Johnston Baptist Association

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Johnston Baptist Association

Semi-Annual Fall Meeting

One Hundred Eighteenth Annual Session
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Virtually from the JBA Office

Theme

"JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness - One Neighborhood at a Time"

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Meeting Agenda

Pre-Service Music

Call to Order ..... Rev. Steve Roy, Moderator, Hocutt

Adoption of the Order of Business ..... Program Committee

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Associational Missionary Report ..... Rev. Kelton Hinton, JBA Associational Missionary

Organizational Reports

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Miscellaneous Business ..... Rev. Steve Roy, Moderator, Hocutt

Recognition of Visitors and New Pastors ..... Rev. Steve Roy, Moderator, Hocutt

Sermon Scripture ..... Acts 8:1-8

Sermon "Now What?" ..... Rev. Dwayne Batten, Princeton

Recognition of New Officers ..... Jimmy Boykin, Vice Moderator, Pine Level

Benediction and Prayer for New Officers

A Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas, our Program Committee has provided for this 118th session of the Johnston Baptist Association inspiration, education, and edification; and

Whereas, our elected and employed leadership have provided distinguished and devoted service through the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Johnston Baptist Association, meeting in annual session this twenty-seventh day of October, 2020, does express its gratitude to God for His manifold blessings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express heartfelt gratitude to our elected and employed leadership for their distinguished and devoted service this past year; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves anew to greater living and greater service as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Program Committee

Your JBA Program Committee respectfully submits the following report for 2021: The Spring Semi-Annual JBA meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 and our Fall Semi-Annual JBA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, as set in the associational constitution and by-laws.

The Committee has received invitations from the following churches: Spring Meeting at Stevens Chapel Baptist Church and Fall Meeting at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

We suggest the following be named as preacher for the annual sermon next Fall: Pastor Glen Brock of Baptist Tabernacle with Pastor Devon Varnam of Kenly Missionary serving as the alternate.

Semi-Annual Spring Meeting

Submitted by: Tonya Grice, JBA Administrative Assistant

Due to Covid, the Spring meeting was canceled. However, we would like to recognize our churches who reported notable rates of growth during 2019.

Highest number of Baptisms: The Church at Clayton Crossings (36)

Other notables: Kenly (22), White Oak (20), Clayton FBC (19), Shiloh (16), Micro FBC (13), LifeSpring (12), Wilson's Mills (10)

Best Ratio of Baptisms to Membership: LifeSpring (4:1)

Other notables: Live Oak (11:1), Cedar Grove (11:1), Church at Clayton Crossings (14:1), Sims (15:1), Faith (20:1), Thanksgiving (21:1), Micro FBC (21:1), Kenly (22:1), White Oak (23:1)

Highest One-Year Growth in Worship Attendance: White Oak (43%)

Other notables: LifeSpring (28%), Koinonia Reformed (26%), Selma (25%), Pisgah (22%), Kenly (21%), Sims (19%), Thanksgiving (16%), Micro FBC (13%)

Highest Five-Year Growth in Worship Attendance: The Church at Clayton Crossing (130%)

Other notables: White Oak (84%), Blackman's Grove (64%), North Smithfield (44%), Live Oak (40%), Building 323 (33%), Pine Level (33%), Pleasant Grove (33%)

Highest One-Year Growth in Sunday School Attendance: Clyde's Chapel (77.5%)

Other notables: Live Oak (75%), Church @ Clayton Crossings (60.6%), Thanksgiving (57.9%), Blackman's Grove (42.9%), Koinonia Reformed (41.7%), Clayton FBC (40.9%), Hephzibah (33.3%) and LifeSpring 33.3%)

Highest Five-Year Growth in Sunday School Attendance: Clyde's Chapel (122.5%)

Other notables: Bethany (75%), Pisgah (71.1%), Faith (58.3%), North Smithfield (44.4%), Blackman's Grove (42.9%), Micro FBC (32.4%), Pine Level (23.6%), and Bethesda (14.6%).

General Board Report

Submitted by: Tonya Grice, JBA Administrative Assistant

The General Board of the Johnston Baptist Association met three times in the 2019-2020 associational year. We did not meet on March 26 due to Covid.

Growth! That seems to be the word most often used this last year in our gatherings to describe the opportunities before us. Johnston County is projected to swell in residents over the next 10 years – adding 50,000 new people to our area. We continue to see the housing market steadily increase and new homes, apartments, and subdivisions are popping up everywhere. With that growth, we are seeing tremendous opportunities before us. We would be wise to make the most of these moments and use the gifts God has blessed us with to impact lostness in our communities.

With the situation in which we currently find ourselves, dealing with a pandemic, our churches are utilizing creativity and resourcefulness to connect with their church members and a virtual audience. In March, most of our churches closed and entered the homes via livestreaming. We have had to step outside the comfort of familiarity and look for innovative ways to invest in the lives of others. It has been extraordinary to witness the remarkable response from our pastors and church leaders as they have faced these circumstances with bravery and optimism. While it may take some time to regain our pre-covid church attendance, we can be certain that the Good News has continued to reach audiences far and wide. Many churches have slowly reopened and launched previous programming with cautious optimism. Our approach has been to focus on a "Families First" initiative during this season. With more time at home, parents and children can construct and build a family discipleship plan together.

Financially, we are in a good place. We did take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program and received $22,500, all of which we expect to be forgiven. Overall, our contributions have remained steady over the last few years. We are so grateful for our churches who faithfully give to further the work and ministry of our Association. Your generosity is a blessing to many and allows us to move forward with myriad outreach efforts.

This year we have also had the pleasure of recognizing two new churches. Shine Community Church serves the Flowers area with Jason Brulet as pastor. And a unique church plant to our JBA family in Wayne County. Pastor Claude LaFortune began a Haitian congregation, Unity Victory Church, in the Goldsboro area and has a vision for more congregations throughout neighboring counties where there are over 6,500 Haitians currently residing.

With the expansion and progress, we have seen across our Association this year, the Associational Council, with Dr. Steve Roy leading the discussion, is researching and exploring the idea of changing our name to reflect a more inclusive name to represent our churches. We currently have twelve congregations outside the county line. This idea had been mentioned over a year ago during a Council meeting. It was mentioned that our local chamber had changed their name to Triangle East Chamber of Commerce. That particular name resonated with us and sufficiently describes our area. Moderator, Dr. Steve Roy, suggested the Associational Council to research, answer questions, and investigate the possibility. With much excitement and enthusiasm, the Board unanimously voted to move forward with the proposal all while seeking input from our churches. The Council will give a full report of their findings at the January 2021 Board Meeting and will discuss next steps.

Overall, the work and ministry of the Association is strong and kingdom-focused. We have leaders in place to assist our churches with every aspect of church life. Please call on us if we can be of assistance to you.

Associational Missionary Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, JBA Associational Missionary

"**JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness**" has been our theme for the last couple of years. With the Covid-19 pandemic upon us, the term "darkness" takes on even more significance, both spiritual, physical and emotional. We are focusing on what this looks like at the local level by highlighting **"JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness—One Neighborhood at a Time."** This phrase accurately depicts what our churches are all about. Let me fill you in on some of the ways our churches are accomplishing this task.

To begin with, this summer (due to Covid-19), many of our churches did a "**virtual VBS**" in the homes of church members rather than at the church facility itself. As a result, several church families then invited friends and neighbors over for a week of VBS activities right in their own neighborhood! It was a GREAT experience and showed us what could be done by our church families in their own backyard! Other church members are becoming active leaders in their local **Home Owners Association** (HOA) in order to facilitate communication with their neighbors and "serve" their neighborhoods in Jesus' name. This way, they can spearhead efforts year-round to minister to the needs and take advantage of the opportunities presented by their neighbors. A few JBA families followed up these efforts by booking the JBA's Evangelistic Block Party Trailer (EBPT) this summer to do a "**block party" in their neighborhood** to actively introduce their friends and neighbors to Jesus!

Pockets of Lostness. As I have noted before, we have seven "Pockets of Lostness" identified by the NC Baptist State Convention right here in the JBA. Two of those POLs made it into the "Top 100" in all of North Carolina! What does that mean? The term "Pockets of Lostness" highlights the areas of the state with the highest demographic growth that have not seen a concurrent growth in the number of local churches or local church attendance. Clayton and 40/42 made the "Top 100," but Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma and Thanksgiving FD Rd here in JoCo and Sims in Wilson County also made it into the "Top 250" in the state! Well, this summer, as a "preliminary" effort, **546 people from 12 area churches "prayer walked" in 150 different neighborhoods scattered among 5 of the "Pockets of Lostness" in our area.** The goal was to "begin" to see the needs and opportunities God has placed before us and to explore how we might address them.

