

The Link

Sandy Creek Baptist Association



February 2024

"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!"

Those words are penned in the final stanza of the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. We probably sang them recently in the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," based on the poem.

"Christmas Bells" begins with a somewhat uplifting, optimistic expression of hope and peace. It then turns somewhat pessimistic and even discouraging as it progresses through the next five (5) stanzas. It is that seventh stanza that reminds us that "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep," even in disappointing and desperate times.

The Christian life is somewhat like that poem and song. We often start our journey, or a season within our journey, with hope and peace. The times look promising. Then, something happens and we begin that slide into pessimism, darkness, and despair. At last, we are reminded in some way, through some event or circumstance, that God is not only "not dead," but that He is very much alive and well, working in hearts and lives to promote His kingdom and advance His glory.

Like many on the Administrative Team over the past couple of years, I was filled with hope and optimism. Barry Lawrence seemed to be the right person at the right time for Sandy Creek Baptist Association. He was, in my opinion, doing a great job and things were going well. Like many of you, I was disappointed to hear of his resignation, even though I felt certain he was following God's call in his life.

I wondered what would happen. I wondered why God would interrupt such successful work for His kingdom. As the poet says, "in despair I bowed my head." And it was there that God reminded me that "[He] is not dead, nor doth He sleep!" He is in control.

As the Administrative Team worked through the process of closing out Barry's season as our AM and preparing for the future, God showed me the great work He had done through Barry to get the SCBA ready for this transition, and then the great future He has for the SCBA.

I am honored to be named the Interim Associational Missionary. I believe that God is still doing great things through this association, and that He would allow you and me to be a part of that work is amazing. I hope that I can serve you well. During this time, I will work to continue the ministry of building healthy pastors, healthy churches and a healthy missional engagement with the world around us.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at 919-352-2705. I will be available one Sunday morning, one Sunday evening and one Wednesday evening per month to fill-in at your church or to come and share about the SCBA mission and ministry. May God bless you as we "press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" together. (Phil 3:14, NKJV)

Robbie L. Gibson
Senior Pastor
East Sanford Baptist Church

Important Dates:

Feb. 6: Pastors' Roundtable - 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Feb. 8-10: Juniper Tree Conference - Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, Siler City - Evening sessions at 7pm - (Morning sessions 2/9-2/10 at 10 am)

Feb. 20: Pastors' Prayer Gathering - 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Feb. 27th: Disciple Making Conference - Hickory Grove Baptist, Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte

Mar. 2: Journaling Disciples Workshop - 10 am - 3 pm - East Sanford Baptist

Mar. 5: Pastors' Roundtable - 10:30 am - SCBA Office

Mar. 7: Senior Luncheon - 11 a.m. - Bestfood Cafeteria

Mar. 19: Pastors' Prayer Gathering - 10:30 am - SCBA Office

SCBA WMU: February evokes thoughts of flowers, chocolates, and sending cards to those we love. Consider reaching out to someone who may need to be reminded they are not forgotten. An unexpected phone call, note, or visit can be a great way to brighten someone's day. Be creative as you look for ways to show *"that you love one another, just as I [Jesus] have loved you"* (John 13:34-35).

Leadership Luncheons via Zoom resume February 14th with Amanda Martinsen as guest speaker. Register at wmunc.org/leadership-luncheon-2024.

The WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering and Week of Prayer is the 12th-18th and Focus on WMU Sunday the 18th. For information and resources go to www.wmunc.org.

The next Women's Leadership Cohort group begins February 27th and ends March 26th. For more information or to register go to wmunc.org/leadership-cohort. Consider offering a scholarship (cost: \$40) for someone exploring God's call to leadership as an encouragement to step out in faith.

The February *Missions Mosaic (MM)* is a treasure trove of challenges, encouragement, and testimonies. Read about Liberia WMU, begun in 1963, and the 400-600 women that now meet annually for a four-day convention. Read about their perseverance and how God is working in and through these faithful women (pgs. 14-15).

Read about the college student called to serve overseas and the process of applying for IMB (pgs. 18-19). Catherine shares her life and testimony of serving overseas since October 2019 as a journeyman until she was appointed to full-time service in 2022.

The Bible Study (pgs. 26-27) focuses on Esther and is a timely reminder that each of us is strategically located by God *"for such a time as this"* (Esther 4:14). The Book of Esther is also the scriptural basis for this month's prayer patterns, challenging and encouraging one to be courageous and obedient.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) and Week of Prayer is March 3-10. This year's goal is \$75 million, 100% of which will go to support 2,900 missionary families serving in the US and Canada. The theme, *"Make Jesus Known"* is based on Mark 16:15. For resources visit www.anniearmstrong.com/resources.

