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BRAVE BOY LEADS SISTERS  
TO SAFETY AND  
A NEW HOME  
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# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

OCTOBER 21, 2017 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 183 NO. 21 • **BRnow.org**



Annual Meeting  
TO PRIORITIZE

## PRAYER, MISSIONS

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention Nov. 6-7 will vote on officers, articles and bylaw changes and resolutions. One resolution deals with racism while another is about human sexuality and marriage. (BR file photo by Steve Cooke)

BR staff

**T**he Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) has released details about the 2017 Annual Meeting scheduled for Nov. 6-7 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C.

Prayer and missions are clear emphases for the event. A prayer gathering, developed by the BSC office of prayer for evangelization and spiritual awakening, is slated for the evening session on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The service will culminate a 30-day prayer initiative announced earlier this year. “The goal of this special service is for all N.C. Baptists to unite their hearts in prayer for spiritual awakening and revival,” according to the BSC website.

Messengers will cast ballots on mission-focused resolutions concerning sexuality and racism. In an explanation for the “Resolution Denouncing Racism,” the Resolutions and Memorials Committee said it hopes to clearly communicate “the message of hope and love found within the gospel.”

Similarly, the resolution on sexuality and marriage calls N.C. Baptists to “commit to pray for our neighbors who identify themselves as homosexual and transgen-

der, to minister to them with Christ’s love, and, as they repent, to help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Messengers will also vote on bylaw changes to rectify an issue related to the rotation of the convention’s board of directors.

Election of convention officers will take place in both the morning and afternoon sessions, Tues., Nov. 7. Timmy Blair, pastor of Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church in Angier, will nominate Lee Pigg, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, for the office of BSC president. Cameron McGill, current BSC president, will not run for re-election. Joel Stephens, first vice president, and James Dillard “J.D.” Grant, second vice president, will both seek a second term in their current roles.

The schedule, proposed resolutions, proposed bylaw changes and information about breakout sessions and auxiliary events are printed inside this edition of the *Biblical Recorder*. (See box at bottom left.) **BR**

## 100-year-old seamstress makes dresses to pack in shoeboxes

Samaritan’s Purse

**M**ost mornings 100-year-old Eva Bossenberger wakes up between 3-4 a.m. and heads for her sewing machine. She’s a woman on a mission with no time to waste.

At the end of last year, Bossenberger’s pastor asked her to make about 180 items for girls that could be packed in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. She didn’t have to think long before she knew what she’d do. Bossenberger is making dresses that will soon be packed in shoeboxes and distributed to little girls across the world who need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

See Dresses page 10



## National CP ends fiscal year 4.31% over goal

Baptist Press

**T**he Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ended its fiscal year \$8.14 million over its 2016-2017 budgeted goal and \$1.41 million over the previous year’s Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget gifts, according to Frank S. Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee (EC). “We are grateful to God for His provision to SBC missions and ministries over this past year,” Page said. “Our Lord has provided and given us above and beyond.”

The SBC received \$197,146,731.08 in CP Allocation gifts for the year. This amount is \$1,416,223.04, or 0.72 percent, more than it received during the last fiscal year, and is \$8,146,731.08, or 4.31 percent, more than its budgeted goal of \$189 million.

The EC, at its Sept. 18-19 meeting, allocated the first \$1.25 million of the projected CP overage to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to assist those affected by 2017 disasters. The remaining overage was allocated to NAMB, International Mission Board, seminaries and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. **BR**

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# We can't do it alone

I believe the most profound moment in life is when we discover our limitations and admit we need others. What we thought could be accomplished alone just can't be done unless others are invited to share the load. The barriers of self-sufficiency crumble, we humble ourselves and ask for help.

This not only describes the open door to personal salvation through Jesus, it also includes every step we take through the discipleship process.

We can't save ourselves, so we reach out to the only One who can forgive us of sin and give new life.

We can't grow in Christ alone, so

we connect with a local church, a Bible study group and a personal mentor – a “Paul” who will encourage us and hold us accountable for godliness and maturity.

That process must keep expanding.

A pastor is tempted to do ministry alone.

He may believe that others are too busy or not trained to serve with him. But he must come to the conviction that he can't lead the church alone. He needs deacons, elders and other church members on the

team.

Breaking the crippling walls of isolation, a leader has to realize the value of others outside the fellowship of the local

church and involve them in his Christian growth. Internet sites cannot replace interaction with friends, fellow pastors, directors of missions, state convention leaders and other Christians.

The Kingdom of God is much larger than any one of us. We need each other.

Churches also need to arrive at this place of discovery.

Every church needs other churches in Kingdom ministry. No church can reach the world alone. That's why we form associations.

That's why state and national conventions exist. Those connections are priceless.

At some point in the past, churches and church leaders decided they needed partnerships, affiliations and connections

with others in the larger body of Christ. They looked for those whose doctrine and mission were close enough to form alliances.

They connected, shared resources, cooperated and watched their ministries expand beyond the small world of a single church.

**“No church can reach the world alone.”**

We are a team. We need each other. Self-absorbed, self-sufficient living is a complete contradiction of Christian values. It is a total violation of the holy scriptures we stand upon. The Bible forbids it.

By choice, please join your team of North Carolina Baptists in Greensboro, Nov. 6-7 so we can grow in Christ together and impact lostness together. We can't do it alone. **BR**



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

## ‘Broken Before the Throne’ prayer gathering

Throughout history, God's manifest presence through revival has always been coupled with deep conviction and brokenness over sin in both believers' lives and among the lost.

During the Hebrides Revival that began in 1949, seven young men wept before the Lord in brokenness, confession and humility in a barn outside their town. They sought the Lord for clean hands and pure hearts in their own lives. God moved, and the Hebrides Revival began that night.

During the Laymen's Prayer Revival of 1857-59, a group of pagan sailors entered a room to break up a prayer meeting on the USS North Carolina. They fell under deep conviction of sin and were converted to Christ. God moved, and over the next few days many lost sailors were broken over sin and converted to Christ.

Never before in the history of this nation has there been a greater need for God's people to seek Him with clean hands and a pure heart for revival and spiritual awakening.

God is calling His people to return to Him in godliness and holiness so that He might show Himself strong among the nations.

On Tues., Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro during the final session of this year's Annual Meeting, North Carolina Baptists will gather to humble themselves and seek the Lord through prayer for revival and spiritual awakening. The “Broken Before the Throne” prayer gathering is based upon God's invitation in Acts 3:19 to His people to return to Him in genuine repentance, humility and brokenness. Acts 3:19, which reads, “*Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*” (Acts 3:19, NASB), is also an invitation for God's people to experience His mercy, forgiveness, restoration and refreshing through personal and corporate revival. During the prayer gathering, participants will be lead through four seasons of prayer built upon the fol-



**J. CHRIS SCHOFIELD**  
Guest Column

lowing four themes:

### ● Repent

The first season of prayer will be toward genuine biblical repentance. This involves personal and corporate humility, confession, honesty and brokenness over sin. The term “repent” means to have “a heartfelt change of mind.” This is accompanied by genuine grief over sin and present direction in life.

### ● Return

Participants will pray toward returning to the Lord in brokenness and contrition over sin. This involves the idea of turning back in love and obedience to God. This is also a call for God's people to set their hearts anew and afresh on Jesus, who is the only way back to the Father (see Acts 4:12).

### ● Restore

God's restoration always begins with His forgiveness of sin. When He forgives, He restores His people in relationship, which opens the door for His restoration in other ways. God's desire to restore His people is rooted and grounded in His loyal love for His people in Jesus. Jesus alone is who we must run to for forgiveness, cleansing and restoration.

### ● Refresh

Times of refreshing from God take place because of God's renewed manifest presence with and in His people. A season of refreshing is also preceded by a genuine returning to the Lord by His people through heartfelt confession, repentance, forgiveness of sins and active obedience to God's Word, work and ways. At the heart of God's refreshing works are His redemptive purposes — renewing His kingdom work with and through His people and glorifying His name among the nations.

God's clarion call to His people is that we might become broken before Him over our sin and the spiritual famine in our churches, communities, nation and world. Please join fellow believers from all across North Carolina at the “Broken Before the Throne” prayer gathering in Greensboro.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Chris Schofield serves as director of the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information on the “Broken Before the Throne” prayer gathering, visit [ncannualmeeting.org/broken](http://ncannualmeeting.org/broken).) **BR**

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# IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

## Reflections on the Reformation

October 31, 1517, is widely recognized as the day that a monk named Martin Luther nailed a document known as the 95 Theses to the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Historians, scholars and theologians mark this event as the beginning of what we know as the Protestant Reformation.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a significant and momentous event in church history. While in some



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer

contemporary conversations the Reformation is often associated primarily with Reformed theology, the importance of the Reformation goes far beyond contemporary conversations.

As Southern Baptists, we are the beneficiaries of the Reformation in many ways. One of the lasting impacts of the Reformation has been the recovery of core doctrinal beliefs that we as evangelicals in general and Southern Baptists in particular hold as foundational to our faith.

The theological convictions of the Reformers are often summarized in what are known as the "five solas." These short Latin phrases convey core truths about Christianity. They

are: *sola scriptura* (Scripture alone); *sola fide* (faith alone); *sola gratia* (grace alone); *sola Christus* (Christ alone); and *sola Deo gloria* (to the glory of God alone). When we consider these truths, we can understand how the Reformation continues to influence how and why we worship God today.

Baptists have long been called a "people of the Book." We believe scripture alone is our ultimate source of authority, and all of God's Word is inspired, inerrant and infallible. The Bible is the believer's guide for faith and practice.

As followers of Christ, we know that salvation is a free gift, and it is available to anyone who receives it by faith. We also know that salvation is only made possible because of God's grace. We cannot do enough good works to earn our salvation. The apostle Paul reminds us of this glorious truth in Ephesians 2:8-9.

We also know that salvation comes only through Christ Jesus. He is the sinless Son of God whose death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins. Acts 4:12 tells us that "*there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (NKJV).

For all that God has done for us, we should be compelled to live our lives to the glory of Him alone. The apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:31 that "*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*" (NKJV).

To coincide with the Reformation's 500th anniversary, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Historical Committee is sponsoring some special events during our upcoming Annual Meeting on Nov. 6-7 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. On Monday, Nov. 6, the committee will be screening a film on the Reformation titled "This Changed Everything" at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in Auditorium I of the Koury Center. The committee will also offer a "Reformation Symposium" panel discussion that same day in Auditorium I from 3-5 p.m.

We hope you will make plans to attend these events to learn more about the historical significance and the lasting legacy of the Reformation.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"

– Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV). **B3**

## Baptist beliefs: Learning from the Reformers

Baptist Press

Second in a series

With Christians through the centuries, Baptists stand with the Reformers in confessing that there is one and

only one living and true God, who is an intelligent, spiritual and personal being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections.

Furthermore, our confession as Baptists maintains that God is Triune and that there are within the Godhead three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can say that God is one in His nature and three in His persons. More specifically, we confess that there is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead, there are three eternal and equal persons, the same in substance, yet distinct in function.

### Scripture

Baptists are "people of the Book." With Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and other 16th-century Reformers, Baptists believe that it is impossible to define or even describe Christian orthodoxy apart from a commitment to a full-orbed doctrine of scripture. Baptist theology and spirituality rest on scripture

as the central legitimizing source of Christian faith and doctrine, the clearest window through which the face of Christ may be seen.

The Reformers were also in agreement regarding the truthfulness and authority of scripture, a belief with very real consequences. Such an understanding of holy scripture led to a rejection of the medieval belief and practice concerning papal authority and church tradition. The Reformers recognized that these matters could no longer be acknowledged as an authority equal with scripture or as a standard independent of the Bible. Martin Luther summarized well these things when he said, "Everyone indeed, knows that at times the Fathers have erred, as men will; therefore, I am ready to trust them only when they give me evidence for their opinions from scripture, which has never erred" (Luther's Works, 32:11).



**DAVID DOCKERY**  
Guest Column

### Salvation by grace through faith

The Reformers believed that medieval thinkers had led the church astray by teaching that human effort and good works as well as moral or ritual action would earn favor in the eyes of God, enabling sinners to achieve salvation. A serious ongoing

See Beliefs page 7

## The power of an annual meeting

By CAMERON MCGILL | Special to the Recorder

As another annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) approaches, my mind goes back to a previous convention meeting. As an officer of the BSC, I had been a part of planning the 2014 convention, but little did I know just how significant it would be in my life.