Multi-Housing situation. One of the "discoveries" we made last year in investigating Clayton's inclusion in the "Top 100" list, was the proliferation of apartment complexes in the area. This influx of high-dollar rental units is a new phenomenon for our local churches, almost all of which currently target only families in "single-family, detached dwellings." Statistics tell us that, nationwide, 57% of the American population live in a multi-housing situation and that 95% of them are unchurched! This then represents THE most "lost" parts of our communities! (Think: apartment complexes, mobile home parks, government subsidized housing and even some gated communities!) **The good news is that 20 of our JBA churches are currently ministering in 41 different "multi-housing" situations on a regular basis!** (at least until covid-19 hit!) The bad news is that very few apartment complexes have been engaged (FYI—There are 430 apartment complexes of 50+ units already in the county!) The Lord has seen our plight and has sent us a wonderful couple, **George and Faye Cannady**, a recently retired IMB missionary couple to help us "figure this out." They plan to move in to one of the local apartment complexes in either the Clayton or 40/42 area and help educate us on how to reach this new and young population, the very people we are needing in our churches! Why don't you invite them to come and speak to your church about how you can lead out in a ministry that may be a huge blessing to you and your community!

Growing need for church plants. We praise the Lord for the two new churches planted this year—**Shine Community Church** (Jason Brulet planter) near Flowers Plantation and **Unity Victory Baptist Church** (Claude Lafortune planter) in Goldsboro. However, MANY more churches are needed! It has been widely reported that Johnston County is slated to again be THE fastest growing county in NC from 2020-2030 (greater than 25%)! Our new population will top a quarter of a million (252,858 to be exact) by 2030! As you can imagine, much of this growth will be in the northern half of the county as the "outer loop" around Raleigh is completed between Wendell and Apex, passing between Clayton and Garner. As these areas of the county are developed along the Wake County line we will be needing land to begin new churches to reach the newcomers. If you (or someone you know), can make 4-5 acre plots of land available to the JBA for sites for future church plants, please let us know so that we can see how to make that transaction a reality! I am estimating that we will need 100 new churches begun over the next ten years in JoCo to accommodate the population boom coming our way! (This estimate is based upon our 1990 ratio of 1,478 persons per JBA church, just prior to the 50% growth our county experienced from 1990-2000.)

Plans for growth of the JBA. Last year we were able to add on to our JBA office building in preparation for future expansion of our work with our churches. We would very much like to add key staff to help us make a greater impact on our area. In light of those concerns, we are also in the midst of considering the merits of a possible name change to "Triangle East Baptist Association" to reflect our growing "footprint" in the area (we currently have 12 churches located outside of Johnston County.) THANK YOU for your steady contributions this year to our budget in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please continue to push towards a minimum of 3% of your undesignated offerings to go towards local mission needs and causes. Once we meet that threshold we should be able to begin adding some staff.

State of the churches. Many people ask, "How are things going with our churches?" and I say, "It's been a challenging year!" and proceed to talk about how we have all had to make significant adjustments in our church life to accommodate the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our JBA churches have never left off making a difference in people's lives. Last year, for example, **46% of our churches grew in worship attendance over the last five years (while 20% plateaued and 34% declined).** This is the HIGHEST percentage of "growing" churches we have ever seen in the history of the JBA! (God has been very good to us!) We also posted our lowest percentages ever of both "plateaued" and "declining" churches when tracked over five years! (Again, PTL for His grace and mercy!) If you find that your church has been "missing out" on the numerical growth impacting other JBA churches, take another look at your Sunday School and small group ministries. There is tremendous unmet potential in that arena with MANY benefits! In fact, I have noticed over the years that worship attendance still follows the Sunday School attendance trends, usually in the year following, showing its continued importance for setting growth records.

Church Revisioning. For the last 18 years the JBA has offered help for churches in decline. The "**Church Revisioning Process"** is offered to churches during their interim period between pastors. This six-month process has proven to be very beneficial, helping many churches begin a new trajectory of growth. Size is of no consequence. As long as a church has hope, they have a future! So far, 60 percent of the churches that have gone through this process have begun to grow again!

Pastoral Support. In addition to individual counseling/coaching sessions, and weekly cohort "Zoom" meetings with regional groups of pastors, the JBA also has access to demographic data, a variety of

personality indicators and a host of other support for the pastor and his family. Give us a call to see how we can help you!

Jobs for Life. This year we were able to offer a brand-new, poverty-fighting initiative focused on helping people remove barriers to employment. The curriculum is built entirely around the Bible and Christian themes and provides an opportunity for on-going discipleship in a natural setting. It was begun in Raleigh 20 years ago. This Spring we offered a class following an 8-week schedule. Each student had a champion/mentor attending the classes with him or her. All of our students achieved gainful employment by the end of the sessions. We are actively recruiting teachers, champions, students and local employers for future classes.

Departmental Reports

Baptist Men

Submitted by: Rex Everhart, Brotherhood Director

The Lord is good! Last year (2019), 25 JBA churches (60% of those responding) reported having an active Baptist Men's group! There were a total of 464 men active in those churches or 19 men per church, which is a statistic holding steady for the most recent years. Our total numbers went down slightly this year over last year, and are still below our high of 831 seven years ago in 2012!

With the Covid-19 pandemic, most of our men's groups have focused this year on local mission needs. More "**wheelchair ramp building**" teams were active as well as groups installing grab bars in bathrooms and installing smoke detectors in seniors' homes. Many were involved in food distribution ministries. NC Baptist Men have especially engaged the needy with their partnership with the NC Department of Agriculture and our local Baptist churches have been very much a part of that.

Even though we have not had a "direct hit" by a hurricane in the last couple of years, there are still thousands of homes waiting for repairs to be made in the aftermath of Florence, Dorian, Laura and Maria. Also, there are on-going cleanup efforts in the Mecklenburg Catawba areas of the state. Please consider organizing either your local Baptist Men's group or even your Sunday School class to go to the NC Baptist Men's website www.baptistsonmission.org and register when you want to go and how many are on your team.

If you are a leader in your local men's group, don't forget to include discipleship options for your fellows as well. The JBA has MANY video-based resources you can check out for free with some excellent presenters focused on men's issues. Give them a call to see what all they have!

On the local level we still have needs/opportunities for men to serve in the following areas:

- **Flea Market** in south Smithfield (evangelism efforts and Sunday School for children on Sunday mornings)
- **Kenly truck stop** (teach Sunday School, lead devotions on Sunday mornings)
- **GALOT Motorsports Park** (serve as a chaplain, organize children's activities on Saturday nights)
- **Kenly Southern National Motorsports Park** (serve as a chaplain during their races)
- **RVacation Campground** (serve as chaplain, lead in worship Sunday mornings)

Also, founded in 2019, the Baptist on Mission's Charity Rebuild Center in Rose Hill is a great location, facility, and opportunity for recovery missions and other mission opportunities. There are currently about 73 rebuild projects awaiting completion as a result of Hurricane Florence. If your church would like to help with any of these projects or others, contact the NC Baptist Men at 800-395-5102 or plangston@ncbaptist.org.

Discipleship Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, JBA Associational Missionary

Dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic has been quite a challenge for all of our churches! One of the areas that has "suffered" has been in the area of discipleship, especially for those used to providing men's and women's video-based studies. However, the shutdowns have also created an opportunity for individualized personal spiritual growth as more people have gone online to find Bible study resources and teaching that is challenging them in their spiritual walk. Many of our JBA churches are participating with **Sampson Resources** out of Dallas, TX using their many online studies. Others are using **Right Now Media** resources to access "just what they need" for this day and time. Don't overlook the plethora of materials featured on the **NCBSC website** www.ncbaptist.org. Also, come by the **JBA office** to see what all is available locally FOR FREE!

Some have asked, "If God is behind this Corona virus, what is He trying to say to our churches?" One answer is that now that our numbers are "down," we can see exactly who makes up the "core group" of our church. We can begin to 1) focus on them by discipling them either virtually or face to face, 2) raise them up to take on new leadership positions in the church and beyond, and 3) deploy them out into ministry! These are all the elements of "discipleship"—head (representing knowledge), heart (representing a willing spirit), and hands (doing the work).

I wrote a "white paper" this year entitled, "**A Family First Post Covid-19 Strategy**" that outlines a process by which your church can move from an "attractional" model of ministry to a "missional" model of ministry by making the homes of your parishioners the "front door" of your church! This model of ministry follows and deepens the discipleship pathway outlined above. (If you would like a copy of this document, please let Kelton Hinton kelton@raleigh.twcbc.com know.)

A final thought, many of you are considering re-vamping some of your Sunday School activities to include a more "life on life" approach. You are adding care groups and fellowship and outreach activities to what has been traditionally a "teaching" event. Many are asking the Sunday School to take on not only the care and outreach functions of the church, but also the discipleship aspect as well. If you find yourself in this category, please explore the great variety of tools available to you to use both locally and online!

