The Link
Sandy Creek Baptist Association

January, 2023

Until He Returns….

I love the line in the famous hymn that says, "I stand amazed!" God has his way of daily causing us to be in awe and amazement as to who He is and what He does in our lives and the lives of those around us. Today, I am amazed that I am already writing an article for the January 2023 Link Newsletter for our association. This year has flown by for sure, and it adds validity to what my father would tell me in his later years, "son, the older you get, the quicker that time moves." For me, it is a constant reminder that we need to make the most of every moment we have for the glory of God! Ephesians 5:15 emphasizes that we are to "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of time…" As you think about 2023, how will you make the most of your life for God? Many make resolutions that only last a matter of weeks, I can relate to that, lol. I would say for 2023, maybe we should not seek to make resolutions, but to grow closer in our walk with God in our prayer time, in reading and meditating on the Bible and sharing with others our testimony. This takes great intentionality and consistency. When we strive to grow in our walk with the Lord, it will have lasting Kingdom effects in all relational aspects of our lives.
I am thankful for all that God is doing through the churches of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association as we are on mission together for the glory of our great God! Please pay close attention to the gatherings that we have scheduled for the upcoming weeks and months.
My prayer is that you would each have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!
Blessings,
Barry Lawrence

Important Dates:

Pastors Fellowship: Jan. 10th at 10 a.m. - SCBA Office - on the Life Unique journey for pastors. This will be an informative session and we will have Brian Upshaw and Sandy Marks here to share with us. You don't want to miss this opportunity.

Pastors and Wives Dinner: Jan. 13th at 6p.m.

Pastors Roundtable: Jan. 17th at SCBA Office

Reconstruct Conference: Jan. 24th, Kings Cross Church, Greensboro. (I would highly recommend pastors to attend this conference on strengthening struggling churches. It is also for churches that are able to assist churches that need a church to come along side them.)

SCBA Church Strengthening Seminar: Tues. Feb. 21st at 6:30. More information to come

NC Baptist Disciple Making Conference: Mon., Feb. 20th at 9 a.m. - Calvary Baptist, Winston Salem

Pastoral Wellness Intro Fellowship

Pastors, we each know the joys of ministry, but also, the difficulties that can come in seasons of ministry. It is important that we each intentionally care for ourselves as we care for the flock that God has blessed us to minister to. On Tuesday, January 10th at 10:00 at the SCBA office, we will be joined by Brian Upshaw, the Assoc. Executive Director-Treasurer and director of the Ministries Strategy Group for the Baptist State Convention of NC. Brian will be sharing an exciting opportunity for church leadership to be involved in, a training called Life Unique in March and May. This training will help each participant to discover how God has uniquely created and gifted every person for his Glory. This training will be four days over two months and each pastor's cost will be covered by the SCBA. Also, Sandy Marks will be joining us that day as well to discuss Pastoral Wellness and establishing cohorts within the association for encouragement and accountability. I would highly urge you to put this date on your calendar to be better informed about the opportunity each of us has to participate in this vital training. Please email the association by January 6th at sandycreekassoc@gmail.com to let us know that you will be attending. Don't miss out on this blessing.

CHURCHES	November	YTD
Antioch	$ -	$ 250.00
Bear Creek	$ -	$ 1,500.00
Bennett	$ -	$ 3,000.00
Bethany	$ -	$ 1,000.00
Bonlee	$ -	$ 800.00
Brookdale	$ -	$ -
Brush Creek	$ -	$ 1,962.00
Centro Familiar Cristiano	$ -	$ 600.00
Cool Springs	$ 3,025.00	$ 11,275.00
CoolWater Cowboy	$ 520.53	$ 4,501.18
Cornerstone	$ -	$ 1,000.00
Cumnock	$ -	$ 2,083.36
East Sanford	$ 126.64	$ 8,503.80
Emmaus	$ -	$ 10,000.00
Fall Creek	$ -	$ 2,800.00
Fellowship	$ -	$ 2,000.00
Flat Springs	$ -	$ 3,525.00
Filipino American	$ -	$ -
Grace Hill	$ -	$ -
Goldston	$ 2,088.00	$ 2,784.00
Good News	$ 250.00	$ 2,750.00
Gum Springs	$ -	$ 1,875.00
Hickory Grove	$ -	$ -
Hickory Mountain	$ -	$ 1,000.00
Hunt Springs	$ 100.00	$ 900.00
Jonesboro Heights	$ -	$ 6,678.90
Joy	$ -	$ 2,250.00
Juniper Springs	$ -	$ 3,375.00
Kingdom Builders of Christ	$ -	$ -
Loves Creek	$ 125.00	$ 1,375.00
Mays Chapel	$ -	$ 840.00
Moncure	$ 591.64	$ 2,380.57
Moons Chapel	$ -	$ 1,200.00
Mount Olive	$ 500.00	$ 5,500.00
New Life Bible Church	$ -	$ 500.00
New Salem	$ -	$ 2,000.00
Oakley	$ -	$ 9,134.08
Pittsboro Baptist	$ 514.80	$ 5,990.19
Pleasant Hill	$ -	$ -
Primera Iglesia Bautista	$ -	$ -
Rives Chapel	$ -	$ 1,000.00
Roca Fuerte	$ -	$ -
Rock Springs	$ -	$ -
Rocky River	$ 1,179.61	$ 5,496.38
Sandy Branch	$ -	$ -
Sanford, First	$ 3,500.00	$ 12,500.00
Shepherd's Flock	$ 55.40	$ 518.78
Siler City First	$ -	$ 2,083.30
Tramway	$ 131.25	$ 1,443.75
Tyson Creek	$ 166.66	$ 2,106.09
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	**$ 12,874.53**	**$ 130,481.38**
OTHER INCOME	**$ -**	$ -
INTEREST INCOME	$ 154.92	$ 286.85
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$ 13,029.45**	**$ 130,768.23**
Expenses This Month	$ 6,479.23	
Expenses To Date	$ 90,865.82	
Budget Requirements Per Month	$ 12,349.06	
Budget Requirements To Date	$ 135,839.66	
SCBA FUNDS	**11.30.22**	
General Checking Account	$ 297,987.05	
Designated Fund	$ 37,732.26	
Church Emergency Fund	$ 60,053.73	
BUDGET 2022	**$ 148,188.78**	