For the first decade of my ministry at Dublin First Baptist Church (FBC), I was satisfied with the good things in church work – full pews, met budgets, exciting worship, happy people and a successful building program. But that year's convention theme, "Greater Things," would open my eyes to God's desire for me personally, and for my church to quit doing church work and start doing Kingdom work.

John 14 begins with the promise of an eternal mansion. But tucked in the middle (v. 12), is another promise of a miracle that would take place after the Holy Spirit's entrance at Pentecost – the miracle of "Greater Things." I went home from that annual session knowing that I had met with God, and my life would never be the same. In the years that followed, my family and over 200 members of Dublin FBC have traveled all over the world on mission. I have shared the gospel in many countries and passed out shoeboxes to hundreds of children. Our church has stepped out in faith in obedience to Acts 1:8 to be "On Mission – Here, There and Everywhere." We have partnered with



Cameron and his wife Tiffany, distributed a shoebox to a child in Moldova. His involvement in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting changed his view of Kingdom work. (Contributed photo)

churches in New York City and Vadul Lui Isac, Moldova. We birthed the Lake Church of White Lake as a second campus of Dublin FBC. In July 2017, the Lake Church established White Lake Christian Camp and Retreat Center. All of this and so much more can be traced back to a life-changing BSC annual meeting and the challenge to do "Greater Things." I hope to see you at the 2017 annual meeting in Greensboro, Nov. 6-7.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Cameron McGill serves as BSC president.) **B3**



# Brave boy leads sisters to safety, a new home

By **BLAKE RAGSDALE** | BCH Communications

*Jake's story is written in the nine-year-old's voice. The story is real, but the names of the children are changed due to the sensitivity of their situation.*

**H**ave you ever wished you could fly? I have. I dream about it all the time.

My Superman T-shirt is pretty old. Even though I'm nine years old now, it still fits me. I put it on with the cape I made and go outside to play.

I run, close my eyes and jump as I high as I can! It feels like I'm flying.

When I stop running, I always look to see how far I ran. I turn around and see my house behind me.

My home is a dark place – it's where bad things happen. My stepdad yells a lot, but my mom never seems to care.

When he gets really angry, I shut myself inside my bedroom and hope he doesn't come inside. I do it to protect myself. Most of all, I do it to keep my sisters safe.

My sisters are only three years old and five years old. I can't stand to hear them cry whenever my stepdad swings open our bedroom door.

In my dreams, I put on my Superman



Experience the story of Jake and his sisters by watching "SAVED" – the video for Baptist Children's Homes Annual Offering. Watch the video at [bchn.org/bchsaved](http://bchn.org/bchsaved). Download a digital copy to share with your church at [bchoffering.org](http://bchoffering.org). The Week of Prayer is Nov. 12-19, 2017. (BCH screenshot from video)

shirt, take my sisters by their hands and we fly away. We fly higher and higher until we can't see our house anymore or hear our stepdad yelling.

One day, I decide to stop dreaming about flying and really do it.

I wake up early one morning. My sisters are still sleeping. I know my mom and stepdad aren't up because they never wake up early.

I put on my Superman T-shirt and

pack some stuffed animals and toys in my backpack. I look around the house for some food, but there isn't anything. There's never anything to eat.

I wake up my sisters, putting my finger to my lips and tell them to be quiet. The last thing we want to do is wake our parents.

I take my sisters by their hands. We tip toe through the house and out the back door.

"Where are we going?" they ask as we stand at the street in front of our house. I didn't know where we were going. I just knew we had to get away – as far as we could fly.

Cars pass us as we walk down the road. We walk for so long that our feet begin to hurt, and our stomachs start growling. If we were at school, we would have already eaten lunch.

It's OK because we're used to being hungry. We can't stop now or our stepdad might find us.

All of a sudden, we hear the sound of a car door shutting behind us! We turn around and see that it's a policeman. His car is parked, and the lights are flashing.

"Hey, guys, what are you doing out here by yourselves?" he asks.

What if the policeman decides to take us back home? Our stepdad will be so angry. I don't even want to think about what he will do.

I take a deep breath and ask, "Could you please take us to foster care? Our parents are mean to us. We're hungry, and they hurt us."

He doesn't say anything at first. He only looks at us with sad eyes. Then, he tells us everything is going to be OK.

The next few hours go by fast. One

**See Brave page 6**

**Grand Prize**

**Winner will receive two valuable pieces of Bible study software**

- The Olive Tree Bible Study Premier Edition has 16 tools including a Bible dictionary, reference tools, maps and atlases
- The second part of this grand prize is the Olive Tree Charles Haddon Spurgeon Collection, 103 volumes of Spurgeon's works

**Annual Meeting GIVEAWAY**

*visit our booth to enter*

**Additional Prizes**

**3 CSB mahogany leather touch study Bibles**

Drawings will be held at the *Biblical Recorder's* booth at 5 p.m., Tues., Nov. 7. Employees of the *Biblical Recorder* and the Baptist State Convention of N.C. are not eligible to win.



SCHEDULE

**M**essengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting will gather Nov. 6-7 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org) or [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org) for more information.

Monday evening, Nov. 6

- 2:00 p.m. Exhibits and registration open
- 6:15 Call to Worship – The Shepherd Family
- 6:30 Call to Order – Cameron McGill  
Invocation – James Daniel  
Pledges (American & Christian flags, Bible)  
Committee on Convention Meetings – Chip Hannah  
Committee on Nominations – Charles Brust  
Historical Committee – Don Wright
- 7:05 Greetings  
Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention – Ashley Clayton  
North Carolina Baptist Men Partnerships – Richard Brunson  
Office of Great Commission Partnerships – Zac Lyons
- 7:20 Broken Before the Throne: A Prayer Gathering Preview – Charlie Martin
- 7:25 Board of Directors – Marc Francis  
Church Revitalization  
Church Strengthening
- 7:50 Worship  
Scripture and prayer – Chris Schofield  
Music – Dublin FBC/Lake Church praise team
- 8:10 Introduction of President  
Music – Dublin FBC/Lake Church
- 8:20 President’s Address – Cameron McGill  
Special Music – Tabitha Mesina  
Benediction – Joel Stephens

Tuesday morning, Nov. 7

- 7:30 a.m. Listening sessions  
2018 Budget Proposal – Pinehurst  
Proposed Articles and Bylaws Amendments – Turnberry
- 8:00 Exhibits and registration open
- 8:30 Call to Worship – The Shepherd Family
- 8:45 Call to Order – Cameron McGill
- 8:50 Worship  
Scripture and prayer – James Fisher  
Music – The Shepherd Family
- 9:15 Executive Director – Treasurer Address – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
- 9:45 Music – The Shepherd Family
- 9:50 N.C. Baptist Hospital – Gary Gunderson
- 10:05 Board of Directors – Marc Francis  
Church Planting  
Collegiate Partnerships
- 10:25 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:35 Convention Committee Report  
Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – Jonathan Blaylock
- 10:45 Election of Officers (Fixed Order of Business) – President
- 10:50 Board of Directors – Marc Francis  
Articles and Bylaws – John Compton
- 11:05 Institution & Agency Reports  
Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina – Blake Ragsdale  
*Biblical Recorder* – Allan Blume  
North Carolina Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf
- 11:25 Benediction – Joseph Phan

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 7

- 1:15 p.m. Call to Order – Cameron McGill
- 1:20 Greeting – LifeWay Christian Resources
- 1:25 North American Mission Board  
International Mission Board
- 1:35 Worship  
Scripture and prayer – Mark Harris  
Music – Kenny Lamm
- 1:45 Election of Officers (First & Second Vice President)
- 1:55 Board of Directors – Marc Francis  
Disciple-Making
- 2:05 North Carolina Baptist Men – Richard Brunson
- 2:20 Music – Kenny Lamm
- 2:25 Board of Directors (Fixed Order of Business) – Marc Francis  
Proposed 2018 Budget for Cooperative Program and North Carolina Missions Offering – Jeff Isenhour
- 2:55 Breakout sessions promotion – Lynn Sasser
- 3:00 Benediction – Jennifer Thoppil
- 3:15 Breakout session I
- 4:15 Breakout session II

Tuesday evening, Nov. 7

- 6:30 p.m. Call to Worship – N.C. Baptist Renewing Worship Band
- 6:35 Call to Order – Cameron McGill  
Invocation – John Mark Harrison
- 6:40 Presentation of Officers
- 6:50 Evaluation
- 7:00 Broken Before the Throne: A Prayer Gathering\*  
Benediction – Charlie Martin  
Adjourn – Cameron McGill

\*The prayer service was developed by the BSC Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening and its prayer strategy team.

Clergy housing allowance struck down again

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Content Editor

**A** district judge decided Oct. 6 that an income tax exemption for clergy housing is unconstitutional because it favors religious employees over similarly situated secular employees.

“Under current law,” U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb wrote in the ruling, “that type of provision violates the establishment clause.”

This is the second time Crabb, who serves the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, has ruled against the tax break for min-

isters. The first came in 2013, but was overturned the following year in appeals court.

The parsonage exclusion, enacted in 1954, allows ministers to exempt payments designated as housing allowance from their taxable income. It saves clergy an estimated \$800 million annually, according to *Christianity Today*.

Annie Gaylor and Dan Barker, married co-presidents of an atheist group, Freedom From Religion Foundation, filed a legal complaint after the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) denied their attempt to claim a housing allowance as an exclusion on an income tax return.

The IRS argued the housing exemption applies to “ministers of the gospel,” a historically Christian phrase the agency interprets to include clergy of other faiths. Gaylor and Barker are not clergy

and not employed by a church, according to letters cited in the ruling.

The case is known as *Gaylor v. Mnuchin*.

“The housing allowance, far from being a government endorsement of religion, as Judge Crabb contends, actually removes government from the equation,” O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources, said in a press release.

“Were it not for the housing allowance, the government would be imposing a tax on religious employers and their employees that is not imposed on non-religious employers” [who receive tax exemptions].

GuideStone has monitored this case and its predecessor, said Hawkins, and will file a friend-of-the-court brief on appeal with a coalition of similar organizations. **BR**

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# Brave

Continued from page 4

minute, my sisters and I are climbing in the back of the police car.

The next minute we're talking with a lady in an office. She says she is a social worker who helps kids like us.

She tells us not to worry because she is taking us to a new home. She tells us it's a place where we don't have to be afraid, where nobody gets angry with us and there's always lots to eat.

She says our new home is big, and there's lots of kids there who'd had a rough time like us.

It's called the Baptist Children's Homes.

We walk up the sidewalk to the cottage where we'll be living. A man and a woman and a bunch of kids are waiting for us on the porch.

The man tells us his name is Mr. Robert and his wife's name is Ms. Diane.

"I'm Jake," I tell him. "These are my sisters Robin and Sarah."

Mr. Robert and Ms. Diane are called cottage parents. They're here to take care of us and all the kids in the cottage.

Before I know it, my sisters and I have our own bedrooms. And we have new clothes to wear.

Mr. Robert explains that churches help us and pray for us. He says they make sure we have everything we need including lots of food.

At dinner, we sit down with the other kids at the biggest table I've ever seen! There's so much to eat. We never ate like this at our house.

Mr. Robert prays for our food. And he prays for me, my sisters and all the kids.

I love our new home. I think this is what a real family must feel like.

Mr. Robert and Ms. Diane take our cottage to church. I love going there. We go a lot. It's where I asked Jesus into my heart – it's where I got saved.

I wished I could fly, and my wish came true for me and my sisters.

It's funny, I didn't know where we were going the day we left home.

I didn't know what would be waiting for us when we got there. But now I know what was waiting for us – love. It was love.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Experience the story by watching "SAVED" – the video for Baptist Children's Homes Annual Offering. Watch the video at [bchnc.org/bchsaved](http://bchnc.org/bchsaved). Download a digital copy to share with your church at [bchoffering.org](http://bchoffering.org). The Week of Prayer is Nov. 12-19, 2017.) **BR**



## ROGER BLEVINS

### WEST JEFFERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Way up in the hills of West Jefferson, Pastor Roger Blevins is starting a cowboy church. They hold rodeos and ride horses to share the gospel with the many horse lovers who live in Ashe County.

Using **52 Sundays**, your church can join with many North Carolina Baptists in praying for Roger and this new church the week of Oct. 22.

Download the files for **52 Sundays** now at [www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays](http://www.ncbaptist.org/52sundays) — and lead your entire church to pray every Sunday for your missionaries!



