Triangle East Baptist Association

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Triangle East Baptist Association

Semi-Annual Fall Meeting

One Hundred Twenty Second Annual Session
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Theme:
"TEBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness - One Person at a Time"

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest." Isaiah 9:2-3a (NIV)

Meeting Agenda

Pre-Service Music

Call to Order..... Rev. Glen Brock, Moderator, Baptist Tabernacle

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

Welcome and Opening Prayer .....Rev. Austin Hilburn, Middlesex

Theme Interpretation ..... Rev. Thomas Collings & Belinda McNeill

A Church Fostering Story .....Rev. Aaron Wallace, Tracy Deans, & Rev. Austin Hilburn

Associational Missionary Report.....Dr. Kelton Hinton, TEBA Missions Strategist

Organizational Reports ..... Rev. Glen Brock, Moderator

Miscellaneous Business ..... Rev. Glen Brock, Moderator

Recognition of Visitors and New Pastors..... Rev. Glen Brock, Moderator

NC Baptist Children's Home ..... Rev. Wade Parker, Regional Representative

Sermon ..... Rev. Randy Pace, Building 323

Recognition of New Officers & Team Leaders ..... Rev. Doug Vaughan, Antioch

Benediction and Prayer for New Officers ..... Rev. Doug Vaughan, Antioch

Refreshments & Fellowship

Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas, this the 122nd session of the Triangle East Baptist Association has been so graciously hosted by Antioch Baptist Church and Middlesex Baptist Church; and

Whereas, our Program Committee has provided for our 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 Triangle East Baptist Association, meeting in annual session this twenty-second day of October, 2024, 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.

Resolution of the Executive Council Honoring the Service of Tonya W. Grice

WHEREAS, Tonya W. Grice, having diligently and loyally served the Triangle East Baptist Association as Associational Secretary and Bookkeeper for fifteen years, beginning her service on November 2, 2009, and

WHEREAS, her leadership and helpfulness as Secretary has been extremely effective and efficient, and

WHEREAS, her efforts have been exceptional in assisting the association in accomplishing its efforts in providing fellowship opportunities, leadership training and missions involvement, and

WHEREAS, her faithfulness to the Triangle East Baptist Association has been exemplified by her many contributions, deeds and services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the churches of the Triangle East Baptist Association, meeting in annual session, individually and collectively, express their great esteem, respect and sense of fellowship to Tony W. Grice, and their sincere appreciation for her valuable services to the council, staff, the general board and to the churches in the Triangle East Baptist Association.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of October, 2024.

Program Committee

Your TEBA Program Committee respectfully submits the following report for 2025: The Spring Semi-Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025 and our Fall Semi-Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025, as set in our new associational constitution and by-laws.

The Committee has received invitations from the following churches: Spring Meeting at Beulah Baptist Church and Fall Meeting at Live Oak Baptist Church.

We suggest the following be named as preacher for the annual sermon next Fall: Pastor Ray Carr of Baptist Center Church with Pastor Tim Stevens of Micro First Baptist serving as the alternate.

Semi-Annual Spring Meeting

Submitted by: Rev. Rodney Wilson, Clerk

The 2024 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting was held at Antioch Baptist Church on May 20. Each year during this gathering we have a special time to recognize churches that have marked growth in several areas of ministry. While statistics don't reveal the full scope of ministry within a congregation, they do have a way of showing God's faithfulness. In addition, all of this data is compiled from the Annual Church Profiles that are completed during the Fall. We encourage every TEBA church to make an effort to complete these forms each year!

Our theme this year is "TEBA Churches Pushing Back the Darkness: One Person at a Time." For the last few years our Associational Missions Strategist, Dr. Kelton F. Hinton, has been sharing with us this concept. Jesus invites us all to live as disciples among our family, in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, assisted living facilities, and all the places where we gather for social interaction. Individuals begin to minister to others both individually and collectively to share the Gospel message with them in the hopes they would become followers of Christ and be open to being discipled in their new-found faith.

With the exciting results we saw in baptisms last year (a ten-year high), we are encouraging all of our church members to become active disciple-makers. Now is the time! If you would like to learn more, please contact the TEBA office.

Here are our exemplary churches from 2023

Assembling Together for Worship

Highest Percentage of Members in Worship: Cedar Grove (1,436%) **TEBA Avg=50%**
Other notables: Jonesboro (160%), Church at Clayton Crossings (150%), Baptist Center (142%), Hocutt (121%), Koinonia Reformed (117%), Selma (115%), Township Church (103%), Burnell (100%), Sims (100%)

Highest One-Year Growth in Worship: Sardis (152%)
Other notables: Hephzibah (126%), Pauline (123%), Hocutt (97%), Selma (64%), Koinonia Reformed (40%)

Highest Five-Year Growth in Worship: Cedar Grove (2,811%)
Other notables: Micro FBC (238%), Hephzibah (187%), Thanksgiving (178%), Pauline (158%), Selma (130%), Jonesboro (114%), Burnell (100%), Sardis (94%), Baptist Tabernacle (84%), Hocutt (77%), Sims (53%)

Outreach & Evangelism

Highest Number of Baptisms: Church at Clayton Crossings (97) **TEBA Total Baptisms=221**
Other notables: Bethesda (44), Shine Community (28), Baptist Tabernacle (27), Cedar Grove (11), Wilson's Mills (10)
Best Ratios of Baptisms to Church Membership: Sims (6.1:1)
TEBA Avg=39:1

Other notables: Church at Clayton Crossings (6.2:1), Shine Community (6.25:1), Cedar Grove (7:1), Bethesda (10:1), Jonesboro (19:1), Baptist Tabernacle (20:1)

Discipleship

Largest Small Group & Sunday School Attendance: Hocutt (230)
Other notables: Clayton FBC (142), Micro FBC (110), Smithfield FBC (109), Baptist Tabernacle (85), Hood's Grove (77), Selma (70)

Highest Percentage of Members in Small Groups/Sunday School: Hocutt (71%) TEBA Avg=19%
Other notables: Micro FBC (38%), Pauline (36%), Selma (35%), Hood's Grove (34%), Shine Community (34%), Jonesboro (33%), Princeton (33%), Antioch (32%), Baptist Center (30%)

Highest one-year Growth in Sunday School Attendance: Thanksgiving (113%)
Other notables: Baptist Tabernacle (52%), Wilson's Mills (36%), Hocutt (34%), Blackman's Grove (33%), Hephzibah (21%), Pine Level (13%), Pleasant Grove (6%), Selma (3%)

Highest Five-Year Growth in Sunday School Attendance: Thanksgiving (168%)
Other notables: Micro FBC (162%), Hood's Grove (17%)

Missions

Largest Number of Mission Volunteers: Clayton FBC (2,403)
Other notables: Baptist Tabernacle (1,408), Pine Level (437), Hephzibah (373), Smithfield FBC (207), Selma (100), Hocutt (88), Shine Community (87), Jonesboro (83), Bethesda (70), Blackman's Grove (69)

Highest % of Members Involved in Missions: Clayton FBC (436%) TEBA Avg= 65%
Other notables: Baptist Tabernacle (267%), Pine Level (153%), Hephzibah (129%), Township Church (122%), Jonesboro (111%), Baptist Center (80%)

Highest % of Total Missions Giving Out of Undesignated Receipts: Burnell (167%) TEBA Avg=10%
Other notables: Baptist Tabernacle (28%), Pleasant Grove (21%), Sims (21%), Shine Community (19%), Selma (18%), Pine Level (17%), Wilsons Mills (17%), Antioch (16%), Baptist Center (16%), Hephzibah (16%), Thanksgiving (12%), Pauline (11%)

Highest % of TEBA Giving Out of Undesignated Receipts: Pleasant Grove (4.7%) TEBA Avg=2.4%
Other notables: Pine Level (3.3%), Wilsons Mills (3%), Shine Community Church (2.95%)

Associational Missionary Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, TEBA Associational Missions Strategist

As a region, Johnston County continues to grab headlines for its rapid growth. According to the 2020 census, **JoCo grew 27.9% over the last decade** making us the **"Fastest Growing County in North Carolina."** We are also projected to grow another 25.4% over the next decade as well (another chart-topping statistic) bringing our population to 250,000! As a result of all of this growth we are WOEFULLY behind in our church planting and we've got a lot of catching up to do!

We have already made some adjustments in our life together as a network of churches. Three years ago we officially changed our name to the **Triangle East Baptist Association** to better reflect the fact that almost 20% of our churches are located OUTSIDE of Johnston County. Two years ago we clarified and updated our TEBA Values, our Mission Statement and our Vision Statement. Last year we adopted an updated Constitution and the SBC's BF&M 2000 as our doctrinal guidelines.

In Pastoral Support…

In addition to all of the services and training events offered to all of our TEBA pastors (see the TEBA Church Leadership Development Team's Report on page 19), the TEBA office continues to serve as both a place where a pastor can receive counsel and guidance and encouragement in difficult times. With 26 years of experience in this area, I can often help a new pastor navigate some of the history and challenges of his new congregation! Most have found this relationship very beneficial. Others are struggling to "rebuild" their congregations. Nationwide, churches are experiencing the "Great Resignation" as long-tenured pastors are announcing their resignations and retirements after struggling to rebuild their congregations in a post-COVID world. TEBA has 11 churches currently looking for a new pastor!

I recently received a grant from Provision to implement a "Young Leaders Program" targeting young pastors under 40 by developing a curriculum and cohort group to help them be more successful in their first five years of ministry in a local church.

Church Strengthening and Health

As noted in the TEBA Church Strengthening Team's Report (page 13), much effort has gone into helping our TEBA churches remain viable and strong. Evangelism and Discipleship areas are still some of our "weaker" areas as we reach new believers and disciple them to become "disciple-making followers of Christ." We need some "champions" to come forward to help us in these areas!

In Missions…

Again, Missions is a huge area of TEBA's focus and, based on what I am seeing, God is very much active among our children and youth through the First Priority initiative in our public schools (both elementary, middle and high schools) as well as our JCC Campus Ministry among high school and college students on that campus. For example, after an amazing last year (723 faculty, staff and students involved), the **JCC Campus Ministry** is again off to a tremendous start this Fall semester with well over 250 students already involved this Fall semester! This is a cooperative effort among seven of our TBA churches and an EXCELLENT example of the power of local churches cooperating together to do what no ONE church would even think about doing! (See the TEBA Campus Ministry Report on page 23 for more details.) We are still looking for Bible study leaders for the **Early College**, **ESL students, ABE students** and the **bio-tech students** (at the Clayton campus). If you know of someone who can help please point them my

way! We are also exploring the idea of beginning an **International Club** on campus and I will be looking for "host families" to "adopt" an international student for the Spring semester!

