

The Link

Sandy Creek Baptist Association

December 2023



Until He Returns....

As the joyful season of Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the incredible gift given to us—Jesus Christ, our Savior. In the middle of the twinkling lights and festive decorations, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound biblical significance of this wondrous occasion.

The Gospel of Luke tells us of the angel's proclamation to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). This timeless message remains the heart of our Christmas celebration—a celebration not just of presents and fellowship, but a celebration of the ultimate gift, God's love incarnate.

This Christmas let's focus on creating a spirit of joy and kindness that mirrors the love of Christ. As we exchange gifts with one another, let us remember the precious gift of salvation offered freely to us through Jesus. Through prayer, worship, and acts of compassion, let's also share this profound message of hope with our community.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection, gratitude, and a deepening of our faith. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may His light shine brightly in our lives, guiding us through the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Christmas season filled with the love and peace that surpasses all understanding.

Blessings,
Barry Lawrence, SCBA Associational Missionary

Important Dates:

Tues. Dec. 5th: Pastors' Roundtable @ 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Thurs. Dec. 7th: Senior Luncheon @ 11 am - Bestfood Cafeteria

Tues. Dec. 19th: Pastors' Prayer Gathering @ 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Mon. Dec. 25th: Christmas Day

Mon. Jan. 1st: New Year's Day

Tues. Jan. 2nd: No Pastors' Roundtable this week

Tues. Jan. 16th: Pastors' Prayer Gathering at 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Fri. Jan 19th: Pastors and Wives Dinner 6pm @ Gigi's Creations in Sanford

SCBA WMU: December arrives filled with promise and possibilities that can eventually overwhelm as schedules fill with shopping, Christmas play and cantata practices, parties, and other seasonal activities. The Babe in the manger can be obscured in the busyness of Christmas preparations if one isn't diligent to focus on the reason for the upcoming celebration: The Great I Am, the Lord of all creation, the Lamb of God, the Savior, that tiny Baby wrapped in swaddling cloth. It will still be Christmas even if we don't get everything checked off that to-do list.

In addition to these activities, the International Missions Emphasis – Zambia, and the Week of Prayer for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) is the 3rd – 10th. This month's *Missions Mosaic (MM)* spotlights the week in an article (pgs. 11-21) including a summary of the history of IMB from 1845 to the present. There is even a modernized recipe for Lottie Moon's Tea Cakes. Try the recipe and serve to the children while introducing them to Lottie Moon who was a missionary to China for 39 years and for whom the LMCO is named. Other resources are readily available at [WMU Store](#).

Looking for a unique way to support missionaries on the field? Check out pages 5 – 7 in MM for information on how to adopt a missionary.

Thank you for meeting our goal of 300 bottles of shampoo for Red Box 2023. Ever wonder if such a gift makes a difference? The following is a thank you note from one of last year's recipient's: "...I'm an inmate at NCCIW Canary Unit. I'm writing...on behalf of all the women incarcerated. ...our hearts are touched by you all's selflessness and generosity. This year is my very first "Red Box" experience. ...we sincerely appreciate everything. Most of us feel unworthy of such kindness, but thankfully the merciful God we serve has instilled compassion into...your hearts...may God bless...and keep you all in His favor. ...with the love of Jesus Christ, Heather."

A small gift can have an impact in the lives of others who may feel forgotten. Send a Christmas card, visit or call someone, go Christmas caroling, take someone homemade cookies...these simple gestures can have an eternal impact in the life of the recipient. Be creative and bless someone this Christmas.

"For unto us a Child is born, ...a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!

