

## Officers



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## President's Note

Wow...I can hardly believe how fast this year has flown by! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the rest of the Executive Committee planning our upcoming conference.

I recently read a blog (by Kristine Brown) about restoration for the soul:

Life's struggles can suck the joy right out of even the most positive person. **Pile one struggle on top of another, and we can easily become trapped under the weight of despair.** God's promise for restoration doesn't only apply to our physical bodies, but our spirits as well. The Hebrew word for *RESTORE* can be defined as *to return or turn back*. Sometimes I lose my way. I get distracted, chasing the wrong things, and before you know it I'm questioning where God is and why I feel so far from him. When we seek God again, he will turn our hearts toward him. **My joy and peace returns as I ask his forgiveness and submit to his plan instead of my own.** *God is able to heal and restore my spirit.*

God is about to make us lie down in green pastures and lead us beside the still waters and I for one am looking forward to it. You are LOVED (by HIM & Me)!

- Rachel Sanders, NCBMA President



## A Word from Our Keynote Speaker

Lisa and I are excited about being with you in November! Let's join together in prayer each day until the conference, beginning today, praying three simple prayers:

- 1) God, draw me closer to you.
- 2) Open new doors for me to serve you.
- 3) Lord, do something that amazes me.

As you pray, pray expectantly. I look forward to meeting you at the Oasis.

- Pastor Joel



## Back by Popular Demand: Beach Bingo

**Monday, November 11 at 7:50pm**

Get into your comfy clothes, grab a snack and join us for Beach Bingo. We will fellowship, laugh and who knows...you may even win a prize!



## Hi, First Timers

We are so glad you are joining us this year! There will be a First Timers Orientation on Monday, November 11 at 2pm to get you acquainted with everything. We'll see you soon at Fort Caswell!

## Creekside Praise Worship Experience

**Tuesday, November 12 at 7pm**

Creekside Praise is a collaboration of worship minded people from Sawyers Creek Baptist Church in Camden, NC. They strive to use the gifts that God has entrusted them with to glorify Him and lead people closer to Christ. Whether you sit and relax or stand on your feet, this will be a great time of restoration for your soul.

\* A love offering will be taken up as a way to show our appreciation to the band.



## Friendly Reminders

- ♦ ONLY First Timers & those who did not attend last year's conference will receive a tote bag. Everyone else should bring a bag to use during the conference.
- ♦ Water donations are always welcome! If your church or association can bring a case of water please let Rachel know.
- ♦ Door prize drawings are usually at the beginning of our General Session and you must be present to win. Please be sure to bring a wrapped prize to the conference to improve everyone's odds of winning one.
- ♦ Although you can begin signing in to the conference at 1pm on Monday, room check-in is not until 4pm. There is a group leaving that same morning so rooms will not be available early.

## New Website Address

As a reminder, we have a new website address:  
<https://www.ncbmassistants.org/>

We are still working on getting it as a top search result. Please help with this by visiting the site. Thanks!

## Thank You, Mentors!

Thank you to all those who volunteered to be mentors this year. You should've already received info about your First Timer. Be sure to reach out to them before the conference and please plan to join them at the First Timers Orientation.



## 2024 Raffle: Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20



### 3 Themed Gift Baskets

- It's All About Me
- Beach
- Seasons



Drawing will be held at the end of the last General Session. All proceeds go to help NCBMA with ministry and conference expenses. Please remember to bring CASH or CHECK.

## Prayer and Consideration Needed

As most of you know, we have been having to flip-flop our conference dates due to when the BSCNC schedules its meeting. At this year's conference you will be given an opportunity to give your opinion on us moving our conference to a different month. If you are unable to attend this year, we would still like to know your thoughts, so be sure to email Rachel.

## Sorry You Can't Join Us!!!

We understand not everyone can attend every conference. We will miss those who can't attend and ask that you send in your Membership Fee of \$30 if you haven't already. This helps with administrative expenses and keeps your membership current. Mail to: NCBMA, c/o Gayle Gestrich  
703 Vernon Dr.  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

## Seaside Soiree

Tuesday, November 12 at 6pm

Smith Conference Center Dining Room

Everyone is encouraged to wear beach themed attire and join us for a relaxing dinner. After dinner we will head to the Chapel for the Creekside Praise Worship Experience beginning at 7pm.



Purchased by the Baptist State Convention of NC in 1949, Caswell continues to be a scenic and peaceful place to come and grow in your Christian walk. Camp as a student and later a counselor brought growth to my life I had not yet experienced in Christ. Camp Caswell is training up new generations of children for us to pray over and encourage. Please pray about how God would have you give and come prepared (with Cash or Check only) to make a difference in a child's life this summer at Camp Caswell.

