

The Link Newsletter

Sandy Creek Baptist Association of Churches

January, 2018



Rev. Eric Davidson, Associational Missionary
Mrs. Nancy Evans, Administrative Assistant

Telephone: 919-776-9423 FAX: 919-776-8490
Email: Sandycreekasn@windstream.net
Web: www.sandycreekba.com

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 am.—12:00 pm.
Other Hours by Appointment

*Strengthening Churches to **BE** the Church: To Equip, To Encourage, To Engage*



Do you enjoy receiving the LINK Newsletter? If so, please let us know. If you don't want to receive the newsletter anymore, please let us know that too. Our phone number is 919.776.9423 or you can email us at sandycreekasn@windstream.net.

If you would consider to begin receiving it by email, simply send us an email request, let us know your snail mail address and we will add you to our newsletter email list.



Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 21.

NEWS from Ebenezer Christian Children's Home.

The Prospective Foster Care Training Class also known as MAPP Class is a series of 10 meetings, beginning on Thursday, January 18. The classes will be held at Beulah Baptist Church, (8454 Howard Mill Rd. Bennett, 27208). Each class last about 3 hours, beginning at 6pm—9pm. They will provide supper for all of the class participants. See the schedule below.

- Meeting 1: Thursday, January 18
- Meeting 2: Thursday, January 25
- Meeting 3: Thursday, February 1
- Meeting 4: Thursday, February 8
- Meeting 5: Thursday, February 15
- Meeting 6: Thursday, February 22
- Meeting 7: Thursday, March 1
- Meeting 8: Thursday, March 8
- Meeting 9: Thursday, March 15
- Meeting 10: Thursday, March 22

If you have questions, please feel free to call Tracy Jackson at 850-777-9443 or 910-464-3900, or email her at jacksonneal@bellsouth.net
Tracy looks forward to meeting and talking with you about this ministry.



As a Pastor's wife, you may need a way of venting, having a friend that understands, someone to talk life with, a support group, and the list goes on.

We have a "Secret Facebook Group" [no one but "members" can see or post on this site] for SCBA Sr. Pastors Wives. If you are on FB, and *you're not already a member of our group*, "message" me on facebook @ Tamara Cunningham Lamb or email me at tamara.lamb@gmail.com and I will add you to our "SCBA Pastors Wives" secret FB group. My husband is the Pastor of Mays Chapel, [24 Rosser Rd, Bear Creek](http://www.24rosser.com)

GRIEF SHARE is a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. Grief-Share will meet in the fellowship hall on Sundays from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm starting with a one hour orientation on January 7th. Sign up by calling 919.542.2986, call/email Julie LoRusso 919.545.0122, julie@jilcpa.com or Rhonda Myers 919-542-2602 rflym@gmail.com. Need more info go to www.pittsborobaptistchurch.org

Attention! Seniors 50-plus

The Jubilee Choir would like to invite you to join them in 2018 to come together for fellowship, fun, and singing to the Lord. Practice begins January 11th at the Sandy Creek Baptist Association Office at 10:30am.



PASTORS & SPOUSE – SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, January 25th, 6:15 pm

"DINNER AND A MOVIE"

Deadline to register is Monday, January 15th. Call or e-mail the office. Childcare provided if needed.

**TO BE HELD AT COOL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH,
(1313 COOL SPRINGS CH RD) SANFORD**

Following a free, delicious meal, we will be treated to a pre-release screening of "I Can Only Imagine", the true story behind the hit song!!! This is a powerful story about redemption and grace that can be a tremendous outreach event to our community. The movie will open in theatres across America on March 16, 2018.

You will NOT want to miss this!!!

“Your Missionary’s Musings” for January

As we begin a new year, I share with you Thom Rainer’s “Ten Critical Trends for Churches in 2018.” I agree with him; there *are* many opportunities for churches who understand the times to capitalize on the “possibilities”. He wrote the following:

“Never in my lifetime have I seen local congregations at such a critical juncture. Cultural Christianity is all but dead. The “Nones,” those without any religious preference, are increasing. Many of the communities are no longer friendly to local churches; some have become adversarial.

But in the waves of these seas of negativity, are mercy drops of hope and possibilities. Look at these ten major trends carefully. See how God would have your church respond.

The audio revolution. The e-book has not proved to be nearly as popular as we thought it would be. Many blog writers are reporting declines in readership. But audio books are rising in popularity. Listeners are moving to podcasts, so they can learn while they jog, drive, and exercise. Outside of preaching podcasts, churches have many other opportunities to reach and disciple people through audio ministries.

Boomer retirement crisis. Boomer pastors and church leaders are retiring in large numbers. But most of them don’t have succession plans. They are in churches from the small to the large. We will have many churches that are looking to fill these voids with little success.