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

CHURCHES	October	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Bear Creek	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Bennett	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Bethany	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bonlee	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Brookdale	\$ -	\$ 3,550.00
Brush Creek	\$ 655.25	\$ 2,627.00
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Cool Springs	\$ -	\$ 9,075.00
CoolWater Cowboy	\$ 883.80	\$ 3,908.54
Cornerstone	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Cumnock	\$ 208.33	\$ 1,875.01
East Sanford	\$ 130.48	\$ 1,253.78
Emmaus	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fall Creek	\$ -	\$ 2,100.00
Fellowship	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00
Flat Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,525.00
Filipino American	\$ -	\$ -
Goldston	\$ 1,613.07	\$ 2,419.61
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500.00
Gum Springs	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ -
Hickory Mountain	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Hunt Springs	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00
Iglesia Bautista Emaus	\$ -	\$ -
Jonesboro Heights	\$ -	\$ 7,008.75
Joy	\$ -	\$ 2,750.00
Juniper Springs	\$ -	\$ 3,375.00
Loves Creek	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,250.00
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ 753.12	\$ 3,267.80
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Mount Olive	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000.00
New Life Bible Church	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
New Salem	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Oakley	\$ 2,139.08	\$ 9,259.17
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 743.34	\$ 10,413.59
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Rives Chapel	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ -
Rocky River	\$ 423.99	\$ 5,034.04
Sandy Branch	\$ 1,644.66	\$ 2,406.15
Sanford, First	\$ 3,125.00	\$ 12,125.00
Shepherd's Baptist	\$ 40.98	\$ 523.38
Siler City First	\$ 208.33	\$ 2,083.30
Tramway	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,350.00
Tyson Creek	\$ 333.34	\$ 1,666.62
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	\$ 19,427.77	\$ 130,136.74
OTHER INCOME	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 125.42	\$ 2,132.94
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 19,553.19	\$ 132,269.68
Expenses This Month	\$ 10,404.11	
Expenses To Date	\$ 90,175.75	
Budget Requirements Per Month	\$ 11,250.00	
Budget Requirements To Date	\$ 112,500.00	
SCBA FUNDS	10.31.2023	
General Checking Account	\$ 140,764.45	
Designated Fund	\$ 106,679.45	Interest on CP
Certificate of Participation (8)	\$ 200,819.18	\$ 819.18
BUDGET 2023	\$ 135,000.00	



Prayers & Praises: Please pray for our Clients who are facing food and housing insecurities in the cold weather and during the Holiday Season. **We have seen 28 babies born to Clients in 2023!**

Needs: Diapers all sizes especially 3, 4, 5, & 6

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/reachoutcpc>

From all of us at Reach Out Ministries, we are wishing you a Holiday full of family, food, fun, and joy! If you are experiencing the abundance of God's provision this Season, I would ask that you share generously with those in our community who have little or in some cases, nothing at all. You can help a mother keep her baby by giving material or financial gifts to LIFE! Prayerfully consider giving to Reach Out Pregnancy Center today!

Online giving opportunities:

<https://tinyurl.com/Meet-the-Need>

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KKK8XD90F5Y6?ref=wl_share

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

"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" Colossians 1:27 NRSV

In Ministry for **LIFE**,
Dianna Andrews
Executive Director

Hickory Mountain Baptist Church is searching for someone to lead, organize and develop the musical aspects of worship in a traditional or blended style of worship music. We are a small, rural church seeking revitalization in the Silk Hope community. Please send resumes to:
car2brazil@gmail.com

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.

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
Siler City, NC 27344
riveschapelchurch@gmail.com

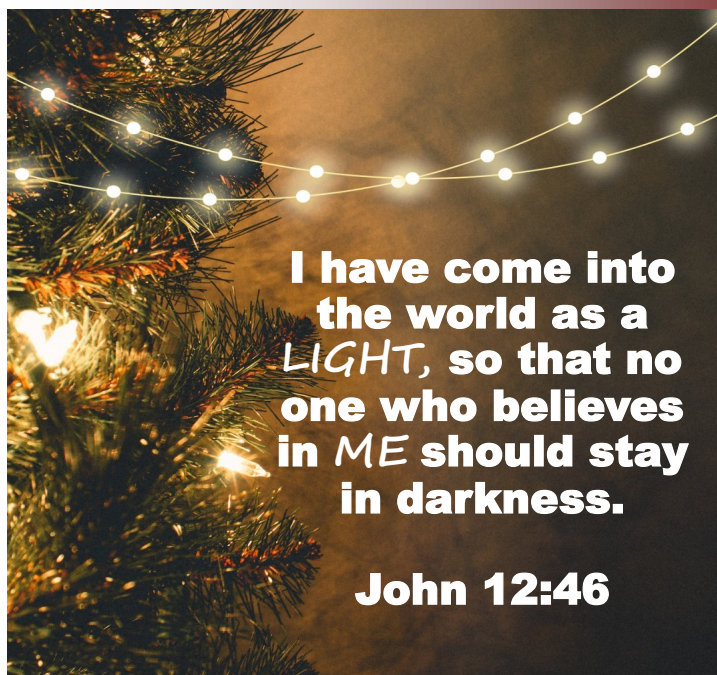
Mt Olive Baptist Church is searching for a Full Time Lead Pastor. We are aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention. Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Mt Olive Baptist Church
c/o Pastor Search Committee
5043 Mt Olive Church Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
or
email to: christina@mtolivebaptist.com

JUBILEE ASSOCIATIONAL CHOIR

Meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Cool Springs Baptist Choir Room. Must be 50 or older and love the Lord.

