



The Link Newsletter

Sandy Creek Baptist Association

July, 2017



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

An Association Of The Future; Rooted In Our Heritage And Growing Toward God's Design

Ministry Opportunity with Lee County

"New Teacher Academy"



We have another opportunity to serve and welcome new teachers coming into Lee County Schools for 2017-2018. This year's

"New Teacher Academy" will be from Monday, August 7th through Friday, August 11th. We need four individual churches and/or four groups of churches to provide food, utensils, and drinks for approximately 100 teachers and instructors. Our churches can, also, share gifts (by way of drawings, e.g.), information about your church, and Christian hospitality. Many of these teachers have just graduated from college and are living far from family and friends and need a church to provide ongoing support to them and/or their classroom.

We have been asked to fill the need for **Monday, August 7th (breakfast at 8:00am; lunch at 12:00 noon), Tuesday, August 8th (lunch at 12:00 noon), and Wednesday, August 9th (lunch at 12:00 noon).** This year's location is SanLee Middle School.

If you are excited about participating, please contact your Association office (919.776.9423 or domsoba@gmail.com) **NO LATER THAN Monday, July 17th.** You may want to be *paired with another church* to provide a meal – just let us know!!!



Revive North Carolina Chatham County Crusade

An evangelistic crusade is coming to Chatham Central High School on Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8th (6:30 pm both nights) as part of Revive North Carolina, a ministry of Chance Walters Evangelistic Ministries. The next planning meeting is **Monday, July 31st, 6:00 pm at Bestfood Cafeteria.**

For more information you can go to: www.revivenorthcarolina.com, or you can e-mail at revivenorthcarolina@gmail.com, or call number 336.233.2075. On the website, you can download a "Planning Packet" with complete information. *Many people will be needed and there are many ways to serve!!!*
Above all, **PRAY!!!**

MISSIONS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking for a great project to fund with your Vacation Bible School offering this summer, may we suggest you consider supporting Kenya Baptist Theological College's Kakuma extension. The United Nations has given KTBC a plot of land in the middle of Kakuma (the world's largest refugee camp) to build a school for theological education. Pastors will be trained to go to churches in Kakuma and ultimately in South Sudan. \$18,000 is needed for construction costs and furnishings to make this a reality!!!



There is a need for teams to be ready immediately to assist in the renovation of a facility in Chatham County to be used as a group home for children in the foster care system. Later, "rooms" in the facility will be "up for adoption" to be furnished. In late September, foster care classes will be offered for "parents" to receive children in their home. Many foster care homes are needed! For more information contact Tracie Jackson at 910.464.3900 or 850.777.9443.



Are you be willing to help with an annual shoe fair for children of Jonesville VA. Tennis Shoes are desperately needed!



Sizes needed are:

Boy Sizes needed: 1, 1 ½, 2, 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, & 4 ½

Girl Sizes Needed: 1 ½, 2 ½, 3 ½, 4 ½

Women Sizes Needed: 8 ½, 9 (have none), and 10 ½

Men Sizes Needed: 7, 8, 9 ½, 11 ½, 12

By offering school shoes, this ministry provides the opportunity to share Jesus with the children and their parents! Three ways you can participate. **First:** pray for those traveling and sharing Jesus, and for those receiving the Gospel. **Second:** purchase any size shoe listed above, provided they are the sturdy tennis style shoes **ONLY**. **Third,** you can provide money for the purchase of shoes.

The absolute deadline to deliver the tennis shoes is **July 24th**, at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church. Contact Wanda Howard at 919.774.9661 or howardwpl@gmail.com



Rives Chapel Baptist, (4338 Rives Chapel Church Rd, Siler City) invites kids to a **"CAMP OUT Getting S'more of Jesus"** VBS, July 28th, 6pm-9pm, July 29th, 9am—11:30am, and Sunday, July 30th, at 11am.

“Your Missionary’s Musings” for July

The Sandy Creek Baptist Association of Churches (SCBAC) – “Strengthening Churches to BE the Church: To Equip, To Encourage, To Engage”. Hereafter, the purpose of our Association.

To accomplish this purpose, our Association’s foundational focus of engagement with our churches is centered around these five pillars: Church Revitalization, Church Planting, Spiritual Formation (evangelism and discipleship), Building Collaborative Partnerships, and Leadership Development.