The deferred maintenance crisis in church facilities. My friend, Tim Cool of “Cool Solutions Group,” keeps reporting about churches that have done little to keep their church facilities in acceptable condition. For many of them, they are experiencing times of reckoning. A church with which I have familiarity had to close 4,000 square feet of space because it was deemed unsafe and uninhabitable. Like Tim says, you pay some now or you pay more later.

Churches moving into retail spaces. The United States has a surplus of retail space, and that surplus will grow. The demise of many brick-and-mortar stores and chains presents an incredible opportunity for churches to find prime space for new and additional sites.

Ongoing church closures. This trend shows no signs of slowing. I hope church leaders and members will be more receptive to acquisitions and mergers before it’s too late. Too many of these churches are expecting to be bailed out without lifting a finger.

The rise of the neighborhood church. Churches that were once at the center of life in a neighborhood have declined and died. But we see them experiencing a renewal and revival both through acquisitions and replants.

The learning revolution of the best church leaders. It is almost cliché to talk about the pace of change in our world and culture. I won’t bore you with the statistics and reality of change. But one thing is becoming glaringly obvious. Church leaders who are becoming ongoing learners are becoming the best leaders of these churches. Those church leaders who are not continually learning will not be leading well.

Downsizing of worship centers/sanctuaries. This trend is one I have mentioned in recent months, but the pace of downsizing has accelerated. For certain, some of it is due to declining attendance, but that is not the only factor. A number of churches have intentionally moved to smaller worship services through multiple services, venues, and campuses.

The rise of networks. More churches are aligning with both informal and formal networks with a common cause and common purpose. Those that are part of denominations typically choose to stay with their denominations for both doctrinal and legacy reasons. Watch for new networks to form with

different emphases and a broader evangelical doctrine.

More Great Commission intentionality. When cultural Christianity was alive and well, churches could do minimal evangelistic activity and still grow by transfer growth. Such is not the case anymore. Churches will have to be highly intentional evangelistically in the months ahead or they will head toward death and closure.

Many congregations are at a tipping point. Some will die. Some will thrive.

My prayer is that the summary of these trends can be used of God in your churches to move your congregation toward greater health and Great Commission obedience.”

In his introduction to Daniel Im’s book, *No Silver Bullets: Five Small Shifts That Will Transform Your Ministry*, Rainer was brutally honest in his diagnosis of, and forecast for, the church when he penned these words:

“Change or die. This is the decision you’ll have to make if you continue to let routines from yesteryear run your church. The majority of churches in the West are either declining or growing at a pace that’s slower than the community they’re located in. In other words, they’re losing ground. Church has become a litany of activities and busyness. It’s become one program or one thing after another. And there’s no intentionality or movement forward in a direction that demonstrates faithfulness with what God has entrusted that church. The solution isn’t to look down the street and copy the nearby megachurch. Nor is it to blow everything up and start from scratch. And by all means, staying the same is not an option either. There is no one silver bullet to turning around a dying church or continuing the growth of a healthy one. It takes several little improvements in different areas to add up to growth.”

Your Association’s purpose for existing is, “Strengthening Churches to BE the Church”. One of our strategies to assist a church is to conduct a “Sharing and Listening Tour” to every willing church in the SCBA. This will be a one-hour session for the church’s “key leaders” (as determined by the pastor). The first 30 minutes I will share pertinent information for the church, and the last 30 minutes I will listen to the needs of the pastor and church leaders along with answering questions. In the end, I want to know two things from the church; “what do you need” and “how we can help”. I am, already, contacting churches to schedule a visit and several have responded with a definite “YES”. I look forward to visiting with them in January!!!

We must remember, however, *there are NO silver bullets*. A church can’t “activity” itself to health. Leaders of revitalization tell us it takes three to five years to revitalize a church, and then it is a never-ending process. ***There are NO silver bullets!!!***

But, I am hopeful, and prayerful, for each of the 48 churches in the SCBA. I believe our best days are still ahead. Your Association is ready, able, and willing to come alongside a church and journey together toward a new future. We have churches that are willing to help sister churches, and join with other churches along the way.

“Change or die. Many congregations are at a tipping point. Some will die. Some will thrive,” says Rainer.

Can we go together??? Will you join me, and other churches who long for their church to “BE the Church”???

I pray the answer is “YES”, because ***“we CAN do more together!!!”***.