Annie Armstrong, for whom the AAEO was named in 1934, was instrumental in the formation of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Chosen to be the first recording secretary (now executive director), she served in this capacity for 18 years, resigning in 1906.

Annie reported she had written 77,447 letters and other documents to raise support for missionaries, funding for WMU, and to provide missions education materials. This was about 8,000 letters a year in an age without laptops, email, or Facebook. Today we are still impacted by her faithfulness.

Annie and Esther, two women who trusted God, are still impacting lives today. Now they are what I would call true influencers.

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

CHURCHES	December	YTD
Antioch	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Bear Creek	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Bennett	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Bethany	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bonlee	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Brookdale	\$ -	\$ 3,550.00
Brush Creek	\$ 655.25	\$ 3,282.25
Centro Familiar Cristiano	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Cool Springs	\$ -	\$ 9,075.00
CoolWater Cowboy	\$ 637.36	\$ 4,545.90
Cornerstone	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Cumnock	\$ 208.33	\$ 2,291.67
East Sanford	\$ -	\$ 1,253.78
Emmaus	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Fall Creek	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 4,200.00
Fellowship	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00
Flat Springs	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 4,700.00
Filipino American	\$ -	\$ -
Grace Hill	\$ -	\$ -
Goldston	\$ -	\$ 3,226.14
Good News	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Gum Springs	\$ 625.00	\$ 1,875.00
Hickory Grove	\$ -	\$ -
Hickory Mountain	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Hunt Springs	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Iglesia Bautista Emaus	\$ 57.17	\$ 57.17
Jonesboro Heights	\$ -	\$ 7,008.75
Joy	\$ -	\$ 3,625.00
Juniper Springs	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 4,625.00
Loves Creek	\$ -	\$ 1,375.00
Mays Chapel	\$ -	\$ 840.00
Moncure	\$ -	\$ 3,267.80
Moons Chapel	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Mount Olive	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
New Life Bible Church	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00
New Salem	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Oakley	\$ -	\$ 9,259.17
Pittsboro Baptist	\$ 749.91	\$ 12,007.31
Pleasant Hill	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Rives Chapel	\$ -	\$ 750.00
Roca Fuerte	\$ -	\$ -
Rock Springs	\$ -	\$ -
Rocky River	\$ 406.13	\$ 6,054.78
Sandy Branch	\$ -	\$ 2,406.15
Sanford, First	\$ -	\$ 12,125.00
Shepherd's Baptist	\$ 42.22	\$ 646.66
Siler City First	\$ 208.33	\$ 2,291.63
Tramway	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,650.00
Tyson Creek	\$ 166.67	\$ 1,999.96
TOTAL CHURCH IN-	\$ 9,631.37	\$ 144,639.12
OTHER INCOME	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 47.73	\$ 2,268.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 9,679.10	\$ 146,907.34
Expenses This Month	\$ 14,238.12	
Expenses To Date	\$ 115,596.04	
Budget Requirements	\$ 11,250.00	
Budget Requirements To	\$ 135,000.00	
SCBA FUNDS	12.31.2023	
General Checking Ac-	\$ 130,032.17	
Designated Fund	\$ 106,679.45	Interest on CP
Certificate of Participation (8 Months)	\$ 202,753.61	\$ 985.35
BUDGET 2023	\$ 135,000.00	



**"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13**

I've heard it said that you only love the Lord as much as you love the person you love the least. That stings and I want to push against

that statement and justify why I cannot love that person and the truth stabs me like a knife and says, "forgive". Forgiveness frees us to love all as God loves us and forgave us. Who do you love the least today? Do you need to forgive and set yourself free to truly love again?

Needs: Diapers all sizes, baby shampoo & wash, baby lotion, burp pads for boys, small bottles, pacifiers in a single pack, and girl's sleepers 9-12 months.

Please 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>

FMI: Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reachoutcpc>

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

**My command is
this: Love each
other as I have
loved you.**

John 15:12

You are invited to an event for
Operation Christmas Child

Project Leaders

in Chatham County

“Love in a Shoebox”

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:45-11:30 a.m.

Loves Creek Baptist Church

1745 E. 11th Street, Siler City, NC 27344

Learn what a shoebox means
Learn how to increase shoebox awareness
Learn about quality packing
Learn about available resources, and
Meet new area team leaders and other project leaders

To register or learn more

Contact: Cindy McPhail, cmcphail@aol.com 910-890-1896

or

Alice Gilchrist, bronco5205@windstream.net 919-770-1510

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to a team
with Lee and Harnett counties.

TRAMWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

*Baptist
Women's
Day*



Guest Speaker
Mrs. Belinda Johnson Bond

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

11:00 A.M.