Church Planting, Fostering and RePlanting efforts…
With 48 church plants attempted by our TEBA churches over the last 40 years, church planting is certainly in our blood! Our latest church plant "idea" is one that would target "**first responders" around the county**. Let me know if you want to know more about this one! Furthermore, we have been focusing on the concepts behind "Missional Communities" as becoming one of our primary methods for targeting the lost in our communities and possibly beginning new churches in our area. Our TEBA office has been providing detailed demographic data for churches targeting specific neighborhoods and subdivisions for prayer walking events and for starting these "Missional Communities."

Here is some "refresher" data about the status of the lost in our area. 64% of our county residents are still unchurched! Amazing! We have seven of the top 250 North Carolina POL's ("Pockets of Lostness") in our area (Clayton, 40/42, Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma, Thanksgiving FD Rd. and Sims). As I have noted before, many of the people "missing" in our Baptist pews are: 1) people of color, 2) high school dropouts, 3) renters and 4) people with "hurts, habits and hang-ups." I want to add a 5th group—multi-family housing, either rented or owned.

The theme for this year's TEBA Annual Meeting continues to be **"JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness, One Person at a Time**." How is YOUR church "pushing back the darkness" of sin or sadness, depression or loneliness, or lostness? Share your story with the rest of us!

An update on me personally…

This was my 26th year serving here at TEBA and we have grown tremendously and had to make many adaptations along the way. It has been a challenging time this year as Tonya has been transitioning to work more with her husband, Steve in his new insurance business. Her expertise has been greatly missed! I'm sure that even more challenges await us in the future, but I am hopeful a bright future awaits as we live into our new structure and re-group and align ourselves for growth! Through prayer and God's help, we will persevere and bring glory to His name!

Departmental Reports

Church Planting Team Report

This past year has been another busy one in the area of church planting! (Note: With God's help and direction, our TEBA churches have started 48 churches in the last 40 years! PTL!)

Last Fall **Morgan Johnson** and his family from (Bethesda Baptist) re-started a weekly ministry meeting at 8:30am Sunday mornings in the large flea market south of Smithfield. They are in need of some help to re-start a Sunday School there as well.

In January the "**Church in the Marketplace**" began meeting weekly at 9am in the Harper Flea Market. **Roland Klinger** (from Faith Baptist in Selma) serves as the pastor.

This summer Clyde's Chapel sponsored a new Hispanic church meeting in their facility called "**Iglesia Bautista la Fey**" led by pastor **Manuel Vargas.**

Our latest church plant "idea" is one that would target "**first responders"** around the county. **Don Page** (from Oakdale Baptist) is taking the lead in starting this one. Let the TEBA office know if you want to know more about this! We are pulling together a team of interested folk.

A plan for future church planting…

The last two years we have been discussing ways to encourage and even strengthen our church planting efforts. With our tremendous demographic growth, we are in need of 200 new churches just to catch up to our current population! We have been discussing and focusing on the concepts behind "**Missional Communities**" as a primary method for targeting the lost in our area and, from that, beginning new churches. Our TEBA office has been providing detailed demographic data for churches targeting specific neighborhoods and subdivisions for prayer walking events for starting these "Missional Communities." Contact the TEBA office if you would like to know more about this initiative.

These new churches (see above) joined other recent ones begun in the last five years…

"JoCo Church" launched out of The Point Church-Smithfield in the Spring of 2023 with **Anthony Claiborne** as the pastor. Both churches were located in the old Sharon Baptist church facility. They did not make it formally but they still have some small groups meeting weekly.

"**Township Church**" began in 2023 targeting the Cleveland School area of the county on SR 1010. **Shawn and Dee Payne** (from Baptist Center & coached by LifeSpring Church) are leading that new work.

"**Unity Victory Baptist Church**," located in Rosewood, NC, our first Haitian church began in the Fall of 2020. They have already grown to become the largest Haitian Church in North Carolina! They are running well over 100 in attendance these days! The church planter is **Claude Lafortune** coming to us from Florida. He is targeting a group of 6,500 Haitians in the Mt Olive area. (They are looking at planting other Haitian churches here in NC.)

Shine Community (**Jason Brulet** pastor) began in 2020 and is doing well and currently meeting at The Farm on Hwy 42. (In 2023 they partnered up with Hephzibah Baptist in Wendell to come in and "Foster" **Middlesex Baptist**, who had dwindled down to 30 in attendance. In 2024 they called **Austin Hillburn** as pastor and are already over 100 in attendance! This is our first "Fostering" situation!)

Where are new churches needed?

Here is some "refresher" data about the status of the lost in our area. 64% of our area residents are still unchurched! Amazing! We have seven of the top 250 North Carolina POL's ("Pockets of Lostness") in our area (Clayton, 40/42, Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma, Thanksgiving FD Rd. and Sims). Many of the people still "missing" in our Baptist pews are: 1) people of color, 2) high school dropouts, 3) renters, 4) people with "hurts, habits and hang-ups," and 5) multi-family housing situations, either rented or owned. The good news is that 20 of our TEBA churches are already ministering in 41 different multi-housing situations, but very few of our churches are targeting apartment complexes and they represent some of the most "unchurched" in our area. (57% of Americans live in multi-family housing and 95% of those are unchurched!) In addition to targeting these areas, we still need a "blue-collar" church planted in EVERY city and town in the county! It would behoove us to seek to establish "missional communities" in every apartment complex and mobile home park (MHP) throughout the region. We need "partner" churches who will help sponsor these new church plants throughout our area!

The theme for this year's TEBA Annual Meeting continues to be **"TEBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness, One Person at a Time**." How is YOUR church "pushing back the darkness" of sin or sadness, depression or loneliness, or lostness? Share your story with the rest of us!

Church Strengthening Team Report

In Evangelism…

With **Sunday School** and **VBS** being the two primary evangelistic "programs" of the church, this area remains weak for us. In the wake of the COVID-19 disaster, the average TEBA church has not recovered in these two areas. Only 19% of its membership attended Sunday School last year (down from a pre-COVID 40%), and VBS attendance was only 54% of the previous year's numbers as well. Programmatically, these two areas need strengthening. Here some of the "stars" last year however…

Highest one-year Growth in Sunday School Attendance in 2023 Thanksgiving (113%)
Other notables: Baptist Tabernacle (52%), Wilson's Mills (36%), Hocutt (34%), Blackman's Grove (33%), Hephzibah (21%), Pine Level (13%), Pleasant Grove (6%), Selma (3%)

Highest Five-Year Growth in Sunday School Attendance in 2023 Thanksgiving (168%)
Other notables: Micro FBC (162%), Hood's Grove (17%)

On a more positive note, last year's **baptism numbers** were up **385**% over the previous year and, at 221, the highest reported in TEN YEARS from our TEBA church family! This is largely due to the coordinated efforts in 2023 around "Baptism Sunday" in March of that year. Also, at least three of our TEBA churches "officially" signed up to participate in the ServeNC community outreach effort in August of this year but many more actually did service projects but were never counted. Hopefully these events will produce some conversions and baptisms this year.

Highest Number of Baptisms in 2023 Church at Clayton Crossings (97) Total Baptisms=221
Other notables: Bethesda (44), Shine Community (28), Baptist Tabernacle (27), Cedar Grove (11), Wilson's Mills (10)

Best Ratios of Baptisms to Church Membership in 2023 Sims (6.1:1) TEBA Avg=39:1
Other notables: Church at Clayton Crossings (6.2:1), Shine Community (6.25:1), Cedar Grove (7:1), Bethesda (10:1), Jonesboro (19:1), Baptist Tabernacle (20:1)

Please note that for your church's outreach efforts, TEBA can provide the following:

1. Demographic maps, studies and interpretations for your church's planning for future programming needs in your community
2. Detailed demographic maps on specific neighborhoods for Prayer Walking events and to establish Outreach Bible Studies in targeted homes in neighborhoods around the church.
3. Use of the Evangelistic Block Party Trailer at a discounted (or free) rate (for on-site events or off-site events)
4. Sharing of VBS props and materials between partnering churches

In Discipleship…

Again, COVID's lingering shadow is in this area of church life as well. We no longer "count" how many are being discipled in our churches but, based on the lack of DVDs and other materials being checked out of the TEBA library, only a handful of women's Bible studies are currently being conducted. No men's materials have been checked out this entire year! If you include Sunday School along with small groups as a typical discipleship venue then here are our outstanding churches from 2022…

Largest Small Group & Sunday School Attendance in 2023 Hocutt (230)
Other notables: Clayton FBC (142), Micro FBC (110), Smithfield FBC (109), Baptist Tabernacle (85), Hood's Grove (77), Selma (70)

Highest Percentage of Members in Small Groups and Sunday School in 2023 Hocutt (71%)
TEBA Avg=19%
Other notables: Micro FBC (38%), Pauline (36%), Selma (35%), Hood's Grove (34%), Shine Community (34%), Jonesboro (33%), Princeton (33%), Antioch (32%), Baptist Center (30%)

Please note that for your church's discipleship needs, TEBA can provide the following:

1. Free access to Men's and Women's Bible studies, Evangelistic Training, etc. (both DVD and VHS formats)
2. Your own church's account with "Right Now Media" for on-line programming
3. We also have Mike Dodson available locally to us. Formerly with NAMB & SEBTS, he specializes in the "Leadership Multiplication Pipeline" and can offer your church specific training in this process.

In Missions…
Historically, "Missions" has been a huge strength among our TEBA family of churches. That remained high this year as well as we dealt with a tornado in Lucama and flooding in western NC. For 2023, our Missions Participation (hands-on) was at a high of 66% of church membership. (Normally, it runs around 50%.)

Of course, our annual **Migrant Ministry Outreach** was strong again this summer due to the incredible work of Jose & Yesinia Alvarez (**Casa de Cristo**). TEBA churches supplied them with hundreds of health kits and New Testaments & Bibles in Spanish. They also continued to serve in several area nursing homes and other multi-housing situations. Also, some of our TEBA churches collected money through this year's VBS to send to the "**Village of Hope" in Benin, West Africa**. David Fiagbenou serves there rescuing children from child slavery. Throughout the summer, TEBA churches have been coming by the office to pick up backpacks and Bibles for the **Appalachian Christmas Outreach** in November.