Eric



CHURCHES	November	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Bear Creek	\$ -	\$ -
Bennett	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bethany	\$ -	\$ 750.00
Bonlee	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Brookdale	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00
Brush Creek	\$ 573.50	\$ 2,237.00
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Cool Springs	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 4,125.00
Cornerstone	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Cumnock	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
East Sanford	\$ -	\$ 2,256.26
Emmaus	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 8,800.00
Fall Creek	\$ 350.00	\$ 3,850.00
Fellowship	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,850.00
Flat Springs	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 4,204.00
Filipino American	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Goldston	\$ 535.50	\$ 2,142.00
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,750.00
Gum Springs	\$ -	\$ 1,875.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ 1,845.00
Hickory Mountain	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Hunt Springs	\$ 330.00	\$ 3,102.00
Jonesboro Heights	\$ -	\$ 6,069.16
Joy	\$ -	\$ 2,600.00
Juniper Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,887.50
Kingdom Builders of Christ	\$ -	\$ -
Loves Creek	\$ 287.50	\$ 3,195.00
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ -	\$ 2,913.77
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Mount Olive	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
New Life Praise	\$ 50.00	\$ 550.00
New Salem	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Oakley	\$ -	\$ 6,834.29
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 519.16	\$ 5,633.40
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ -
Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Rives Chapel	\$ -	\$ -
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Rocky River	\$ 910.57	\$ 10,292.29
Sandy Branch	\$ 1,402.00	\$ 13,467.81
Sanford, First	\$ -	\$ 6,500.00
Shepherd's Flock	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,047.15
Siler City First	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,125.00
Tramway	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,207.76
Tyson Creek	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	\$ 11,794.23	\$ 129,749.39
OTHER INCOME - DIVIDEND		\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 6.42	\$ 79.75
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 11,800.65	\$ 129,829.14
Expenses This Month	\$ 10,578.80	
Expenses To Date	\$ 154,966.31	
Budget Requirements Per Month	\$ 15,020.91	
Budget Requirements To Date	\$ 165,230.01	
SCBA FUNDS	11/30/2017	
Capital Bank - Checking	\$ 17,620.62	
Capital Bank - Restricted	\$ 35,650.70	
BUDGET 2017	\$ 180,251.00	

SCBA WMU: The New Year, bright with promise, brings opportunities for spiritual growth and serving. Some dates to mark in February: 1, last day for discounted registration (\$55, afterward \$65) for Missions Extravaganza (April 27-28) in Winston-Salem (www.wmunc.org/events or 919-882-2344); 4-11, NC Offering for Older Adults, goal \$600,000 (partnership project with Baptist Retirement Homes of NC); 12-18, Focus on WMU Week; and 11-18, Week of Prayer for the Heck-Jones Offering. This offering, named after Miss Fannie E.S. Heck and Mrs. W.N. Jones (Sallie Bailey), is as vital to WMU NC today as in 1924. The 2018 goal of \$400,000 will be utilized to support local, national, and international missions, education, and ministry. Promotional materials are available at www.wmunc.org.

Baptist Retirement Homes will again initiate the “*Medicine From the Heart Campaign*” formulated to help offset the cost of prescription drugs for Older Adults. To participate in this “campaign” email clivengood@brh.org or call 336-725-0202.

Sometimes feel as if you are too old to do certain things, like go on a mission trip? Alice Peace, a 78-year-old grandmother begs to differ. Read her encouraging and challenging interview in the January *Missions Mosaic* (MM) beginning on page 12. God still empowers and calls Christians of all ages to do His work. Remember Moses? He was 80 when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

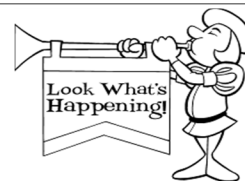
The violence around us can be frightening and overwhelming to those of us who read or hear about it. Think what it must be like for those toward whom violence is directed. Two articles on pages 22 and 23 in MM provide some insight, including how you might be able to help.

As we enter 2018, let's pray for each other to grow strong in our faith, and to trust God when He asks us to do what we see as impossible. The God who called Abraham to leave his home and go “...to a land that I will show you...” is the same God who calls us. I pray that each of us will be as quick as Abraham to pack up and go (Genesis 12: 1-4). Thus may we “become all things to all people so that by all possible means [we] might save some. ...for the sake of the gospel, that [we] may share in its blessings” (1 Cor. 9: 22-23 NIV).

SCBA WMU Director: Susan Ferguson, (919) 548-0115, fergusonst@earthlink.net

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!!!

The 2018 “Spring Gathering”, will be Sunday, April 22nd, at First Baptist Church, Sanford



A NEW TIME has been set: 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm

*AN ADDED FEATURE: A “Spring Gathering” **for youth** begins at 3:00 pm*

*** A meeting for youth leaders and their Youth Council is coming in January or early February. More details will be coming soon!!!