Evangelism Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, JBA Associational Missionary

"God is alive and well on planet earth!" Remember that "almost" quote from Hal Lindsey's book of years gone by? Well, He is certainly active in the Johnston Baptist Association! If we will just 1) look around, 2) see where God is at work, and 3) go and join Him (to quote another famous author by the name of Henry Blackaby); we will be able to rejoice together in what all God has in store for His creation working through His church!

In 2019 our churches recorded 212 baptisms, up from 161 baptisms the year before and the best we have seen in four year's time! PTL! Unfortunately we have been seeing a steady decline in annual baptisms for the last ten years. No one is sure why, but historically, almost half of our baptisms have either come from new church plants or recently "revitalized" congregations that have made a fresh start. In many cases baptisms have spiked when a new pastor was called.

As we look at these statistics and the fact that most baptisms are coming from our new church plants, it behooves us to seek out the establishment of new churches and the revitalization of existing ones if we are going to win our world for Christ. Our theme this year**—"JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness—One Neighborhood at a Time**" is all predicated on our being a faithful witness to God's grace in our lives. Due to our extreme demographic growth, we are needing 100 new churches to be planted over the next 10 years! Basically, if each one of our existing churches will reach out to start one new church this year then, with the Lord's help, we can not only turn this 10-year decline into an upturn again but also see a ton of souls being ushered into His Kingdom!

Here are our exemplary churches from 2019 in the area of baptisms:

Highest number of Baptisms The Church at Clayton Crossings (36)

Other notables: Kenly (22), White Oak (20), Clayton FBC (19), Shiloh (16), Micro FBC (13), LifeSpring (12) and Wilson's Mills (10)

Best Ratio of Baptisms to Membership LifeSpring (4:1)

Other notables: Live Oak (11:1), Cedar Grove (11:1), Church at Clayton Crossings (14:1), Sims (15:1), Faith (20:1), Thanksgiving (21:1), Micro FBC (21:1), Kenly (22:1) and White Oak (23:1)

Johnston Community College – Campus Ministry Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, Campus Ministries Coordinator

This year (2019-2020), was different than any other year we have had so far at JCC. The Fall started off well but the Spring semester was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic and school-wide shut downs. According to the program of study, some groups were able to continue to meet in person while other groups had to meet online in Zoom meetings. In spite of the challenges of the Spring semester, we were still able to engage a large number of students and faculty this year. All totaled, **we had 214 students and faculty involved in weekly Bible study groups.** 20 (Truck Driver Trainees) + 126 (General College students) + 34 (Law Enforcement Cadets) +12 (Faculty/staff) + a new group 22 (Correctional Officer Trainees) =214. We remain the LARGEST campus ministry on any community college in North Carolina and the second largest campus ministry on ANY campus in the state! PTL!

None of this would have been possible except for the exceptional service of **Lee Smith (Shiloh Baptist)** working with the BLET cadets & the Correctional Officer Trainees, **Blair Maust (Smithfield FBC)** working with the Truck Driver Trainees, and **Thomas Collings (Trinity Baptist)** working with both the General College students and helping me with the Faculty/Staff Bible study. **Steve Roy (Hocutt Baptist)** also attempted to begin a Bible study with the Bio Tech Trainees at the Clayton campus but was shut down by the Covid-19 pandemic just as it was getting going.

With all of the good work going on we STILL need some more help! In this current year we are needing someone to work with both **the 1st year and 2nd year Nursing students**. We also need someone to take on **the Early College students.** Would you please pray with us to this end? I know that God has the "laborers" already prepped and ready. They just need to be deployed. Will you commit to praying for these laborers to be discovered?

The "new" initiative this year was laying the groundwork for a new club on campus called, **the "Global Connections Club."** It will be a new club targeting the 175 international (foreign-born) students on campus. Although it is not a "Christian" club *per se*, I am one of a team of folk helping to begin it and I have made the commitment to secure "host families" for any international student who wants one for a semester at a time. The commitment is to "do something" with your student at least one time each month for a semester—have them over for a meal, take them along on a picnic or a trip with your family, host a "game night" at your home. Most of them have NEVER been inside the home of an American family! What a great opportunity to introduce them to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays! Let your light shine and use "friendship evangelism" to hopefully introduce them to Jesus!

I still have a dream of being able to offer JCC students a missions trip during Fall, Christmas, Spring and Summer breaks! Won't you help me get these students on the mission field?

Missions Development Council Report

Submitted by: Rev. Dwayne Batten, Missions Development Director

On the missions front our records show (2018-2019 church year) that our JBA churches had 5,908 mission volunteers serving in some form of "hands-on" missions last year. **That was 55% of our Total Church Membership**, up from 52% the year before and 38% the year before that! We praise the Lord for the growing passion for "Pushing Back the Darkness" demonstrated by our JBA churches. Here are some examples of how our churches are involved in their communities.

Among our local schools we now have a student led ministry (**First Priority**) active at **EVERY** elementary, middle and high school in Johnston County for which we are grateful! MANY of our JBA churches are active in this parachurch ministry. Another favorite mission activity for our churches is providing **Backpack Buddies** offering meals over the weekends for children receiving free and reduced lunches during the week. At **Johnston Community College** we continue to see an on-going ministry impacting the lives of many students there. Throughout the 2019-2020 school year five of our JBA churches were able to reach 214 students and faculty in five separate weekly Bible study groups.

Along the church planting front, this year we have partnered up with **Shine Community Church.** Jason Brulet is the church planter. They are targeting the Flowers Plantation and Buffalo Rd area and are currently meeting at The Farm on Hwy 42 near both POL (Pocket of Lostness) #88-Clayton and POL #147-Thanksgiving FDR. Later this year we partnered up with **Unity Victory Baptist Church**, a new church plant targeting a large group of 6,500 Haitians living in the Goldsboro area. Claude Lafortune is the church planter. He has planted Haitian churches in Haiti, Georgia and Florida before coming to North Carolina. These two churches are "just the tip of the iceberg" of the need for 100 new churches to be planted in the JBA over the next ten years. To that end, we rejoice that **546 people from 12 area churches "prayer walked" in 150 different neighborhoods scattered among 5 of the "Pockets of Lostness" in our area.** The goal was to begin to see the needs and opportunities God has placed before us and to explore how we might address them (including through new churches).

Many JBA churches continue to reach out into their communities in a multitude of ways. Some are providing **handicap ramps** and installing **grab bars** where needed. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, many have been providing **food, clothing**, and **help with bills**. Several of our JBA churches have partnered up with the NC Food Bank and others have partnered up with the NC Baptist Men's food distribution efforts (coordinated with the NC Dept of Agriculture.) Along this line of benevolence ministry, the JBA initiated its first **Jobs For Life** program in January at the office in Selma with hopes of expanding to all of the major towns in the county. This is a Christian, biblically-based, 16 session program for the unemployed and under-employed to help them find and secure a job. Each student was paired with a mentor to help them navigate the program and homework assignments. All of the students in this first class obtained fulltime gainful employment by the end of the course! In the future the goal is to have at least one student from each of the major towns in the county involved.

We have some areas of specialized ministry that are receiving special attention in our efforts to "Push Back the Darkness." Two of our JBA churches have targeted two RV parks in the Four Oaks area—the **Happy Trails RV Park** (James Story, Cornerstone) and at the **Taste of Heaven RV Park** on Hwy 55 led by JT Mercado (former pastor at Oakdale). We continue to have a strong ministry in the **Flea Market in south Smithfield** (Don Dewberry, Sardis) and the **Petro truck stop in Kenly** on Sunday mornings. In addition, **José and Yessenia Alvarez** (Casa de Cristo) have distributed 550 Bibles and Health Kits to

migrants along with the plan of salvation, witnessing bracelets, etc. They targeted 5 migrant camps this summer with a regular preaching service along with their other outreach ministries. And yet, there are still opportunities that need our attention such as the placement of a chaplain at the GALOT Motorsports Park near Benson, the Kenly Southern National Speedway and the RVacation Campground in Selma.

A newer focus this year has been addressing the needs of those living in a "**multi-housing" situation,** i.e. apartment complexes, mobile home parks, residential care facilities, prisons, orphanages, group homes, migrant camps, etc. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, **20 of our JBA churches were serving in 41 different "multi-housing" locations!** We celebrate that investment in our "neighborhoods" around the county! However, we can do more. We would like to begin a "**missional community**" in EVERY apartment complex in the county—there are 430 apartment complexes of 50+ units already in the county! We hope that SOME of them may develop into future church plants while most will at least be able to provide a regular Gospel witness year-in and year-out within each of those communities. To this effect, we welcome **George and Faye Cannady** to our JBA family to help us "learn" about this type of ministry. The Cannady's come to us as retired IMB missionaries from Botswana and Uganda where they were involved in church planting and leadership development.