- Kay Passante



## Coffee Bar

We will have a coffee bar set up in the Smith Conference Center Dining Room. There will be coffee, hot cocoa & tea available for your enjoyment. If you would like to bring K cups, hot cocoa packets or tea bags to share, please feel free to do so.



## Cafeteria vs Dining Room...

Caswell now serves all meals in the Cafeteria instead of the Conference Center Dining Room. We realize this is not ideal and ask for your understanding. There is a sidewalk connecting the Conference Center parking lot and the cafeteria, so it's not a bad walk...just a long one (see map below). If you will have a large vehicle at the conference and can shuttle folks to and from, please email Rachel at [rachel.sanders@bbcjaxnc.com](mailto:rachel.sanders@bbcjaxnc.com).

\* Our Seaside Soiree will be held in the Conference Center Dining Room.



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(please circle your choices and email to [rachel.sanders@bbcjaxnc.com](mailto:rachel.sanders@bbcjaxnc.com))

First Timers Orientation: Monday at 2pm in Conference Room #1 Led by Alicia Ashley				
Breakout 1 Monday: 4:30 – 5:20pm	Breakout 2 Monday: 6:45 – 7:35pm	Breakout 3 Tuesday: 10 – 10:50am	Breakout 4 Tuesday: 11 – 11:50am	Breakout 5 Tuesday: 1 – 1:50pm
Spiritual Enrichment				
Rev. Kevin Buzzard <i>How to Serve When You're Discouraged</i>	Rev. Kevin Buzzard <i>How to Serve When You're Distracted</i>	Rev. Kevin Buzzard <i>How to Serve Under Pressure</i>	Rev. Kevin Buzzard <i>How to Serve When You're Discouraged</i>	Rev. Kevin Buzzard <i>How to Serve When You're Distracted</i>
Paula Briedis <i>Soul Rest</i>	Paula Briedis <i>Soul Rest</i>	Rev. Roy Smith <i>God at Work in International Missions</i>	Rev. Roy Smith <i>NAMB Resources for Spiritual Enrichment / Growing Leaders for the Mission</i>	Rev. Roy Smith <i>NAMB Resources for Spiritual Enrichment / Growing Leaders for the Mission</i>
Professional Development				
Rev. Roy Smith <i>The Role of the Association in Southern Baptist Life</i>	Rev. Roy Smith <i>The Role of the Association in Southern Baptist Life</i>	Whitney Goulding & Kathryn Carson <i>Church Communications 101</i>	Whitney Goulding & Kathryn Carson <i>Graphic Design 101</i>	Whitney Goulding & Kathryn Carson <i>Graphic Design Using Canva</i>
Davis Blount <i>Church Financial Policy Update</i>	Davis Blount <i>Church Budgeting</i>	Davis Blount <i>Church Finance Committees</i>	Davis Blount <i>Personal Budgets &amp; Other Financial Matters</i>	Davis Blount <i>2024 Tax Update &amp; Q &amp; A</i>
Bradley Norris <i>Navigating Ministry: Employment Compliance</i>	Bradley Norris <i>Navigating Ministry: Hiring a Strong Ministry Team</i>	Curtis Knapp & Steve Henry <i>Church Insurance 101</i>	Curtis Knapp & Steve Henry <i>Church Insurance 101</i>	Teresa Almond, Angela Cockerham & Brenda Boyles <i>Girl Talk</i>
Personal Effectiveness				
Curtis Knapp & Steve Henry <i>Church Insurance 101</i>	Teresa Almond, Angela Cockerham & Brenda Boyles <i>Girl Talk</i>	Rev. Stan & Tammy Budd <i>Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing in Marriage</i>	Rev. Stan & Tammy Budd <i>The Art of Thinking</i>	Rev. Stan & Tammy Budd <i>Things You Want to Know About Your Man but Are Afraid to Ask Him</i>
Becky Hansley <i>DIY Salt Scrub</i>	Becky Hansley <i>DIY Body Butter</i>	Becky Hansley <i>DIY Body Butter</i>	Becky Hansley <i>Restoreth Thy Clothes (DIY Laundry Detergent)</i>	Becky Hansley <i>Restoreth Thy Clothes (DIY Laundry Detergent)</i>
Bonus Time: Tuesday Beginning at 2pm				
Teresa Almond <i>Pop-up Store</i>	Becky Hansley <i>Homemade Soaps for Sale</i>	Davis Blount <i>One on One Consulting</i>	Explore or Relax on your own	

# BREAKOUT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

**Paula Briedis, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Carenet Counseling, Wilmington, NC**

*Soul Rest:* Rest. What a great word. Naps. Sitting on the beach. No phone calls. Rest means many different things to us. But did you know there's a type of rest only Jesus can offer? Not just any rest, but rest for your soul. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus clearly tells us how we can have true rest. Within this passage, we will explore the nuggets of truth about how to practice the kind He offers... Soul rest.

