their peers, problem solving and learning to be resourceful,” Pennington said.

“I especially appreciate the attention to detail that is given by Mark Moore and his staff.

College students on the staff show genuine interest in the boys and girls.

The meals are child friendly, but well planned and nutritious. The facilities that North Carolina Baptists have provided are excellent.

“Our families are already asking for the 2019 dates for Camp Caraway. They want to protect that week on their family calendars,” said Pennington.

Kohns said a year-long Bible study called, “Keys for Kids,” goes home with each camper. He recently received an email from a grandfather who said he and his grandson individually work through the devotional book, then discuss it together by phone.

Sandra Montague, minister to children at First Baptist Church in Matthews, said the church decided to take their rising fifth and sixth-graders to Caraway the first year that coed camps launched.

“The awesome outdoor experiences coupled with the excellent staff, great

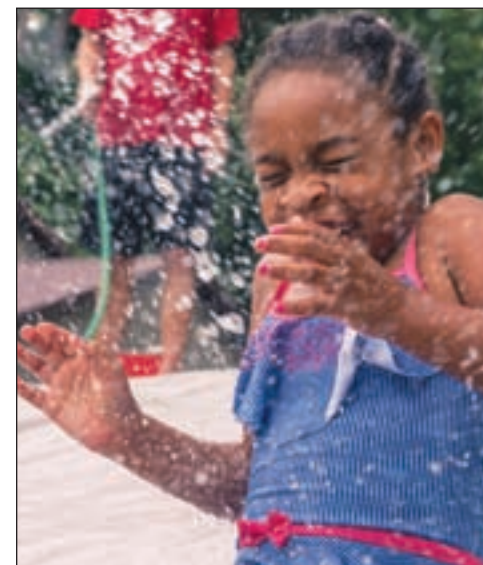
worship and solid Bible study made Camp Caraway the real camp experience we were looking for!” she said.

A participant with the Matthews camp group, Connor Woodman, said the counselors were “extremely nice to all the campers and were fair when it came to the games.

“Camp Caraway is extremely fun because every day is packed full of different things to do. The skill and recreation classes are stellar. In everything you do, they still find a way to make it point to God.

“Whenever I go there, I always feel much closer to God because of the people I’m surrounded by. This past summer when I was on the lake, I canoed over to a cross by the road and asked Jesus into my heart,” he said.

Visit caraway.org for camp schedules and more information. **BR**



There are many recreational activities for children and adults, including water-based slides and canoes, as well as ropes courses. Caraway Conference Center offers “Grand Camp” too. Grandparents are encouraged to bring children or great-grandchildren. (Caraway photo)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

First Baptist Church, Sanford, is currently seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. We are searching for a man of God who is called to lead our church into the future with vision and innovation. Candidates must have a minimum of five years of pastoral experience, with excellent leadership and communication skills. Minimum educational requirements are a bachelor’s or a master’s degree from an accredited seminary/divinity school. A résumé may be mailed to First Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, 202 Summit Drive, Sanford, NC 27330, or sent electronically at fbcsearch@firstbaptistchurchsanford.org. The deadline to submit applications is November 10, 2018.

FULL-TIME PASTOR. White Springs Baptist Church, Lancaster, SC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail résumé to White Springs Baptist PSC, PO Box 148, Lancaster, SC 29721, or email to whitespringspastorsearch@gmail.com. Résumés accepted until Oct 31.

Church Staff

Antioch Baptist Church, Mamers, NC, is seeking a **permanent part-time pianist**. Submit résumé or letters of interest by email to office@antiochweb.org. Visit our website for job description at <http://www.antiochweb.org>.

Missionary Ridge Baptist Church, located in Morganton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Youth**. This pastor will primarily serve as a minister to our youth and families and assist the senior pastor in other areas as needed. Please submit résumé, statement of faith and sample teaching clips to mscottw@charter.net or mail to the church at: Attn: Pastor, 5612 John Watts Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.

Cub Creek Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, NC, is seeking a **Music Director** with a heart for God and love for Christ-honoring music to lead and coordinate our music program. Degree in music is not required but must be knowledgeable in traditional and contemporary music with the desire, ability and talent to sing/direct. There are no set office hours, however the individual will be expected to spend approximately 15 hours per week in preparation and execution of the music program. Individual will work closely with the pastor and church council to organize and plan music for all services. For additional information contact Edwin Taylor (336) 831-5926 or send résumé by October 20, 2018, to Cub Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 86 Wilkesboro, NC 28697, or Brian.sampson@cubcreekbaptistchurch.com.

Grace Baptist Fayetteville (www.GraceFay.org) is looking for a **Full-Time Worship Pastor** to lead the existing weekly service (80% contemporary) and work with the pastor toward launching a second service (100% contemporary) – someone who leads proficiently from guitar and has a heart for ministerial service. At present, the position functions as an assistant pastor role, including duties outside of worship leadership such as teaching youth, helping the pastor with youth missions and activities, teaching in the pastor’s absence and some administrative tasks. As growth unfolds, the position will specialize toward a Worship Pastor role. Knowledge of ProPresenter and AV technology a plus. To apply for this opportunity, please send cover letter, résumé and personal and professional references either by e-mail to gracebaptistfayetteville@yahoo.com or by mail to Grace Baptist Church, 3901 Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28304. Grace affirms the BFM 2000.

Olive Branch Baptist Church (Durham, NC) is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor for Family Ministry** to strategize, oversee and manage family-based activities, in collaboration with the lead pastor, for a congregation with average attendance of 150-200 at Sunday morning worship. Applicants should have a master’s degree from an SBC seminary, possess a minimum of 5 years’ effective vocational ministry, and affirm the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. A full job description and more information about our church are available at www.obbcdurham.org. Send résumés to searchcommittee@obbcdurham.org or Olive Branch Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 123 Olive Branch Road, Durham, NC 27703. Deadline to submit résumés is October 31, 2018.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Clinton, NC, is currently accepting resumes for a **part-time Music Director**. Applicants must be able to direct an adult choir and experience playing the piano or organ is preferred. For a more detailed job description visit our website at ibccclinton.com or call (910) 592-3854.

Miscellaneous

Do you have staff changes at your church or association? Or special news you would like to share (significant church or church staff anniversaries or a mission effort to reach your community)? Let the *Biblical Recorder* know by calling (919) 847-2127 or email editor@BRnow.org.

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