Finally, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, several mission opportunities have been "seized" by our churches. With the schools being shut down, several of our churches either began or ramped up their **before** and **after-school childcare offerings** or even put in place "**learning centers**" where children could come and do their schoolwork under church supervision. At least one of our churches initiated "**Wellness Checks**"—going door to door and praying with folk on their front porches. Others have expanded their children's ministry to offer a "**Virtual VBS**" and "**Block Parties**" in their local neighborhoods as well as doing "**Sing-a-lawns**" at the homes of shut-ins.

In spite of (and because of) the Covid-19 pandemic, we have experienced another very productive year on the missions front here in the JBA. This can only be credited to the hand of God at work among us and people responding to His call. My prayer is that you will be listening for His call upon your life this coming year and that your response will be "Yes Lord. I will be your tool to '**Push Back the Darkness—in my own Neighborhood!**'"

Senior Adult Committee Report

Submitted by: Phyllis Crane, Fran Davis, & Ruth Collier, Senior Adult Committee

What a crazy year we have had! Covid-19 concerns had us cancel both our Spring and Fall Senior Adult Rallies this year! We were sorry not to host anything, but the health of our precious seniors is paramount and they are the most "vulnerable" population for this scourge.

We HOPE to be able to get back on schedule this year but will have to await the arrival of the vaccines to determine what we will be able to do, so….stay posted and we'll let you know what we're doing when!

In the meantime, let us tell you what HAS been happening among our senior adults this year! We have learned how to Zoom! We are now familiar with FaceBook and Google Meets. We are also missing everyone dear to us! Unfortunately, some of our friends have died from the Covid-19 outbreak. Our hearts go out to their families.

We are appreciative of those who have continued to "check in" on us in our homes. The cards, letters, phone calls and yes, "front porch visits" have all been appreciated. We even heard of one of our churches (White Oak) going around with their children's choir to their shut-ins to do "Sing-a-Lawns" outside the front door! We look forward to this Christmas hearing some Christmas caroling outside our door as well!

Recently, NCBAM (NC Baptist Aging Ministry) rolled out a new initiative (Call Center) to respond to senior's needs in North Carolina. They have asked us here in the JBA to sign up to cover some of the hours in the day. Won't you help out? This is an excellent way to minister to others from the comfort and safety of your own home. Please check out the NC Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) website where they have MANY resources and training opportunities that they offer to our churches. Go to www.ncbam.org or call them at 877-506-2226 for more information.

Sunday School Report

Submitted by: Rev. Devon Varnam, Sunday School Director

It is my privilege to bring you a report on one of the most important ministries in our Association: Sunday School and Small Group Ministries. Sunday School is a vital ministry for our churches, for many, it is the largest ministry, reaching all ages: from babies to the oldest saint. In Sunday School, we get an opportunity to make real friends and live life with them. This year has been challenging for us all as our churches have been affected by COVID-19, and we have had to think outside of the box to keep our Sunday School/small groups going. Some have turned to Zoom, while others have chosen to post on Facebook, and some churches have brought the whole church body together and rotated Sunday School teachers in a larger area. Even with this year being different and all the changes that have come our way, we still have many things to celebrate in the JBA Sunday School department. As I look at the numbers for our Association, I am encouraged!

For example, the average size Sunday School ministry in our Association is 84 people. With the average size church in the Southern Baptist Convention being less than 100 people, that is encouraging news. This past year we had at least ten churches that averaged over 100 people in Sunday School each week. Several churches in our Association saw a healthy percentage of their total membership in attendance, led by Faith Baptist Church (with a bi-vocational pastor) who posted a high of 143% of their total membership in attendance. The highest 1 year and 5 years growth was led by Clyde's Chapel Baptist Church. As we look at some of the churches in which Sunday School is growing, many of these churches had new pastors or they were churches with smaller membership. This is encouraging news because most churches in our Southern Baptist Convention are smaller churches. As you look at the numbers below and read these churches' names, would you join me in celebrating what God is doing in our Association with the vital ministry of Sunday School and give God praise?

Largest Sunday School/small group attendance (2019 stats): (Note: Average sized SS/small group ministry for all JBA churches was only 84 people. Obviously, these all exceeded that average.)

1.	Clayton First	537	6.	Clyde's Chapel	158
2.	Clayton Crossings	456	7.	Kenly Missionary	145
3.	Smithfield First	302	8.	Bethesda	110
4.	Shiloh	249	9.	Pine Level Missionary	110
5.	Bethany	175	10.	Wilson's Mills	105

Highest Percentage of SS/Small Group attendance (as compared to total membership) (2019 stats): (Note: Avg SS attendance for all JBA churches was only 33% of the total membership.)

1.	Faith	143%	6.	Koinonia Reformed	61%
2.	LifeSpring Community	128%	7.	Bethany Baptist	48%
3.	Clyde's Chapel	99%	8.	Bethesda	45%
4.	Clayton Crossings	90%	9.	Shiloh	43%
5.	Clayton First	88%	10.	Beulah	41%

Highest One-Year Growth in SS/Small Group Attendance (2019 stats):

1.	Clyde's Chapel	77%	6.	Koinonia Reformed	41%
2.	Live Oak	75%	7.	Clayton First	40%
3.	Clayton Crossings	60%	8.	Hephzibah	33%
4.	Thanksgiving	57%	9.	LifeSpring Community	33%
5.	Blackman's Grove	42%	10.	White Oak	25%

Highest Five-Year Growth in SS/Small Group Attendance (2019 stats):

1.	Clyde's Chapel	122%	6.	Blackman's Grove	42%
2.	Bethany	75%	7.	Micro First	32%
3.	Pisgah	71%	8.	Pine Level Missionary	23%
4.	Faith	58%	9.	Bethesda	14%
5.	North Smithfield	44%			

WMU-Women's Ministries Report

Submitted by: Debra Worley, Co-Director

Each year the JBA WMU and Women's Ministries collect hygiene items for a state-wide outreach to women prisoners. Actually, each Association in our state selects an item, collects that item from their churches, and delivers them to Asheboro. They are lovingly placed in a beautiful red box and distributed in December. The women who receive them are grateful and very thankful they are not forgotten. Last October, Beth Thomas and Debra Worley delivered deodorant to the First Baptist Church in Asheboro for this ministry.

On November 4, 2019, we hosted the annual World Day of Prayer at Carter's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Kenly Missionary Baptist Church won the Spirit Award for the highest number of attendees. During this event, we pray for Southern Baptist missionaries and their evangelistic efforts all across the globe. It's a wonderful evening of fellowship and unity as we lift up these precious ones to our Father.

While we were unable to hold the Spring Annual Meeting this year, we were able to bless two deserving candidates with Mitchiner Scholarships. Bella Leonard from First Baptist Smithfield and Samantha Davis from Bethany Missionary Baptist Church received the awards. We are grateful to provide a small part in their future endeavors.

As always, we are so thankful for all the ladies in our Association. Many of whom live bold, faithful lives that represent the Kingdom well. Our goal is to see strong ladies' groups meeting in all of our churches. Whether you have WMU, Circle, Women on Mission, Embrace, or any another type of gathering, our prayer is that women in your church are growing in their walk with Jesus. If you do not currently have a ministry to women, let us help you! You can connect with us through the office and we can help guide you to resources and local representatives to assist you.

Nominating Committee Report

Officers:
Moderator: Jimmy Boykin, Pine Level
Vice Moderator: Rev. Steve Roy, Hocutt
Clerk: Open
Treasurer: Shirley Pike, Pleasant Grove

Department Directors:
Baptist Men: Rex Everhart, Clyde's Chapel
Discipleship: Rev. Brent Highfill, Hocutt
Evangelism: Rev. Woody Parrish, Cedar Grove
Missions Development: Rev. Dwayne Batten, Princeton
Music: Open
Sunday School: Rev. Daniel Arant, Bethany
Woman's Missionary Union: Co-Directors Debra Worley, Carter's Chapel & Laura Rogers, Four Oaks

Moderator's Appointments

Committee on Committees:
Harold Tharrington, Smithfield First
Rev. Bobby Richardson, Hales Chapel
Don Rogers, Four Oaks First
Rev. Rick Fitzgerald, Koinonia Reformed
Graden Blackman, Hood's Grove

Block Party Trailer Committee:
Ricky Evans, Selma

Other:
NC Baptist Children's Home: Harold and Carolyn Tharrington (Smithfield First)
NC Baptist Foundation: Open
GuideStone Financial Resources: Open

Committee on Committees Report

Submitted by: Associational Council Members

Budget & Finance Committee (7 total, including the Treasurer, 3-year terms)
(2021) Gordon Price, Antioch
(2021) Sissy Drake, Hephzibah
(2022) Rev. Daniel Arant, Bethany
(2022) Early Wilder, Thanksgiving
(2023)
(2023)