Reach Out Pregnancy Center

403 Carthage Street
Sanford, NC 27330
919-292-2657

'Behold, I make all things new'…" Rev. 21:5

Out with the old and in with the new - Do those words give you energy and excitement or anxiety and stress?

The LORD says that HE is making all things new! That gives me comfort to know that our God is making the old thoughts, habits, ideas, prejudices, and behaviors NEW by the power of his Holy Spirit at work in me and in you!! Join me in thanking Him today for making us new – new creations in Christ Jesus!

Prayer & Praise:
Praise God for a new Year! New adventures and new beginnings! Pray for new Clients to come to Reach Out.

Needs: WE NEED diapers sizes 3-7.

Thank you for your prayers & support!

Copy & paste this link for new online giving opportunities.

https://reachoutcpc.networkforgood.com/projects/173913-supporting-life

In Ministry for LIFE,
Dianna Andrews
Executive Director

Pastors and Wives Dinner

January 13, 2023
6pm - 8pm
Gigi's Creations
143 Charlotte Ave.
Sanford, NC 27330
Please RSVP by January 4th to
sandycreekassoc@gmail.com

Music Ministry Position Opening

Flat Springs Baptist Church is seeking a full-time Minister of Music, who will help our ministry team lead our community closer to Jesus Christ through music. Our church is a midsize church with traditional worship, open to thoughtful inclusions of different worship experiences. Responsibilities include overseeing and integrating music for adults, youth, and children. Interested applicants please use this email address: flatspringspersonnel@gmail.com

Rives Chapel Baptist Church
is searching for a Full Time Pastor.
Please send a Letter of Interest and Resume to:
Rives Chapel Baptist Church
4338 Rives Chapel Church Road,
riveschapelchurch@gmail.com

Full Time Senior Pastor Position

Rocky River Baptist Church, located in a rural area outside of Siler City, North Carolina, is seeking a full time Senior Minister. Our congregation prefers that the applicant have at least 8 to 10 years experience in pastoral ministry with a degree from an accredited Baptist Seminary or Divinity School. Rocky River's congregation is dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and affirms women in ministry. We are a fellowship of Christian believers who celebrate our rich heritage as we strive to minister to the spiritual needs of our congregation and community that we serve. If you feel led to apply for this position, please send your resume to: Pastor Search Team, Rocky River Baptist Church, 4436 Siler City Snow Camp Road, Siler City, NC 27344.

The deadline for submission is February 28, 2023.

The deadline for articles and / or event fliers to be turned in to the office, for THE LINK Newsletter is the 15th of each month prior to the published month.

SCBA WMU: As these words are put to paper, or more accurately typed into my laptop, outside it is a cold, gray, rainy day but inside it's warm and dry. The fragrance of morning coffee lingers and intermingles with the savory aroma of soup simmering on the stove wrapping around me like a familiar comforter---unseen, but a presence that cannot be denied. The aggregate of these ordinary elements on a winter's day reminds of the myriad of blessings "from above" (James 1:17). Many are invisible to the human eye as is the delicious aroma wafting from the kitchen, but undeniably present. How do we know? God's Word tells us of Christ, salvation, God's love, and the Holy Spirit in the believer's heart to name a few. Knowing these truths, how can we not "Be joyful…, patient…, [and] faithful…" (Rom. 12:12)?

Together you donated 17,736 pieces of hard candy weighing in at 283 pounds that will be part of the Christmas blessing touching the lives of approximately 2,000 women in NC prisons. Each box will also include a Christmas tract. Thank you for your faithful participation in the RED BOX Prison Ministry.

January 29 – February 5, 2023 is the Week of Prayer and NC Offering for Older Adults. This year's goal is $650,000, 100% of which will provide care for older adults with limited resources. Donations may be made online at brh.org/foundation.