In addition to these efforts, several Baptist teams were involved in weekly ministries at the Petro **truck stop** in Kenly. Many of our churches have built **wheelchair ramps** for the elderly and infirm this summer. churches used our **Evangelistic Block Party Trailer** 20 times this summer to augment their outreach activities—historically, Easter, VBS, Back to School and Fall Festivals have been the most popular events when churches are making good use of the trailer.

On the local church level, many TEBA churches take various mission trips throughout the year and 20 of our TEBA churches maintain a regular outreach to 41 different "multi-housing" communities including migrant camps, nursing homes, children's homes, govt subsidized housing projects, prisons, jails and other venues where people live in close proximity to each other. In addition to these church sponsored activities, here is a list of the areas and activities TEBA is involved in:

On a local level
- Migrant Ministry (summer months June-Nov)
- Yam/Jam 2024 (Oct)
- Truckstop Ministry (year-round)

- Two Flea Market Ministries (year-round)
- JCC Campus Ministry (Fall and Spring semesters)
- REACH Mentoring Ministry for Foster Care "graduates"

On the NC level

- Annual Children's Home Food Drive (May)
- Operation Red Box Ministry
- An on-going partnership with Avery Baptist Association (western NC) for disaster recovery

On the USA level

- Appalachian Backpack Project (Nov)
- Samaritan's Purse

On foreign fields

- Current Partnership with Guatemala with opportunities for your church to participate
- Village of Hope orphanage in Benin, W. Africa
- Use of multi-nations flags for use in mission events

TEBA Church Health Team Report

To track our churches' relative health, it must be said that the state of the Baptist Church in North Carolina continues to be a concern. It is often reported that only 10-15% of NC Baptist churches are "growing," 85-90% are either plateaued or in numeric decline. Using their own stats, **61% of our TEBA churches would be considered "growing" in 2023 over 2022** (based on 2023 ACP reports). In spite of the HUGE demographic growth we have experienced in JoCo, the percentage of "lost" people in JoCo has actually dropped from 67% down to 64% in the last ten years! This may be due to the fact that our existing churches grew from 6,905 in worship attendance to 10,557 AND we have planted 13 churches in this time period. PTL!!!!

The status of our TEBA churches (as of 9/30/2023)

The good news is….
61% of our TEBA churches GREW by 2+% in worship attendance in 2023 over their 2022 numbers. (This percentage is 12% better than the previous year.) Our estimate is we had 10,557 total worshippers (including both in-person and on-line attendees) in 2023. Compared to 9,475 in 2022 (11.4% growth)!

57% of our TEBA churches GREW by 10+% in worship attendance in 2023 over their last five years. (This is up 21% from the previous year!)

The REALLY good news is…
68% of our TEBA churches GREW by 2+% in their "average annual worship attendance growth" over the last five years! (That is over TWO-THIRDS of our churches showing annual increases in worship attendance that meets or exceeds the US natural biological population growth rate of 2%.) Also, worship attendance continued its 9th consecutive year of growth!

The "disconcerting" news is….
With all the growth records being broken, we still have 29% of our TEBA churches DECLINING by 2+% in worship attendance in 2023 compared to their 2022 numbers. (However, this is still a better percentage than the 44% in this category the year before!)

The number of "plateaued" churches (over one year) went from 7% in 2022 to 10% in 2023.
And 37% of our TEBA churches DECLINED by 10+% in worship attendance in 2023 over their last five years. (However, this is also an improvement over the previous years' 50% in this same category!)

The number of "plateaued" churches (over five years) decreased from 14% in 2022 to 7% in 2023.

So, how/why did so many of our churches "grow" post our COVID years?
Various ideas have been suggested but 81% of our TEBA churches continue to offer an on-line "virtual" option for worship attendance in our post-COVID world. Although not quite as strong as during COVID, the interest in this option remains strong and is here to stay. Some churches have really taken advantage of this new opportunity for outreach and have developed on-line "virtual missionaries" who interact with the on-line crowd, fielding prayer requests, doing follow-up and offering spiritual counseling to folk who are connecting via the virtual world. Others have yet to realize the full potential of this type of ministry. One example in particular is Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church with its 50 member congregation attracting over 1,000 weekly visitors to its worship experience!

Many have wondered about the "engagement" of the on-line community in the life of the church, assuming a lack of physical presence in the worship service would negatively impact attendance and giving patterns. Our statistics, however, would say otherwise. While our total worship attendance increased 11.4% (in one year's time!), our estimated overall "undesignated" giving increased by a whopping 33% in 2023 over 2022! (Undesignated offerings grew 33% from $12M in 2021-2022, to $15.9M in 2022-2023!)

Opportunities for Church Revisioning, Fostering and RePlanting

With 37% of our TEBA churches still declining in worship attendance each year for the last five years, it sets up some difficult situations and difficult discussions. For the last 22 years our AMS has developed a "**Revisioning Process**" unique to our region whereby he comes alongside a church in numeric decline and helps them make a turn-around. He has now worked with 24 churches and 70 percent of them were able to begin to grow again within three years of implementing the process. The NCBSC has also developed similar interventions informed by the work of the Center for Congregational Health. Both of these entities now train "**Intentional Interims**" to come and work with a congregation in decline to help facilitate a turn-around.

In another scenario, in 2023 Hephzibah Baptist in Wendell along with **Shine Community** came together with Middlesex **Baptist**, who had dwindled down to 30 in attendance, to enter into a "**Fostering**" situation. Each church contributed members to the struggling congregation. In 2024 they called **Austin Hillburn** as pastor and were already over 100 in attendance within nine months!

Unfortunately, sometimes an intervention comes too late for a congregation and more drastic measures are needed. For example, after twenty years of steady decline, in 2021 **Sharon Baptist** had only 12 very senior members left. They could no longer pay the bills or keep a pastor so they decided to sell or give away their property to another Baptist church, preferably a new one that could reach their community's changing demographics—a younger audience or renters with a large and growing Hispanic presence (called a "**Re-Plant**"). First they partnered up with **The Point Church, Smithfield** and later it was passed on to the up-and-coming **Rey de Reyes** congregation from Smithfield FBC.

Our team coordinates with TEBAs Church leadership Development Team to make regular and on-going training in this area available to our TEBA pastors.

In the area of church growth, TEBA can provide the following:

- A detailed historical analysis of your church's situation
- A thorough look at your current space availability and possible future needs
- A "plan" for moving forward in the immediate future (a 5-year Vision developed) that involves both a thorough review of the current gifts, abilities and training of your current members and the basic needs of the incoming population around your church

We can also help provide "options" for a church in numeric decline who does not see how they can lead out on their own towards growth. We can discuss…

- **Fostering** by a sister congregation for six months (ex: Middlesex BC)
- **Adoption** as a satellite campus of a larger, regional church
- **Marriage** of your church with another church in your area

Replanting your congregation as an entirely new church (ex: Crestwood→Lighthouse Outreach Center, Grace→Lighthouse, Sharon→Rey de Reyes)

Church Leadership Development Team

In Pastoral Support…

Even though COVID is well behind us and 68% of our churches have grown by 2+% in worship attendance each of the last five years (PTL!), not all of our churches have recovered from that challenge. Some are still struggling with attendance, especially in the area of their Sunday School program. Others are struggling to "rebuild" their congregations. Many seniors died during the COVID epidemic, and a lot of attendance shifts have occurred. All of those "losses" are making life extra difficult for our pastors. Nationwide, churches are experiencing what is now being called the "Great Resignation" as long-tenured pastors are announcing their resignations and retirements after struggling to rebuild their congregations in a post-COVID world. TEBA has 13 churches currently looking for a new pastor!

This year in our monthly "Lunch and Learn" events for pastors we have focused on various aspects of the calling of a pastor from Outreach ideas—such as Who Are Our Neighbors? and How to Capitalize on Holiday Events for Gospel Outreach; to Leadership—Strategic Planning and Eight Steps to Overcome Fear of Judgment; to Revisioning ideas—an Overview of the Revisioning Process and the Autopsy of a Deceased Church.

We have also maintained an active "Turn-Around Pastor" cohort group to focus on how map out a plan of action for a current pastor to turn his church's trajectory from declining to growing again.

TEBA recently received a grant from Provision (formerly the NC Baptist Foundation) to implement a "Young Leaders Program" targeting young pastors under 40 by developing a curriculum and cohort group to help them be more successful in their first five years of ministry in a local church. Hopefully, this new effort will help increase the success and longevity of those new in the pastoral ministry.

In addition, Mike Dodson can give an excellent introduction and overview of the "Missional Leadership Pipeline," an excellent on-line tool for moving church folk from mere attenders to leaders and on into ministry.

In summary, here is what TEBA offers the following on an on-going basis…

For your pastor:

1. Monthly Pastor's Gatherings (called "Lunch and Learns") for mutual support, encouragement and training (in ALL areas of ministry)
2. Access to an extensive list of "Get-away" properties for free or reduced cost for ministers.
3. Annual Reports on the church's historic growth patterns and areas to focus on each year (to help with planning)

In other areas of leadership development, TEBA can provide the following:

For your Pastor Search Committee:

1. Orientation and support for your Pastor Search Committee (when needed)
2. List of Supply and Interim Pastors for your church when needed.
3. Access to many resumes on file.

For your "Future Planning" team:

1. Extensive and in-depth review of your historical trends
2. Demographic information and population projections for your immediate area
3. Help with pastoral selection based upon the needs of your community

Direct services for your church administration:

1. Access to our copying machine (b/w and color printing needs)
2. Help with design and printing of brochures and posters
3. Website development and training
4. Help with background checks for your children and youth workers

For your other church leadership needs:

1. An Ordination Council made up of pastors ready to "vet" any male candidates for ministry
2. An Annual Pastors, Deacons and Spouses Banquet
3. Spring and Fall Senior Adult Rallies
4. Deacon training
5. Training in Baptist Men, WMU/Women's Ministry, Sunday School and Music programming
6. Association-wide youth events
7. High School seniors eligible for the Mitchener Scholarship
8. Church Revisioning Process (6-month's work during the Interim time between pastors). Partially as a result of this work, 68% of our TEBA churches are now "growing" numerically. Over four times the rate of other Baptist churches in NC (statewide only 10-15% are growing.)
9. "Secret Shopper" type of facility evaluations

Baptist Men's Report

Submitted by Rex Everhart, Clyde's Chapel

Last year (2023), only 12 TEBA churches reported having an active Baptist Men's group, slightly better than last year. There were a total of 312 men active in those churches or 26 per church, which is 25% more than the 21-22 men per church we have seen in recent years. Our total numbers continue to vary widely from year to year due to irregular reporting from our churches from a low of 220 up to 831 just twelve years ago back in 2012!