## Events before, during BSC annual meeting

**B**efore and during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting each year, a number of events take place. Below is a list of events, in order by date and time, along with basic information, to help you decide how to best spend your time Nov. 5-7. Most of the events are at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

● **N.C. Baptist Pastors' Conference**, Nov. 5-6; general session hall; Sunday 5:15-9:15 p.m.; Monday 8:30 a.m.-noon; 1-2:30 p.m. Speakers include Brandon Blair, student pastor at Fairview Baptist Church, Corryton, Tenn.; Greg Mathis, senior pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville; James Walker, lead pastor of Lake Hills Baptist Church, Candler or Haywood; Phil Ortego, senior pastor of Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Wilmington; Jerry Chaddick, senior pastor of Tri-City Baptist Church, Conover; Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte; and Mike Whitson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Indian Trail. Worship will be led by Matthew Slep, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Indian Trail. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/event-pastors-conference/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/event-pastors-conference/).

● **"This Changed Everything,"** a documentary about the Reformation, is showing three times: Sun, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.; and Mon., Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. All showings occur in Auditorium I.

See Events page 19





# Beliefs Continued from page 3

study of the teachings of the apostle Paul, however, led Luther to the conviction that sinners are granted forgiveness as well as full and free pardon only through faith in Jesus Christ. Sinners are justified by grace through faith, not by their own achievements. The Reformers were in full agreement that justification is a forensic declaration of pardon, which Christ has won through His victory over sin, death, the law and the devil.

Standing on the shoulders of the Reformers, Baptists believe that justification is accomplished at the cross of Christ (Romans 5:10), guaranteed by His resurrection (Romans 4:24-25) and applied to believers when we confess our faith in Christ (Romans 5:1).

Experientially, we still sin, but God views us as totally righteous, clothed in the robes of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 4:1-8). Because of Christ's sacrifice, God no longer counts our sins against us (2 Corinthians 5:19-21). Thus, justification is even more than pardon, as wonderful as that is; it is the granting of positive favor in God's sight based on the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26).

It was John Calvin who emphasized the perseverance of the saints, which Baptists sometimes refer to as the doctrine of eternal security. Our salvation is secured in Christ, and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (John 10:28-30; Romans 8:31-39), yet our response to this truth brings our assurance. In part three, we will look at other areas of Baptist life that have been influenced by the Reformers as well as key Baptist distinctives that show how Baptists have chartered their own course in many areas, moving beyond the thought of the 16th-century Protestant leaders. ■■

# Baptists & the Reformers: intersections & departures

By **DAVID DOCKERY** | Guest Column/Baptist Press

*Third in a series*

**B**aptists share many essential teachings with other Protestant Christians who have been influenced by the 16th-century Reformers. Baptists have moved beyond the Reformers in charting a distinctive path, beyond primary doctrines like the doctrine of scripture and the doctrine of salvation, often referred to as the formal principle and the material principle of the Reformation. To these matters we now turn our attention.

The Reformers were in full agreement in their affirmations of scriptural authority and the essence of the doctrine of salvation. Likewise, they rejected the superiority of the priesthood, of vocational ministry, stressing instead the priesthood of all believers. Not only did this mean that all believers in Christ had access to God (Hebrews 10:19-25) but it underscored the Christian dignity of ordinary human callings, including artists, laborers, homemakers and plowmen. By implication, this elevated the importance of family life, opening the door for clerical marriage.

The Reformers rejected the mediation of Mary and the intercession of all the saints, insisting that Christ alone was our high priest to bear our sin and sympathize with our weaknesses. They rejected the medieval teaching regarding the seven sacraments, insisting that the New Testament taught only two sacraments or ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Reformers unanimously rejected the sacrificial nature of the Lord's Supper, refuting the church's teaching regarding transubstantiation. Baptists have emphasized a view of the Lord's Supper that reflects much of the perspective of Ulrich Zwingli.

The Reformers also departed from the medieval teaching which affirmed that the church was dependent on communion with the papacy. Instead, they insisted that the church was called into being by God's Spirit and was established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Baptists have shaped their beliefs regarding the Triune God, Jesus Christ, holy scripture, salvation by grace through faith, the church, the ordinances, Christian service and the family in recognition of their gratitude for and indebtedness to the courage and conviction of the 16th-century Reformers. Yet, Baptists have chosen not to be content merely with the basic teachings of the Reformers. They have also modified these teachings and moved beyond them in key areas that we often call "Baptist distinctives."

## Baptist distinctives

While Baptists are heirs of the 16th-century Reformation (with influence also from the "radical reformers" like Menno Simons, Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and Balthasar Hubmaier), they have moved beyond the Reformers in at least five key areas.

Baptists affirm believer's baptism by immersion instead of the Reformers' view of infant baptism. Baptists have contended for a voluntary understanding of the church and congregationalism based on a regenerate church membership instead of an inherited understanding of church membership connected with infant baptism.

The third key distinctive involves the repudiation of church-state ties, stressing religious liberty along with the local organization of church life instead of state control or even denominational control. Also, Baptists believe that the two

ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be practiced as matters of obedience and fellowship rather than as a means of grace. Lastly, Baptists, more so than any of the 16th-century Reformers, have consistently stressed the priority of the Great Commission and global missions.

## Conclusion

Baptists are a people committed to the primacy of scripture, who are heirs of the best of the Reformation. The gospel-focused, scripturally grounded core to which we all must hold has been greatly influenced, both directly and indirectly, by the teachings of the Reformers.

It is important for us during this year of commemorating and celebrating the Reformation to clarify our confessional commitments and reappropriate, retrieve and reclaim the very best of both the Reformation heritage and our Baptist heritage.

We pray that the reminders to which we have pointed in this series will enhance our understanding of the gospel, deepen our commitment to scripture and to our Baptist confessional heritage, bringing renewal to our churches. May we seek to pass on this heritage in a faithful manner to the next generation, even as we seek to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost and needy world.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE – David S. Dockery is president of Trinity International University and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. This article first appeared in the Illinois Baptist, news journal of the Illinois Baptist State Association. Dockery, the author or editor of more than 30 books, is the former president of the Tennessee Baptist-affiliated Union University and former chief academic officer and professor of theology and New Testament at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.) ■■*

# Evangelical leaders call for help for Dreamers

By **TOM STRODE** | Baptist Press

**A** coalition of evangelical leaders organized by Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore has urged Congress to supply a remedy for undocumented immigrants brought by their parents to the United States.

In a statement released Oct. 5, the 51 signers called for a legislative solution for the approximately 800,000 people affected by the Trump administration's Sept. 5 announcement it would end a program that gave them relief from deportation. The statement comes on the final day undocumented residents who were brought to the United States as children would be able to apply for deportation deferral.

In a 2012 order, President Barack Obama established the program to protect undocumented immigrants who arrived in this country before their 16th birthday. The order to protect Dreamers, as they are known, came

after Congress failed for more than a decade to pass proposals to address the issue.

Signers of the new statement said they endorse "the underlying policy aim" of the rescinded program – known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – "because we believe this is a special category of immigrants who are not legally culpable, who in most cases have no home other than the United States and who are a blessing to their communities and to their churches."

They acknowledged many of them were skeptical about the wisdom of achieving the goal through a temporary order by the president.

The recent reversal of the program demonstrates Congress needs to act, they said.

"It is long past time for Congress to work together to find a workable solution for our broken immigration system – especially for the hundreds of thousands of young, undocumented immigrants who were brought to

our country by their parents," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), in a written release.

"Many of these Dreamers have stepped forward in good faith, and our government has a moral obligation to deliver on the promises made to these men and women and protect them from perpetual uncertainty."

Moore described his cosigners as "convictional leaders from across the evangelical spectrum. We stand together united by many things, in this case the conviction Congress should provide a fair, compassionate and speedy solution."

Among those who responded to invitations to sign were former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) presidents Ronnie Floyd, Bryant Wright, Jack Graham and James Merritt.

The statement may be read and signed at [erlc.com/resource-library/statements/evangelical-leader-statement-of-principles-on-dreamers](http://erlc.com/resource-library/statements/evangelical-leader-statement-of-principles-on-dreamers). ■■



# Committee explains ‘Resolution Denouncing Racism’

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention). The members of the 2017 Resolutions and Memorials Committee (Committee) are very cognizant of this great honor and privilege. We are humbled that the Convention would choose us to review any resolutions submitted and trust us to decide which resolutions should be presented to the messengers for consideration.

This year the Committee strongly feels that that the Convention needs to address a critical and perennial issue in our culture and particularly in our own state. With the recent racially driven events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and even more locally in Durham, the committee feels

that the Convention needs to formally express a biblically grounded opinion on the cultural issue of racism in America.

The Committee is providing this article along with the release of the proposed resolution with the hopes of providing additional explanation. It is easy for individuals to draw incomplete conclusions when background information is lacking. The members of the Committee want N.C. Baptists to know that we have had long, passionate discussions about the wording of this resolution. The Committee carefully weighed every single word in a labored effort to be certain that we are not conveying the wrong message to the world, but that ultimately the message of hope and love found within


the gospel is clearly communicated to the world.

The Committee consists of men that love North Carolina and men that love these United States of America, that respect history and value clear teaching about the history of nature – both our nation’s successes and our failures. However, as citizens of heaven, every single member of the Committee understands the mission of God to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The expectation of our Lord, expressed in Acts 1:8, includes not only being witnesses in every geographical area, but among every people group, as well.

As believers, our ultimate allegiance

and obedience is to the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom. Just as Paul addressed the churches of Galatia concerning the cultural and historical practice of circumcision, we too believe that we should not allow anything in our culture to hinder our witness of the love and grace of Jesus.

In addition, as Paul instructed the believers in Rome, we should be willing to set aside anything that creates stumbling blocks for the gospel and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

We implore you, brothers and sisters, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the glory of God, please hear our hearts and consider the priority of the gospel and affirm this resolution in November. 

## Resolution Denouncing Racism

WHEREAS, The Bible clearly teaches that God has created all men and women in His image, from all tribes and nations of the world (Genesis 1:27; Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, Christ died for the sins of people from every nation, tongue, and tribe (Revelation 5:9); and

WHEREAS, Christians are commanded to make disciples from every nation (Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS, The Bible declares, “God does not show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him” (Acts 10:34-35); and

WHEREAS, Significant racism still exists in our communities, as evidenced by recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, Durham, North Carolina, and other cities across our nation, and the devil uses these opportunities to perpetuate division and strife in our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Annual Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 6-7, 2017, denounce racism in all its expressions as sin against a holy and just God, because it disregards the image of God in all people and denies the truth of the Gospel that Christ died for the sins of all mankind; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the content and sentiments of the resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017 titled “On the Anti-Gospel of Alt-Right White Supremacy”; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on North Carolina Baptists to humble themselves before God, acknowledging that while the preservation of history is critically important for a nation, the demonstration of Christ’s love and the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples must take precedence over the important personal preferences of individual Christians, including the preservation of history. Therefore, we call on North Carolina Baptists to joyfully set aside anything that might create a barrier for the sharing and hearing of the full truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists commit to pray fervently for those who advocate racism, so that they may become aware of their sin through the light of the Gospel, repent of the sin of racism, and recognize that the love of Jesus Christ has been extended to all men and women of every race and nation.