Baptist Retirement Homes is looking for partners in the "Medicine From The Heart" program which helps older adults across NC obtain their prescription medications more cost effectively. Email Keith Dixon at kdixon@brh.org or call (336) 725-0202 for more information, or donate online as previously noted.

January – April 2023 the WMU NC Quarterly Book Cub will focus on WOMEN WHO RISK, a book that tells the story of Christ working in the lives of Muslim women. To register for the book club go to wmunc.org.

The free online Monthly Leadership Luncheons will continue this year. For the 2023 schedule and topics go to wmunc.org/leadership-luncheons.

As the New Year dawns full of promise in spite of the spiritual warfare that rages around us, I pray we will keep the words of 1 John 5:19-20 hidden in our hearts and in our minds: *"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."* May you grow more firmly rooted in the Rock in 2023.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
Director: Susan T. Ferguson,
fergusonst@earthlink.net, or (919) 548-0115

Mission Opportunity with Emmaus Baptist Church

We are making plans to go to Kentucky in April of 2023 to visit schools to share the gospel and deliver gift boxes to the children. Several of the schools we visited last year were flooded and many of the children lost everything they owned. At least three of the children we shared with died in the floods. Last year, several churches in the Sandy Creek Association helped provide boxes filled with appropriate items to distribute to the children. If your church would like to help again, please contact Pastor Steve Moore emmauspreach@emmausnc.net or (919) 623-1316 with the number of boxes you will need. We will provide the boxes for you to fill with a list of items to include. The boxes will need to be returned to us no later than **March 15, 2023**.If you have questions concerning this outreach mission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pastor Steve Moore

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

The one day spring trainings are for anyone who wants to be certified for the first time or for those wanting to update their badge date. The following is the plan we will use for spring 2023.

Region 3 DR Training – Village Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC – Saturday, March 4
Region 5 DR Training – Oakhurst Baptist Church, Asheboro, NC – Saturday, March 18

Saturday: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Cost is $40 per person

For more information go to:
baptistsonmission.org/training/disaster-relief-training
ALL TRAINING REGISTRATION closes on the Monday prior to each training weekend.

NOTE ABOUT IN PERSON TRAINING: There will be no overnight lodging at the church. If you choose to overnight you will need to work out your own lodging and breakfast on Saturday. Lunch on Saturday is provided. You will arrive at the church to check in with your specific ministry group by 8:30 am. Some ministries will finish training before 3:00 pm.

BAPTISTS ON MISSION

Let's be on mission together as we pray for unreached people groups in North Carolina, N.C. Baptists missionaries and church planters for 50 weeks throughout 2023.

Sign up

PRAYNC.ORG

or text

PRAYNC
TO (919) 925-6525

A TIME OF RENEWAL AND REVIVAL

BIBLE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 6TH, 7TH & 8TH. 2023

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY EVENING 7PM

Stephen Dagenhart
Calvary Baptist Church
Taylorsville NC

Stoney Benfield
Prospect Baptist Church
Albemarle NC

Kevin Marritt
Charity Baptist Church
Ponitoc, MS

Cameron McGill
Lake Church
White Lake NC

Scott Walker
Tysons Creek Baptist Church
Bear Creek, NC

Wesley Thomas
Hunt Spring Baptist Church
Sanford NC

Jason Payne
Liledoun Baptist Church
Taylorsville NC

Stacey Layne
Solid Rock Baptist Church
Morganton, NC

Cody Bullman
Morganton NC

HICKORY MOUNTAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH

ADDRESS
1094 MT VERNON HCRY MT RD
SILER CITY, NC

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
PASTOR CASEY RAYFIELD
423-794-8250

NC Baptist Foundation Scholarships 2023

The Foundation has four educational scholarships available for Baptist students. Applications for these scholarships are online, and are open as of January 1, 2023, and will remain open until the close of business on February 15th, 2023. More detailed information can be found on each scholarship at: http://ncbaptistfoundation.org/scholarships. Here are some of the features of each scholarship:

Bullard Family Scholarship:

- Be committed to preparing for full-time Christian ministry.
- Be a member (or parents are a member) of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.
- Award ranging between $500 minimum and $2,500 maximum.

Martha Watson Scholarship

- Be a full-time student at any institution of higher education.
- Be a member of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.
- Award ranging between $500 minimum and $2,500 maximum.

Luther H. Butler Scholarship:

- Be a full-time student at an NC Baptist related University.
- Be a member of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.
- Award ranging between $500 minimum and $2,500 maximum.

Mildred France Thomas Music Scholarship:

- Be a music major with an interest in piano and/or organ as your medium.
- Be a member (or parents are a member) of a church affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of NC.
- Award ranging between $500 minimum and $2,500 maximum.

WE'RE HIRING!

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT TRUETT APPLY TODAY!!!

Help bring kids to an authentic and personal relationship with Jesus.

Receive great training and certifications.

Have tons of fun growing your personal relation, and leadership skills.

TRUETT NATION