Again, this year our men's groups have focused primarily on local mission needs. "**Wheelchair ramp building**" teams have been very active this year as the general population is aging and more people are trying to stay in their homes to avoid nursing homes if at all possible. A few churches are installing grab bars in bathrooms and installing smoke detectors as well.

This year a number of our churches participated in the state-wide efforts of "**Ramp It Up!"** with the NC Baptist Aging Ministry back in the Spring. Others cooperated with the BSCNC's **Serve NC** efforts back in August. Some churches were able to help our neighboring Wilson County after their **tornado** came through **Lucama**.

Our biggest news, however, has come just recently as MANY of our churches have responded to help out with our western NC neighbors in the aftermath of **Hurricane Helene**. TEBA has partnered up with the Avery Baptist Association (Bob Garbett, AMS) and we have been able to send up at least four truckloads of supplies so far! We have been sending volunteers as well. When asked by potential volunteers what to do, I am telling everyone to **help out with Avery County (they lost 12 of their 24 churches!) and keep up with our weekly updates of current needs sent out by the TEBA office.** They can also 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. Let the state-wide coordinators assign you to the neediest places to go (this includes the whole region).

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

- **Flea Market** in south Smithfield (evangelism efforts and Sunday School for children)
- **Kenly truck stop** (teach Sunday School, lead devotion on Sunday mornings)
- **GALOT Motorsports Park** (serve as a chaplain, organize children's activities)
- **Kenly Southern National Motorsports Park** (serve as a chaplain)
- **RVacation Campground, Happy Trails RV Park, Raleigh Oaks Resort—local campgrounds or RV Parks** (serve as chaplain, lead in worship Sunday mornings)

We have many DVD based resources at the TEBA office if your men need training or want to host a men's Bible study group. Many of our churches also now have accounts with RightNow Media which offer hundreds of great studies geared to men!

Upcoming Baptist Men's related events:
Men's Worship Rally (Region 4)—Nov 12 at Pittsboro BC in Pittsboro
Disaster Relief Training—Feb 22 in Edenton, March 29 in Whiteville, April 12 in Clemmons,
NC Baptist Missions Conference—March 14 at Calvary Baptist in Winston-Salem
Statewide Operation Inasmuch—April 26 & May 3, 2025

Women's Ministries Report

Submitted by: Tonya Grice, Director

Each Fall as we reflect on the past year and look forward to the coming season ahead, we can't help but express gratitude for God's blessing on our Women's Ministries groups. We have some of the most exemplary ladies in all of America. Selfless women who seek our opportunities to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus. I am in awe of all the myriad ministries you undertake with grace and purpose. The world is hungering and thirsting for hope and encouragement. As Titus 2 women, our goal is to mature in our walk so that we can lead the generations that come after us with Truth and integrity. It is my prayer that we each remember that our highest aim is to point people to Jesus and honor God in all that we do.

Building and sustaining an effective ministry to women is no easy task. Each of our TEBA churches have unique needs and various communities in which they minister. I would challenge you to take a peek into your programming and make sure what you are doing is creating growth. God's Word has not lost its effectiveness or efficiency (although many try to reject it and call it obsolete). The Word of God is just as powerful today as it was 2,000 years ago. I pray that your ministry endeavors would all remain committed to the Scriptures. There is nothing more precious than making connections and forging deep relationships with our sisters in Christ. We can gather and have fun and enjoy our time with one another. When we honor God with events bathed in prayer and focused on His Word we will see Him at work and give Him the glory.

Throughout the year we participate in several opportunities like the Red Box Prison Ministry. This yearly endeavor organized by the NC WMU collects items to be placed in a Red Box and given to ladies incarcerated at Central Prison in Raleigh. They are always blessed to receive such a thoughtful gift. And each year, you ladies always collect more than we signed up for! The extras are distributed to many great, local organizations that operate in our Association.

On April 20, we held our Annual Ladies Spring Conference. This event was hosted by my own church, New Life Baptist in Smithfield. The theme was based on Romans 8:28 which says, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." We enjoyed a bright yellow, lemon theme featuring a delicious brunch and all kinds of lemon goodies. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. Our guest speaker, Mrs. Janet Sauls, reminded us that God is our Healer and Comforter. He heals us physically, emotionally, and spiritually if we trust Him and understand His sovereignty in all things. We are already making plans for this Spring's event. I hope we can top this year's!

This year we awarded two Mitchiner Scholarships. The recipients were Emily Scott (Antioch Baptist Church) who graduated from North Johnston High and is attending East Carolina and Maci McLamb (Beulah Baptist Church) who graduated from South Johnston High and is attending UNC-Wilmington. We had a great year and can't wait to see what 2024-2025 brings! Please let us know if you need resources, tools, prayer, or event speakers for any of your upcoming programming. You can reach Tonya at 919-634-2491 or tonyagirl23@me.com.

Senior Adult Committee Report

Submitted by Senior Adult Committee

We had a fun time at our Spring Senior Adult Rally at Baptist Tabernacle April 30, 2024! **Roger Sauls** from Shiloh Baptist shared his testimony of his fight with cancer. We also had our first-ever Bingo game and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely! We had 175 in attendance.
We also enjoyed hearing about "Provision" (formerly the NC Baptist Foundation) through **Scott Setzer** who gave the devotion at our Fall Senior Adut Rally at Selma Baptist September 24, 2024. Later we all heard from and enjoyed a Gospel singing group, the **Social Security Boys** based out of Selma Baptist! We had a full house for this one, with 200+ in attendance!

Hocutt Baptist has agreed to host our Spring Senior Adult Rally April 8, 2025.
It is good to see that all our senior adult groups have re-started their monthly programming!

Please be aware NCBAM (NC Baptist Aging Ministry) has several helpful resources in place. They have a "Call Center" called "One Hope" to respond to senior's needs here in North Carolina. 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.

Here is some of what they offer:
One Hope (866-578-4673)—dedicated outreach call center for seniors
Wise Up Enrichment Workshops—40+ basic classes to choose from
Care Village—to help you stay living independently in your own home!
Red Bags—order one to keep all your meds in one place in case of an emergency!
Servant Care—help for ministers (65+), their spouses or surviving spouses
Aging Adults Innovating Ministry—leadership network for senior adult pastors and lay persons
Ramp It Up (April 26 & May 3, 2025)—statewide wheelchair ramp building effort

Johnston Community College – Campus Ministry Report

Submitted by: Dr. Kelton Hinton, Campus Ministries Coordinator

After an amazing 2023-2024 school year with **723** faculty, staff and students involved, the **JCC Campus Ministry** is again off to a tremendous start this Fall semester! Representatives from the NCBSC involved in campus ministry tell us that we are, by far, the largest Baptist Campus Ministry on any of the 58 community college campuses in NC and the only one sponsored by a local Baptist association!

- **Lee Smith** (formerly Associate Pastor at **Shiloh**) is still serving as chaplain to the BLET cadets as well as to the class of Correctional Officers.
- I have been leading a weekly Bible study in the Book of Acts with the faculty and staff this summer.
- **Thomas Collings** (**Trinity** Baptist) is leading a Bible study with the General College students.
- **Hank Daniels** (lay leader at **Smithfield FBC**) along with **Blair Maust** and **Mike Ward** have been able to continue a Bible study with the Truck Driver trainees.
- **Cecilia Hicks** (Hephzibah Baptist) has worked with the Cosmetology students, and
- **Teresa Smith** (Sardis), **Darlene Casey** (Steven's Chapel) and **Pam Daughtry** (Hephzibah) have been working with the first and second year nursing students.

All totaled, 240 students and faculty have been active in Bible study groups meeting weekly on the JCC campus already this semester!

<u>Present and Future Needs</u>

- Currently we have been feeding the students on a weekly basis and funds are always welcome!
- We are looking for Bible study leaders for the **Early College**, **ESL students, ABE students** and the **bio-tech students** (at the Clayton campus). <u>If you know of someone who can help please point them our way!</u>
- We are also exploring the idea of beginning an **International Club** on campus so if you know of someone interested in internationals please tell them about this opportunity!

Nominating Committee Report

Officers:
Moderator: Rev. Glen Brock, Baptist Tabernacle
Vice Moderator: Rev. Doug Vaughan, Antioch
Secretary: Rev. Rodney Wilson, Blackman's Grove
Treasurer: Rev. David Brantley, Oliver's Grove

Team Leaders:
Church Planting Team: Rev. Dillon Schupp, Life Spring
Church Strengthening Team: Rev. Bobby Richardson, Thanksgiving
Church Health Team: Rev. Dough Vaughan, Antioch
Church Leadership Development Team: Rev. Mike Dodson, Shine

Department Directors:
Baptist Men: Rex Everhart, Clyde's Chapel
Woman's Ministries: Tonya Grice, New Life

Moderator's Appointments

Committee on Committees:
Harold Tharrington, Smithfield First
Rev. Bobby Richardson, Thanksgiving
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)
Provision Financial Resources: Open
Guidestone Financial Services: Open

Committee on Committees Report

Submitted by: Associational Council Members

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

Church Admissions Committee (up to 5 total, may succeed themselves)
Rev. Mike Beasley, Freedom Biker
Joseph Scarboro, Selma
Rev. Randy Pace, Building 323
Rev. Doug Vaughan

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

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

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

Personnel Committee (up to 5 members, may succeed themselves)
Mary Toole, Sardis
Rev. Brian Beasley, Pisgah
Linda Sorrells, Pine Level
Blair Maust, Smithfield First
Rev. George Arant, Kenly

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

Properties Committee (up to 4 members, may succeed themselves)
Joe Hester, Clayton First
Billy Godwin, Baptist Tabernacle

Rev. Steve Grice, New Life
Darwin Crumpler, Divine Crossings

Senior Adults Committee (up to 3 members, may succeed themselves)
Fran Davis, Sardis
Katherine Russell, Antioch

Youth Committee (up to 3 members, may succeed themselves)
R.J. Smith, Princeton
Matt Whaley, Shiloh
Doug Meeks, Shine

