



The Link Newsletter

Sandy Creek Baptist Association of Churches

February, 2018



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

Telephone: 919-776-9423 FAX: 919-776-8490
Email: Sandycreekassn@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*

CHURCH FINANCIAL SEMINAR

February 6, 2018

Fellowship Baptist Church
120 Fellowship Church Road
Siler City, NC 27344

Developing a compensation package for pastors & staff can seem daunting. There are many things to consider such as salary, employer provided benefits, tax savings strategies, and more.

What cash & non-cash benefits can the church provide its staff? What are the latest tax & administrative rules implemented during the last year that affect how our churches do business? How do you handle designated contributions given to your church, and how are you reporting those funds?

Davis Blount, BSC of NC will address these and other issues. The workshops are designed for ministers, financial administrators, treasurers, church committees and other interested lay leaders. Topics will include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Preparing for retirement | Compensation planning |
| The Church Retirement Plan | Employer provided benefits |
| Managing designated funds | Reporting charitable giving |
| Tax updates | FAQs from affiliated churches |
| Participant Q & A | |

Workshops will be individually designed based on the interest of the area churches & their staffs.

Light refreshments are provided. If you have questions or would like to register by phone for the seminars above, contact Mary Landis at (800) 395-5102 ext 5637.

YOU ARE INVITED! The REGION 4 MISSIONS RALLY will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at Fairview Baptist Church, (5608 Ten Ten Rd., apex, NC). Please register at <http://baptistsonmission.org/bom/region-rallies/region-4-nc-missions-rally-2018---fairview-baptist-church-apex/3469> or by calling Kailyn Eskridge at 800-395-5102 x 5596.

The rally will highlight the variety of opportunities NC Baptist have to be involved in missions across our state, in our nation, and around the world. Featured will be worship, testimony, mission video, and a prayer time for missions.

These rallies are for men, women and youth-everyone interested in missions is encouraged to attend. A meal is provided at no charge, but you must register for the meal count.

“Operation In As Much”

SAVE THE DATES!!!

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 (5043 Mt. Olive Ch Rd., Pittsboro).

This training event is for churches that have done OIAM and for churches that have never done OIAM. We need churches that are experienced in OIAM to share their ideas, excitement, and encouragement with churches that will be doing OIAM for the first time!

You will be given many ideas for ministry projects but a place to start is to offer a ministry you are already doing on one of the two dates suggested, April 28th or May 5th, if possible. Then you can offer additional and/or new ministries to your community.



BAPTISTS ON MISSION

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING
MARCH 2nd - 3rd—DURHAM COUNTY

NC Baptist Men Disaster Relief training will be provided in our region during 2018. North Carolina Baptist Men are recognized around the globe for the response work they provide after disaster strikes. If you or your church are interested in obtaining training, and being a part of this life changing ministry, please call or go online to register for this training event. (919)-459-5596

Baptistsonmission.org/disasterrelieftraining



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

sandycreekassn@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.

“Your Missionary’s Musings” for February

In the January 2018 edition of “Facts and Trends”, Thom Rainer wrote an article titled, “Hope for Dying Churches”. In this article he gives five “we must” statements. These are statements that I have expressed in my writing and speaking specifically or in conceptual terms over the last five years. And these are statements expressed by many others as well.

In fact, Rainer’s five “we must” statements reinforce and address several of our Association’s mission and strategy statements which support our vision of **“Strengthening Churches to BE the Church”**.

He wrote: “Churches in the United States have entered a new season of ministry. Gone are the days when church attendance was a societal norm. For most of our American history, cultural and technological change was gradual, sufficiently paced for churches to lag only five to 10 years. Now churches are lagging 20 and 30 years as the speed of change increases dramatically. To many people, the church seems irrelevant.

I am particularly concerned about the declining health of many churches. Between 6,000 and 10,000 churches in the U.S. are dying each year. That means around 100-200 churches will close this week. The pace will accelerate unless our congregations make some dramatic changes.

It’s tempting to blame secular culture, national politics, or church leaders for the declining evangelical influence in today’s culture. If outside forces and culture were the reasons behind declining and non-influential churches, we would likely have no churches today. The greatest periods of church growth, particularly in the first century, took place in adversarial cultures.

We are not hindered by external forces; we are hindered by our own lack of commitment, selflessness, and evangelistic urgency.

Hear me well, church leaders. For many of your churches the choice is simple: change or die. Certainly, from a biblical perspective, I understand the bride of Christ will be victorious. I understand the gates of hell will not prevail against her (Matthew 16:18).

But that does not mean individual congregations won’t die. Revitalization is needed in nearly two-thirds of American churches. For some, that might mean an evangelistic boost. Others need a complete turnaround.

So, what can churches do to bring about much-needed revitalization?

We must remember our purpose. Many of the people in our churches have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be part of the body of Christ. Church members need to be reminded that God placed us in churches to pray for and love one another, to proclaim and teach God’s Word, and to take the gospel to our neighbors and the nations.