Church Admissions Committee (up to 5 total, may succeed themselves)
(2021) Rev. Mike Beasley, Freedom Biker
(2021) Joseph Scarboro, Selma
(2022) Rev. Randy Pace, Building 323
(2022) Rev. Scott Bolton, White oak
(2023) Rev. Doug Vaughan, Thanksgiving

Constitution & Bylaws Committee (up to 3 total, 3-year terms)
(2021)
(2022) Rev. Steven Walker, Parrish Memorial
(2023)

Historian (1 person, may succeed themselves)
(2021)

Nominating Committee (up to 6 members, 3-year terms)
(2021) Rev. Kevin Drake, Hephzibah
(2021) Katherine Russell, Antioch
(2022) Jean Whittington, Four Oaks First
(2022) Rev. Billie Lawson, Wilson's Mills
(2023)
(2023)

Ordination Committee (up to 9 members, a majority ordained, 3-year terms)
(2021) Rev. Jessie Brock, Burnell
(2021) Rev. Brad Lee, Pine Level
(2021) George Smith, White Oak
(2022) Rev. Glen Brock, Baptist Tabernacle
(2022) Rev. Ray Carr, Baptist Center
(2022) Derwin Creech, Antioch
(2023)
(2023)
(2023)

Personnel Committee (up to 5 members, may succeed themselves)
(2021) Mary Toole, Sardis
(2021) Rev. Brian Beasley Pisgah
(2022) Linda Sorrells, Pine Level

(2023) Blair Maust, Smithfield First
(2023) Rev. George Arant, Kenly Missionary

Program Committee (up to 5 members, may succeed themselves)
(2021) Linda Hester, Clayton First
(2021) Rachel Price, Antioch
(2022) Jeanette Massengill, Smithfield First
(2023) Louise Wall, Bethany
(2023) Grace Worley, Hephzibah

Properties Committee (up to 4 members, may succeed themselves)
(2021) Joe Hester, Clayton First
(2022) Billy Godwin, Baptist Tabernacle
(2023) Rev. Steve Grice, New Life
(2023) Darwin Crumpler, Divine Crossings

Senior Adults Committee (up to 3 members, may succeed themselves)
(2021) Phyllis Crane, Clayton First
(2022) Fran Davis, Sardis
(2023) Ruth Collier, Pauline

Youth Committee (up to 3 members, may succeed themselves)
(2021) R.J. Smith, Princeton
(2022)
(2023)

Budget and Finance Report

Submitted by Shirley Pike, JBA Treasurer

Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

Expense	Proposed
200 Salaries & Benefits	
200-1 AM Salary	23,279.00.00
200-2 AM Housing	20,000.00
200-3 AM Annuity	1,200.00
200-4 AM Insurance - Basic	30,300.00
200-5 AM Health Savings	4,550.00
200-6 Christmas Bonuses	450.00
200-7 Secretary Salary	29,584.00
200-8 Secretary Travel Reimb.	400.00
200-9 Secretary Insurance	4,918.00
200-10 Secretary Annuity	2,962.00
200-11 Custodial Care	3,978.00
200-12 FICA Taxes	7,000.00
Total 200 Salaries & Benefits	**128,621.00**
300 Operating Expenses	
300-1 Supplies & Postage	4,000.00
300-2 Equipment & Repairs	10,000.00
300-3 Office Utilities	3,500.00
300-4 Office Insurance	2,100.00
300-5 Telephone	4,000.00
300-6 Maintenance	3,000.00
300-7 Acct. Reimbursement	7,500.00
300-8 Pastoral Care	1,200.00
300-9 JBA Audit	2,000.00
300-10 Mortgage	8,400.00
Total 300 Operating Expenses	**45,700.00**
400 Annual Meeting	
400-1 Publishing Annuals	1,100.00
400-2 Speaker	200.00
400-4 Supper	400.00
Total 400 Annual Meeting	**1,700.00**
500 Organizations	
500-1 Sunday School	200.00
500-2 Discipleship Training	250.00
500-3 WMU	750.00
500-4 Brotherhood	100.00
500-5 Music	150.00
500-6 Deacon Banquet	1,500.00
Total 500 Organizations	**2,900.00**
600 Programs	
600-1 Evangelism	0.00
600-2 Association Trng.	0.00
600-3 Youth Ministry	250.00
600-4 Library/Media Ctr.	0.00
600-5 Senior Adult	500.00
600-6 Pastors Conference	500.00
600-7 Christmas Social	700.00
Total 600 Programs	**1,950.00**
700 Missions	
700-1 Mission Projects	2,000.00
700-4 New Church Starts	2,000.00
700-6 JoCo Mission Projects	200.00
700-7 Campus Ministry	800.00
700-8 Partnership Missions	0.00
Total 700 Missions	**5,000.00**
800 Contingency	**1,000.00**
Total	**186,871.00**

General Fund Income (Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2020)

	Year
Antioch	1,719.27
Baptist Center	3,054.89
Baptist Tabernacle	4,375.00
Benson	3,697.00
Bethany	5,150.00
Bethesda	4,852.00
Beulah	5,442.11
Blackman's Grove	1,000.00
Branded Boots Cowboy Church	0.00
Building 323	1,000.00
Burnell	1,000.00
Calvary, Dunn	1,000.00
Calvary, Selma	200.00
Carter's Chapel	1,361.07
Cedar Grove	1,700.00
Church at Clayton Crossings	6,000.00
Clayton First	7,000.00
Clyde's Chapel	5,925.00
Corinth	1,958.55
Cornerstone	1,000.00
Divine	0.00
Faith	1,058.52
Four Oaks First	4,252.00
Freedom Biker	0.00
Hales Chapel	1,000.00
Hephzibah	2,735.00
Hocutt	1,500.00
Hood's Grove	2,500.00
Iglesia Bautista Fuente	0.00
Jonesboro	750.00
Kenly Baptist - Hispanic	325.38
Kenly Missionary	6,395.53
Koinonia Reformed	2,500.00
Lee's Chapel	0.00
*LifeSpring	200.00
Live Oak	600.00
Micro First	0.00
Middlesex	720.00
Mule City Cowboy Church	0.00
New Life	1,750.55
Newton Grove	500.00
North Smithfield	0.00
Oakdale	150.00
Oliver's Grove	275.00
Parrish Memorial	2,164.06
Pauline	488.20
Pine Level	7,453.28
Pisgah	1,100.00
Pleasant Grove	7,801.92
Princeton	6,501.00
Sardis	2,000.00
Selma	2,953.07
Sharon	0.00
Shiloh	7,875.00
Shine Community	4,451.48
Sims	798.00
Smithfield First	8,400.00
Smithfield First - Hispanic	1,198.64
Stevens Chapel	2,875.00
Thanksgiving	1,276.12
Trinity	0.00
Watkin's Chapel	2,800.00
White Oak	10,714.05
Wilson's Mills	6,735.50
Totals	162,232.19

*Churches, church plants, and missions that we network with.

General Fund Disbursements (Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2020)