Budget and Finance Report

Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

	Current	Proposed
200 Salaries & Benefits		
200-1 AM Salary	24,592.00	23,650.00
200-2 AM Housing	25,000.00	32,000.00
200-3 AM Annuity	1,200.00	5,565.00
200-4 AM Insurance	22,000.00	24,000.00
200-5 AM HSA	5,150.00	5,300.00
200-6 Christmas Bonus	400.00	400.00
200-7 Admin. Salary	27,428.00	18,850.00
200-8 Admin. Travel	400.00	400.00
200-9 Admin. Insurance	4,715.00	0.00
200-10 Admin. Annuity	2,715.00	0.00
200-11 Custodial Care	0.00	0.00
200-12 FICA Taxes	8,000.00	11,000.00
Total	**121,600.00**	**121,165.00**
300 Operating Expenses		
300-1 Supplies	4,000.00	2,500.00
300-2 Equipment	9,500.00	7,000.00
300-3 Utilities	3,500.00	4,500.00
300-4 Insurance	2,700.00	1,500.00
300-5 Telephone	4,000.00	4,500.00
300-6 Maintenance	1,500.00	2,500.00
300-7 AM Acct. Reimb.	7,500.00	7,000.00
300-8 Pastoral Care	500.00	500.00
300-9 Accounting Fees	2,000.00	5,200.00
300-10 Mortgage Loan	8,400.00	8,400.00
Total 300	**43,600.00**	**39,920.00**
400 Annual Meeting		
400-1 Annuals	400.00	400.00
400-2 Speaker	200.00	200.00
400-4 Supper	400.00	400.00
Total 400	**1,000.00**	**1,000.00**

500 Organizations		
500-1 Sunday School	0.00	0.00
500-2 Discipleship	0.00	0.00
500-3 Women's Ministry	500.00	800.00
500-4 Brotherhood	0.00	0.00
500-5 Music	0.00	0.00
500-6 Deacon Banquet	0.00	0.00
Total 500	**500.00**	**800.00**
600 Programs		
600-1 Evangelism	0.00	0.00
600-2 Association Trng.	0.00	0.00
600-3 Youth Ministry	0.00	0.00
600-4 Library/Media	0.00	0.00
600-5 Senior Adult	500.00	500.00
600-6 Pastors Conf.	800.00	800.00
600-7 Christmas Social	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 600	**2,300.00**	**2,300.00**
700 Missions		
700-1 Mission Projects	0.00	0.00
700-4 New Church	0.00	0.00
700-6 JoCo Projects	0.00	0.00
700-7 Campus Ministry	0.00	0.00
700-8 Partner Missions	0.00	0.00
Total 700	**0.00**	**0.00**
800 Contingency	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total	**170,000.00**	**165,185.00**

General Fund Income (Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024)

	Year
Antioch Baptist Church	3,482.00
Baptist Center	3,900.00
Baptist Tabernacle	4,125.00
Bethany Baptist Church	6,000.00
Bethesda Baptist Church	0.00
Beulah Baptist Church	6,372.26
Blackman's Grove Baptist Church	1,500.00
*Branded Boots Cowboy Church	0.00
Building 323	0.00
Burnell Baptist Church	1,000.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Dunn	0.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Selma	200.00
Carter's Chapel Baptist Church	1,804.84
*Casa de Cristo	0.00
Cedar Grove Baptist Church	1,300.00
Church at Clayton Crossings	3,996.00
Clayton First Baptist	0.00
Clyde's Chapel Baptist Church	6,000.00
Corinth Baptist Church	0.00
Divine Crossings Baptist Church	600.00
Faith Baptist Church	1,164.36
Four Oaks First Baptist	5,794.00
Freedom Biker Church	529.41
Hales Chapel Baptist Church	900.00
Hephzibah Baptist Church	2,700.00
Hocutt Baptist Church	2,500.00
Hood's Grove Baptist Church	2,800.00
*Iglesia Bautista Fuente	50.00
*Iglesia Bautista de Selma	200.00
Jonesboro Baptist Church	0.00
*Kenly Baptist – Hispanic	0.00
Kenly Baptist Church	6,574.56
Koinonia Reformed Baptist Church	0.00
Lee's Chapel Baptist Church	0.00
*LifeSpring Church	0.00
Live Oak Baptist	600.00
Micro First Baptist	100.00
Middlesex Baptist Church	720.00
New Life Baptist Church	1,579.15
Newton Grove Baptist Church	250.00
North Smithfield Baptist Church	0.00
Oakdale Baptist Church	0.00
Oliver's Grove Baptist Church	325.00
Parrish Memorial Baptist Church	1,675.61
Pauline Baptist Church	708.51
Pine Level Baptist Church	8,184.42
Pisgah Baptist Church	1,683.33
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	6,888.01
Princeton Baptist Church	6,323.72
*Rey de Reyes	700.00
Sardis Baptist Church	2,000.00
Selma Baptist Church	4,322.46
Shiloh Baptist Church	7,250.00
*Shine Community Church	4,726.75
Sims Baptist Church	454.00
Smithfield First Baptist	8,400.00
Thanksgiving Baptist Church	1,463.76
*Township Church	1,740.38
Trinity Baptist Church	2,000.00
Unity Victory Haitian Church	1,025.00
Watkin's Chapel Baptist Church	1,400.00
White Oak Baptist Church	18,560.86
Willow Springs Community	1,638.00
Wilson's Mills Baptist Church	8,153.31
Total	**156,064.67**

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

General Fund Disbursements (Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024)

200 Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Balance	% Used
200-1 AM Salary	24,592.00	5,937.60	6,027.60	6,027.60	6,477.60	24,470.40	121.60	**99.5**
200-2 AM Housing	25,000.00	6,249.60	6,249.60	6,249.60	6,249.60	24,998.40	1.60	**100.**
200-3 AM Annuity	1,200.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	1,200.00	0.00	**100.**
200-4 AM Insurance	22,000.00	6,404.95	5,081.45	5,986.50	5,986.50	23,459.40	1,459.40	**106.**
200-5 AM HSA	5,150.00	2,185.92	988.02	988.02	987.82	5,149.78	0.22	**100.**
200-6 Christmas Bonus	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	**100.**
200-7 Secretary Salary	27,428.00	4,204.04	4,136.04	4,136.04	4,433.04	16,909.16	10,518.84	**61.6**
200-8 Secretary Travel	400.00	0.00	0.00	445.99	0.00	445.99	-45.99	**111.5**
200-9 Secretary Ins.	4,715.00	1,178.40	1,178.40	1,178.40	1,178.40	4,713.60	1.40	**100.0**
200-10 Secretary Annu	2,715.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,496.36	2,496.36	218.64	**91.9**
200-11 Custodial Care	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
200-12 FICA Taxes	8,000.00	1,431.67	2,186.00	3,436.00	2,498.00	9,551.67	-1,551.67	**119.4**
Total 200	**121,600.00**	**28,292.18**	**26,147.11**	**28,748.15**	**30,607.32**	**113,794.76**	**7,805.24**	**93.6**
300 Operating Expenses								
300-1 Supplies	4,000.00	530.47	954.01	504.77	295.62	2,284.87	1,715.13	**57.1**
300-2 Technology	9,500.00	2,337.36	1,996.45	1,307.91	2,368.42	8,010.14	1,489.86	**84.3**
300-3 Office Utilities	3,500.00	863.56	1,431.44	889.67	1,048.38	4,233.05	-733.05	**120.9**
300-4 Office Insurance	2,700.00	1,252.50	1,487.00	0.00	1,487.00	4,226.50	-1,526.50	**156.5**
300-5 Phone & Internet	4,000.00	559.78	1,357.28	836.29	1,386.60	4,139.95	-139.95	**103.5**
300-6 Maintenance	1,500.00	822.46	0.00	493.44	669.79	1,985.69	-485.69	**132.4**
300-7 AM Acct. Reimb.	7,500.00	1,377.49	2,174.70	1,662.62	1,161.62	6,376.43	1,123.57	**85.0**
300-8 Pastoral Care	500.00	0.00	125.05	126.15	144.56	395.76	104.24	**79.2**
300-9 JBA Audit	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	**0.0**
300-10 Mortgage	8,400.00	2,025.00	2,025.00	2,025.00	2,064.11	8,139.11	260.89	**96.9**
Total 300	**43,600.00**	**9,768.62**	**11,550.93**	**7,845.85**	**10,626.10**	**39,791.50**	**3,547.61**	**91.3**
400 Annual Meeting								
400-1 Annuals	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	**0.0**
400-2 Speaker	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	**0.0**
400-4 Supper	400.00	239.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.00	161.00	**59.8**
Total 400	**1,000.00**	**239.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**239.00**	**761.00**	**23.9**

	Budgeted	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Balance	Used
500 Organizations								
500-1 Sunday School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
500-2 Discipleship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
500-3 Women's Ministry	500.00	262.03	0.00	537.70	0.00	799.73	-299.73	**159.9**
500-4 Brotherhood	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
500-5 Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
500-6 Deacon Banquet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
Total 500	**500.00**	**262.03**	**0.00**	**537.70**	**0.00**	**799.73**	**-299.73**	**159.9**
600 Programs								
600-1 Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
600-2 TEBA Trng.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
600-3 Youth Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
600-4 Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
600-5 Senior Adult	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	**0.0**
600-6 Pastors Conf.	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.09	51.09	748.91	**6.4**
600-7 Christmas Social	1,000.00	0.00	212.18	0.00	0.00	212.18	787.82	**21.2**
Total 600	**2,300.00**	**0.00**	**212.18**	**0.00**	**51.09**	**263.27**	**2,036.73**	**11.4**
700 Missions								
700-1 Mission Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
700-4 New Churches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
700-6 JoCo Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
700-7 Campus Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
700-8 Partner Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.0**
Total 700	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.0**
800 Contingency	**1,000.00**	**51.77**	**400.00**	**42.62**	**17.81**	**512.20**	**487.80**	**51.2**
Totals	**170,000.00**	**38,613.60**	**38,310.22**	**37,174.32**	**41,302.32**	**155,400.46**	**14,599.54**	**91.4**

Non-Budget Account Balances (Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024)

Account Balances	
Bi-Vocational Pastors Retreat	4,577.26
Canada Partnership	400.00
Counseling Center	33.78
Deacons Banquet	705.65
Disaster Relief & Recovery	169.53
Evangelistic Block Party Trailer	7,124.81
JCC Campus Ministry	791.88
Medical-Dental Bus	297.06
Miscellaneous	2,073.61
Mission Projects	30,588.41
New Church Starts	1,175.21
Office Addition	651.38
Pockets of Lostness	269.80
Royal Ambassador Funds	347.51
Senior Adult Rally	1,057.81
Sunday School Campaign	716.23
Turnaround Pastors Boot Camp	1250.01
Village of Hope Orphanage	0.00
Mitchiner Scholarship	1,117.00
Women's Ministries	2,671.29
Youth Ministry	-343.79
TOTALS	$41,303.41

Miscellaneous Account Balances (As of Sept. 30, 2024)

NC Baptist Foundation Investment Fund	6,733.39
NC Baptist Foundation Savings Fund	40,447.62

Building Addition Loan Balance (As of Sept. 30, 2024)

$48,622.67

North Carolina Baptist State Convention Reports

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Submitted by: Todd Unzicker, Executive Director-Treasurer, BSCNC

N.C. BAPTIST REPORT

Since 1830, N.C. Baptists have partnered together across our state to accomplish more for God's kingdom. God has called every church in North Carolina to join in His work. Because God invites us to be on mission, we join together as a convention of churches to take the gospel to the nations. N.C. Baptists are not a denomination. N.C. Baptists are a convention of independent, autonomous churches that partner together to reach the unreached, send missionaries and planters, train up the next generation, and serve churches and communities.