We must become houses of prayer. Stated simply, we are doing too much in our own power. Our churches are often busy, but we are not doing the business of God. Revitalized churches have a desperate and prayerful dependence on God.

We must cease seeing the church as a place of comfort and stability in the midst of rapid change. Certainly, God’s truth is unchanging. We do find comfort and stability in that reality. But your church may need to change methods and approaches to better meet the needs of those you are trying to reach. Church programs and human traditions often become places of misdirected comfort. “We’ve never done it that way before” is a death declaration. We must learn to be uncomfortable in the world if we are to make a difference.

We must emphasize evangelism and discipleship. We have been given the Great Commission to make disciples and build God’s kingdom. To fulfill God’s mission, Christians must go out into the community, love their neighbors, and reach the lost with the gospel.

We must focus externally rather than internally. Churches that need revitalization are usually spiritual navel-gazers. They are more concerned with programs for members than reaching the lost in their community. Thriving churches are focused on providing ministry to those outside the church and creating bridges for sharing the gospel. Consider taking a community survey that includes demographic research as well as a survey of spiritual and physical needs. Then look for ways your church can become a more effective ministry force in your community.

Too many churches are dying, but I am optimistic about the churches in our nation. I am optimistic about this time we are living in. I’ve seen God deliver a number of churches from the throes of death to become thriving churches.

Make no mistake; there is no silver bullet solution. Revitalization will look different for each individual church. However, dying churches have a real possibility of turning things around.

Our hope lies in Jesus Christ and being the church He has called us to be—joining in His mission of reconciling the world to Him.

“When a church moves from poor health to good health, it changes the community. It changes lives. It changes the world.”

Did this statement register with you? “. we are hindered by our own lack of commitment, selflessness, and evangelistic urgency.” And, he repeats in this article what he has stated in other articles that churches must “change or die.” I wonder, though, if we really embrace Rainer’s admonition to the church that “we must learn to be uncomfortable in the world if we are to make a difference”?

Is the church you attend perceived by the world as “irrelevant”?

Does your church need revitalization? Nearly two-thirds of churches need revitalization.

Somewhere between 100 and 200 churches close every week in America.

Will there be a church in our Association
that will close in 2018?

What about a dying church brings glory to Christ?
Absolutely nothing!

The church can make a difference **IF we only will.**

I believe there **IS** hope for dying churches;
for ALL churches!!!

How can the Sandy Creek Baptist Association
help your church???

How can a church, or churches, help a sister church,
or churches???

These are questions we will continue to address and discuss.

Please join me in praying for
ALL churches!

In the meantime, never forget

“We CAN Do More Together!”

Let’s change the world!!!
Eric



CHURCHES	December	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Bear Creek	\$ -	\$ -
Bennett	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bethany	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00
Bonlee	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Brookdale	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Brush Creek	\$ -	\$ 2,237.00
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,500.00
Cool Springs	\$ -	\$ 4,125.00
Cornerstone	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Cumnock	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
East Sanford	\$ -	\$ 2,256.26
Emmaus	\$ -	\$ 8,800.00
Fall Creek	\$ 350.00	\$ 4,200.00
Fellowship	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,000.00
Flat Springs	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 5,255.00
Filipino American	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
Goldston	\$ -	\$ 2,142.00
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Gum Springs	\$ 625.00	\$ 2,500.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ 1,845.00
Hickory Mountain	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Hunt Springs	\$ 264.00	\$ 3,366.00
Jonesboro Heights	\$ -	\$ 6,069.16
Joy	\$ 650.00	\$ 3,250.00
Juniper Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,887.50
Kingdom Builders of Christ	\$ -	\$ -
Loves Creek	\$ 287.50	\$ 3,482.50
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ 936.29	\$ 3,850.06
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Mount Olive	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
New Life Praise	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00
New Salem	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Oakley	\$ 2,590.11	\$ 9,424.40
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 553.71	\$ 6,187.11
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ -
Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Rives Chapel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Rocky River	\$ 805.55	\$ 11,097.84
Sandy Branch	\$ 892.92	\$ 14,360.73
Sanford, First	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Shepherd's Flock	\$ 190.50	\$ 1,237.65
Siler City First	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,500.00
Tramway	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,457.76
Tyson Creek	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	\$ 16,171.58	\$ 145,920.97
OTHER INCOME - DIVIDEND		\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 6.36	\$ 86.11
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 16,177.94	\$ 146,007.08
Expenses This Month	\$ 14,844.73	
Expenses To Date	\$ 169,811.04	
Budget Requirements Per Month	\$ 15,020.99	
Budget Requirements To Date	\$ 180,251.00	
SCBA FUNDS	12/31/2017	
Capital Bank - Checking	\$ 19,006.85	
Capital Bank - Restricted	\$ 37,253.70	
BUDGET 2017	\$ 180,251.00	

SCBA WMU: February arrives, bringing some truly “wacky days” among the familiar holidays: Bubble Gum Day (3), National Chopsticks Day (6), Kite Flying Day (8), Toothache Day (9), and International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day (23)). The most familiar is probably Valentine’s Day when we honor those we love with various gifts telling them they are special. It could be a time to fully give our hearts to Jesus by expressing love to those who may be lonely or feel forgotten. Send cards to those who are homebound, call a local nursing facility and deliver cards to residents who have no family or friends, and consider the staff at these facilities who may need encouragement. “A word fitly spoken [or written] is like apples of gold in settings of silver” (Prov.25:11) bringing unmeasured blessings to the recipient.