This Associational strategy, for some, isn’t the first time you have read or heard these words. For others, this is the first time. Or, maybe, you now have a greater clarity of the partnership possibility that exists between churches, and between churches and the Association. For all, this is a reminder of why our Association exists. The SCBAC exists for the church!!!

I have written in other issues of the LINK about our five pillars. I have made the statement church revitalization is an ongoing process, lest the church will move from plateau to decline. Even before a church reaches the plateau stage, the next revitalization should begin. Revitalization never ends!!!

In this issue, I want you to realize the partnership that must exist within the church itself – a partnership between the pastor, church leadership, and church members.

Thom Rainer wrote an article on May 11, 2015 that I believe needs to be read again. The title of his article is, “Eight Common Characteristics of Successful Church Revitalizations”. He wrote:

“There is one type of church revitalization that is more successful than all others. The church closes its doors for a season, and then re-opens, usually with a new name and new leadership. I know this approach is not an option for most of you, so I gathered data from the “other” category. This category includes churches that kept the same name and, for the most part, the same leadership.

Keep in mind, this information is not a step-by-step guide to revitalization.

As I gathered the information for successful revitalizations, I noted eight common characteristics that took place in most of the congregations. Unfortunately, many leaders are not willing to make all the sacrifices these characteristics suggest. Those who will make the sacrifices, however, are often seeing blessings beyond what they anticipated.

The pastor formed an alliance of key influencers in the church. This group is not informal, nor is it closed to others. It begins when the pastor identifies those in the church whose voices are most effective in leading others toward change. I cannot remember a revitalization effort that succeeded without an alliance.

The alliance of influencers recognized the need for church revitalization and made a commitment to pray for it daily. Please don’t let the last part of the preceding sentence escape your notice. Each of the influencers committed to daily prayer for revitalization. They realized it could not take place in their power alone.

The leaders and a growing number in the congregation made a commitment to move the church to look more like the community. Such a commitment naturally involves an outward focus, because declining churches are not reaching all segments of their communities. The leadership within the church begins to look at the demographics of their community. They are willing to face reality on where the church is falling short.

The church began to confront the issue of sacred cows. I know of one church that had a two-hour “town hall” meeting of the members of the congregation. The leaders made a list of every preference and church activity they could recall. For example, one of the items on the list was “11 am worship.” They then labeled each activity as either biblically essential, contextual, or traditional.

The leadership began to work with the congregation to form a clear and compelling vision. One church, an all Anglo congregation, cast a vision to have 20 percent Hispanics in the worship attendance in one year because the community was 40 percent Hispanic. They did not reach 20 percent in year one, but they did in year two.

The leadership communicated a sense of urgency. One of the simplest yet most powerful communications of urgency I’ve heard is: “We change or we die.” Too many congregations are choosing to die because of their unwillingness to change.

The leadership, particularly the pastor, was willing to endure a season of intense criticism. This point is often where revitalization efforts end. The critics can get nasty, and the criticisms can become intense. Many people simply get mad at the idea of change.

The leadership of the church was willing to let go of members. I have never known a successful revitalization effort where members did not leave. Few leaders like to see members leave, but some churches have a “back door revival” before true revitalization can take place.

Nine of ten churches are either declining or growing so slowly they are not keeping up with the growth of the community. Many churches are just a few years away from dying and closing. Revitalization is an urgent need.”

Indeed, church revitalization is an urgent need in ALL our churches in the SCBAC!!! Is the church willing to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve church health and vitality?

“We change or we die.”

Are we willing to partner together as churches to work toward healthy, thriving churches for the Glory of God in the Great Commission?

I’m ready and willing! *Are you?*

We **CAN** do more together!!! Eric



Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.