A MOVEMENT

GOD IS ON THE MOVE

From Genesis to Revelation, we learn that God is on a rescue mission for His people and has a restoration plan for the whole earth. We are 2,800 partnering churches that get to join Him in this movement. We find where God is moving and join Him there.

OF CHURCHES

BY CHURCHES, FOR CHURCHES

The church is God's "plan A" for reaching a lost and dying world. The church is the bride of Christ — which means that in your state convention, the church gets first and primary attention. N.C. Baptists are fueled by churches, for churches.

ON MISSION

THE GREAT COMMISSION

N.C. Baptists are Great Commission Baptists. Your convention exists to resource, mobilize, encourage, catalyze and strategize with churches to declare and demonstrate the hope that is found in the gospel.

TOGETHER

WE ARE ONE

The night before Jesus died, He prayed that His followers would be one, just as He and the Father are one. God's inspired, inerrant, infallible, all-sufficient Word says that this is the primary way a lost world would know we are His — by the way we love one another (John 13:35).

NCBAPTIST.ORG/GIVE

Because of your faithful "on mission together" giving, you have access to a variety of ministry resources and services as an N.C. Baptist.

N.C. Baptists partner with churches across the state to reach, train, send and serve for the purpose of the Great Commission. When you join with N.C. Baptists, you gain immediate access to ministries that help equip and empower you to accomplish God's mission.

FUELED BY CHURCHES, FOR CHURCHES

REACH the lost near & far
TRAIN disciples, churches & the next generation
SEND church planters through the local church
SERVE churches, communities, our nation & the world

REACH

N.C. Baptists partner with churches to reach the lost near & far.

God has commanded the church to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). We're on mission together so that people across North Carolina and beyond can have a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

N.C. BAPTIST MISSIONARIES

The Great Commission starts with the local church. As God calls churches to go and make disciples of all nations, we come alongside N.C. Baptists to help reach the lost. Whether your church sends missionaries through our partners at Baptists on Mission, the International Mission Board or by some other means, our goal is to ensure that your church has all the tools for the primary task: proclaiming the gospel.

When it comes to missions, prayer is always our first and primary strategy. We place prayer at the center of our work because God is the one who saves souls. The PrayNC initiative focuses on unreached people groups as well as missionaries sent from North Carolina.

EVANGELISM

N.C. Baptists desire to see men and women from all walks of life receive Jesus as Lord and make a public profession of faith through baptism. The Great Commission compels us to put a primary focus on evangelism, trusting that God will draw souls if we are obedient to share the message with others.

As part of our evangelism and baptism strategy, every year following Easter Sunday, N.C. Baptists celebrate baptisms and new life in Christ through the "Fill the Tank" baptism initiative. Many churches use "Fill the Tank" as a way to encourage people to make a decision for Christ and encourage professing believers who have not been baptized to take this important step
of obedience.

TRAIN

Partnering with churches to train disciples, churches & the next generation.

Jesus told His disciples to teach others "to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). We strive to train believers from the youngest disciple to the most seasoned disciple-maker.

DISCIPLE-MAKING IS A CORE COMPONENT OF THE FAITH

TRAINING DISCIPLES

We want to see the disciples and disciple-makers in your church flourish. That's why there are a wide variety of resources, events and trainings to ensure that members of your church are equipped to grow in their faith.

One key resource for churches across the state includes our annual Disciple-Making Conference, which reorients us to the priority of making disciples and replicating our faith. Additionally, there are various trainings, resources and ministries focused on women's discipleship, worship, pastoral health and more.

FOCUS ON CHURCH HEALTH & REVITALIZATION

TRAINING CHURCHES

Studies have shown that the majority of churches are either plateaued or declining. For many churches, the call to make an impact for the gospel begins with a process of revitalization. We cannot focus on the mission effectively if our church is not flourishing.

With our focus on church health and revitalization, N.C. Baptists help church leaders assess their current reality, envision a future of disciple-making and build strategies to impact their communities with the gospel.

SO THAT ALL GENERATIONS MAY KNOW HIM

TRAINING THE NEXT GEN

Taking the gospel to the nations means that we disciple the next generation. The church is strengthened when we invest in children, high school students and college-aged adults.

These efforts extend to high school students through the BeDoTell student ministry. Every year, thousands of students participate in summer camps. In 2023 around:

- 400 received Christ
- 700 recommitted to Christ
- 500 called to Christian ministry

Recent college graduates are challenged to live on mission through Go2, an initiative that invites them to give two years to missions in an international mission field or national church planting context.

SEND

Helping send church planters through the local church.

Jesus' words serve as a powerful reminder for the church today: "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). As God raises up workers to proclaim the gospel, reach the lost and plant new churches, N.C. Baptists are here to help.

CHURCHES PLANT CHURCHES

SENDING CHURCHES

Through SendNC, church planters are sent from their local church to a lost community. As church plants are established, the next step is for these churches to become sending churches of their own. N.C. Baptists help support that process.

SendNC is a church planting partnership between N.C. Baptists and the North American Mission Board's SEND network. SendNC assists churches to plant churches so that the gospel can spread throughout North Carolina.

Church planters endorsed through SendNC are offered a plethora of benefits, including coaching, training and financial support. In addition, SendNC works to mobilize sending churches through trainings, events and a variety of other resources.

SERVE

N.C. Baptists partner with churches to serve churches, communities, our nation & the world.

N.C. Baptists exist to be of service to churches so that churches can be in service to communities. Our churches are called to go to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. We represent Christ, showing and sharing the same love that He shows to us.

THE HEALTH OF A PASTOR IS VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF A CHURCH

PASTORS & CHURCHES

N.C. Baptists assist pastors and churches by providing opportunities for pastors to deepen their spiritual, emotional and physical health; equipping churches during interim periods between pastors; providing support during times of conflict; and managing the N.C. Baptist JobBoard, an online resume resource for connecting churches with pastoral candidates.

In order to lead, care and shepherd well, pastors need to be aware of their overall health. To help pastors thrive in their ministry, N.C. Baptists offer a pastoral health assessment, as well as other resources for their well-being.

RELIEF & HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

COMPASSION MINISTRIES

N.C. Baptists work through various compassion ministries in partnership with Baptists on Mission. Communities see the light of the gospel through these acts of service.

N.C. Baptists are among the first to respond when disaster strikes. Every year, Baptists on Mission deploy thousands of volunteers to communities in our state and beyond. These volunteers are ordinary men and women who are on mission to serve in extraordinary ways.

Through our ServeNC initiative, we join together as a body of churches to show neighborhoods that we are prepared to love as Jesus loved. Through ServeNC, each church takes on different service projects at different times, ensuring each community is being loved the best way possible.

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US

LIFE INITIATIVES

All people are made in God's image, worthy of dignity and protection. That is especially true for the most vulnerable among us. N.C. Baptists honor the sanctity of life through strategic initiatives that equip local churches to demonstrate and declare the love of Jesus.

In partnership with the Psalm 139 Project, N.C. Baptists are part of an ongoing effort to fund the placement of ultrasound machines in pregnancy resource centers across the state. Pregnancy resource centers are often the front lines in the fight against abortion, and ultrasound technology is a strategic tool toward that end. In addition, we connect churches with curriculum and other resources to help them understand how to make an impact for life within their local communities.

KINGDOM IMPACT

REACH the lost near & far
Over $15M given to Lottie Moon from N.C. in 2023
522 missionaries from N.C., out of 3,505 worldwide
728,589 people heard the gospel
178,177 new believers internationally
67 new people groups engaged

TRAIN disciples, churches & the next generation
1,200+ equipped at Disciple-Making conference
527 committed to ministry at BeDoTell summer camp
500+ leaders equipped at Worship Expo
33 Fruitland graduates in 2023
11 Hispanic certificates
238 enrolled in Winter '23-'24
537 graduates commissioned by SEBTS in '23
Call Conference equipped 200 college students

SEND church planters through the local church
$7.1M+ given to Annie Armstrong from N.C. in 2023
38 churches planted in N.C.
36 planters sent from N.C. Baptist churches

22 cultures represented

SERVE churches, communities, our nation & the world
42 new churches partnered with N.C. Baptists
184 N.C. churches in revitalization process in 2023
46 fostered or replanted
80% + showing growth
3 ultrasound machines for resource centers
Disaster Relief volunteers responded to 12 disasters
served at 112 dental clinics
hosted 25 health screening clinics

*Data is taken from 2023-24 and was last updated in April of 2024.

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA

Since 1885, the heart of Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) has beat with a rhythm of hope that now extends throughout N.C., S.C. and Guatemala. Today, BCH reaches out to people of all ages including abused and neglected children, many who are in the N.C. foster care system; single mothers, teen mothers, expectant mothers, birth mothers who have chosen adoption for their babies, intellectually/developmentally disabled adults, community families, college students, impoverished and abandoned children in Guatemala, and aging adults. By being on mission together with N.C. Baptists, we are able to minister to a variety of needs and share God's love with those BCH is privileged to serve. We are many ministries beating with one heart — the heartbeat of Jesus. Learn more at bchfamily.org.

OVERVIEW

- Lives impacted and professions in 2023: BCH impacted 117,502 lives in 2023

- Professions in 2023: 316 professions of faith were made in 2023 and 844 professions in the past five years. 80% of those we serve come to us unchurched and unreached for Jesus.

- EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt numbers: The total number of foster homes licensed to date: 464 - an increase of 110 from last year. The total number of foster children served in BCH foster homes: 1,039.