Register Here



[Eble Conference | Hickory Mountain
BC \(hickorymtnbaptist.wixsite.com\)](https://hickorymtnbaptist.wixsite.com/Eble-Conference)



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 2024



NEAL JACKSON



JASON GOLDEN



STEVE DAGENHART



GEORGE TOWNSEND



SAM ROACH



BRIAN UPSHAW



JEREMIAH PARKER



QUINTELL HILL



CODY BULLMAN



TANNER MUNDY



STACEY LAYNE



ANNUAL GOSPEL SING



**NEW SALEM CHURCH
5030 OLD GRAHAM ROAD,
PITTSBORO**

Sunday, February 25th at 6:30 p.m.

-Gospel Band

-Gospel Quartet

“Redeemed Harmony”

Everyone is invited, and bring a friend!

SENIOR LUNCHEON

**Thursday,
March 7th**

11:00 am

**BESTFOOD
CAFETERIA,
SILER CITY**

Journaling Disciples

*Bible Journaling
Workshop*



Saturday, March 2, 2024

10 am-3 pm

**East Sanford Baptist
Church**

\$5 per person

Register by

February 17, 2024

Lunch, Materials, and Giveaways!

Teaching women to love Jesus and his word better
through the art of Bible journaling

**Please register by February 17th at www.sandycreekba.com or the direct link is:
[Journaling Disciples Workshop \(ministryforms.net\)](http://Journaling Disciples Workshop (ministryforms.net)). Limit 50 people.**

DISCIPLE- MAKING CONFERENCE

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Mallard
Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2024

What if your church was known more for multiplying disciples than adding worship attenders? At the 2024 Disciple-Making Conference, you will be inspired and equipped to become a church on mission to win, build and send missional disciples.

REGISTER HERE: [2024 Disciple-Making Conference - Baptist State Convention of NC](#) |

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.

FIVE WAYS

To Pray for the Middle East Conflict

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



SERVE NC

AUGUST 3-10, 2024

[SERVENC.COM](#)

For more information, please visit [ServeNC](#) |
[Baptist State Convention of North Carolina](#)

Hope for Appalachia Emmaus Baptist Church

Planning has begun for next year's Hope For Appalachia mission trip, which will take place April 8th-11th, 2024. As in years past, we will travel to the mountains of Kentucky to hand out Hope Boxes and share the Gospel to about 1200 children in Knott County.

The churches of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association have been instrumental in preparing these boxes to hand out, and we hope that we can count on your participation again this year. We have the boxes on hand and will soon be ready to hand them out to all who wish to fill them. Please prayerfully consider taking some boxes to fill and to pray over. If you are so led, reach out to us here at Emmaus Baptist Church with the number of boxes you wish to fill. You may contact the following for more information or to request boxes:

Pastor Steve Moore - emmauspreach@emmausnc.net

Associate Pastor John Hill – emmausap@emmausnc.net

FIRST BAPTIST SANFORD

After School Care

Do you....

Love Kids?

Love Jesus??

Love making a difference??

WE ARE

HIRING

Send Resume & Letter of interest to:

susanstalder@fbcsanford.com

****Love Kids? Love Jesus? And love making a difference in the lives of children???**

****Our After School Care program is coming back in January and we need YOUR help!**

****Email susanstalder@fbcsanford.com for details!!**

We are looking for a team of fun, Jesus-loving people who want to help families by caring for their children a few hours each afternoon. If you're a responsible teen w/transportation, or maybe your children are grown and you still have lots of love and energy to share, or you're someone who enjoys driving a small bus for a few minutes each day (no CDL required), then I would love to hear from you!

*Background check required.

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
FOUNDATION

Since 1951, ThriveMore, formerly known as Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, has served as one of North Carolina's most respected providers of long-term care. In 2000, a Foundation was formed to support the benevolent ministry of the Homes. The Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation still stands, and our mission has only grown.



2024 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults



JANUARY 28, 2024 UNTIL FEBRUARY 2, 2024

This year's goal is **\$450,000**. Your support of this campaign is critical in helping us provide quality care for older adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve! Thanks to North Carolina churches and individual donors, the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation Benevolent Care fund provided almost \$3,000,000 in support to ThriveMore residents in 2023. We are proud to say that 25% of residents received support, only made possible because of you!

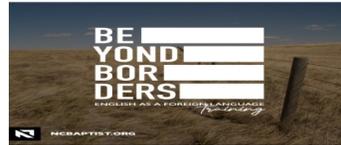
Please help us continue to provide care to older adults by making a gift today!

Online contributions accepted at ThriveMoreNC.org/Foundation

THRIVEMORE
FAITH · FAMILY · FULFILLMENT

THRIVEMORE COMMUNITIES
BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM / TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD
TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE / ARDENWOODS - ARDEN

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)



Truett
Conference Center & Camp

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.



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



Scan for more info/to register.



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