200 Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted	Year Total	Balance	% Used
200-1 DOM Salary	21,647.00	21,497.00	150.00	99.3%
200-2 DOM Housing	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	100.0%
200-3 DOM Annuity	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
200-4 DOM Insurance - Basic	30,300.00	30,300.00	0.00	100.0%
200-5 DOM Health Savings Acct.	4,550.00	4,550.00	0.00	100.0%
200-6 Christmas Bonus	450.00	450.00	0.00	100.0%
200-7 Secretary Salary	29,155.00	23,400.78	5,754.22	80.3%
200-8 Secretary Travel Reimb.	400.00	248.41	151.59	62.1%
200-9 Secretary Insurance	4,918.00	4,918.08	-0.08	100.0%
200-10 Secretary Annuity	2,962.00	2,961.96	0.04	100.0%
200-11 Custodial Care	3,978.00	3,947.05	30.95	99.2%
200-12 FICA Taxes	7,500.00	6,773.98	726.02	90.3%
Total 200 Salaries & Benefits	**127,060.00**	**120,247.26**	**6,812.74**	**94.6%**
300 Operating Expenses				
300-1 Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	4,042.48	-42.48	101.1%
300-2 Equipment & Repairs	8,000.00	11,365.93	-3,365.93	141.1%
300-3 Office Utilities	3,500.00	3,016.14	-483.86	86.2%
300-4 Office Insurance	1,900.00	2,057.00	-157.00	108.3%
300-5 Telephone	4,000.00	3,487.20	512.80	87.2%
300-6 Maintenance	3,000.00	3,141.08	-141.08	104.7%
300-7 DOM Acct. Reimbursement	7,500.00	7,471.74	28.26	99.6%
300-8 Associational Promotion	1,200.00	357.91	842.09	29.8%
300-9 JBA Audit	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
300-10 Mortgage	8,400.00	8,142.04	257.96	96.9%
Total 300 Operating Expenses	**43,500.00**	**43,081.52**	**418.48**	**99.0%**
400 Annual Meeting				
400-1 Publishing Annuals	1,100.00	600.00	500.00	54.5%
400-2 Speaker	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
400-4 Supper	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.0%
Total 400 Annual Meeting	**2,000.00**	**600.00**	**1,400.00**	**30.0%**
500 Organizations				
500-1 Sunday School	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.0%
500-2 Discipleship Training	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.0%
500-3 WMU	1,000.00	658.68	341.32	65.9%
500-4 Brotherhood	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
500-5 Music	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.0%
500-6 Deacon Banquet	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Total 500 Organizations	**3,200.00**	**658.68**	**2,541.32**	**20.6%**
600 Programs				
600-1 Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
600-2 Association Leader Trng.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
600-3 Youth Ministry	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.0%
600-4 Library/Media Ctr.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
600-5 Senior Adult	500.00	103.29	104.71	20.7%
600-6 Pastors Conference	500.00	228.79	84.47	45.8%
600-7 Christmas Social	700.00	849.73	-61.13	121.4%
Total 600 Programs	**1,950.00**	**1,431.81**	**518.19**	**73.4%**
700 Missions				
700-1 Mission Projects	2,000.00	1,149.00	850.65	57.5%
700-4 New Church Starts	2,500.00	1,897.23	0.00	75.9%
700-6 JoCo Project	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.0%
700-7 Campus Ministry	1,000.00	969.55	30.45	97.0%
700-8 Partnership Missions	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%
Total 700 Missions	**7,500.00**	**4,016.13**	**3,483.87**	**53.5%**
800 Contingency	**1,014.00**	**382.60**	**631.40**	**37.7%**
	186,224.00	**170,418.00**	**15,806.00**	**91.5%**

Non-Budget Account Balances (Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2020)

JBA Non-Budget Account Balances 2019-2020
Year Balance

Account Balances	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Balance Brought Forward	14,121.03	14,121.03
Bi-Vocational Pastors Retreat	6,577.26	4,577.26
Canada Partnership	400.00	400.00
Deacons Banquet	1,129.65	705.65
Disaster Relief & Recovery	169.53	169.53
Evangelistic Block Party Trailer	6,165.85	5,709.95
JBA Counseling Center	683.78	683.78
JBA Mission Projects	30,373.85	30,274.98
JBA Office Addition	1,329.03	887.28
JCC Campus Ministry	5,702.84	6,248.71
Medical-Dental Bus	297.06	297.06
Miscellaneous	1,648.11	1,903.98
New Church Starts	375.21	375.21
Pockets of Lostness	269.80	269.80
Senior Adult Rally	298.29	328.29
Royal Ambassador Funds	347.51	347.51
Sunday School Campaign	716.23	716.23
Turnaround Pastors Boot Camp	499.01	1,499.01
Village of Hope Orphanage	1,040.00	30.00
WMU Mitchiner Scholarship	6,517.52	0.00
WMU/Women's Ministries	4,199.52	4,454.52
Youth Retreat	-343.79	-343.79
TOTALS	**82,517.29**	**73,655.99**

Miscellaneous Account Balances (As of Sept. 30, 2020)

NC Baptist Foundation Investment Fund	16,729.40
NC Baptist Foundation Savings Fund	40,703.90

North Carolina Baptist State Convention Reports

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Submitted by: Milton Hollifield, Executive Director-Treasurer, BSCNC

Introduction

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) exists to help local churches fulfill their divinely appointed mission from God. The convention staff, under the leadership of Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr., is committed to helping Baptist churches and associations maximize their ministry outreach for the purpose of building God's kingdom through a strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making."

Adult Evangelism and Discipleship

Adult Evangelism and Discipleship, also known as DiscipleNC, seeks to help every believer enjoy Jesus and lead others into fellowship with Him. During the summer of 2018, we set out to host Gospel Conversations Trainings across the state and to find trainers to be a part of the DiscipleNC team, with the ultimate goal of having a trainer in every region of the state. Since that time, four trainers have joined the team and are actively training in their respective regions (Greater Boone, Greater Charlotte, Greater Triad and Greater Triangle). There are also key partners forming in Rocky Mount, Greenville, Jacksonville, Wilmington, Lumberton, Hickory and Asheville. From June 2019 to March 2020, there were 880 people who attended 23 Gospel Conversation Trainings, with 410 churches represented. We were forced to postpone trainings when COVID-19 impacted the state in March 2020. We then began to explore virtual options to continue trainings. Through Zoom videoconferencing and then calling those already trained to multiply, we continue to offer trainings.

Associational Partnerships

Associational Mission Strategists (AMS) across North Carolina play a crucial role in the life of our churches and are a vital, significant and strategic force in the effort to help plant new churches and assist in the revitalization and replanting of existing congregations. Associational Partnerships (AP) offers opportunities, training and resources to help associational mission strategists and associational teams enter and engage their field with a fresh, intentional, deliberate and evangelistic approach to disciple-making. Our goal is to work closely with our associations to encourage, resource and produce healthy churches and stronger associations as we seek to become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the gospel.

Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship

Childhood Ministry seeks to equip churches for excellence in ministry and for helping families embrace their God-given role as disciple-makers at home with children from birth through fifth grade. This ministry also includes Church Weekday Education, Bible Drill and Vacation Bible School. Safety and security trainings were offered in multiple locations throughout this past year to raise awareness and assist churches in providing safe and secure environments. MinistrySafe training was held at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden on Sept. 23 and 24, 2019, with 295 people representing 82 churches in attendance. Attorney Gregory Love brought a message about grooming and sexual abuse prevention.

Church Health and Revitalization

The Church Health and Revitalization Team continues to work to strengthen churches through meeting the

needs of pastors and addressing church systems. This is done through ministries on the team which include church revitalization, Asian, Hispanic, African American, worship and music, leadership development, pastoral, chaplaincy, and special ministries. In November 2019, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina announced an organizational shift in the Evangelism and Discipleship Group. The former Church Strengthening Team has transitioned to become the Church Health and Revitalization Team. This change followed discussions about the need for the convention to assist churches in the area of church health and revitalization. Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield said when taken together, the percentage of churches in North Carolina that are either plateaued, declining or dying is approximately 86%. Longtime team leader Neal Eller retired in January 2020 after more than 29 years of service to the state convention. Sandy Marks, former senior consultant for the Church Health and Revitalization ministry, is now leading the new Church Health and Revitalization Team under the Evangelism and Discipleship Group. This shift also brought church revitalization from the Disciple-Making Team to the new Church Health and Revitalization Team.

Church Planting

The Church Planting Team, also known as Church Planting NC (CPNC), exists to catalyze a reproducing church movement in partnership with local N.C. Baptist churches in cities and towns from the mountains to the coast. While our day-to-day focus centers on the development of planters and the expansion of the inner workings of those churches, CPNC focuses on planting healthy, reproducing, life-giving churches that will impact their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Church Planting NC celebrates the addition of 65 new churches in 2019. Of these new churches, 34 received training, coaching and financial assistance through the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) and the Cooperative Program. In addition, 31 new churches — mostly new mission works — joined the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina through affiliation. Although these new affiliate churches did not receive financial assistance, many of them received coaching and training. In 2019, new churches reported: $293,403 in gifts to the Cooperative Program and more than $74,000 to their partner associations or networks; 146,054 evangelistic contacts and 3,417 professions of faith.

Collegiate Partnerships

The mission of the Collegiate Partnerships Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) is to partner with Baptist churches to launch a reproducing gospel presence on every collegiate campus in North Carolina. A reproducing gospel presence is a collegiate group that is under the authority of a doctrinally sound local church which is reproducing disciples. Though the team and partnering churches faced many unique challenges this year, the mission continued with innovations as the academic year unfolded.

Statistically, the collegiate ministry of North Carolina Baptists celebrated much during the academic year. N.C. Baptist churches engaged 50 college campuses during the year, creating a reproducing gospel presence on each campus. These ministries ranked North Carolina Baptists second in the Southern Baptist Convention in numbers of campuses engaged and in the number of international students engaged through collegiate ministry. The collegiate ministries of BSCNC churches also ranked third in the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of students who made professions of faith and third in the number of students trained in evangelism.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, N.C. Baptist churches launched new ministries on the following 10 campuses: Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; Central Piedmont Community College; Cleveland Community College; Gardner-Webb University; Gaston College; NASCAR Technical Institute;

Surry Community College; the University of North Carolina School of the Arts; Western Piedmont Community College; and Wingate University.

