



# The Link Newsletter

## Sandy Creek Baptist Association of Churches

### August, 2017



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

**Attention! SCBA Church Clerks:** The Church Profile Forms will be ready to be picked up, **Tuesday, August 8**, at the SCBA office. Feel free to drop in anytime to pick up your Church's forms from 9am – 4:30pm. We can address any questions you may have at that time. If you cannot come by, feel free to send someone else in your place.

If you are a new church clerk and interested in training, concerning filling out the form and / or entering valuable information to the Church Profile Report on-line, feel free to call me at 919-776-9423. I will be happy to set up an appointment time with you, to help you understand the process. If there are several who need assistance, we can have a special time of training. I will assist you in any way I can.

Thank you to our churches that fill out and mail in their church profiles on time. The church profile forms will be due in to me by **Monday, October 9, 2017.**

### Revive NC—Chatham County Crusade

An evangelistic crusade is coming to Chatham Central High School on Saturday, September 23, and Sunday, September 24, (6:30 pm both nights) as part of Revive North Carolina, a ministry of Chance Walters Evangelistic Ministries.

For more information you can go to:

[www.revivenorthcarolina.com](http://www.revivenorthcarolina.com), or you can e-mail at [revivenorthcarolina@gmail.com](mailto: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!!!*

### Project HOPE

We have been in contact with Chatham County Public Schools about how the faith community can be of service to one of the largest pockets of unchurched people in our communities. We are pleased to announce the creation of Project HOPE (**Help Out Public Education**). Our goal is for all 18 Chatham County schools to have at least one of the 32 Chatham County SCBA churches as a partner to minister to their needs. To that end, our WMU is spearheading an effort to provide each school with 10 "Personal Care Kits" by the start of the 2017 school year and who will be willing to provide for additional bags should the original supply be exhausted. Additionally, the WMU will be working to insure appropriate schools will have a continuous supply of feminine hygiene products available. Susan Ferguson, SCBA WMU director, is serving as the liaison between the schools for these two efforts and should be contacted for more details at 919.548.0115. A kit will consist of specific items [**list provided soon via e-mail**] to be placed in a one-gallon zip lock bag. The deadline to contact Susan to let her know which school(s) you will be providing kits is **Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### "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 Church fellowship hall (5345 Airport Rd, Bear Creek). 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!!!



### To Tramway Youth Group!

You did an excellent job working in and around the SCBA office. It was so hot, but you kept right on working. May God bless each of you.

### "Powerful Tools for Caregivers"

Powerful tools for Caregivers is an educational and evidence based program designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country.



*The class series meets once a week for six weeks.*

*Class size is limited, and registration is required.*

**Dates:** Every Thursday, Sept. 21—Oct. 26, 2017

**Times:** 9:30am—12:00pm

**Location:** The Enrichment Center of Lee County  
1615 S. Third St,  
Sanford, NC 27330

**Cost:** Classes are provided **FREE** by the National Family Caregiver Grant. Contributions accepted but not required.

**To Register:** (919) 776-0501 Ext. 2201

## **“Your Missionary’s Musings” for August**

One area of focus for the SCBA of Churches is “building collaborative partnerships” among our churches and other entities we can partner with as churches and as an Association. Jim Morgan has written an article entitled, “Nearly All Organizations Partner – Why Don’t Churches?” I share this with you because of the importance of partnership for our future. He wrote:

“Is your church decentralized, empowering disciples? Or is it depersonalized, entrusting responsibility for being “church” to the few rather than to many? A third way to know if your church is healthy or coming down with a cold is the degree to which it has internalized. In other words, has it become an entity unto itself, operating independently, or is it still engaged with other organizations?”

Like children, church plants grow up. They may have been launched and supported by another church, but at some point they feel they’ve reached a level of “maturity” where they no longer need someone to nurture them. They’ve become larger and more self-sufficient. However, when it comes to churches, size and independence are not indicators of health. Churches can be big, but need to drop a few pounds – e.g. long-time members unwilling to commit to genuine life change. Small churches can be just as unhealthy – e.g. possibly operating in a bubble, deviating from sound theology.

**No organization is meant to subsist on its own. Nearly all businesses and charities have partners, but few churches do. Why?**

Companies ink memorandums of understanding and form joint ventures with affiliate partners, distributors and value-added resellers. Corporations never become independent, no matter how profitable or “mature” they become.

Charities welcome opportunities to work collaboratively to deliver services and share referrals, knowing funding is inadequate to do everything for everyone. Few charities would survive in a vacuum without cooperation and support from for-profit and non-profit partners.