**Rev. Roy Smith, Mission Catalyst Group, BSCNC**

*NAMB Resources for Spiritual Enrichment and Growing Leaders for the Mission:* We will explore the free resources the NAMB makes available to each Church and Association on the digital learning platform of Pathwright.

*The Vital Role of the Association in Southern Baptist Life:* This will incorporate lessons learned over 30 years of associational ministry from a missionary perspective.

*God at Work In International Missions:* Lessons learned from Ephesians 1 and an International Mission Board Missionary that coordinated the North Carolina Baptist & Southern Africa Baptist Partnership. This will include the vital role of prayer in Missions.

**Rev. Kevin Buzzard, Sawyers Creek Baptist Church, Camden, NC**

*How to Serve When You're Discouraged:* There is no way to avoid discouragers! This is especially true if you worship at the church you serve. Adam and Eve had the Serpent, Moses had Pharaoh, and you've got your church family! This study will help you learn what the Bible says about dealing with discouragers in the church so you can continue to do your Good Work.

*How to Serve When You're Distracted:* There is no way to avoid distractions! This is especially true if you worship at the church you serve. Sometimes we have to say no to the church in order to say yes to God. This study will help you learn what Jesus says about dealing with distractors in the church so you can continue to do your Good Work.

*How to Serve Under Pressure:* There is no way to avoid stress! This study will help ministry leaders understand what stress is, where it comes from, and how to properly manage it. Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." That means we already have what we need to calm our anxious minds!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Whitney Goulding & Kathryn Carson, Marketing & Communications, BSCNC**

*Church Communications 101:* What is church communications and why does it matter? In this session you will learn some of the basics of good church communication as well as what you should always include as part of your church communications plan in order to improve your reach as a church.

*Graphic Design 101:* Graphic design plays a big role in the life of your church. It's essential to create impactful graphics that communicate your message – because we have the BEST message to share! Clear and effective church communication takes strategic effort. Join us as we walk through basic principles of design for a church context, and learn how to create visually appealing graphics for social media, websites, email and more.

*Graphic Design Using Canva:* This session will resource and equip your church to better communicate with clarity and consistency. We will use Canva, a free online graphic design web application, to review best practices for design, while also honing your Canva technical skills so you can quickly and effectively communicate with your congregation and community.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

### **Bradley Norris, Human Resources Officer, BSCNC**

*Navigating Ministry Employment Compliance:* Ever wonder if your church's workers are properly classified? An overview will be provided of the updated guidelines for correctly classifying workers including a review of recent changes to the independent contractor rules and employment salary thresholds. Common mistakes will be highlighted for you to have confidence in your compliance with these updated rules.

*Hiring a Strong Ministry Team:* Having trouble finding the right person for the job? Knowing the best practices for hiring staff are essential. Attention will be placed on effective strategies for attracting qualified candidates, conducting thorough interviews, and ensuring a fair and compliant selection process. Implementing these best practices can enhance your church's ability to build a strong and capable team.

### **Curtis Knapp & Steve Henry, Bitner Henry Insurance Group & American Church Group of NC**

*Church Insurance 101:* How a perfect storm has affected church insurance.

### **Teresa Almond, Brenda Boyles & Angela Cockerham, Experienced Ministry Assistants**

*Girl Talk:* This year we will look at issues we all might face (personal & work related). Possible topics of conversation include:

- ⇒ Tensions in the office when a staff member is not pulling their weight.
- ⇒ Thinking about retirement, passing the torch? What does that look like? (preparing church & personnel committee for your departure, does anyone really know all that I do?)
- ⇒ Personal issues (spouse, kids, aging parents) -how do I separate personal from my work? Or do I need to keep separate? How much is too much to share?
- ⇒ Health issues and needing extra time off from work ... whether it's me or my coworkers. Sharing the load.
- ⇒ Be clear on responsibilities. Work as a team without overstepping into coworker's responsibilities.
- ⇒ Struggles of being a caregiver for family
- ⇒ How to carve out personal time for yourself to just relax and rest
- ⇒ How do you handle Day to Day stressors in your family

### **Davis Blount, Compensation & Benefit Services, BSCNC**

*Church Financial Policy Update:* This session will review the importance of good financial policies and procedures. We will review some of the latest concerns as we have moved into an electronic era of giving and methods of payment, and some policies to address these issues.

*Church Budgeting:* Can someone look at your church budget and see the mission of your church? How well did your church respond to the impact of COVID? This session will explore the concepts of preparing a flexible budget to better meet the needs of your church. Also, we will discuss what a mission based budget looks like.