- Associate pastor's family adopts brothers, baptizes his foster son - annual offering focus: Through the prayers and Annual Offering support of N.C. Baptists, the story of this EVERY CHILD foster-to-adopt family was made possible. Week of Prayer: Nov. 3-10 | Resources: bchoffering.org

- Birth mothers retreat yields 17 professions: Christian Adoption Services, a BCH ministry, offers the annual retreat to encourage mothers who have chosen adoption for their babies and share the good news of the gospel.

- Ride to Clyde celebrates four professions, reaches $1 million mark: The ninth annual motorcycle ride, benefiting BCH and organized in partnership with N.C. Baptists, passed $1 million in funds raised. Bikers led four people to Christ as they shared the gospel throughout the statewide ride.

- Three new family foster homes dedicated in Cleveland County: The dedication of River Hill Refuge sees nearly 600 friends and dignitaries attend the ceremony on April 27.

- N.C. Baptists collect $500,000+ in supplies for food foundup: Through the leadership of Associational Missionaries and churches, N.C. Baptists collected enough food, gift cards and supplies to feed BCH children for a year.

ANNUAL OFFERING FOCUS HIGHLIGHTS FOSTER-TO-ADOPT SON PROCLAIMING CHRIST:
Tyler, age 17, and Liam, age two, were among the 10,000+ children in the N.C. foster care system until N.C. Baptists stepped into their lives. The two brothers found their forever family with Chris and Lindsay Ciufo (pronounced Chee-fo) and their four biological children because churches faithfully support the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) Annual Offering.

As members of Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin, where Chris is associate pastor, the couple knew about BCH and its many ministries, including foster care and adoption. They also see the ministry first hand because boys and their cottage parents living at BCH's Drake Cottage in Franklin attend services and activities at Cowee.

When Chris and Lindsay made the decision to add to their family, they turned to BCH and its EVERY CHILD Foster & Adopt partnership with N.C. Baptists. BCH team members trained and licensed the Ciufos, and other couples at their church, to be foster families.

At the end of 2021, Chris and Lindsay began fostering Liam, a three-month-old infant who, for his well-being, had been removed from his mother's care by the N.C. social services. Just one month later, Liam's teenage brother, Tyler, was also placed in the foster care system. Both brothers have the same biological mother but two different fathers. Tyler came to live with the Welch family, a couple from Cowee Baptist who had also been licensed by BCH. Through their mutual church community, Tyler and Liam, who barely knew each other, were able to begin to form a bond.

As time passed, Tyler moved from the Welches to the Ciufos. The two families worked together so the brothers could live with one another.

During a church service in 2023, Chris and Cowee Senior Pastor Jason Smith were standing at the front of the room for the closing invitation. Suddenly, Tyler rose from his seat and came to Chris telling him he wanted to follow Jesus. They kneeled at the altar and, at that moment, Tyler accepted Christ. Immediately afterward, Tyler, Chris and Jason entered the baptismal. An emotional Chris said these words as he prepared to baptize his foster-to-adopt son: "It has been our prayers since the moment we received him into our family that he would be our son but also our brother in Christ."

Today, Chris and Lindsay have completed their family by adopting Tyler and Liam. Their story is the focus of the Annual Offering for Baptist Children's Homes. Their video, along with resources to help your church collect an offering, are available at bchoffering.org. The Week of Prayer is Nov. 3-11.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NC
WMU N.C. is a missions organization that challenges, prepares, and equips Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Through missions education, leadership development, and compassion ministries, WMU N.C. offers opportunities to learn about, pray for, give to, and do missions.

This year's highlights included:
- Supporting missionaries and missionary families.
- Missions education and leadership development opportunities for all age groups.
- Partnering with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) to create a new GO Certificate in Women's Missions Leadership.
- Continued ministry to incarcerated women.

- Multiple successes for our ministry partners.

WMU N.C. operates through generous gifts to the Heck-Jones® Offering. WMU N.C. staff: Amy Boone, executive director/treasurer; Cheryl Daniel, contracted accountant; Kimberly Stauffacher, office manager and human relations catalyst; Ashley Abernathy, Administrative assistant; Sara Lamkin, mission and student catalyst; Rebecca Lindhout, adult and children's ministry catalyst; Amanda Martinsen, leadership development catalyst; and Allison Markwood, contracted marketing.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES
WMU loves supporting missionaries. This year, representatives from WMU N.C. traveled to Richmond, Va. to celebrate and pray for newly appointed IMB Missionaries. As always, WMU N.C. publicized and provided materials to churches statewide for the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong Missions Offerings. In May 2024, WMU N.C. reestablished the Missionary Parent Fellowship to provide ongoing support for missionaries' families while their loved ones are on the field.
MISSIONS AND EDUCATION

In October, WMU N.C. hosted a Youth Missions Retreat at Ridgecrest. Youth also had a special track at the Ignite Missions Conference which focused on faith issues and ministry opportunities relevant to today's teens.

In June, WMU N.C. partnered with North Raleigh International Baptist Church for the seventh time to host a camp for over 50 international children and youth from multiple countries and religious backgrounds. We pray the seeds planted during this week will transform lives.

WMU N.C. offered Missions Journey Kids Days, themed "Bold in Brazil," as part of the Ignite Missions Conference and at Nobles Chapel Baptist Church in Sims, N.C. Missionary Kristin Trick and staff member Rebecca Lindhout immersed children into Brazilian culture and showed them what life as a missionary is like in the rainforests.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
WMU N.C. hosted multiple leadership luncheons, conferences, and training opportunities. The 133rd Annual Meeting and Ignite Missions Conference was April 19-20 at Parkwood Baptist in Concord. Participants worked with One More Child to pack over 15,000 meals for Human Trafficking victims. Women were challenged to find hope in Jesus as the light of the world, and prepared and equipped to BE the light of the world by sharing the Gospel.

Eight missions-minded teens comprised WMU N.C.'s second, co-ed Youth Advisory Council. These students helped host the Youth Retreat at Ridgecrest, participated in their own retreat, and hosted a panel discussion at the Ignite Missions Conference about what teens think about the church today. Ignite attendees said this one session was worth the price of admission for the entire conference.

Since January, Leadership Development Catalyst Amanda Martinsen has partnered with SEBTS to create a new GO Certificate in Women's Missions Leadership. This will be available in August and will combine SEBTS courses with WMU N.C.'s Leadership Cohort.

Blending leadership development with compassion ministry, WMU N.C. hosted its third Mom Camp at Camp Mundo Vista in November, with a special track for Military Wives. The purpose of the retreat each year is to minister to the specific needs of moms and military wives while guiding them to make their homes discipleship centers for their families.

COMPASSION MINISTRIES

In September 2023, WMU N.C. hosted a spiritual retreat for incarcerated women. Church WMU groups provided materials for over 3,000 Red Box Christmas gifts delivered to prisons in December.

WMU N.C. also celebrates the many successes of our Ministry Partners. Baptist Nursing Fellowship's annual meeting was in March at Camp Caraway. They celebrated the start of two new chapters: Little River and Triad.

WMU partnered with Baptist Ministers' Wives to host their annual retreat at Caraway in July.

La Union Feminil Misionera (UFM), the Hispanic WMU, is NC's fastest-growing branch of WMU. In August 2023, UFM hosted almost 300 women at their Hispanic Women's Retreat at Camp Mundo Vista. In January, UFM sent a team to Costa Rica to teach Vacation Bible Schools and evangelize.

Sisters Who Care, the WMU chapter for Black American women and other women of color, continues to grow through its online community, multiple conferences, Bible studies, and retreats. In May, more than 50 women attended the Annual Spring Retreat at Caraway Conference Center.

Last November, Cara Lynn Vogel, NC State Coordinator for Christian Women's Job Corps, traveled to Kampala, Uganda to provide Level I Training for Amani Sasa, a ministry to refugees. CWJC N.C. is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024. Their goal this year has been to "prepare the jars" for God to expand the number of sites and the reach of this awesome ministry in the future.

FUTURE GOALS AND INITIATIVES

In July 2024, WMU N.C. received a financial gift designated for taking youth on mission trips. Mission and Student Catalyst Sara Lamkin is excited to make a short-term mission trip part of the Youth Advisory Council experience. She is already researching and planning for a trip in 2025.

WMU N.C. desires to increase communication and reach broader audiences. In August, WMU NC will unveil a newly redesigned website featuring a streamlined look and improved functionality. This will make it easier than ever to navigate and access resources.

WMU N.C. is also transitioning its magazine, Tarheel Talk, to an online publication after the Winter 2024/2025 issue.

WMU NC continues to seek out and create opportunities for student involvement, build a greater audience for the Beyond the Moment podcast, and develop relationships with young adult women through Mom Camp, the Military Wives Retreat, and involvement with our Ministry Partners.

The 134th Annual Meeting and Ignite Missions Conference will be on April 25-26, 2025 at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh.

CONCLUSION

God is working through WMU "holding the rope" for missionary families, youth learning to lead in missions, international children praising Jesus' name, and the many other missions and ministries of WMU N.C. We pray for the day when all have heard the Gospel, and we commit to continue challenging, preparing, and equipping Christian believers to spread the good news wherever God calls them.

GET INVOLVED TODAY by checking out all our ministries and opportunities at www.wmunc.org.

PROVISION FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF NC BAPTISTS, INC.

Provision Financial Resources of N.C. Baptists (formerly the North Carolina Baptist Foundation) exists to encourage and enable faithful and wise financial stewardship for the glory of God and the good of the world. Provision provides a range of services to individuals including free estate planning, investment opportunities, scholarships, and charitable giving. Provision has a strong partnership with churches. Through our partnerships, we help foster stewardship through stewardship education, ministry grants, and fund management. Provision also offers investment in Impact Certificates and loans to churches for upcoming building projects.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In August 2023, Provision began exploring a redemptive investing strategy that promotes human flourishing around the world.
- In September 2023, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to rebrand the North Carolina Baptist Foundation into Provision Financial Resources of N.C. Baptists, Inc.
- In December 2023, Dr. Clay Warf retired as President after serving in the role for 25 years. Harry Nelson, who was announced as president-elect in May, took over the role as President & CEO of Provision.
- Provision hosted the annual North Carolina Baptist Development Officers Conference Meeting in February.
- In March, Erich Hamm joined the Provision team as SVP, Chief Trust & Planned Giving Officer.
- In April, Provision awarded the 2024 N.C. Baptist Heritage Award to Bill and Carolyn Daniel for their dedication and contributions to N.C. Baptists and their commitment to promoting faithful and wise financial stewardship.
- In July, Provision began offering free will and estate planning services through an online platform to all N.C. Baptists.
- In 2023, Provision distributed $7,423,699 to N.C. Baptists.
- In 2023, Provision awarded 123 scholarships to North Carolina Baptist students totaling $199,950.
- In 2023, the Foundation awarded 50 special ministry grants to North Carolina Baptist churches and associations totaling $103,823.