*(EDITOR’S NOTE – Following is the full text of the “Resolution On the Anti-Gospel of Alt-Right White Supremacy” adopted by messengers at the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, which the “Resolution Denouncing Racism” affirms.)*

## Resolution On The Anti-Gospel Of Alt-Right White Supremacy

Adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention  
Phoenix, Ariz.; June 13-14, 2017

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches, “From one man [God] has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live” (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, The Psalmist proclaimed, “The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord” (Psalm 24:1); and

WHEREAS, The Apostle Peter said, “God doesn’t show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him” (Acts 10:34-35); and

WHEREAS, Our justification before God is based on faith in Christ Jesus alone and not in our ethnicity (Galatians 3:27-28); and

WHEREAS, Scripture proclaims that Jesus is purchasing by His blood believers “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9); and

WHEREAS, Throughout eternity we will gather with a “multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language” in worship of our risen Savior (Revelation 7:9); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message conveys that all Christians are obligated to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society, opposing all forms of racism, selfishness, and vice, and bringing government and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love; and

WHEREAS, We know from our Southern Baptist history the effects of the horrific sins of racism and hatred; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Southern Baptist Convention repudiated “historic acts of evil, such as slavery,” committed “to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry,” and “genuinely repent[ed] of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously”; and

WHEREAS, In recent years the Convention has

nominated and elected individuals from a variety of ethnicities, including electing our first African-American president in 2012; and

WHEREAS, In recent resolutions the Southern Baptist Convention called on “all Christian men and women to pray and labor for the day when our Lord will set all things right and racial prejudice and injustice will be no more” (2014); expressed continued grief “over the presence of racism and the recent escalation of racial tension in our nation” (2015); and urged fellow Christians to discontinue using the Confederate battle flag, acknowledging that it is “used by some and perceived by many as a symbol of hatred, bigotry, and racism, offending millions of people” (2016); and

WHEREAS, More than 20 percent (nearly eleven thousand) of our cooperating Southern Baptist congregations identify as predominately non-Anglo and for the last three years more than 50 percent of Southern Baptist new church plants have been predominately non-Anglo; and

WHEREAS, B&H Academic recently published Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention, highlighting our continuing need to root out vestiges of racism from our own hearts as Southern Baptists; and

WHEREAS, Racism and white supremacy are, sadly, not extinct but present all over the world in various white supremacist movements, sometimes known as “white nationalism” or “alt-right”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, decry every form of racism, including alt-right white supremacy, as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we denounce and repudiate white supremacy and every form of racial and ethnic hatred as a scheme of the devil intended to bring suffering and division to our society; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge that we still must make progress in rooting out any remaining forms of intentional or unintentional racism in our midst; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we earnestly pray, both for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are thereby deceived, that they may see their error through the light of the Gospel, repent of these hatreds, and come to know the peace and love of Christ through redeemed fellowship in the Kingdom of God, which is established from every nation, tribe, people, and language.



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**T**hose who attend the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting will have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions related to various areas of ministry.

Sessions will take place Tues., Nov. 7 at the Koury Convention Center from 3:15-4 p.m. and from 4:15-5 p.m.

● **A biblical perspective on immigration** led by Amaury Santos, BSC Hispanic strategy coordinator, and Larry Phillips, BSC immigrant ministries strategist; 3:15-4 p.m. in Olympia: There has been much discussion and debate on the issue of immigration, but what does the Bible say? This breakout will explore practical applications to immigration services and ministries from a biblical point of view. This session will be conducted in English.

● **A biblical perspective on immigration** (Spanish) led by Santos and Phillips; 3:15-4 p.m. in Olympia: Same description as above, but session will be in Spanish.

● **An overview of basic pastoral counseling for anxiety-depression** led by Brad Hambrick, pastor of counseling, The Summit Church, Durham; 4:15-5 p.m. in Cedar C: Anxiety and depression are the “common cold” of emotional experience for people. There are many questions about how to provide the most effective pastoral care for your members who experience various levels of life disruption from these difficult emotions. In this breakout, we’ll give you an overview of basic pastoral care for anxiety and depression and provide resources that your members can use to create an effective community of care for one another.

● **Bridges out of poverty: rediscovering God’s heart for the poor** led by Dan Collison, BSC strategy coordinator (Charlotte); 3:15-4 p.m. in Bear Creek: This session will introduce a comprehensive approach to understanding and alleviating poverty as part of a disciple-making strategy.

● **Changing lives through personal involvement in missions** led by N.C. Baptist Men/Baptists on Mission Staff; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Turnberry: Your church can be involved in missions locally, across the state and around the world. Missions involvement not only changes the lives of your church members, but also the lives of people in your community and world. Come discover numerous mission projects that your church can be involved in, such as disaster relief, medical missions, mission camps and state, national and international partnerships.

● **Creating a word and deed ministry among your**

**immigrant neighbors** led by Jonathan Derbyshire, contractor, BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Heritage A: Do your ministry activities fit into an overarching disciple-making strategy? How do you get from simply befriending and serving your immigrant neighbors to sharing the good news of the gospel, making disciples and gathering new churches? How do you leverage ministry activities, such as English as a second language, citizenship and welcoming refugees, to initiate Bible studies that result in groups of believers and communities of faith?

● **Faith at home in every ministry** led by Mark Smith, senior consultant, BSC Family Evangelism and Discipleship; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Oak B: Come learn how to strategically equip and encourage the parents and grandparents of your congregation to be disciple-makers of their homes. In this breakout, you will learn how to integrate the Faith at Home disciple-making culture into your preaching, Sunday School/small group, adult, senior adult, youth and children’s ministries. By the end of the breakout, you will have a renewed confidence and be better prepared to live out Deuteronomy 6:7 and Ephesians 4:12 in your church.

● **How to keep your Bible study group from losing its first love** led by Rick Hughes, senior consultant, BSC Sunday School and Small Groups; 3:15-4 p.m. in Colony C: Sometimes in our Bible study groups, we get so busy doing good things that we abandon the best thing – love for Jesus. This session will offer practical principles on returning to your first love.

● **Life communities** led by Steve Clark, pastor, New Life Authentic Christian Community, Conover; 4:15-5 p.m. in Cedar A: Many churches operate on a “come and see” model rather than with a “go and serve” mindset. What if we could empower every family in the congregation to use their sphere of influence to reach their friends and neighbors for Christ? Come learn more about missional communities and how they can be used to impact and reach your neighborhood.

● **Millennial parents: understanding, equipping and empowering Gen Y parents** led by Cheryl Markland, senior consultant, BSC Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship; 4:15-5 p.m. in Pinehurst: Millennial parents engage with life and the church in unique ways. Come and receive insights into this generation that will help you and other church leaders engage in ministry with millennial parents in the local church.

● **Myth-busters: debunking online giving myths**

led by Laura Kastner, sales team leader, Kindrid, and Becky Torre Sauer, marketing team leader, Kindrid; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Oak C: Myths, confusion, questions and fear often cloud thinking and perspective regarding online giving. Learn from a myth-buster that will bring clarity and simplicity to this uncharted territory for some and complex issue for others. Walk away with practical handles to take the next step in leading your church to this new frontier for stewardship.

● **Prayer that transforms: Acts 3:19** led by Michael Barrett, pastor, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, and Bud Parrish, interim pastor & chaplain, Greensboro Fire Department; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Heritage B: Participants will examine biblically and practically how God is calling His people across North Carolina to return to Him in brokenness, holiness and mission as pastors and prayer leaders share stories of God’s transforming work in churches and communities through “one accord” prayer.

● **Principles for multihousing ministry** led by Brian Norris, Joe Maye, K.O. Grissett, contractors, BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Cedar B: Nearly 95 percent of the people who live in luxury apartments, gated communities, government housing communities, trailer parks and other multihousing communities are unchurched. While there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for disciple-making among the different multihousing communities in our state, there are proven principles that can be used as your church seeks to begin a multihousing ministry. During this breakout, you will learn those principles.

● **Reaching college students lab** led by BSC Collegiate Partnerships Team; 3:15-5:45 p.m. in Cedar C: There are approximately 1.1 million college students in North Carolina who don’t know Jesus. If you have a desire to change that reality but don’t know where to start, this lab is for you. The Collegiate Partnerships Team will teach you the first steps in engaging a college campus with the gospel and then take you to a nearby university and walk with you as you practice these steps so you can return home and get started on a college campus near you. Note: This lab will take approximately 2.5 hours and require walking. A Chick-fil-A meal will be provided. (Limited to the first 30 participants.)

● **Religious liberty in the 21st Century: what every church leader needs to know** led by Michael J. Allison, vice president, chief counsel & secretary, Brotherhood

See Breakout page 20

## Resolution on a Biblical Stance on Human Sexuality and Marriage

WHEREAS, God created two complementary and distinct sexes, male and female, and embedded their differences in the very biology of the human race (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:6); and

WHEREAS, The separation of one’s gender identity from the physical reality of biological birth sex rejects God’s perfect intent in creation, and undermines the ultimate purpose of humanity, which is to bring honor and glory to God (Isaiah 43:7); and

WHEREAS, God in His divine wisdom established marriage as the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) recognizes the biblical definition of marriage as “the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime,” stating further, “It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race”; and

WHEREAS, The cultural pressures of modern society have begun to sway persons even within the Body of Christ from holding fast to these biblical teachings

regarding human sexuality and marriage; and

WHEREAS, The church is called to proclaim with conviction the biblical truths regarding human sexuality and marriage; and

WHEREAS, The Bible commands Christians to love all of their neighbors, which includes those with whom we may disagree; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, November 6-7, 2017, affirm God’s good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception; and be it further

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists affirm the biblical definition of marriage as being exclusively between one man and one woman, and the biblical truths regarding God’s purpose for marriage, being ultimately for benefit of mankind, especially as it relates to procreation and the establishment of strong families under the Lordship of Christ; and finally be it

RESOLVED, That North Carolina Baptists commit to pray for our neighbors who identify themselves as homosexual and transgender, to minister to them with Christ’s love, and, as they repent, to help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.



# Dresses

Continued from page 1

“At first it took me a day and a half to make a dress. Now, I can get three done in a day,” said Bossenberger, who lives in Zionville, N.C.

The member of Brushy Fork Baptist Church in Vilas turns 101 Oct. 28.

Bossenberger’s pastor, Johnmark Brown, challenged the congregation to come up with 180 of something to place in these boxes as the church strives to reach their goal of 1,000 shoe boxes this year. She knew exactly what her 180 would be.

Recently, the church’s Woman’s Missionary Union ladies joined her for lunch and to help her press these dresses for packing.

As of press time, she had surpassed 120 dresses.

Bossenberger works hard but said she doesn’t mind – she’s grateful.

“I love it. The Lord gave me hands with no arthritis. I’m doing what the Lord has asked me to do.”

## Her mother’s daughter

Bossenberger learned to sew while growing up near Detroit, Mich. Her father worked at the Ford factory and her mother was a furrier and seamstress. Eva spent many hours watching her mother at the sewing machine, fascinated by

her ability to make just about anything. She practiced and practiced until sewing eventually became second nature. “I make everything I wear,” Bossenberger said. “I made [my daughters] their clothes from the time they were born.”

Her mother worked hard to help support the family. Her busiest time was October through December, when winter threatened and warm coats were in high demand. She worked hard all day, but stopped when Bossenberger’s father came home from work and spent the evenings with her family. Her mother and father raised her in church and taught her about God. At age 13, she prayed to receive Jesus as her Savior.

## Serving God

Widowed at age 36, Bossenberger worked as a police officer and grocery cashier and in other jobs as her children grew up. She’s also been a Sunday School teacher, church choir member, missions supporter and now dressmaker.

Accustomed to working hard, Bossenberger seeks to bring God glory in everything she does.

“Every day needs to be lived serving the Lord,” she said. “When I get up in the morning, I read God’s Word. I try to be a witness where I can.”



Some of Eva Bossenberger’s dresses have already been distributed, with this young girl in Tanzania among the first to receive one. (Samaritan’s Purse photo)

Bossenberger prays that the dresses will bring girls across the world much joy. She encourages Christians, no matter their age, to do whatever God has called them to do. “I don’t think you’re too old to learn a job,” she said.

Bossenberger said she plans on serving God until He calls her to Heaven.

“I can’t even imagine how wonderful [Heaven] will be,” she said. “I’m not afraid of dying, not one bit. When Jesus

says, ‘Eva, come on home,’ I’ll go. I know Jesus will be there.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – This story originally appeared on Samaritan’s Purse website, [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org). It is printed here with permission. Dianna L. Cagle, Biblical Recorder production editor, contributed to this story. National collection week for Operation Christmas Child is Nov. 13-20. Be sure to check the website to see appropriate gifts by age and sex for each box.) **BR**



## I Need His Power

2017 N.C. BAPTIST PASTORS' CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2017

### speakers

 <b>Brandon Blair</b> Fairview Baptist Tennessee	 <b>Greg Mathis</b> Mud Creek Baptist Hendersonville	 <b>James Walker</b> Lake Hills Church Asheville
 <b>Phil Ortego</b> Scotts Hill Baptist Wilmington	 <b>Jerry Chaddick</b> Tri-City Baptist Conover	 <b>Mark Harris</b> First Baptist Charlotte
 <b>Mike Whitson</b> First Baptist Indian Trail	 <b>worship</b> led by <b>Matthew Slep</b>	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ncbaptist.org/pastors](http://ncbaptist.org/pastors)





# 9Marks: An emphasis on church leadership

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS

**S**outheastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) hosted the ninth year of the 9Marks conference on Sept. 29-30 of which 747 pastors, ministry leaders and students attended and more than 900 viewed the conference via Facebook live stream.