Coming in March: 2-3, Women’s Prayer Retreat, CMV (register at www.campmundovista.com or call 336-625-2828); 4-11, NAMB Missions Emphasis and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (resources at www.wmunc.org or www.anniearmstrong.com); 9-10, Children in Action Day, CMV; 16-17, Girls in Action Day, CMV; and 24, CMV Work Day (www.campmundovista.com).

Since being formed by the WMU Foundation in response to September 11, 2001, the WMU HEART (Humanitarian Emergency Aid for Rebuilding Tomorrow) Fund has granted more than \$500,000 from the fund to disaster victims in the United States and around the world. Consider giving to this fund on Valentine’s Day. Information is available at www.wmufoundation.com, by calling 205-408-55252 or on social media @wmufoundation.

MISSIONS MOSAIC offers some intriguing titles this month: “The Unexpected Journey”; “Trek into the INTERIOR AMAZON”; and “The One Anothers”, to cite a few examples. Take time to peruse and consider how God may be speaking to you through these testimonies of God working through His people.

This month let’s each consider giving all of our heart to Jesus with nothing held back, the full box of chocolates with no missing pieces kept for ourselves. Is this not the expression of love leading to every other expression of caring to those around us? “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ...Beloved..., we also ought to love one another. ...If we love one another God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us” (John 4: 7-12).

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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

LADIES' DAY OUT AT OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Saturday, March 17, 2018

Brunch begins at 9am & Program begins at 9:45am—12pm
Speaker—Ellen Day

Theme: “Behold, I am doing a new thing”, Isaiah 43:19
Cost: \$5.00 and (1) item for Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox
(either a coloring book or a box of crayons)

Deadline to register is Friday, March 9th.

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 soon. Be on the lookout for the date and more information about the meeting!



REACHOUT CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

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



When we think of the month of February, we naturally think of love as celebrated on Valentine’s Day as an expression of love for each other. That expression may come in the form of candy, a card, flowers or a night out! Jesus describes what true love is in John 15:12-13, “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” We are to love each other as Jesus loves us. We may not have to die for someone but there are other ways to practice sacrificial love; listening, helping, encouraging, and giving. At Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center, we are committed to meet each woman at the point of her need by; **LISTENING** to her with care and compassion, by **HELPING** her navigate through truth and facts of her unplanned pregnancy and ultimately the choice she will make, **ENCOURAGING** her to be strong, informed and embrace LIFE, and by **GIVING** her practical help through our EWYL Program, baby needs and maturity items. Most of all we want to introduce her to the One who gives hope, life and unconditional love. Christ’s love compels us to reach out to those around us. We are His hands and feet to our community and as a result of your partnership with us, lives are saved and hearts are changed one life at a time. If you have not previously partnered with Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center, I would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. You can help by praying, becoming a financial partner, volunteering or help get the word into our community.

NEWS.....As of January 2018, I transitioned into the position of Executive Director. Barbara Flagg, my friend, co-worker and prayer partner, remains as Director of Client Services. Thank you Barbara for your godly leadership these past 5 years at Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center. We are greatly encouraged and excited to see what the Lord will do as we continue serving Him in 2018.

Together for Life, Debbie Puryear, Executive Director and Barbara Flagg, Director of Client Services

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

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



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
OF NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED
PROUDLY SERVING OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1951

2018 North Carolina Offering for Older Adults

February 4—11, 2018

A Few upcoming dates of interest...

April 1	Easter
April 2	SCBA Office Closed
April 3	SCBA Sisterhood Mtg at New Life Praise
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.

Bennett Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Strider

welcomes you to a Picture of Calvary on March 23, 24, 25th beginning at 8:00 pm. Drama is outdoors. Come see one of the greatest stories ever told. More info call 336-581-3419.

The deadline for articles to be turned in to the office, for THE LINK Newsletter is the 15th of the month prior to the published month.

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

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

February—Calendar of Events-

6	2:30-4:30pm	SCBA Sisterhood Mtg. at Brush Creek
6	6:30—8:30pm	Church Finance Seminar at Fellowship
14	10:00am-12pm	Mission Development Team Mtg. Sandy Branch
15	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
20	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City

March—Calendar of Events-

11		Daylight Savings Time Begins
14	1:00pm	Mission Development Team Mtg. at SCBA office
15	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
20	12 Noon	Pastor’s Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City
22	1:-00pm	Executive Council Mtg.