CHURCHES	May	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	
Bear Creek	\$ -	
Bennett	\$ -	
Bethany	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Bonlee	\$ -	
Brookdale	\$ -	
Brush Creek	\$ -	\$ 554.50
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ -	
Cool Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Cornerstone	\$ -	
Cumnock	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
East Sanford	\$ 423.40	\$ 1,357.45
Emmaus	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00
Fall Creek	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,750.00
Fellowship	\$ 150.00	\$ 750.00
Flat Springs	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 2,102.00
Filipino American	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Goldston	\$ -	\$ 535.50
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,250.00
Gum Springs	\$ -	\$ 625.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ -
Hickory Mountain	\$ -	\$ -
Hunt Springs	\$ 330.00	\$ 1,320.00
Jonesboro Heights	\$ 4,442.96	\$ 4,442.96
Joy	\$ -	\$ -
Juniper Springs	\$ 962.50	\$ 1,925.00
Kingdom Builders of Christ	\$ -	\$ -
Loves Creek	\$ 287.50	\$ 1,470.00
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ -	\$ 1,354.89
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Mount Olive	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
New Life Praise	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00
New Salem	\$ -	\$ -
Oakley	\$ -	\$ 2,183.18
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 506.14	\$ 2,643.09
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ -
Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$ -	\$ -
Rives Chapel	\$ -	\$ -
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ -
Rocky River	\$ 1,056.42	\$ 4,867.67
Sandy Branch	\$ 1,319.07	\$ 6,571.47
Sanford, First	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Shepherd's Flock	\$ 108.00	\$ 507.15
Siler City First	\$ 375.00	\$ 1,875.00
Tramway	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,707.76
Tyson Creek	\$ -	
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	\$ 15,511.99	\$ 58,732.62
OTHER INCOME - DIVIDEND		\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 8.26	\$ 35.68
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 15,520.25	\$ 58,768.30
Expenses This Month	\$ 11,902.55	
Expenses To Date	\$ 70,483.11	
Budget Requirements Per Month	\$ 15,020.91	
Budget Requirements To Date	\$ 75,104.55	
SCBA FUNDS	5/31/2017	
Capital Bank - Checking	\$ 31,042.98	
Capital Bank - Restricted	\$ 38,463.49	
BUDGET 2017	\$ 180,251.00	

SCBA WMU: VBS, family vacations and summer projects fill sweltering days with fun, challenges, and sharing the gospel. On July 4th Americans will celebrate Independence Day with parades, cook outs, and fireworks. Whew! Makes a person sweat just to contemplate it!

After the final draft of the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress July 4, 1776, much work remained to achieve the freedom of independence from the State of Great Britain. Quite different from freedom by way of the cross. At the moment we believe, it is finished; we are set free by the Son for all eternity! I often wonder if I celebrate my spiritual freedom as I ought.

Summer training (preschool to women on mission, church WMU Directors, and Associational Training) is scheduled for Saturday July 29, 2017 at CMV. *COME to the TABLE 2* costs \$25.00 and includes lunch and a WMU yearbook. Register online: www.wmunc.org/events or call the WMU NC office at (866) 210-8602, ext. 203. It is a MUST for leaders at all levels.

Register now for *Carolina Women* October 6 - 7, 2017 at Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC. This women's missions retreat, sponsored by NC and SC WMU, costs \$90.00 (before Aug. 1) and \$100.00 thereafter. Housing fills quickly so don't delay; flyer and forms are available at www.wmunc.org/events.

Since 2011, the Humanitarian Emergency Aid for Rebuilding Tomorrow Fund (HEART) has given more than \$478,000.00 to victims of disaster around the globe. Donations may be made online at wmufoundation.com or by mail to: WMU Foundation HEART Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Need ideas to spark creativity as you seek to "become all things to all people so that...[you] might save some..."? Be sure to check out the July issue of *Missions Mosaic* for practical ideas for offering hospitality to others, even if it's not your "gift."

Meanwhile, stay cool and let's celebrate our freedom in Christ and in our nation!

WMU Director: Susan Ferguson, (919) 548-0115 (C),
(919) 742-4993 (H), fergusonst@earthlink.net

BIBLE DRILL 2017-ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

We had a great year in Bible Drill in the SCBA. Cool Springs and Jonesboro Heights in Sanford, and Fellowship in Siler City had a Bible Drill Program this year. A huge thank you to Cool Springs Baptist for hosting the Associational Drill.

Congratulations to the following young people who participated in the Regional Bible Drills on April 22nd at Coats Baptist Church (*indicates a "regional Winner"): In the Children's Division: Tucker Anders, *Cameron Parker, and *Hallie Webster from Fellowship; Drake Bowen, *Christian Desjarlais, Donovan Martinez, *Eli Wood, from Jonesboro Heights, and; *Jacob Hill, *Andrew Kohl, and *Landen Shockey from Cools Springs.

In the Youth Drill Division; *Marlon Vargas of Jonesboro Heights; *Lindsay Coffey, *Evan Pruette from Cool Springs.

Participating in the High School Drills: *Jeremiah Jordan, *Levi Whiteman, and *Bailey Coffey from Cool Springs.