The conference centered on the topic of church leadership and attendees heard from speakers Mark Dever, Jeramie Rinne, Danny Akin, Thabiti Anyabwile, Burk Parsons and H.B. Charles Jr.

Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., spoke on the process of pastoral transition within a church.

Some of Dever's main points included considering the next pastor with prayerfulness, the importance of relying on the

leadership of church elders and being open to pastors with varying educational backgrounds.

"There is a self-givingness in good authority that the Christian epitomizes in the pastor of their local church," said Dever.

Rinne, senior pastor of Evangelical Community Church in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, articulated the importance of humility in church leadership and the dangers of pride that come from success.

Drawing from the rise and fall of King Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26, Rinne noted that success ultimately comes from the Lord, which should enable pastors to be humble in ministry.

"That means that for us as pastors that one of the most important character qualities for leadership is that we be humble

men, humble men who are dependent upon God," said Rinne.

Akin, president of SEBTS, spoke Friday afternoon on the marks of trustworthy leadership from Psalm 101.

"A cynical, skeptical world is watching us and watching us very carefully," said Akin. Let them see men of integrity. Let them see wise and trustworthy leaders. Let them see men who faithfully follow in the footsteps of the master."

Anyabwile, pastor at Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C., spoke Friday night on Colossians 4 and how "spreading the gospel is a multi-ethnic team sport." He outlined in his message what he called the "five Ds of gospel ministry," which included dedication, disappointments, devotion, diversity and direction.

"You will know a healthy partnership when you see one. It will be focused on the task of spreading the gospel with all the warmth of true friendship," said Anyabwile.

Parsons, co-pastor at St. Andrews

Chapel in Sanford, Florida, began the morning session with a message on how a pastor leads by example from 1 Peter 5.

"If you're not being a shepherd, you're not being faithful to what God has called you to be," said Parsons.

In giving the example of Jesus, Parsons said, "Jesus didn't just come and die for us, but He came and lived for us."

Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, closed out the Saturday morning session speaking on Ephesians 4:11-16 and how a church grows and matures in the faith.

"You cannot have a high view of Christ and a low view of the church at the same time," said Charles.

Throughout the conference, speakers participated in panel discussions moderated by Jonathan Leeman, editor of 9Marks.

Southeastern will host a 9Marks conference Sept. 28-29, 2018, that will focus on missions.

For more information about 9Marks, visit [9marks.org](http://9marks.org). **BR**

## PRODIGAL PARALYSIS

**L**uke records the well-known parable Jesus told of a father and his two sons. The younger son asked his father for his share of the estate. Without hesitation, the father divided the property between the boys. Pockets full of money, the younger son left home for a life consumed with selfish independence (Luke 15:11-13). Unfortunately, too many families experience this parable firsthand. Countless Christian parents suffer hurt, confusion, disbelief and shame.

Thankfully, helpless, hopeless and disgrace are not words our Heavenly Father uses when it comes to prodigals. Here are a few thoughts to consider:

### ● God understands prodigals

The Lord has dealt with prodigals for thousands of years. Prodigals like Adam and Eve, King David, the entire Nation of Israel and a host of others head up a long list. However, the prodigal lifestyle is no match for God's grace.

### ● Practice tough love

Sometimes the prodigal lifestyle is messy, and you may have to practice tough love. Allowing your child to struggle or suffer the consequences of their choices may be what awakens them and brings

them to their senses (Luke 15:17).

### ● Leave the door open

When it comes to our relationship with others, the Bible says, "*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone*" (Romans 12:18). Let your prodigal know that although you will not compromise your beliefs or enable their lifestyle, your door is always open (Luke 15:20).

### ● Be transparent

Do not allow Satan to deceive you into thinking you are the only family dealing with a prodigal child. You are not alone! Other families in your church may be agonizing over a similar situation. Share what's happening with others. The Lord never wants us to live in isolation. You need the encouragement, wisdom and prayer of others.

When it comes to prodigals, many parents feel hopeless. They desperately want to know the answer to this most pressing question but are too afraid to ask: "Is there any hope for my prodigal?" I will be the first to answer

with a resounding, "Yes! There is hope!"



**FAITH AT HOME**



**MARK SMITH**

*EDITOR'S NOTE – Mark Smith is senior consultant for Family Evangelism and Discipleship at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He can be reached at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5647, or [msmith@ncbaptist.org](mailto:msmith@ncbaptist.org).*

## N.C. Baptists encouraged to utilize early voting

By EARL ROACH | Special to the Recorder

**T**he Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee encourages North Carolina Baptists to participate in early voting opportunities for the upcoming 2017 November elections. Early voting is essential this election season since the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will be taking place on Election Day, Tues., Nov. 7.

The committee hopes N.C. Baptists will vote early so that we can all gather for our upcoming annual meeting, knowing that we have exercised our voice to vote in these important elections.

Some people are tempted to forgo voting during "off-year elections." However, the committee reminds N.C. Baptists that while national elections are not taking place this election season, important local elections are on the ballots in many communities. Local elections may include opportunities to vote for individuals looking to serve in a variety of offices such as a local board of education, town council, mayor and more. An example of the importance of participating in 2017 elections is the race for mayor of the city of Charlotte. Baptists will remember that the current mayor of Charlotte was instrumental in both the passage and promotion of the city ordinance commonly referred to as

the "bathroom ordinance." This specific city ordinance resulted in actions by the N.C. General Assembly, commonly referred to as House Bill 2 or HB2.

Media reports hailed the position of the Charlotte mayor as she opposed HB2. Given the outpouring of support she received in opposition to HB2, it would seem that her re-election would be a simple formality. However, the current mayor did not win the primary, meaning she will not be on the November ballot.

While the race for mayor of Charlotte is just one example of important local elections, the outcome in the primary is an example of the importance for every N.C. Baptist to exercise their privilege to vote. The elections in your community are just as important as the race for mayor of Charlotte. Please do not miss your opportunity to engage in this essential process. Your vote will make a difference.

In addition to encouraging you to vote, the committee encourages you to attend the annual meeting of the convention Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 6-7. Whether you attend as a messenger elected by your church or as a visitor, the annual meeting provides opportunities for fellowship, inspiration, education and training. We look forward to seeing you at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE – Earl Roach serves as a chairman of the BSC Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee.) **BR***



# 2017 summary for proposed BSC bylaw amendments

**T**he Board of Directors (board) is bringing to the messengers at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (convention) five (5) motions for consideration. A brief explanation is provided for each of these motions. Please note that the first motion proposes an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation and the remaining motions impact the Bylaws.

## Motion 1

This motion addresses an inconsistency between the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. In 2016, the messengers to the Annual Meeting of the convention approved a recommendation to amend the Bylaws by removing references to the Credentials Subcommittee of the Committee on Convention Meetings. The tasks and responsibilities of the former Credentials Subcommittee are now part of the larger Committee on Convention Meetings. However, there remains a reference to the former Credentials Subcommittee in Article VI. A. of the Articles of Incorporation. It is essential that the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws agree; therefore, this amendment deletes the reference to the Credentials Subcommittee from Article VI. A. of the Articles of Incorporation.

## Motion 2

This motion seeks to address issues related to the proposals from the convention's Board of Directors Meeting Evaluation Task Force that were approved by the board in September 2016. Included in this motion are proposals to remove from the Bylaws all references to the Christian Higher Education Special Committee and the Christian Social Services Special Committee. This motion also includes the addition of language necessary to establish the Convention Relations Special Committee that provides a connection to all four (4) of the convention's institutions and agencies.

In addition, to further advance the goals of the task force, this motion proposes changes to the timing of the election to and appointment of various positions, including board officers, board committee chairs, non-board members of the Business Services and Christian Life and Public Affairs Committees and members of the Articles and Bylaws and Budget Committees. One of the major emphases of the Board of Directors Meeting Evaluation Task Force in 2016 was to restructure all meetings of the board and its committees to be meaningful to and to permit engagement by the members.

Currently, the board elects all officers and chairpersons in January each year. The newly elected president then appoints the chairpersons of the Budget Committee and Articles and Bylaws Committee as well as the board members and non-board members serving on these two committees. This motion seeks to address several perennial problems created by the current process:

1. The board president and committee chairpersons who have completed their terms of service on the board are required to attend the January meetings of the board and committees in order to elect a new board president

and new chairpersons only to immediately leave the board or committee meetings and return home.

2. Newly elected board presidents have potentially little input in the preparation of the agenda for the January meeting of the board.

3. Newly elected board presidents have a very short window for identifying and appointing chairpersons and members to the Budget Special Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.

4. Newly elected chairpersons have had little to no opportunity to prepare for the January meeting of the committees.

5. The board members vote on at-large members to the Business Services Special Committee and the Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee with little or no background information or other knowledge concerning the individuals being elected.

To address these issues, this motion proposes that the election of board officers and the chairs of each committee currently elected in January, be moved to September. This means the president-elect will have from September to January to plan and prepare for the January meeting. This amendment will also allow the committee chairpersons the same opportunities for preparation. The expectation is that January committee meetings, as well as the January board sessions, will have greater potential for meaningful consideration of matters within the purview of the respective committees and board with this additional level of preparation by those tasked with these responsibilities.

Please note that while the proposal is for the board president, board vice president and committee chairpersons to be elected in September, and begin to fulfill specific limited duties and obligations upon their election, these newly elected officers and chairpersons do not fully enter into their roles of leadership until January following their election in September. Board officers and chairpersons will serve Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, following their election the previous September.

In addition, this motion proposes that the president-elect will be authorized to begin identifying and appointing chairpersons for the Budget Special Committee and Articles and Bylaws Committee, as well as appointing board members and non-board members to serve on each of these committees much earlier than the current process allows.

To bring consistency to the appointment and election process for at-large non-board members serving on the Budget Special Committee, the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee, the Business Services Special Committee, and the Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, this motion proposes that the board president be authorized to appoint individuals to all of these positions. Currently, the board president appoints individuals to serve on the Budget Special Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee, but recommends to the board individuals to be elected to serve on the Business Services Special Committee and the Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee. Finally, this motion proposes that upon their approval in

November, newly elected members of the board will be appointed to the various board committees by the board president-elect.

## Motion 3

This motion provides that the new process for the election and appointment of individuals to serve in motion two will go into effect July 1, 2018. This later date permits individuals currently serving to complete their term of office with no change and ensures a smooth transition to the proposed changes in the process of these elections and appointments.

## Motion 4

This motion addresses a gap in the process used by the Committee on Nominations for recommending trustees and directors for service on the boards of the institutions and agencies of the convention and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital. By utilizing the proposed language of "Related Entities" the Bylaws will clarify for the Committee on Nominations that the same process will be used for recommending trustees and directors for the following institutions and agencies: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, the *Biblical Recorder* and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation. These four aforementioned institutions and agencies will be referenced as "Related Entities" in the appropriate sections of the Bylaws.

## Motion 5

This motion addresses two miscellaneous matters that require attention in the Bylaws.

The first matter relates to the ability of employees of the affiliated educational institutions to serve on the board of any institution or agency of the convention. Employees of the affiliated educational institutions were previously prohibited from serving on the board of any institution or agency of the convention, but the messengers to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the convention removed this prohibition. However, the reference related to election of trustees for Baptist Hospital in Article III.B.2.c of the Bylaws was simply overlooked in that process. This proposed amendment brings the qualifications for election of the hospital trustees in Article III.B.2.c into agreement with the rest of the Bylaws.

The second miscellaneous matter corrects inconsistent references in Article IV.D. that were simply overlooked in amendments in prior years. This amendment updates the reference to trustees and directors of the boards of the convention's institutions and agencies and the cross-reference to another section of the Bylaws.

Should you have questions, concerns or comments about any of these proposed changes we hope that you will feel free to contact one of us. Our contact information is as follows:

● John Compton, chairman of the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee: (828) 446-0216, or [john.compton316@gmail.com](mailto:john.compton316@gmail.com).

● Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer: (800) 395-5102, ext. 5506, or [bdavis@ncbaptist.org](mailto:bdavis@ncbaptist.org). **BR**

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# Proposed amendments to articles of incorporation and bylaws of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

<p><b>Motion 1:</b></p> <p>The Board of Directors moves that the first sentence in Articles VI.A. of the Articles of Incorporation be amended by deleting the phrase “by the Credential Subcommittee” as indicated by the “Current Reading” below and replacing it with the language as reflected in the “New Reading” set forth below:</p> <p><u>Current Reading:</u></p> <p>Those messengers who have been duly elected by cooperating churches, have been duly registered by the Credentials Subcommittee, and are in attendance at the annual meeting or special meeting of the Convention. . . .</p> <p><u>New Reading:</u></p> <p>Those messengers who have been duly elected by cooperating churches, have been duly registered, and are in attendance at the annual meeting or special meeting of the Convention. . . .</p> <p><b>Motion 2:</b></p> <p>The Board of Directors moves that Article II.F.10 and 12, entitled “Christian Higher Education Special Committee” and “Christian Social Services Special Committee” respectively, be deleted in their entirety as indicated in the “Current Reading” below, and a new Paragraph 13 in Article II.F. entitled “Convention Relations Special Committee” be added as indicated in the “New Reading” below, and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered; and that the following sections or portions thereof of Article II.D.2., Article II.F.1., Article II.F.2., Article II.F.6.a., Article II.F.7.a. and b., Article II.F.8.a. and b., Article II.F.9.a. and b., Article II.F.11.a. and b., Article II.F.13.b., Article II.F.14.b., and Article II.F.15.b. of the Bylaws be amended by deleting the sections or portions thereof as indicated by the “Current Reading” below and replacing each of them with the “New Reading,” as set forth below:</p> <p><b>Article II.F.10. and 12.</b></p> <p><u>Current Reading:</u></p> <p>10. Christian Higher Education Special Committee</p> <p>a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following ex-officio members: the President, dean, the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees, and the dean of the divinity school (if any) of each of the affiliated educational institutions. Each affiliated educational institution shall have one vote on matters brought before the committee (except as limited below) with the vote being exercised by the President (or designee) of each affiliated educational institution.</p> <p>b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board at its January meeting.</p> <p>c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the affiliated educational institutions.</p> <p>d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Higher Education Special Committee shall work to provide an effective program for the affiliated educational institutions without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:</p> <p>(i) Shall devise ways and means for the proper correlation of the work and programs in the affiliated educational institutions;</p> <p>(ii) Shall formulate and promote plans for increasing interest in higher education at Christian institutions in general and the affiliated educational institutions in particular; and</p>	<p>(iii) Shall report to the Board about the affiliated educational institutions.</p> <p>...</p> <p>12. Christian Social Services Special Committee</p> <p>a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following five (5) ex-officio members: President of the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Children’s Homes”); President of North Carolina Baptist Hospital (“Hospital”); Vice-President of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries (“Division”); and the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees of each institution.</p> <p>b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members at its January meeting.</p> <p>c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Children’s Home, Hospital and Division.</p> <p>d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Social Services Special Committee shall work to provide a well-integrated program for the Children’s Homes, Hospital and Division without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:</p> <p>(i) Shall consider problems common to all of the social service institutions, and keep the needs of these institutions before the Board and North Carolina Baptists;</p> <p>(ii) Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the ministries of these social service institutions; and</p> <p>(iii) Shall report to the Board about the Children’s Homes, Hospital and Division.</p> <p><b>New Article II.F.13.</b></p> <p><u>New Reading:</u></p> <p>13. Convention Relations Special Committee</p> <p>a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than twenty (20) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following five (5) ex-officio members: President of the Children’s Homes; Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital; the Hospital employee designated by its Chief Executive Officer responsible for overseeing its pastoral care ministries and its relationship with churches; Editor/President of the Recorder; and Executive Director of the Foundation.</p> <p>b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members at its September meeting.</p> <p>c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Related Entities.</p> <p>d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Convention Relations Special Committee shall work to provide effective ways for the Related Entities to assist the Convention in its support of the missions and ministries of its cooperating churches without in any way hindering the operation by the trustees and/or directors of any one of the Related Entities. The committee:</p>
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- (i) Shall consider all issues to insure that the mission and ministries of the Convention and each of the Related Entities complement each other in existing efforts and in any new missions and ministries and such efforts support the missions of the cooperating churches;
- (ii) Shall strive to identify and eliminate, where possible, duplication of missions and ministries among the Convention and the Related Entities;
- (iii) Shall consider problems common to all of the Related Entities, and keep the needs of the Related Entities before the Board and North Carolina Baptists;
- (iv) Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the missions and ministries of the Related Entities; and
- (v) Shall report to the Board about the Related Entities.

Article II.D.2.

Current Reading:

2. Election of the Officers. At the January meeting of the Board, the following officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board, and they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified: a President, a Vice-President, and a Board Secretary.

New Reading:

2. Election of the Officers. At the September meeting of the Board, the following officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board: a President, a Vice-President, and a Board Secretary. Their terms shall begin on January 1st following the September meeting of the Board at which the officers were elected and shall end on the later of December 31st of that calendar year or the election of their successors.

Article II.F.1.

Current Reading:

1. Selection of Committee Members. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees or the special committees. . . . Also, the President and Vice-President will review and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee. Any member of a special committee of the Board who is not a member of the Board shall not be serving at the same time on any Convention committee, any other special committee of the board of the Convention, or any board of the Convention’s institutions, agencies, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.).

New Reading:

1. Selection of Committee Members. After their election at the September meeting of the Board, the President-elect and Vice-President-elect of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees or the special committees. . . . Also, the President-elect and Vice-President-elect will review and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee. Any member of a special committee of the Board who is not a member of the Board shall not be serving at the same time on any Convention committee, any other special committee of the Board of the Convention, or any board of the Convention’s Related Entities.

Article II.F.2.

Current Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Christian

Higher Education Special Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, Christian Social Services Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee, Communications Committee, and Evangelism and Discipleship Committee shall meet for organizational purposes at the January meeting of the Board, at which time they shall elect a Chairperson. Such Chairperson shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. . . . The person or persons calling a committee meeting (other than the January meeting for organizational purposes) shall, at least seven (7) days before the meeting, give notice thereof, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called, by any usual means of communication of which is capable of being confirmed by the Board Secretary.

New Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee, Communications Committee, Convention Relations Special Committee, and Evangelism and Discipleship Committee shall elect a Chairperson at the September meeting of the Board. Their terms shall begin on January 1st following the September meetings of the Committees at which the chairs were elected and shall end on the later of December 31st of that calendar year or the election of their successor. . . . The person or persons calling a committee meeting (other than the September meeting for election purposes) shall, at least seven (7) days before the meeting, give notice thereof, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called, by any usual means of communication of which is capable of being confirmed by the Board Secretary.

Article II.F.6.a.

Current Reading:

6. Executive Committee.

- a. Composition. The membership of the Executive Committee is comprised of four (4) persons of the Board, elected at-large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:
  - (i) President of the Board;
  - (ii) Vice-President of the Board;
  - (iii) Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee;
  - (iv) Chairperson, Budget Special Committee;
  - (v) Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee;
  - (vi) Chairperson, Christian Higher Education Special Committee;
  - (vii) Chairperson, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee;
  - (viii) Chairperson, Christian Social Services Special Committee;
  - (ix) Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee;
  - (x) Chairperson, Communications Committee;
  - (xi) Chairperson, Evangelism and Discipleship Committee;
  - (xii) President of the Convention;
  - (xiii) First Vice-President of the Convention;
  - (xiv) Second Vice-President of the Convention;
  - (xv) President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and
  - (xvi) President, North Carolina Baptist Men.The committee as constituted the previous year shall remain intact until the January meeting of the Board with the exception of the newly elected Convention officers. The members of the Committee shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

New Reading:

6. Executive Committee.

- a. Composition. The membership of the Executive Committee is comprised of four (4) persons of the Board, elected at-large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:
  - (i) President of the Board;
  - (ii) Vice-President of the Board;
  - (iii) Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee;
  - (iv) Chairperson, Budget Special Committee;



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- (v) Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee;
- (vi) Chairperson, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee;
- (vii) Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee;
- (viii) Chairperson, Communications Committee;
- (ix) Chairperson, Convention Relations Special Committee;
- (x) Chairperson, Evangelism and Discipleship Committee;
- (xi) President of the Convention;
- (xii) First Vice-President of the Convention;
- (xiii) Second Vice-President of the Convention;
- (xiv) President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and
- (xv) President, North Carolina Baptist Men.

The three Convention officers shall serve during their terms of office. The Board shall elect the four (4) at large members to the Executive Committee at its January meeting; their terms shall end on December 31st of the calendar year in which they were elected. The term for all other members of the Executive Committee shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st.

**Article II.F.7.a. and b.**

Current Reading:

- 7. Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. . . . The remaining four (4) shall not be members of the Board when appointed. The President of the Board shall appoint the initial eight (8) members and then two (2) new members to this committee thereafter. Each subsequent annual appointment shall consist of two members: one (1) member from the Board and the other a non-member of the Board. The President shall appoint each initial committee member to serve for one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) years in order to effectuate the staggered terms set forth herein. . . .
  - b. Chair. The Chairperson of the committee will be selected by the President of the Board and shall be one of the eight members of the committee. . . .

New Reading:

- 7. Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. . . . The remaining four (4) shall not be members of the Board when appointed. After being elected at the September meeting of the Board, the President-elect of the Board shall appoint the two (2) new members to this committee: one (1) member from the Board and the other a non-member of the Board; their terms shall begin January 1st. Any vacancy occurring during the President of the Board’s term may be filled by the President’s appointment. . . .
  - b. Chair. The Chairperson of the committee will be selected by the President-elect of the Board and shall be one of the eight members of the committee. . . .

**Article II.F.8.a. and b.**

Current Reading:

- 8. Budget Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. . . . The remaining four (4) will not be members of the Board when appointed. The President of the Board shall appoint the six (6) members currently serving on the Committee to terms as close as practical to the remainder of their current terms on the Committee; the President shall appoint the other two (2) members of the Committee to serve for one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) years in order to effectuate the staggered terms set forth herein. The President of the Board shall appoint two (2) new members to this committee thereafter. Each subsequent annual appointment shall consist of two members: one (1) member from the Board and the other a non-member of the Board. The President of the Board should strive to have diversity on the Budget

Special Committee taking into account representation from churches of various sizes, types, and geographical areas, and representation by individuals who are lay persons and ministers and have expertise in budget, finance and Baptist life.

- b. Chair. The Chairperson of the committee will be selected by the President of the Board and shall be one of the eight members of the committee. . . .

New Reading:

- 8. Budget Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. . . . The remaining four (4) will not be members of the Board when appointed. After being elected at the September meeting of the Board, the President-elect of the Board shall appoint two (2) new members to this committee: one (1) member from the Board and the other a non-board member; their terms shall begin January 1st. Any vacancy occurring during the President of the Board’s term may be filled by the President’s appointment. The President-elect of the Board should strive to have diversity on the Budget Special Committee taking into account representation from churches of various sizes, types, and geographical areas, and representation by individuals who are lay persons and ministers and have expertise in budget, finance and Baptist life.
  - b. Chair. The Chairperson of the committee will be selected by the President-elect of the Board and shall be one of the eight members of the committee. . . .

**Article II.F.9.a. and b.**

Current Reading:

- 9. Business Services Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of twenty (20) members, eight (8) of whom shall be at-large members elected by the Board for four (4) year terms and twelve (12) of whom shall be members of the Board. . . .
  - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its Board members at its January meeting.

New Reading:

- 9. Business Services Special Committee.
  - a. Composition. The membership shall consist of twenty (20) members, (12) of whom shall be members of the Board, and eight (8) of whom shall not be members of the Board; all members shall serve four (4) year terms. After being elected at the September meeting of the Board, the President-elect of the Board shall appoint two (2) new non-Board members of the Committee. Any vacancy of non-Board members occurring during the President of the Board’s term may be filled by the President’s appointment. . . .
  - b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its Board members at its September meeting.

**Articles II.F.11.a. and b.**

Current Reading:

- 11. Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee
  - a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than sixteen (16) members, twelve (12) of whom shall be members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of four (4) at-large members serving four (4) year terms who are to be elected by the Board.



Bylaws

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b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board at its January meeting.

New Reading:

10. Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee

- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than sixteen (16) members, not more than twelve (12) of whom shall be members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of four (4) members who are not serving on the Board and who shall serve four (4) year terms. After being elected at the September meeting of the Board, the President-elect of the Board shall appoint one (1) new non-Board members of the Committee. Any vacancy of non-Board members occurring during the President of the Board’s term may be filled by the President’s appointment.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board at its September meeting.