Please contact Jack Childress for more information. (919) 770-3204



I have come into the world as a LIGHT, so that no one who believes in ME should stay in darkness.

John 12:46

SENIOR LUNCHEON

THURS. DEC. 7TH
11:00 AM
BESTFOOD CAFETERIA
SILER CITY

Speaker: Rev. Matt Martin

Please RSVP online at www.sandycreekba.com, call the office at (919) 776-9423 or email sandycreekassoc@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pastors and Wives Dinner

Friday, January 19, 2024

6 - 8 pm

Gigi's Creations
143 Charlotte Ave., Sanford

Pastors, please bring your wives and join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship! Please RSVP by 1/12/24.

sandycreekassoc@gmail.com or
(919) 776-9423



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Your gifts support gospel transformation around the world

100% Of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® - IMB Generosity

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

bchfamily.org/gift-catalog



GIFT CATALOG

2023



SHOP 30+ GIFT IDEAS

GIVE THE GIFT OF A BIBLE TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER OWNED ONE

PAGE 11

CELEBRATE

Gift Catalog | Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina | Thomasville
bchfamily.org

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT WITH A GIFT THAT REALLY MATTERS THIS YEAR

COVER STORY: READ MORE ON PAGE 2

Shop our selection of gifts that impact the lives of children and families across North Carolina & Guatemala through our many ministries that share hope...change lives.

SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES
Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA

FIVE WAYS

To Pray for the Middle East Conflict

[Middle-East-Prayer-Guide-2.pdf](#)
(baptistpress.com)



COATS for the CITY

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of the churches who collected coats to send to NYC!

Please pray for the SCBA Mission Team that will travel to NYC hand coats out on Dec. 2. We pray for traveling mercies and for many lives to be touched and hearts turned to Jesus as this team, along with the others that are helping, reflect and share Christ's love and the hope that can only be found in Him.

SAVE THE DATE!



Free wheelchair ramp construction trainings!

For more information, please visit:
[Baptists on Mission - Construction Training](#)

February 10, 2024 - Cary
9:30 am - 11:30 am

\$200,000

MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

YOUR INVESTMENT IN A CHILD'S LIFE IS **DOUBLED** UNTIL JAN. 31, 2024!



BCHFAMILY.ORG/GIVENOW

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
FOUNDATION
FAITH • FAMILY • FULFILLMENT

Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation is proud to assist older adults in NC who cannot afford the care they need and deserve. Every dollar contributed directly supports recipients through this generous benevolence program. For more information, please visit: www.thrivemorenc.org/foundation

Stephanie Moody Shaffer, Church Relations Manager, would be happy to share more information with you or schedule a program for your church or fellowship group. Email: sshaffer@thrivemorenc.org or call 919.413.4614

Church Bus For Sale

- 2007 33 passenger bus
- Chevy C500 diesel
- 48,000 miles
- Good condition and regularly serviced
- Asking Price \$30,000

Contact Karl Shaffer at
(919) 244-1984 for more
information.

Register Here



Bible Conference | Hickory Mountain
BC (hickorymtnbaptist.wixsite.com)



JUNIPER TREE *Conference*

FEBRUARY 8TH-10TH

Location: 1094 Mt Vernon Hwy Mt Rd, Siler City NC
Information: 423-794-8250 Hickorymtnbaptist@gmail.com

JUNIPER TREE *Conference*

February 8th-10th 2023



NEAL JACKSON



JASON GOLDEN



STEVE DAGENHART



GEORGE TOWNSEND



SAM ROACH



BRIAN UPSHAW



JEREMIAH PARKER



QUINTELL HILL



CODY BULLMAN



TANNER MUNDY



STACEY LAYNE



everyCHILD
FOSTER CARE

NUMBERS TO DATE

TOTAL FOSTER
HOMES LICENSED **381**

TOTAL FOSTER
CHILDREN SERVED IN
BCH FOSTER HOMES **779**



every-child.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DECEMBER 1
2024 REGISTRATION OPENS!