*Finance Committees:* What is the role of the Finance Committee? Many churches have a Finance Committee, but they don't seem to do very much. We will review the purpose of a Finance Committee and how they should be the oversight team for the church finances.

*Personal Budgets and Other Financial Matters:* For the past 10 years we have always discussed matters that impacted the church, now we are going to take some time to discuss financial matters that impact us today and in the future. We will look at preparing a family budget, preparing for retirement including a summary of Social Security, and applicable tax laws.

*2024 Tax Update AND Q & A:* We review some of the recent tax changes, including an update to the new FLSA, most asked questions of 2024 and a chance for you to ask that bothersome question that no one else will ask.



## PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**Teresa Almond, Brenda Boyles & Angela Cockerham, Experienced Ministry Assistants**

*Girl Talk:* See Professional Development for Description

**Rev. Stan & Tammy Budd, Eastview Baptist Church, Jacksonville, NC**

*Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing In Marriage:* What is the singularly most important question to ask in marriage? God has a design and purpose for marriage. This seminar highlights God's guidance and direction for marriage. It will help identify the key instructions and responsibilities as marriage is His design and He wants us to thrive in our relationships. John 10:10b – "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

*The Art of Thinking:* 2 Corinthians 10:5b-6 – "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete." Numerous verses throughout God's word point to the power of thinking...thinking about the right things. This seminar will unlock the key to Godly thinking as we explore decision-making and how it affects every aspect of our lives.

*Questions You Want to Know About Your Man, but Are Afraid to Ask Him:* Men have questions about women. Women have questions about men. We all have questions. Some are easy to answer. "Honey, how does this dress make me look?" However, some questions are more difficult but deserve to be answered. "Why does my husband not pray with me?" This seminar will provide biblical explanations for some of these questions. So, please bring your questions and let's talk.

**Curtis Knapp & Steve Henry, Bitner Henry Insurance Group & American Church Group of NC**

*Church Insurance 101:* See Professional Development for Description

**Becky Hansley, Homemaker & Artisan Soaper, Maysville, NC**

*DIY Salt Scrub:* You are invited to join in a fun time of making your very own invigorating cordial (BATH SALT SCRUB) that will help "restoreth" both body and spirit! Experience the "STILL WATER" calmness after a stress filled day!

*Restoreth Thy Clothes:* Anyone need to save \$\$\$\$? Join me for a fun time on how to cut costs and get the most bang for your bucks with homemade laundry detergent!

*DIY Body Butter:* Create in your senses the freshness of the "green pastures" or the coolness of the "still waters" by making your own organic LAVENDER BODY BUTTER! Lavender is well known for its calming effect!

## Free Time Options

**One-On-One Consultations with Davis Blount:** If you would like to meet with Davis to discuss your personal retirement, insurance and/or finances, please email Rachel to set up a time. Sessions are 20 minutes and begin at 2pm.

**Shopping for a Cause:** Teresa Almond will have her pop-up store and Becky Hansley will have homemade soaps available for purchase in the conference center lounge. Both ladies will donate a portion of their proceeds to our Mission Offering. **If you have a side business and would like to sell items at the conference and donate 10% to our mission offering, please email Rachel ASAP.**

**Explore Fort Caswell/Oak Island**

There are plenty of areas around Fort Caswell/Oak Island to explore and/or relax.



# North Carolina Baptist Ministry Assistants

## Oasis: He Restores My Soul

November 11 - 13, 2024

### Conference Itinerary

#### Monday, November 11

1:00 pm	Sign In Begins - Smith Conference Center
2:00 - 2:30 pm	First Timers Orientation - Conference Room 1
2:45 - 4:00 pm	General Session One - Sherrill Chapel
4:00 - 4:25 pm	Room Check-in
4:30 - 5:20 pm	Breakout Session 1
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner - Cafeteria
6:45 - 7:35 pm	Breakout Session 2
7:50 pm	Beach Bingo - Conference Room 5

#### Tuesday, November 12

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast - Cafeteria
8:30 - 9:45 am	General Session Two - Sherrill Chapel
10:00 - 10:50 am	Breakout Session 3
11:00 - 11:50 am	Breakout Session 4
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Cafeteria
1:00 - 1:50 pm	Breakout Session 5
1:50 pm	Free Time Begins
6:00 pm	Seaside Soiree - Conference Center Dining Room
7:00 pm	Creekside Praise Worship Experience - Sherrill Chapel

#### Wednesday, November 13

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast - Cafeteria
8:30 - 9:00 am	Room Checkout
9:15 - 11:00 am	Business Session/Officer Installation/General Session Three - Sherrill Chapel
11:00 am	Depart for Home