Cooperative Program

The Cooperative Program is the most effective tool to fulfill the Great Commission. We challenge Baptists across North Carolina to join in the effort to fuel and advance missions and ministry in North Carolina and around the world. The promotion of the Cooperative Program is assigned to the Communications Team within the Administration and Convention Relations Group of the BSCNC. Will Taylor helps existing churches to join the convention. From July 2019 to July 2020, Taylor has been in consultation with more than a dozen churches that wish to join the Baptist state convention as member churches. We celebrate how many of these churches represent minority communities across North Carolina. N.C. Baptists continue to be top supporters of the Southern Baptist Convention through both the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong special offerings. In the years to come, we hope to encourage Baptists across North Carolina to give generously to missions through the Cooperative Program in a way that is consistent with our core Baptist convictions, that God's people are to obey God's Word in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Disciple-Making

The Disciple-Making Team has the responsibility to activate N.C. Baptist disciple-makers in all age groups and life stages. Ministries on the team include the areas of childhood, youth, family, adult, women, Sunday School and small groups. The team has pivoted in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic to create numerous new resources to help churches stay effective during the stay-at-home orders and think creatively about how to engage in disciple-making as their facilities reopen.

Disciple-Making Conference

In addition to work in the individual ministry areas noted below, the team hosts the annual Disciple-Making Conference. The 2020 conference was held on Feb. 25 at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point. Attended by approximately 740 people, the conference focused on disciple-making in a rapidly changing culture. One pastor called the conference a "high-water mark" which set the standard for training events he had attended. The keynote speaker was Jimmy Scroggins, lead pastor of Family Church in south Florida. More than 40 breakout sessions were hosted, providing practical application to a vast array of evangelism and discipleship issues faced by the local church.

Embrace and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship

Embrace and Women's Evangelism and Discipleship seeks to encourage women to walk humbly with Christ in their world and build strong families capable of creating a legacy of faithfulness. Embrace women's ministry helps churches and associations develop women's ministries that encourage and equip women to be growing disciple-makers who make disciples who make disciples. During the 2019-2020 ministry year, Embrace sought to accomplish these objectives through the following ministry opportunities. Highlights from the past year include: the 2019 N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat, held Oct. 25-26, 2019; the fourth year of the Embrace Leadership Network (ELN); nine Embrace Roundtables events on March 14, 2020; the Embracing Boston mission trip from Sept. 12-15, 2019; and the development of resource for women's ministry leaders titled, "Responding Well: A Guide for Women's Ministry Leaders to Help Survivors of Sexual Abuse," released in partnership with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Great Commission Partnerships

Great Commission Partnerships exists to mobilize and empower churches to make disciples among unreached people groups and in least-reached places in North Carolina, throughout North America and around the world. We do this through a catalytic focus on multifamily housing, the Peoples Next Door initiative and by helping churches to form partnerships with church planters and missionaries in North

America and around the world. Ministry highlights include: the multifamily housing initiative; the Peoples Next Door N.C. Initiative; and church missions partnerships in North America and around the world. In addition, one of the larger partnership efforts that Great Commission Partnerships facilitates is Coats for the City in New York City, where we work alongside the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA). North Carolina Baptists sent more than 150 volunteers from 17 churches who joined with five New York City churches to partner alongside 21 New York planters and missionaries to distribute nearly 6,000 coats and share the gospel with people from a variety of cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds.

Office of Prayer

The Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening emphasizes making kingdom-focused prayer a priority in the lives of individuals, churches and ministries. We believe that God is calling His followers to glorify Him through a holy lifestyle of passionate, Spirit-led prayer that focuses on the Father and His kingdom purposes. The Office of Prayer exists to assist churches, associations, entities and ministries with the development of biblical prayer resources, strategies, events and networks that are focused on equipping and mobilizing believers toward kingdom-focused prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and God's mission. For a number of years, it seems as if God has been working in a heightened way throughout North Carolina calling pastors, ministry leaders and individual believers to seek Him for His mercy through revival and spiritual awakening. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the interest, frequency and intensity of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening among believers, pastors and leaders seemed to increase even more significantly. Ministry highlights include: the eighth year of the "Pray for 30 Days" prayer emphasis in October 2019; various prayer gatherings, prayer revivals and summits; the "Praying on the Mountain" call to prayer on May 5, 2020; and prayer journey bus tours.

Strategic Focus Team

The Strategic Focus Team (SFT) helps churches take a missionary approach to North Carolina's pockets of lostness. In 2011, the Baptist State Convention commissioned a study to better understand the current state of lostness in North Carolina. This study found 250 small geographic areas scattered across the state where the lost population is growing unusually fast. We call these small geographic areas pockets of lostness. Many of these pockets cluster around major cities like Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh, but most of these pockets dot the landscape of smaller towns like Ahoskie, Liberty and Rutherfordton. The population in these pockets is growing, changing and filled with groups of people not easily attracted to our churches. Since few of these will come to us, we have to go to them.

In April of 2020, the Strategic Focus Team was reassigned from the BSCNC's Administration and Convention Relations Group to the Church Planting and Missions Partnership Group in an effort to bring better alignment to the team's ministry assignment. This past year has been a year of significant disciple-making progress in North Carolina's pockets of lostness, especially in the phases of engaging and impacting. In the engaging phase, churches are engaging a lost pocket with disciple-making intentionality. In the impacting phase, disciples in the lost pocket are making disciples. At the beginning of 2019, North Carolina Baptists had one pocket in the engaging phase and none in the impacting phase. At the end of the year, 62 pockets were in the engaging phase, and 19 were in the impacting phase.

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Ministry partners with ministry leaders to equip churches in renewing their corporate worship so that people will encounter the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted several training opportunities that included the Renewing Worship Expo, held at Calvary West on Aug. 2-3, 2019 and Worship Leader Boot Camp experiences. N.C. Baptists also continue to benefit by participating in various music festivals and choral groups throughout the year in

equipping our churches to make their praise glorious. When COVID-19 restrictions hit in 2020, the way churches did worship had to drastically change as shelter-at-home orders were issued. We created multiple resources (blog posts, tutorials, seminars, downloadable resources, etc.) each week to help train our churches and keep them ahead of the curve in planning and implementing worship experiences that moved online.

Youth Evangelism and Discipleship

Our goal in Youth Evangelism and Discipleship, also known as BeDoTell, is to equip students and youth ministries across the state to be a Christian, do discipleship and tell others. Summer Youth Weeks 2019 consisted of eight weeks of camp at Fort Caswell. Attendance for the 2019 camps was 6,638, representing 273 churches. Total decisions reflected the greater things God was doing at camp, which included 432 first-time professions of faith, more than 1,300 recommitments and 123 called to full-time Christian ministry. We continued the mission effort for Haiti through the offering and meal packaging. It was another God-sized task requiring offerings to exceed $62,500 for 250,000 meals to be packaged and shipped. A total of more than $70,000 was received and 285,000 meals were packaged.

North Carolina Baptists
Caring. Sharing. Daring.

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

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Submitted by: Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

A Word from the President

"There's no place like home!" It may be a cliché to quote Dorothy's renowned line from the 1939 cinematic sensation, The Wizard of Oz, but it by no means diminishes the truth of Dorothy's sentiment. Children throughout our state long for that feeling of "home" and sense of "place." Too many have been physically or emotionally displaced and neglected by their families. They are desperate to know what it is like to be loved, valued and to belong. Our calling — our "place" — as Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) staff members and you, as our prayer warriors and gracious supporters, is to provide them with these missing pieces. We have the power to give them a home and connect them with a loving family. Whether it's through our compassionate cottage homes or in the arms of a BCH foster family, you are giving children a caring family and sharing with them the love of Jesus Christ, the One who goes to prepare an eternal place for them. Thank you for giving children a home.

Celebrating 135 Years of Ministry

The Baptist Orphanage was born at a time of adversity. It was founded in the small community of Thomasville on November 11, 1885 and rose from a dream to establish an orphanage – a safe haven for hurting and displaced children -- that North Carolina Baptists could call their own. Known today as the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), our heart beats with the hope of Jesus. It's a rhythm of hope that extends to children, families, special needs adults as well as aging adults. For each person's distinct need, there is a unique BCH ministry ready to help throughout locations in 24 North Carolina communities as well as our orphanage in Guatemala.

In 2019, North Carolina Baptists impacted 107,000 through the support of BCH's Annual Offering and Cooperative Program funding. With the needs of children and families greater than ever, there continues to be significant opportunities for kingdom building. The number of children and families who come to BCH unchurched and unreached for Christ is 70%. Through the help of North Carolina Baptists, the Gospel is shared with those we serve often for the first time. In the past five years, there have been 703 decisions to accept Christ as Savior.