However, churches generally resist partnerships. I’ve heard countless ministries bemoan their inability to establish relationships with churches. I doubt the future viability of the many start-up charities that begin their elevator pitch with “our mission is to work with churches to...” I caution many aspiring, naïve executive directors who expect churches to be their primary source of financial support. There are many reasons why churches are reluctant to partner. Some pastors fear theological intrusion – imposition of ideas conflicting with their teachings. For example, a church may be willing to promote giving to a child sponsorship organization but won’t permit a foster care organization to conduct classes there. Others worry partners will distract members from church priorities. That’s why perhaps the most common partner churches will allow inside the “4 walls” are financial education programs that encourage saving and paying off debt, freeing up more funds to give to the church.

Once churches reach break-even or some other measure of self-sufficiency, they face the temptation to assert their independence from one or more of the following...

### **Independence from...the Body of Christ**

The words “Kingdom-minded” and “body of Christ” are used today to describe anything involving multiple churches. Churches are labeled as “not Kingdom-minded” if they don’t work with other churches and ministries. Why did it become necessary to invent the term “Kingdom-minded”? The word “Church” (capital C) is supposed to be our natural state – united and collaborative. “Church” and “Kingdom-minded” should be synonymous, but they’re not. The phrase “Kingdom-minded church” should be redundant, but it’s not.

When young churches are dependent on the goodwill of other organizations to get off the ground, they operate as a united member of the body of Christ. Those partnerships are vital – staying Kingdom-minded is not an option. Once church plants break even, they

often break ties – and both the plant and planter celebrate that independence day. Collaboration is no longer necessary because it no longer appears to serve a material purpose. Likewise, an increasing number of churches in America are leaving denominations, or maintaining looser affiliations, as denominational labels have come to be viewed by many as a liability rather than an asset.

### **Independence from...Community Engagement**

Most pastors or upstart churches had to interact and get involved in the local community – otherwise, the church would never get off the ground. Many churches even launch through a series of compassion projects or events to bless the local area, meet new people, and build some name recognition. They correctly defined the lost in the community as the “customer” and focused their energies on building a small base of disciples and deploying them to maximize Kingdom impact. It was easy to stay externally focused when there was so little to lose.

However, as that powerful, biblical approach to church growth proved effective, attention got diverted to managing and maintaining a budding organization. The church began to assert some measure of independence from its initial focus on “loving neighbors” and “making disciples” – early signs of an impending cold. On top of that, frustration may have crept in, wondering whether all those compassion efforts really made a dent. Gradually, the definition of “customer” shifted from the “lost” to the “saved” as the emphasis on member engagement transitioned from needs outside the church to those inside the church. The meaning of the word “outreach” may have become redefined as well – more about arms-length marketing to bring people in than being the hands and feet of Jesus living out the Great Commission.

### **Independence from...Jesus’ Model for Evangelism**

Jesus, the Lord incarnate, spoke the perfect words. Yet He knew the words were not enough. So Jesus almost always served, healed and fed, demonstrating His compassion and love, before telling people who He is. He spent time in the temple, but the bulk of his preaching was done out in the community. He engaged those in need – not just with words, but with deeds – where they were. He didn’t wait for them to darken the doors of a church building. He went to them. He didn’t just preach. He served. Likewise, Jesus sent the disciples out into the world around them, giving them the power to perform miracles and instructing them to follow His lead, preceding words with action. When Paul was called to go to the gentiles, the one thing Peter told him not to forget was to serve the poor. Paul said it was the one thing he was most eager to do (Galatians 2:8-10).

However, few churches today follow Jesus’ model. No pastor can “outreach” Jesus, yet most churches have separated words from action. They’ve replaced care then share with attraction then retention. The Church in America has lost its voice because it is so often heard yet rarely seen. Society doesn’t care what we know any longer because it doesn’t think we care.

### **Restoring Healthy Dependence**

For a church to regain its health, it must humbly confess and accept its need to partner with other churches, ministries, marketplace leaders and Jesus to accomplish His mission in that community. A church that asserts its independence as soon as it feels capable of standing on its own two feet may feel vibrant and alive, but instead is exhibiting the first symptoms of an illness that will eventually suck the life out of it. Reversing the decline of a church in growth, impact, influence and perception requires reestablishing a connection to the power cords of...

Conducting intensive, 1-on-1 or triad discipleship –

no longer centralizing, depersonalizing or internalizing but equipping church members to BE “church” between Sundays

Deploying those disciples to reach non-believers where they are – not simply inviting them to a worship service (that shouldn’t be designed for non-believers anyway) to hear from the professionals”. Continued on page 4.