A Special "Shout Out" to Evan Pruette and Bailey Coffey of Cool Springs Baptist for being the "high scorer" in each of their divisions at the regional drills earning an invitation to participate in the State Drills. What a wonderful personal accomplishment.

Congratulations to each of these young people for choosing to hide God's Word in their hearts and being a witness to all of us through Bible Drill. We are so very proud of every one of you!

If you are interested in learning more or starting Bible Drill in you church, check out the website www.ncbibleddrill.org or contact Deborah Robson at drobson@ncbaptist.org, or Tommie Angel, at tommie.angel@live.com.

In HIS service, Tommie Angel, SCBA Bible Drill Coordinator

REACHOUT CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
 “Empowering women and men to make informed, life affirming choices.”

Have you seen our Billboard? Our next scheduled location will be on Horner, near E Rose St. That will begin on 7/3. Have you been to our new website: reachoutcpc.com, or visited our Facebook page lately? Would you like to drop by our Sanford office to hear and see what the Lord has provided and is doing? We invite you to do so. Speaking of visits, did you know both Debbie and I began our journey into pro-life ministry by first visiting a Pregnancy Center?

Debbie and a group of ladies from her church visited Salem Pregnancy Care Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Through the visit, she felt the Spirit tug at her heart to pursue volunteering –of which she did soon after and served there as a client counselor for several years. I visited First Step Pregnancy Resource Center in Bangor, ME monthly, for prayer requests. My church supported it as a home mission. I visited First Step 4 years before sensing a call to volunteer. I supported First Step financially and participated in their annual fund raising events but one Sunday morning, I sensed a clear call to pursue volunteering. I did 1 day a week for 6 months, then 2 days a week the following 6 months. After that full year, I was asked to come on staff and served as Director of Client Services for 6 years. Debbie and I both visited our local Centers. We both sensed a sure call. We both said yes to that prompting. Her call was immediate, my call came later. Could this be an invitation for you to consider greater involvement with Reach Out?

It is our privilege to co-labor for Jesus at Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy together along with some pretty fine volunteers. Stop in and say hi. We’d love it!

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.reachoutcpc.com

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

A Few upcoming dates of interest...

September 4	SCBA office Closed for Labor Day
September 7	Pastor’s Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
September 12	Pastor’s Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
September 13	Mission Development Team mtg. at Sandy Branch
September 19	Senior Fall Fellowship, Place to be determined
September 21	Executive Council Team mtg.
October 3	Secretary Sisterhood mtg. at Emmaus
October 7-8	REVIVE NC Crusade at Chatham Central
October 17	Pastor’s Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
October 18	Mission Development Team mtg. at SCBA office
October 19	Pastor’s Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
October 22	SCBA Fall Gathering at Tyson’s Creek Baptist
November 6-7	BSC of NC Annual mtg. at Koury convention Center
November 13-15	NC Baptist Secretaries Conf. at Ridgecrest
November 14	Pastor’s Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
November 16	Pastor’s Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
November 23-24	SCBA office closed for Thanksgiving
November 29	Mission Development Team mtg. at Sandy Branch
November 30	Executive Council mtg.
December 22-26	SCBA Office closed

“PEACEMAKER” WORKSHOP

Based on Ken Sande’s book

The Peacemaker,

this workshop will be offered again on Tuesday, August 29th, from 6:30pm until 8:00pm at Brush Creek Baptist fellowship hall. Conflict reconciliation (rather than simply resolution) is vital for the church and for personal relationships. We need more “peacemakers” in the church and in all of life, so please plan to join us!!!



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.

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 Sanford, NC 27330-9458

July—Calendar of Events		
4		Independence Day—SCBA Office Closed
10-12		NC Minister’s Wives Retreat at Camp Caraway
12	10:00am	Mission Development Team mtg. at Sandy Branch
13	12 Noon	Pastor’s luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
18	12 Noon	Pastor’s luncheon at Best Food , Siler City
27	10:30am	Executive Council Team mtg.
August—Calendar of Events-		
1	2:30-4:30pm	SCBA Secretaries Sisterhood mtg. at New Salem
3-6		Powell River Shoe Fair Mission Trip
9	10:00am	Mission Development Team mtg. at SCBA office
15	12 Noon	Pastor’s luncheon at Best Food , Siler City
17	12 Noon	Pastor’s luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford
29	6:30-8:00pm	“Peacemaker” Workshop