SAVE THE DATES!!! “Operation In As Much”

Saturday, April 28th OR Saturday, May 5th
Region 4 training for OIAM will be held on Saturday, February 24th, 9:00 am until 12:00 noon, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Pittsboro.



REACHOUT CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

“Empowering women and men to make informed, life affirming choices.”



We Wish you all the Joy of Christmas and a Blessed 2018!

We end 2017 with grateful hearts and praise to God our Savior for that which He has done for us and through us. We praise Him for every ministry opportunity this year through offering free tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, bible studies, meeting emergency needs. Babies and Mom were saved from the tragedy of abortion, safely delivered to parents ready and able to bring them home to be nurtured and cared for. Our hearts are full!

As we move forward...

It is with great expectation we at Reach Out look to a New Year. We will greet January with Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. It is traditionally observed on the 3rd Sunday in January. This year Sunday, the 21st brings the 45nd anniversary of the tragic landmark decision (Roe vs. Wade), to legalize abortion in our country. Let’s pray and work to end abortion.

We’re in this Together!

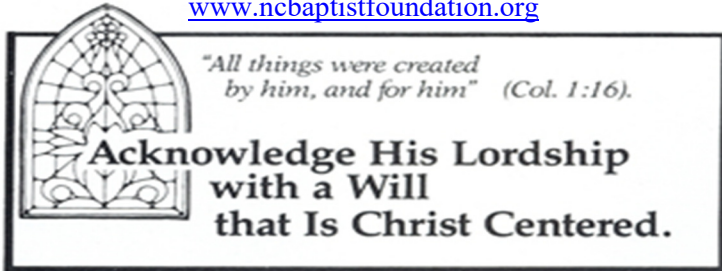
As you well know, Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center is committed to meeting practical needs, declaring the value of each human life and proclaiming Jesus as the author and sustainer of life. Thank you Sandy Creek Baptist Association for your faithful interest and support, we are truly Together for Life!

By His Grace, Barbara Flagg, Executive Director and Debbie Puryear, Director of Client Services

ROC Pregnancy Center —
507 N. Steele St. 2nd Floor
Sanford, NC 27330
Web: www.reachoutpc.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday—Thursday: 10am - 3pm
Phone: (919) 777-0236
reachoutpc@windstream.net

www.ncbaptistfoundation.org



A Few upcoming dates of interest...

March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14	Mission Development Team mtg. at SCBA office
March 15	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
March 20	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City
March 22	Executive Council mtg.
April 1	Easter
April 2	SCBA Office Closed
April 3	SCBA Sisterhood Mtg
April 10	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City
April 11	Mission Development Team mtg. at Sandy Branch
April 12	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
April 22	Spring Gathering at Sanford First Baptist
April 28	Sr Pastor Wives Retreat at Rocky River Baptist
May 9	Mission Development Team mtg. at SCBA office
May 10	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
May 13	Mother’s Day
May 15	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City
May 17	Executive Council mtg.
May 28	Memorial Day—SCBA Office Closed

Puerto Rico Partnership for SCBA Churches

We will begin an on-going partnership with a Southern Baptist Church in Puerto Rico very soon. Our North American Mission Board is partnering with Associations to establish this one-on-one relationship.

Lord willing, we will have a

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico in June or July of 2018.

As soon as we know what items are needed, we will give you the opportunity to join in and help us collect those needed items. They will be shipped to Georgia for the North American Mission Board to deliver to that part of Puerto Rico.

Upcoming—\$\$ Church Financial Seminar \$\$

The seminar is designed for ministers, financial administrators, treasurers, church committees and other interested lay leaders. Topics: Preparing for retirement, Compensation planning, Church retirement plan, Employer provided benefits, Managing designated funds, Reporting charitable giving, Tax updates, FAQ’s from affiliated churches, Participant questions and answers. If anyone is interested in a one on one consult with Davis Blount he is willing to come early with an appointment. Questions? Call Mary Landis at 800.395.5102 ext.5637. More info in next months LINK.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
STANDARD
U. S. Postage Paid
SANFORD, NC 27330
PERMIT No. 75

Sandy Creek Baptist Association
(Affiliated with SBC and NCBSA)
2807 Sandy Creek Church Rd
Sanford, NC 27330-9458

January—Calendar of Events-

1		SCBA Office closed for New Year’s Day
9	1:00pm	Executive Council Mtg.
11	10:30am	Jubilee Choir begins 2018 practice at SCBA Office
11	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
16	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City
25	6:15pm	Pastor/Spouse Dinner and a Movie at Cool Springs
February—Calendar of Events-		
6	2:30-4:30pm	SCBA Sisterhood Mtg.
15	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
20	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City