CHURCHES	June	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	\$ -
Bear Creek	\$ -	\$ -
Bennett	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Bethany	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
Bonlee	\$ -	\$ -
Brookdale	\$ -	\$ -
Brush Creek	\$ 554.50	\$ 1,109.00
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ -	\$ -
Cool Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Cornerstone	\$ -	\$ -
Cumnock	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
East Sanford	\$ 435.83	\$ 1,793.28
Emmaus	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00
Fall Creek	\$ 350.00	\$ 2,100.00
Fellowship	\$ 150.00	\$ 900.00
Flat Springs	\$ -	\$ 2,102.00
Filipino American	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Goldston	\$ 535.50	\$ 1,071.00
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500.00
Gum Springs	\$ -	\$ 625.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ -
Hickory Mountain	\$ -	\$ -
Hunt Springs	\$ 330.00	\$ 1,650.00
Jonesboro Heights	\$ -	\$ 4,442.96
Joy	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,950.00
Juniper Springs	\$ -	\$ 1,925.00
Kingdom Builders of Christ	\$ -	\$ -
Loves Creek	\$ 287.50	\$ 1,757.50
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ -	\$ 1,354.89
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Mount Olive	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
New Life Praise	\$ 50.00	\$ 300.00
New Salem	\$ -	\$ -
Oakley	\$ -	\$ 2,183.18
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 555.65	\$ 3,198.74
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ -
Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$ -	\$ -
Rives Chapel	\$ -	\$ -
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ -
Rocky River	\$ 838.07	\$ 5,705.74
Sandy Branch	\$ 1,094.32	\$ 7,665.79
Sanford, First	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
Shepherd's Flock	\$ 91.00	\$ 598.15
Siler City First	\$ 375.00	\$ 2,250.00
Tramway	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,957.76
Tyson Creek	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL CHURCH INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 12,347.37</b>	<b>\$ 71,079.99</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME - DIVIDEND</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 8.34</b>	<b>\$ 44.02</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 12,355.71</b>	<b>\$ 71,124.01</b>
Expenses This Month	\$ 18,536.10	
Expenses To Date	\$ 89,019.21	
Budget Requirements Per Month	\$ 15,020.91	
Budget Requirements To Date	\$ 90,125.46	
<b>SCBA FUNDS</b>	<b>6/30/2017</b>	
Capital Bank - Checking	\$ 24,862.59	
Capital Bank - Restricted	\$ 36,320.49	
<b>BUDGET 2017</b>	<b>\$ 180,251.00</b>	

**SCBA WMU:** The hot, humid days of August can drain our energy, bringing lethargy that seems to stick as stubbornly as lint to Velcro. But, we continue to TAKE "THE NEXT STEP" in pursuit of our corporate and personal purpose in serving God. For encouraging and equipping your groups a booklet, as noted above, is available for \$1.99 (+ S & H) at [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com) or 1-800-968-7301.

If you missed leadership training in July, you may want to consider attending "As You Go" hosted by First Baptist Church in Hendersonville on Saturday August 12. You may register by contacting Judy Pettigrew, (828) 627-2114 or [judyjohn@bellsouth.net](mailto:judyjohn@bellsouth.net), or Linda Bradley, (828) 606-4760 or [turfmountain@bellsouth.net](mailto:turfmountain@bellsouth.net).

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find myriad opportunities to serve. As you prayerfully consider your "next step", trust God for direction. As this is being written some information is in transit, but will be provided as soon as available. Watch your email and check your mailboxes. Because updated contact information is not always provided, it will be a great help if you would forward to the appropriate women's ministry leaders in your church.

"Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established. ...In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 6: 3; 3: 6).

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

**Ebenezer Christian Children's Home** invites you to prayerfully consider becoming a Foster Parent. Prospective Foster Care Parenting Classes will be held in the fall at Beulah Baptist Church. These classes are 10 Meetings over a period of several weeks beginning on Tuesday, October 3rd. For more info or to schedule an interview, please call Tracy Jackson at 336-581-3121 or 850-777-9443. Thank you.

*Embrace, A Worship Celebration for Women,*

led by award-winning singer-songwriter and author Babbie Mason. This event will be at Crossroads Ministries, (107 Milton Ave., Broadway, NC 27505), September 23, 2017. The doors open at 5pm and worship begins at 6pm. Tickets are 10.00 each. For more information, go to her website [www.babbie.com](http://www.babbie.com) and click on the Embrace tab.



**Sandy Creek Baptist Association**

**SR ADULT FELLOWSHIP REVIVAL**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

**11:00 AM**

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**

(5043 Mount Olive Church Rd., Pittsboro)

**Speaker: Dr. David Crowther**

Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall.

(The offerings will go to the church to help cover cost of the meal.)