RIDETOCLYDE.COM

SERVE NC

AUGUST 3-10, 2024



SERVENC.COM

N.C. Baptist leaders are calling on churches across North Carolina to commit a week next August to serving others in their local communities through a special initiative called ServeNC. For more information, please visit [ServeNC | Baptist State Convention of North Carolina \(ncbaptist.org\)](https://www.ncbaptist.org)

For more information on these and many other upcoming events, please visit [Events | Baptist State Convention of North Carolina \(ncbaptist.org\)](https://www.ncbaptist.org)

STUDENT MINISTRY
STATE TOUR
BE.DO.TELL & STUDENT LEADERSHIP

NC BAPTIST
SINGERS & ORCHESTRA

CHILDREN
Foundations of
Children's Ministry

Winter Youth Retreat
January 13-15, 2024
TRUETT

February 9-10, 2024
MARRIAGE MATTERS
Conference
TRUETT
CONFERENCE CENTER & CAMP

THE GO CONFERENCE
MOBILIZING COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 9-10
TheGoConference.com
Southeastern NC BAPTISTS IMB

Youth
HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Adult
HANDBELL FESTIVAL

DISCIPLE-MAKING
CONFERENCE

TRANSITIONAL INTERIM *training*

RETIRO HISPANO
de Pastores, Líderes y Esposas
Caswell April 25-27, 2024

REFRESH
INTERNATIONAL PASTORS CONFERENCE
MAY 17-18, 2024 • CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER

DEEP IMPACT
Called
DI Kids 2024
Saved and Called to a Holy Calling | 2TIM 1:8-9

BEDOTELL.COM
THE GOOD LIFE
2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

Called to a Holy Calling
καλέω
2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9
2024 DEEP IMPACT STUDENT MISSIONS

Jesus
BEDOTELL 2024 Fall Retreat
Oct. 18-20 // Black Mountain, NC • Nov. 8-10 // Fort Caswell, NC

2024 TRUETT RETREATS



January 13-15: Winter Youth Retreat

Grades 6-12: Youth Groups can bond, make memories, and encounter the Gospel in a fun, friendly environment.

February 9-10: Marriage Matters

An amazing event for a husband and wife to improve their relationship through Biblical guidance and a weekend getaway.

March 22-24: Women's Conference

Ages 18+: An event for women to connect, be encouraged and equipped to follow the Lord closer.

April 5-7: Mother & Daughter Retreat

Ages 6-12: Invest in your relationship in a fun setting that continually points participants towards Jesus.

April 26-28: Grandparent Camp

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

May 3-5: Father & Daughter Campout

Ages 6-12: Get outside and unplug from the worries of daily life to grow in relation to the Heavenly Father.

June 6-8: Western Happiness Retreat

All ages: An event for people of all ages with developmental disabilities to enjoy a weekend of fun, friendship, and faith!

October 4-6: Father & Son Warrior Weekend

Ages 6-12: Dads fight for your sons in the battle for being a man after God's own heart while enjoying great outdoor recreation.

November 1-3: Forged Man Camp

Ages 18+: Come be men with great outdoor recreation and iron sharpening iron in the beautiful fall mountains.

August 16-18: Grandparent Camp

Ages 6-12 w/ a grandparent: Bridge the generational gap by making lasting memories with a retreat that appeals to all ages!

Retreats repeat annually on the same weekend.

Revive

Isaiah 57:15

We are the ideal place to retreat from the burdens of daily life. Here, you will feel God's presence. Our staff will take excellent care of you. The end result is that you will be more alive in Christ than before.

Refresh

Philemon 1:7

Spend time in fellowship with others. Deepen your friendships. All your needs will be met, allowing you to rest and adventure as much as you wish!

Renew

Isaiah 40:30-31

Encounter the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thousands of guests have had their hearts renewed and transformed to be molded more into the image of our Savior.



SUMMER CAMP 2024



Week 1

June 10-14: Girls Camp #1

Week 2

June 17-21: Boys Camp #1

Week 3

June 23-28: Youth Camp #1

Week 4

June 30-July 5: Youth Camp #2

Week 5

July 8-11: Children's Church Camp

Week 6

July 15-19: Boys Camp #2

Week 7

July 21-26: Youth Camp #3

Week 8

July 29 to Aug 2: Girls Camp #2

Girls Camp & Boys Camp (Ages 7-17)
\$240 per person

These incredible overnight camp experiences allow campers to build strong friendships, grow through outdoor adventure, and encounter the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The weeks run from Monday to Friday.

Youth Camps (Ages 12-17)
\$350 per person

Youth Camps are designed for churches to attend together. The weeks run from Sunday to Friday and consists of mission projects, outdoor recreation, small group devotions, white water rafting, preaching from the Word of God, and worship. All activities, food, and lodging included in the price!

Children's Church Camp (Ages 6-11)
\$275 per person

Churches can bring kids to camp to experience the thrill of a summer camp week (Monday-Thursday). More importantly, each one will encounter the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The cost includes all activities, lodging, meals, and more!

Scan for more info/to register.



NC BAPTISTS

177 Truett Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904
828-389-8828
www.truettcamp.org



Scan for more info/to register.



NC BAPTISTS

177 Truett Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904
828-389-8828
www.truettcamp.org