Article II.F.13.b.

Current Reading:

13. Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the Committee from its members at its January meeting.

New Reading:

11. Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the Committee from its members at its September meeting.

Article II.F.14.b.

Current Reading:

14. Communications Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.

New Reading:

12. Communications Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its September meeting.

Article II.F.15.b.

Current Reading:

15. Evangelism and Discipleship Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its January meeting.

New Reading:

14. Evangelism and Discipleship Committee

- ...
- b. Chair. The chairperson shall be selected by the committee from its committee members at its September meeting.

Motion 3:

The Board of Directors moves that the effective date of the amendments in Motion 2 related (a) to the terms of office of the Board officers, committee chairs, Board committee members and special committee members, (b) to the time of appointment of committee members and committee chairs, and (c) to the time of election of Board officers, committee chairs, and committee members shall be July 1, 2018.

Motion 4:

The Board of Directors moves that the duties of the Committee on Nominations be amended by deleting each of the sections or portions thereof of Article I.C.6.a. of the Bylaws as indicated by the “Current Reading” below and replacing each of them with the “New Reading” as set forth below:

Current Reading:

6. Duties and Membership of Standing Committees

- a. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of eighteen (18) members serving three (3) year terms, six (6) of which shall rotate off each year. Its duties shall be 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 boards of trustees and directors of all institutions and agencies of the Convention, the Board, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention, in accordance with the following procedures:
- ...
- (ii) This committee shall invite in writing each institution and agency to submit recommendations for vacancies for their respective institutions and agencies occurring annually or between annual meetings of the Convention. The committee shall invite individuals through the *Biblical Recorder* and the Convention’s website to submit recommendations for trustees and directors of institutions and agencies and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. . . . Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the committee to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular institution. All such materials shall be kept by the chair of the committee during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular institution involved. . . .

- (iii) When the committee meets to do its work, it shall give careful consideration to those who have been recommended from the various sources indicated above and to the fact that the trustees or directors of each institution or agency are close to that institution or agency, have expert knowledge of its needs and possibilities, possess an interest and concern for the institution or agency, and



# Bylaws

Continued from page 16

know the men and women who can best serve the institution or agency.

- (iv) When considering nominations, the committee shall:
- (a) Consult with the representatives of the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies for the purpose of determining the specific trustee or director skills needed;
  - (b) Consult as needed with persons making recommendations with respect to their recommendations for membership on the Board, the boards of trustees of institutions and the boards of directors of agencies;
  - (c) Share with the institutions and agencies its proposed nominations prior to notification of these nominees. This is for the purpose of further consultation, if further consultation is deemed necessary by either the Committee or the boards of trustees or directors;

...

- (vi) No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee, board of the Convention, special committee of the board of the Convention (as hereinafter named in Article II.F.), or board of its institutions, its agencies, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.) at the same time.
- (vii) It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention, the Board, the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies shall come from churches with a membership under four hundred (400). It is desirable that no church shall have more than six (6) members serving at one (1) time on Convention committees, the Board, and the boards of directors or trustees of the Convention’s institutions and agencies. . . .
- (viii) . . . If necessary, the committee, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of trustees or directors of any applicable institution or agency, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the committee to the Convention.
- (ix) . . . In addition, biographical material relating to any person proposed to be nominated from the floor of the Convention shall be given to the institution or agency involved and to the Committee on Nominations at least one (1) week prior to such meeting.

New Reading:

6. Duties and Membership of Standing Committees

- a. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of eighteen (18) members serving three (3) year terms, six (6) of which shall rotate off each year. Its duties shall be 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 (as defined below), and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention, in accordance with the following procedures:

...

- (ii) The Related Entities (and individually, a “Related Entity”) are Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Children’s Homes”), North Carolina Baptist Hospital (“Hospital”), *Biblical Recorder*, Inc. (“Recorder”) and North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc. (“Foundation”). This committee shall invite in writing each Related Entity to submit recommendations for vacancies for its respective board occurring annually or between annual meetings of the Convention. The committee shall invite individuals through the *Biblical Recorder* and the Convention’s website to submit recommendations for trustees and directors of Related Entities and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. . . . Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the committee to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular Related Entity. All such materials shall be kept by the chair of the committee during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular Related Entity involved. . . .
- (iii) When the committee meets to do its work, it shall give careful consideration to those who have been recommended from the various sources indicated above and to the fact that the trustees or directors of each Related Entity are close to that Related Entity have expert knowledge of its needs and possibilities, possess an interest and concern for the Related Entity, and know the men and women who can best serve the Related Entity.
- (iv) When considering nominations, the committee shall:
- (a) Consult with the representatives of the boards of trustees and directors of the Related Entities for the purpose of determining the specific trustee or director skills needed;
  - (b) Consult as needed with persons making recommendations with respect to their recommendations for membership on the Board and the boards of trustees and directors of Related Entities;
  - (c) Share with the Related Entities its proposed nominations prior to notification of these nominees. This is for the purpose of further consultation, if further consultation is deemed necessary by either the Committee or the boards of trustees or directors of Related Entities;

...

- (vi) No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee, Board of the Convention, special committee of the Board of the Convention (as hereinafter named in Article II.F.), or board of its Related Entities at the same time.
- (vii) 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). It is desirable that no church shall have more than six (6) members serving at one (1) time on Convention committees, the Board, and the boards of directors or trustees of the Related Entities. . . .



October 29

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

November 5

## Ruth: All-in Commitment

**Focal passage: Ruth 1:8-17**

**T**he idea of “all-in” has become a common theme among sports teams. Yet, it is not a new idea.

When I think of an all-in commitment, I cannot help but think of a dear friend named Dr. Best. He has been a faithful minister of the gospel for well over 50 years. He had an all-in commitment to his wife, who in her later years had Alzheimer’s disease.

Even in retirement, he was filling in at churches every Sunday. But when his wife’s health declined, he had to reduce his preaching schedule to care for her.

He has what we might call “all-in” in his commitment to his wife.

We see a similar narrative in the story of Ruth. Ruth’s husband had passed away, and she found herself in a foreign land with her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Naomi told her to depart and go back

home. But Ruth stayed. Her commitment to Naomi, and to Naomi’s God, was clear.

As many of you know, commitments sometimes go through hard times. Ruth and Naomi had no husbands to provide for them. Yet, even as their futures lacked security and certainty, Ruth clung to Naomi. All-in commitment is demonstrated by our actions. Ruth told Naomi, “Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge... Where you die I will die.” Ruth demonstrated that she was all-in until death separated them.

Dr. Best stayed at his wife’s side day-by-day caring for her. They made a commitment to love each other in sickness and in health. Dr. Best had an all-in mindset because he knew his love for her was a display of his love for Christ.



**MATTHEW JACOBS**  
Associate pastor,  
First Baptist Church,  
Crossnore

**“As many of you know, commitments sometimes go through hard times. ... even as their futures lacked security and certainty, Ruth clung to Naomi. All-in commitment is demonstrated by our actions.”**

## Barnabas: Ongoing Encouragement

**Focal passage: Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26**

**E**veryone loves to be around encouraging people. I love to be around these people too.

I remember a teacher in high school that said writing thank you letters is one of the most encouraging things a person can do.

Honestly, I thought she was crazy when she said this. After all, we live in a world of technology. We send emails now, not handwritten letters.

My attitude changed when I received my first handwritten letter. The author said they were praying for me, and if I needed anything to let them

know. It was something so simple, yet it had a great impact on me.

The majority of handwritten letters I receive today come from senior adults. They don’t need anything fancy to encourage me, just a pen and paper. They simply use what they have to do what they can.

The same can be said of Barnabas, because in Acts 4, he sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. He used what he had to help build up the church.

We too can do what we can with what God has gifted us with to build His Kingdom. In Acts 9:26-27 Saul came into Jerusalem, and the disciples were afraid. Let me add: I would be too. But Barnabas steps in and speaks up for Saul. We too should encourage others by standing with them and becoming their advocate.

In Acts 11 we see the church in Antioch start to grow. We see the apostles send none other than Barnabas to them. And the passage says he was encouraged and taught them. Both Saul and Barnabas spent a year with the church in Antioch. The best way we can encourage others, like Barnabas, is by helping them grow spiritually.

Christ-centered living chooses encouragement, not criticism. We must strive to be like Barnabas and use what God has given us to build His Kingdom. We can stand up and be an advocate for others. We can also help fellow brothers and sisters grow in Christ. Let us be an ongoing encouragement to others.

October 29

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

November 5

## His Presence

**Focal passage: Exodus 39:42-43; 40:4, 34-38**

**T**radition holds that one must follow certain rules of etiquette when addressing a member of the royal family.

In America, we expect our citizens to observe a well-established protocol when handling our nation’s flag. Those things and figures to whom we have pledged our allegiance carry with them a glory imbued by the people, whether deserved or not.

God is different.

God’s glory is a part of His nature. Any allegiance to Him is deserved, and He sets the protocol for all who might dwell in His presence. The formalities are actually acts of grace whereby He secures the good of sinful people in the enjoyment of His person.

Because of their sin, it was necessary and for the good of the Israelites that He establish such detailed plans regarding the tabernacle. Their obedience to those plans would mean an audience with the God of heaven who would personally and providentially guide the nation in the way she should go.

For the believer, Christ is the perfect tabernacle. Colossians 2:9 says, “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

The protocol for enjoying God’s presence now is nothing more or less than union with Jesus by His Spirit.

Then we too become a tabernacle although in a different sense. First Corinthians 3:16 reads, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

We are united with Him and partake of the divine nature (2 Peter 2:4), but we are not, ourselves, divine. His Holy Spirit lives inside us and guides us, in much the same way God led the Israelites through cloud and fire. And Christ’s perfect obedience allows us to enjoy God’s presence without fear.

Even still, while God’s presence never leaves us, to the extent that we are walking in the Spirit, we enjoy that presence more and more. Therefore, walk in obedience to His commands, not for faith but from faith, for the good of your soul to the glory of His name.



**CASEY SHORT**  
Pastor,  
Reddicks Grove Baptist  
Church, Williamston

**Focal passage: Leviticus 1:3-9; 2:1-3; 3:1-5**

**A**s a pastor, I am called to equip my people to do the work of the ministry. One of the things I have done over the last year and a half is to teach through systematic theology on Wednesday nights. Yet there hasn’t been a week gone by – good or bad – that I have not thought to myself, “I’m boring them to tears. They don’t really care about this. Maybe I should shift gears.”

This summer, however, two Sunday School teachers approached me at different times, and told me how theology notebooks helped them understand their lessons.

They were grateful for having learned the information, and I was pleased the tool I had set in place served its purpose.

In Leviticus, God establishes the sacrificial system as a tool for His chosen people to atone for their sins and to offer

## Set Before

Him praise for all He has done. The burnt offering appeased God’s wrath while the grain and fellowship offerings were given to thank God for His blessings and to enjoy peace with Him.

Regarding the grain and fellowship offerings, Ligon Duncan observes that, “These sacrifices are not the mandated festival sacrifices that are described elsewhere in the books of Moses. These are sacrifices which the worshiper is given the privilege of bringing when he desires to. There may be an instance in life that prompts a worshiper to want to come and bring the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, or of the peace offering.”

Notice also that no offering of praise or of peace is given until the burnt offering, an offering to deal with sin, has been made.

For us, Christ is the burnt offering, the once and for all atoning sacrifice for the sins of His people that allows us the privilege of thanking Him for His blessings and enjoying His peace. Serve Him with gladness from a grateful heart and rest assured that He is eternally pleased with you.

**“For us, Christ is the burnt offering ...”**



# Events

Continued from page 6

● **N.C. Baptist Ministers' Wives 2017 annual conference**, Nov. 6 from 9-11:45 a.m.; registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Alex McFarland, a speaker, writer and advocate for Christian apologetics, will be the main speaker for the event. There will be time for worship, fellowship and light refreshments. Visit [ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw/events](http://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw/events).

● **The N.C. annual meeting of international missionaries** (active duty personnel on stateside assignment, emeriti, former, retired or newly appointed); Nov. 6; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; lunch costs \$12. Contact Jack and Ruby Gentry at (336) 766-1109. The meeting is held at Lindley Park Baptist Church, 4010 Walker Ave., Greensboro, at the corner of Holden Road. Contact the church at (336) 292-5761 or June Rash at (336) 253-0090.