FUTURE GOALS AND INITIATIVES

- Implementation of redemptive investing: Provision will continue to implement Redemptive Investing, including the Render Capital Initiative which seeks to invest in companies positioned strategically to advance the gospel.
- Development team training: Going forward, the development team will participate in financial planning and trust training so that our team may be a more valuable partner to individuals, churches and ministries.
- Increase online access: Increase the availability of online access for donors and provide easy access to statements and records.
- Internal efficiency: Provision will evaluate, create, and improve many of its processes to simplify and optimize overall performance.

BIBLICAL RECORDER

Since its founding in 1833, the *Biblical Recorder* (BR) has sought to serve as a trusted news outlet for N.C. Baptists. While technology has changed the way news is gathered, presented and consumed, our commitment to being a trusted source of news and information for N.C. Baptists remains the same.

Following is a report of significant activities and ministry highlights for the *Biblical Recorde*r from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. During that time, the BR has:

- Entered into a long-term management agreement with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that went into effect Jan. 1, 2024.
- Published daily content online at BRnow.org and through social media, while also producing a bimonthly printed magazine and a weekly email newsletter.
- Strengthened relationships with other entities to garner more national coverage for N.C. Baptists through Baptist Press.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES
On Jan. 1, 2024, the *Biblical Recorder* and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina entered into a long-term management agreement based upon recommendations made by a special study committee. The recommendations were unanimously endorsed by both the BR's and state convention's respective boards in September 2023 and also endorsed by messengers at the 2023 N.C. Baptist annual meeting in Greensboro in November.

The new management agreement extends a temporary agreement that had been in place between the BR and the state convention since July 2022. Under terms of the new agreement, the BR retains its own board of directors, as well as its autonomous status as a separate, but related entity to the state convention. The agreement also acknowledges the BR's role as an independent, news-gathering and reporting organization that maintains its editorial freedom.

The boards and leaders of both the BR and state convention believe this new long-term management agreement will help preserve the Recorder's long-standing ministry to N.C. Baptists going forward. Readers can still expect a steady stream of timely coverage of news, events and happenings in N.C. Baptist life, along with feature stories on people and ministries from across North Carolina that illustrate how God is at work in our state.

FUTURE GOALS AND INITIATIVES
The BR has set its sights on the future of its ministry to N.C. Baptists. As we continue to embrace, explore and anticipate the ongoing impact of technology on news gathering and reporting, we are examining ways to enhance the presentation and delivery of content across all of our platforms — print, online, digital, social media and more. No matter what the future holds, however, we pledge to maintain the highest levels of journalistic integrity, ethics and excellence so that the BR remains a source of news and information that N.C. Baptists can trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Goins, Chairman, Board of Directors
Chad Austin, Managing Editor, *Biblical Recorder*

FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Fruitland Baptist Bible College has educated and trained many pastors throughout North Carolina for more than 75 years. Over these many years FBBC has also trained many men and women whom God has called into ministry and missions around the state and the world. FBBC has graduates across the globe faithfully serving Christ and making a difference for the kingdom of God. Fruitland has some great reasons for celebration for the 2023-2024 year:

- program development
- recruitment
- student activities
- special days
- community service

- conferences
- camps

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The 2023 Fruitland Graduation ceremony was held on Sept. 15, 2023. 22 students received the Associate of Religion/Christian Ministry degree. 11 students in the Hispanic program were awarded the Certificate of Christian leadership and Diploma in Christian Ministry.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College added several new features over the past year as the administration and staff continued to develop the educational program. The online Biblical Exposition class offered a hybrid opportunity for the students. Students in the Biblical Exposition classes met one Saturday on campus for a face-to-face experience with the professor. The students enjoyed this opportunity, and FBBC will offer more classes in the hybrid model in the future.

FBBC also began a new certificate program called The Certificate in Ministry Essentials. The Ministry Essentials Certificate is designed to help the bi-vocational and small church pastor. The program allows students to gain practical ministry education, Bible knowledge and spiritual growth through an online, residency and person-to-person experience without having to move their family to campus. The program started with more than 70 students.

The 2023 Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Don Holder and Paul Pruitt. These men have blessed FBBC over the years with support and recruitment of new students. The Advancing Fruitland Award was given to Elinore Reuss for her generosity in providing scholarship money to the Fruitland students. Her impact on the lives of our students is greatly appreciated.

The Hispanic program at FBBC awarded the Certificate of Christian Leadership and the Diploma in Christian Ministry to eleven students during the 2023 Graduation ceremony. Robert Fernandez, the FBBC Director of Spanish Theological Education, is a blessing to the ministry of Fruitland. Fernandez oversees the Certificate program, the Diploma Program and the online Associate degree program for Hispanic students around the state and around the world. In August 2023, the FBBC Hispanic Program sponsored a conference for Hispanic students and Christians in the region.

Simon Touprong is the Fruitland Director for the Montagnard Program. God has blessed FBBC with a great group of Montagnard students who are learning to spread the Gospel around North Carolina and the World.

The administration and staff at FBBC were involved in various recruitment opportunities during 2023-2024. Fruitland was present for the Polk County Schools Career and College Day as well as the Summit College Fair at Thomas Road Baptist Church.

The school sponsored a trip to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Preview Day which allowed our students to experience the atmosphere at Southeastern as they make future decisions concerning continuing their education. FBBC also sent representatives to Caswell during the 2023 Summer season in order to recruit potential students at the BeDoTell Summer Youth Camps. The FBBC staff also had the privilege to spend three days at the Journey Summer Youth Camps at Toccoa Falls College this past summer. They were allowed to present the FBBC program to students at the college.

FBBC has also expanded and enhanced the student activities offered to our campus students. Fruitland has redesigned our orientation for new students at the beginning of each quarter in order to make orientation an entire one-day event which students and parents can enjoy together as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We also sponsored a Super Bowl Party and Game Night for the students in February. FBBC added two Pickle Ball Courts to the campus and hosted a Pickle Ball Tournament and Family Night this past Spring. The school

offers a Bible study each Wednesday for our female students. The students also lead a chapel service each Thursday evening. FBBC offers a Men's Recovery Group meeting twice each week for students who had dependency issues in the past. The staff also took the students to an Asheville Tourist Baseball game, which was an event the students enjoyed. FBBC students enjoyed a mission trip to New York in November 2023.

This past February was a special event at FBBC. Dr. Francois Carr spent time in Chapel and after Chapel with our students and faculty as he encouraged them to seek a closer walk with God. Dr. Carr is the founder and director of two ministries called Heart Cry and The Connected Life. These ministries concentrate on helping people to experience more intimacy with God and mentoring spiritual leaders and churches to become catalysts for revival. Heart Cry co-sponsors conferences in the USA, Europe and Africa.

During the first week in March, FBBC honored our part-time employees with an Employee Appreciation Day. Fruitland is blessed to have maintenance, cafeteria, and cleaning staff who serve the school in very important and necessary ways. We are so thankful for their contribution to the ministry of Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

On March 12, 2024, Fruitland hosted the 1st Annual Prayer Breakfast for the Henderson County Sheriff's Department. FBBC is thankful for the sacrificial service our local law enforcement professionals offer to our community. We were very blessed to have them on our campus for this special day of prayer.

Alumni Day was a very special event last year on the Campus at FBBC. Merritt Taylor, the Alumni Association President, and the Alumni Association officers planned a wonderful time of worship around the Word of God. Michael Smith, one of our retired professors, gave some very encouraging words from the Bible. Dr. Smith had a tremendous impact on the students at Fruitland and is still involved in the lives of our students in retirement. Clayton King also spoke on Alumni Day and his words were profound and powerful. His love for Fruitland and his encouragement is always welcome and beneficial to the work of FBBC.

On May 7, 2024, Fruitland sponsored her annual Founder's Day Celebration. Quintell Hill and David McKinley were the speakers and their messages greatly blessed everyone. Jesse, Mandy, and Dennis Horton led worship for this special day were a tremendous blessing.

The faculty and staff at FBBC were able to participate in the Disciple-Making Conference in Charlotte, N.C. this year, as well. Several of our professors taught classes at the conference and our staff also recruited at the conference. Some of our staff were also able to attend and promote Fruitland at the Mission Conference in April 2024.

FBBC sponsored a "Make Disciples Student Conference" on the Campus in the Spring 2024 Quarter. This conference was established by the faculty and students in the "Youth Ministry 301-302" class at Fruitland. The event was a great success and many students from the surrounding area attended.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College, BSCNC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary participated together to sponsor the "Leading through Preaching Bible Conference" on the Campus at FBBC. The featured speakers were, Dr. Danny Akin, Dr. Scott Pace and Dr. Chuck Lawless. Professors and personnel from SEBTS, FBBC and BSCNC led various breakout sessions for the event as well.

FBBC hosted various summer camps on campus this year. On July 9 – 15, the Deep Impact Kids camp enjoyed a week on our campus. The following week of June 9 – 22 the Deep Impact Students met on the campus. Clearview Baptist Mission Camp held a week of camps during the last week in June. These camps served the community in the area and spent time in Bible study and worship. Many children and young adults were impacted through decisions for Christ and ministry.

CONCLUSION

God has truly blessed Fruitland Baptist Bible College throughout 2023-2024. Our students, staff, administration, and faculty have worked together in a wonderful way to make this year a success. Dr. David Horton, our president, is very thankful for the presence of the Lord on our campus and has some great plans and goals for the coming years. One of the most important initiatives for Dr. Horton in the coming years is the need to organize and take a proactive role in filling the vacant pulpits throughout the State. Fruitland, under the direction of Dr. Horton, is preparing more certificate programs and hybrid classes in the coming year which have the capacity to mobilize in the regions around the state. Dr. Horton is also working to produce "The Fruitland Podcast" which will feature Dr. Horton interviewing students, professors and alumni as well as other guests. Please pray for FBBC as she begins on sending more students as pastors in our churches.

TEBA Churches, Missions, and New Church Starts

*Missions and New Church Starts affiliated with the TEBA

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