We celebrate a legacy of ministry that was founded on faith…built on love. You are invited to step into time by watching BCH's historic three-minute video as we celebrate our partnership with North Carolina Baptists that has led to 135 years of ministry and countless lives forever changed. Watch the short documentary, narrated by BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell at www.bchnc.org/bch_strong

Family Foster Care Ministry Continues to Grow

Thanks to the dedicated support of North Carolina Baptists and donors, Baptist Children's Homes' (BCH) Family Foster Care ministry is growing. In 2018 alone, 16,796 North Carolina boys and girls had to be removed from their families by statewide Departments of Social Services. Parents are being crippled by addiction including the opioid crisis that is gripping both North Carolina and the nation.

Family Foster Care is a natural complement to BCH's cottage homes, which are located across the state, and positions BCH to best meet the tremendous needs of children in North Carolina. Having both ministries allows a child to be placed in the option that will best serve his or her needs.

Families are consistently coming forward and opening up their homes to hurting children. BCH provides the training and support needed for their homes to become licensed foster homes. Several churches are partnering with BCH to begin their own foster care ministries. The churches provide support and

community to couples in their congregations, who have become foster parents, and the boys and girls in their care. BCH has trained and licensed more than 70 families. You can learn more about BCH's Family Foster Care ministry at www.bchfostercare.org

Baptist Children's Homes Partners with Christian Adoption Services

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) and Christian Adoption Services (CAS) have partnered together to offer ongoing comprehensive foster care and adoption services to families throughout the state. BCH provides foster care expertise while CAS facilitates the adoption process.

The collaboration between the two nonprofits goes beyond supporting North Carolina children and families. Their efforts are also about providing quality placement options to the state's child welfare system that is removing children from their families at an alarming rate. In North Carolina, there are now 3,000 more children in foster care than in 2011.

Greater Vision Increases its Outreach to Community Families

The Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry has continued to grow in its efforts to provide a pathway of help, hope and healing for the economically depressed, the spiritually discouraged and the emotionally distressed. Through partnerships with other nonprofits and volunteers, families receive education and resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency. In 2018, Greater Vision impacted 71,946 lives through the following ways:

- 70,616 meals served
- 1,103 individuals received food, clothing, household items and furniture
- 53 families (196 household members) served by Greater Vision's self-sufficiency program
- 31 individuals participated in training classes

Greater Vision, based at Mills Home in Thomasville, has added a new location at Kennedy Home in Kinston.

A Simple Act of Love Ripples through Eternity: North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM)

Margary Bass didn't know it but her whole life would begin to change the day she phoned the NCBAM Call Center and asked for help getting to the grocery store. Patsy Lyons, a volunteer from Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover, offered to help. The two soon developed a close friendship. Patsy began to pray that God would open Margary's heart and that she would invite Him into her life. Sensing a door opening, Patsy asked Margary if she would like one of her pastors from Woodlawn to speak with her.

Pastor Jerry Anderson soon paid a visit and shared the plan of salvation with Margary.

"We prayed right there and asked Jesus into her heart. It was just amazing to see the change in her countenance almost immediately."

To Margary, having Jesus in her heart "means all the world."

"I have a completely different outlook on everything."

Margary's experience was the perfect way to celebrate NCBAM's 10th anniversary in 2019. Since its inception, the ministry to aging adults has not stopped forging ahead with the creation of innovative programs and services.

NCBAM's most ambitious outreach to date, One Hope, will address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness affecting older adults and contributing to many health risks. In addition to the NCBAM Hope Line, the ministry to aging adults also helps churches implement their own ministries to those experiencing loneliness in their communities.

NCBAM released new educational workshops in 2019: Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program and Peace of Mind (home invasion prevention and protection). NCBAM also hosted a workshop to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic's effect on older adults and developed materials to help churches support foster families.

Guatemala Orphanage Continues Expansion

Longtime BCH trustee and supporter Jay Westmoreland, and his family, provided the lead gift for the Westmoreland Family Children's Home in Guatemala. The home is named for Westmoreland's father, Dr. Ted G. Westmoreland. It houses seven orphans and serves as a complement to BCH's affiliate orphanage, the Good Shepherd Children's Home. An additional home, the Mae Home, is in the process of being constructed in partnership with North Carolina Baptists volunteer teams and donor funding. The need for quality homes for abandoned children, some who are only days old, is essential to the impoverished area.

For more information or to refer someone in need of the Baptist Children's Homes ministry, visit www.bchfamily.org or call 800.476.3669.

Cooperative Program

Submitted by: Will Taylor, Communication Strategist

The Cooperative Program is the most effective tool to fulfill the Great Commission. We challenge Baptists across North Carolina to join in the effort to support the $31 million budget approved by messengers to fuel and advance missions and ministry in North Carolina and around the world.

The promotion of the Cooperative Program is assigned to the Communications Team within the Administration and Convention Relations group of the BSCNC. Will Taylor helps existing churches to join the convention. From July 2019 to July 2020, Taylor has been in consultation with more than a dozen churches that wish to join the Baptist state convention as member churches. We celebrate how many of these churches represent minority communities across North Carolina.

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The "52 Sundays" resource is available to prayerfully inform your congregation about how the Cooperative Program is fueling missions and ministry around the world, featuring wider breadth efforts that are supported through the Cooperative Program. The 2019 resource is offered in English, Spanish and Korean, and it may be accessed at *ncbaptist.org/52sundays*.

GuideStone Financial Resources (Compensation and Benefits Services)

Submitted by: Davis Blount, GuideStone State Representative

Compensation and Benefits Services (CABS)

The Compensation and Benefits Services (CABS) office provides answers to general questions about retirement, insurance, and other financial and tax needs of our churches. Our goal is to keep our local N.C. Baptist associations and churches up-to-date on changes that affect them. The following information is a summary of those efforts.

Federal Tax Legislation

Since Dec. 20, 2019, Congress passed two important pieces of legislation that have had a positive impact for our churches and their members. Late in 2019, the passage of the SECURE Act makes it easier to save for retirement and gives future retirees more ways to extend their retirement income. Most provisions of the SECURE Act took effect in 2020, and GuideStone has updated the Church Retirement Plan to follow the new law. On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was enacted to provide fast and direct economic assistance for all Americans and small businesses, including churches. Churches and other small businesses were able to secure a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to assist in retaining workers and maintaining payroll during the mandatory stay-at-home orders. The PPP loans could be totally forgiven if the proceeds are spent in accordance to SBA guidelines. The CABS office has been educating and assisting churches to take full advantage of this financial assistance to manage through the constant revisions of the PPP.

Retirement

The CABS office works with church staff and lay leaders to assist them in structuring of pastor and staff compensation packages to include retirement benefits. Many pastors and staff members do not see the benefits of participating in the Church Retirement Plan, and they will opt out of the plan if given an opportunity. Therefore, a continued effort is being made to challenge churches to assist their pastors and staff by directly contributing to their retirement plans in addition to their salaries and other benefits. Sadly, only 52% of N.C. Baptist churches and their employees participate in the Church Retirement Plan. We continue to educate and encourage our churches to be responsible employers by providing for their staff members' retirements in a Christ-honoring manner.

Convention Protection Benefits

GuideStone and the state convention continue to offer survivor and disability benefits to all qualified staff members of N.C. Baptist churches participating in the Church Retirement Plan through GuideStone. North Carolina continues to lead all state conventions in the number of participants, but we still fall far short of the goal of having every church providing protection benefits for their staff members by participating in a GuideStone retirement plan. In 2019, approximately 107 church staff members received $800,000 from the state convention's protection benefits.

Tax and Health Insurance Laws

GuideStone remains a leader in providing detailed information regarding the impact that new tax and health care laws have on our churches and their staff. Timely and thorough updates of changes in the tax law are available on the GuideStone website at guidestone.org. We are certain that there will be many more changes in the coming months related to health care laws, and the CABS office will work diligently to stay on top of these changes.

Church Staff Compensation

Because of the impact that COVID-19 and the stay-at-home orders have had on our churches, the 2020 Southern Baptist Compensation Study has been postponed until 2021. Results of the 2018 Southern Baptist Compensation Study are available online by visiting compstudy.lifeway.com. Much of our effort continues to be educating churches on the tax implications of lump sum pay packages for pastors and churches. The taxability of such pay packages continues to be a concern.

Mission Dignity

GuideStone Financial Resources continues to provide financial assistance to elderly ministers and widows of ministers who live under financial duress and need ongoing and/or one-time assistance through Mission Dignity. In 2019, individuals and entities from North Carolina contributed $432,000 to Mission Dignity, which helped 160 North Carolina households through $635,000 in total distributions. Due to the generosity of Mission Dignity donors, 2019 saw an increase of awards for emergency grants ($39,000) and the annual Christmas check ($59,000).

JBA Churches, Missions, and New Church Starts

*Missions and New Church Starts affiliated with the JBA

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