● **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) Alumni & Friends Luncheon**; Nov. 6; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Blue Ashe Room; keynote speaker will be Steven Wade, associate professor of pastoral theology and lead pastor of Faith Baptist Church in

Youngsville. Cost: \$10; Visit [eventbrite.com/e/southeastern-alumni-friends-luncheon-nc-baptist-convention-2017-tickets-36930904329](http://eventbrite.com/e/southeastern-alumni-friends-luncheon-nc-baptist-convention-2017-tickets-36930904329).

● **Hispanic Banquet**, Nov. 6; 2-6:15 p.m. in Guilford G; speaker: William Ortega, BSC senior consultant for Hispanic church planting. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/event-hispanic-banquet/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/event-hispanic-banquet/).

● **Reformation Symposium**; Nov. 6; Auditorium I; 3-5 p.m.; panel facilitator: Dale Robertson; speakers: David Williams, Belmont Abbey College; Stephen B. Echer, SEBTS; and John Armstrong, Chicago Reformed church minister. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/event-reformation-symposium/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/event-reformation-symposium/).

● **Associational missionary banquet**; Nov. 6; 4-6 p.m.; Blue Ashe Room; hosted by SEBTS.

● **N.C. Young Pastors Network dinner**; Nov. 6; 5-6:30 p.m.; speaker, Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer; table discussion: leading change in the church; free dinner and resources. Visit [eventbrite.com/e/young-pastors-network-dinner-tickets-38099147576](http://eventbrite.com/e/young-pastors-network-dinner-tickets-38099147576).

● **Great Commission Partnerships Dessert & Discussion (North America)**; Nov. 6; 8:45-10 p.m.; Guilford G. Register by Nov. 1. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/event-gcp-dessert-discussion/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/event-gcp-dessert-discussion/).

● **Great Commission Partnerships Breakfast (International)**; Nov. 7; 7-8:30 a.m.; Grandover. Register by Nov. 1. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/event-gcp-breakfast/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/event-gcp-breakfast/).

● **Heavenly Banquet: A Table for All**; Nov. 7; noon; Guilford G; cost: \$12. Speaker is Luis Tejas Jr., Latino campus pastor for Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte. Visit [ncannualmeeting.org/heavenlybanquet/](http://ncannualmeeting.org/heavenlybanquet/).

● **Broken Before the Throne Prayer Gathering**; Nov. 7; 6:30 p.m.; general session hall; focus on united prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

● **Reaching College Students Workshop**; Nov. 7; 3:15-6 p.m.; speakers: BSC Collegiate Partnerships Team. Cost: free; but registration required because dinner is included: [ncbaptist.wufoo.com/forms/reaching-college-students-workshop-november-7/](http://ncbaptist.wufoo.com/forms/reaching-college-students-workshop-november-7/). **BR**

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Zoar Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, is currently seeking a **full-time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative, Southern Baptist family, community and mission-oriented church that was established in 1837. We have traditional Sunday School and worship services with average attendance of 90-100. The pastor will lead three services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening). He will work alongside a minister of music, and minister of children and minister of youth. Our pastor will be a man of the highest godly character with God-guided leadership and vision. He will be biblically balanced and have a minimum of five years pastoral experience with a seminary degree from an accredited seminary. After prayerful consideration, please submit résumés including details of your salvation experience and calling by God to be a pastor, to: Pastor Search Committee, Zoar Baptist Church, 1740 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28152. Résumés should be received by December 30, 2017.

Berea Baptist Church of Mooresville, NC, a medium-sized conservative SBC church is seeking a **Senior Pastor** who loves God and His church. For more information, please visit our web site: <http://bereabaptistlkn.com/contact-us/senior-pastor-search>.

Grace Baptist Church in West Asheville, NC, prayerfully seeking a **bivocational pastor**. We are a congregation with a promising future, with an expectation to grow. We are a mission-minded Baptist church located in the middle of a thriving neighborhood. Seminary graduate, divinity school, or Bible college preferred. Please forward résumé to: [gbc-pastorsearch@att.net](mailto:gbc-pastorsearch@att.net). Resumes will be accepted through 11/15/2017.

Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, is seeking an experienced **Senior Pastor** to be a spiritual leader to our 400-member congregation, a mentor to our associate pastors and ministerial staff, and a catalyst to foster a new vision for reaching the unchurched. To access the Senior Pastor Profile, Church Profile, and Application, please visit <http://foresthills.org/careers> by November 15, 2017.

Fall Creek Baptist Church of Bennett, NC, is prayerfully seeking the **full-time Pastor** that God has prepared for our church. We are a conservative, evangelistic and missions-minded Southern Baptist church that is located in a rural country setting. The congregation is seeking an experienced man who adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. We provide a parsonage which we would like our pastor to live in and be a part of our community. Email résumés to: Pastor Search Committee: [fallcreekbaptistchurch01@gmail.com](mailto:fallcreekbaptistchurch01@gmail.com).

Pleasant Union Baptist Church Roseboro, NC, is seeking an experienced **lead pastor** with strong leadership. Southern Baptist doctrines of faith, with excellent teaching, preaching and caring ministerial skills. Please email résumé to [angela.cashwell@ncfbins.com](mailto:angela.cashwell@ncfbins.com).

### Church Staff

Trinity Baptist Church located in Trinity, NC, is seeking a **part-time Interim Worship Leader**. This person would be responsible to lead Sunday morning worship as well as work with the adult choir on Sunday afternoons. Job description is available upon request. Please email résumé and references to [moglennlit@gmail.com](mailto:moglennlit@gmail.com) or send to P.O. Box 9, Trinity, NC 27370, ATTN: Personnel Ministry.

Shady Grove Baptist Church in Belton, SC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Children, Youth and Families**. A full job description is available upon request. Résumés can be sent to [daryle@sgbc.net](mailto:daryle@sgbc.net) or mailed to Shady Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 806, Belton, SC 29627.

Blackwell Baptist in Elizabeth City, NC, is seeking a **part-time Music Minister/Accompanist** with a passion for music to lead our choir, support congregational singing and work with creative worship teams. Full job description available. Please send questions or résumé to [BlackwellAdmin@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:BlackwellAdmin@ncrrbiz.com); attn: Personnel Committee.

Bethlehem Baptist Church of Jacksonville, NC, is currently seeking a **full-time minister of music**. Located in a suburban setting two miles outside the city limits, Bethlehem is a growing Southern Baptist church located in a community that includes both military and civilian personnel. We currently average 200 in Sunday School and 400 in our Sunday morning worship service. All résumés should be submitted to the following address: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 100 Half Moon Church Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546. Email: [bethlehembaptistsearch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembaptistsearch@gmail.com).

### Miscellaneous

**1999 International Harvester 30 passenger bus**. We lost our CDL driver and need to sell the bus. If interested e-mail [srlynn@charter.net](mailto:srlynn@charter.net) or call 704-483-1324. Best offer. New Hope Baptist Church Inc., Denver, NC.

**NCBAM encourages you to reach out to a frail-aging adult** this fall with a card, phone call or friendly visit. Call 1.877.506.2226 for a copy of Passport—monthly tips for providing “help for the journey” to aging adults.

**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](mailto:editor@BRnow.org).

**MOVED?** Don't forget to change your address with the *Biblical Recorder*. Contact Liz Tablazon at (919) 459-5693 or [liz@BRnow.org](mailto:liz@BRnow.org).

**Share the Biblical Recorder – FREE.** Order three months free. Contact [liz@BRnow.org](mailto:liz@BRnow.org).

### Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

#### Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: [alison@BRnow.org](mailto:alison@BRnow.org).
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

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Bylaws

Continued from page 17

- (viii) . . . If necessary, the committee, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of trustees or directors of any applicable Related Entity, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the committee to the Convention.
- (ix) . . . In addition, biographical material relating to any person proposed to be nominated from the floor of the Convention shall be given to the Related Entity involved and to the Committee on Nominations at least one (1) week prior to such meeting.

Motion 5:

The Board of Directors moves that the following miscellaneous amendments be made to Article III.B.2.c. and Article IV.D. of the Bylaws as indicated by the “Current Reading” below and replacing each of them with the “New Reading” as set forth below:

Article III.B.2.c.

Current Reading:

- c. No individual who is employed, either on a full-time or part-time basis, by the Convention or any institution, agency or affiliated educational institution of the Convention shall be eligible to serve on the board of directors or trustees of any institution or agency.

New Reading:

- c. No individual who is employed, either on a full-time or part-time basis, by the Convention or any institution or agency of the Convention shall be eligible to serve on the board of directors or trustees of any institution or agency.

Article IV.D.

Current Reading:

- D. Borrowings by Institutions and Agencies of the Convention

Upon approval of its trustees in accordance with its articles and by-laws, any institution or agency described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws shall have the authority to borrow money without approval of the Convention, Board or Executive Committee; provided that the Convention will not directly or indirectly be involved in or liable for such borrowing.

New Reading:

- D. Borrowings by Institutions and Agencies of the Convention

Upon approval of its trustees or directors in accordance with its articles and by-laws, any institution or agency listed in Article III.A.(1) of the Bylaws shall have the authority to borrow money without approval of the Convention, Board or Executive Committee; provided that the Convention will not directly or indirectly be involved in or liable for such borrowing.

Breakout

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Mutual Insurance, and Steve Case, assistant vice president & senior corporate counsel, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Auditorium 1: As legal attacks on religious liberty abound, churches must protect and prepare themselves. Learn about the latest threats to our churches and denominational entities, how to protect the church from employment and facilities use lawsuits and where all of this may be headed in the coming years.

● **Revitalization like you’ve never seen before** includes panel discussion moderated by Lonnie Reynolds, senior consultant, BSC Church Health and Revitalization; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Colony B: Existing churches and new church plants need the same thing to impact their area for Christ – each other! Join this panel discussion to learn how seasoned pastors are partnering with church planters to change the face of revitalization in North Carolina.

● **Rising above foyer feedback: the art of objective sermon evaluation** led by Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Colony A: This session will explore ways pastors can receive helpful feedback on their sermons so they can grow in their preaching. Specific subjects will include: how to be intentional in getting feedback, putting together sermon evaluation teams, finding and equipping objective people and using helpful tools.

● **Sending churches** led by Mark Gray, team leader, BSC Church Planting; Mike Pittman, pastor, Vertical Church, Lumberton; and Marcus Redding, BSC contractor; 3:15-4 p.m. in Cedar A: Any size church can become a “sending church.” Churches that partner with new churches are positively impacted by increases in attendance, tithes and offerings and mission giving. Becoming a sending church is one of the most effective ways to impact lostness through disciple-making. This session will discuss steps to partnering with a new church to positively impact both the sending church and the new church in ways that many are won to Christ.

● **Speaking the truth: women using everyday conversations to share the gospel** led by Ashley Allen, senior consultant, BSC Embrace Women’s Evangelism and Discipleship; 3:15-4 p.m. in Pinehurst: This breakout session will offer practical and hands-on ways to equip women to engage other women in gospel conversations that are natural for casual encounters or lengthy conversations. Whether it is a family member or someone you meet in the store, learn ways to use everyday encounters to share nuggets of the gospel.

● **The church renewal journey** led by Bob & Phyllis Foy, North American Mission Board Service Corps – Church Renewal Journey; 4:15-5 p.m. in Bear Creek: In this breakout, you will learn a discipling process for awakening and equipping your church laity to impact their communities for Christ.

● **The heart of disciple-making: how the Great Commandment fuels the Great Commission** led by Brian Upshaw, team leader, BSC Disciple-Making Team; 4:15-5 p.m. in Colony C: There is a lot of talk about the methods and the tools for making disciples, and that is a good thing. Yet, with all of the training and equipping, there is still a hesitancy to engage in sharing the gospel and making disciples. Have sincere, but misplaced, motives caused this reluctance? In this session, we will explore a practical way to help motivate disciples to make disciples by seeing how the Great Commandment fuels everything in the life of a disciple.

● **With: a disciple-making relationship** led by George Robinson, associate professor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Josh Reed, senior consultant, BSC Adult Evangelism and Discipleship; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m. in Oak A: This breakout is designed to give you a window into a current disciple-making relationship. You will learn four key principles of disciple-making (inspiration, equipping, training and mobilization) and hear examples of each in the context of a normal relationship. The goal is that each participant will be inspired to be and make disciples to the glory of God. **BR**

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