**REACHOUT CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER**

**Choosing Life!**

There are many praises to share with you so let's just jump right in. We've had 2 abortion minded/seeking clients so far this month! Both came in for a free test and time to talk about **abortion** and present **other options** along with a free Ultrasound right in our office. Both initially believed their only option was abortion, that an "abortion would erase the mistake, fix the problem." We praise God for a place to meet with each client, to share information and truth, to bring hope by providing practical assistance, parenting or adoption plan support, **to provide an opportunity to choose LIFE over death.** Let's rejoice together for all this. Your support IS saving lives!

**New Ultrasound!**

Last November San-Lee Chapel gifted us with a check for \$15,000.00 with a note that said "Let's save babies and families together." Well, we were sure the Lord had a plan as He had put it on their hearts to give such a gift. We made it a point of prayer, acknowledging His goodness and provision, also fully understanding the responsibility to seek His face for its use. At our January 2017 Board Meeting, Pam Lyerly (our Sonographer), asked the Board to consider replacing our old but usable ultrasound machine. She explained it allowed moms to see their unborn baby and even leave with a picture...**but** it did not allow her to hear her baby's heartbeat. The pictures are amazing, but when we have a client that is 7 weeks along and considering an abortion, the picture at that stage is not so compelling. **However; hearing a heartbeat along with the picture can be.** Our GE LOGIQ F8 manufactured in 2014 was delivered to us for \$14,873.00! It does it all and beautifully. This machine lists for \$54,700.00. Did you put together the price? God's plan and provision of \$15,000.00 allowed us to purchase that needed ultrasound!

**More Clients!**

We're seeing more clients and getting more calls from the new website. This is particularly true of abortion seeking and minded women. We praise Him as He directs them to us.

**A Couple Specific Needs**

Season Appropriate Boys 9-12mos clothes and size 4 diapers.

**ROC Pregnancy Center** —  
507 N. Steele St. 2nd Floor  
Sanford, NC 27330  
Web: [www.reachoutcpc.com](http://www.reachoutcpc.com)

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

**Juniper Springs Baptist** (852 Buckhorn Rd., Sanford) invites you to join them for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat on September 9, 2017. Phyllis Elvington is the featured speaker who is sure to brighten your day through God's word.

A light breakfast and sign in begins at 8:30am.

The cost is \$15.00.

Please pre-register by **August 26<sup>th</sup>** by calling Joy Hackney at (919)-499-3354. Lunch will be provided.



**A Few upcoming dates of interest...**

September 23-24	REVIVE NC Crusade at Chatham Central
October 3	Secretary Sisterhood mtg. at Emmaus
October 11	Mission Development Team mtg. at SCBA office
October 12	Pastor's Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
October 17	Pastor's Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
October 22	SCBA Fall Gathering at Tyson's Creek Baptist
November 6-7	BSC of NC Annual mtg. -Koury convention Center
November 9	Pastor's Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
November 13-15	NC Baptist Secretaries Conf. at Ridgecrest
November 14	Pastor's Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
November 23-24	SCBA office closed for Thanksgiving
November 29	Mission Development Mtg. at Sandy Branch
November 30	Executive Council mtg.
December 22-26	SCBA Office closed

Continued from page 2.

Forming relational year-round ministries that transform lives and genuinely show they care – stop doing transactional compassion events, which do more harm than good

Bridging the divide

that centralizing, depersonalizing or internalizing has created – decreasing the distance between "us" and "them" through preceding life-giving words with loving acts of service

Partnering with churches and ministries around critical local and international "causes" – there may be no greater example of disunity among the body of Christ than the lack of support churches in America provide for persecuted Christians overseas

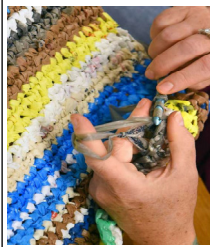
Placing Kingdom priorities above institutional goals – not worrying whether partnerships will divert attention and funds from church needs

**It's Your Turn**

Does your church have enough formal, ongoing partnerships – working collaboratively with other local churches, ministries and community organizations to reach more people who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? If not, why do you think it is acting too independently?"

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

**Siler City First Baptist** has an on-going Homeless Mat Ministry. When you go to a store and get your merchandise in a plastic bag, would you please save them for Siler City First Baptist? (314 N Second Ave). 919.742.4310.



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

**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 at Brush Creek
<b>September—Calendar of Events-</b>		
4		SCBA office Closed for Labor Day
7	12 Noon	Pastor's Lunch at Golden Corral, Sanford
12	12 Noon	Pastor's Lunch at Best Food, Siler City
13	10:00am	Mission Development Team mtg. at Sandy Branch
19	11:00-1:00pm	Senior Fall Fellowship Revival at Mt. Olive
21	10:30-12:00	Executive Council Team mtg.