

Officers



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President's Note

Wow! It's hard to believe this is my last note as NCBMA President. I have enjoyed my time serving this very special organization, but I won't lie...I am ready to just be a member again. To those who reached out with kind words...THANK YOU! To those who have been praying for us and this organization...THANK YOU!

Before I say farewell, I want to leave you with some words of encouragement. This is a page from my daily devotion book entitled, "Devotions to Calm the Chaos."

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.
 Ephesians 6:7

Women have a special aptitude for serving. We love to see the smiles on the faces of those to whom we show hospitality. But some people never show their appreciation – or worse, they complain about the things we have done to please them. In the presence of those who are hostile or indifferent despite our efforts at serving them, it's important to remember that we are to treat them as if they are Christ Himself. This changes the game considerably. We have to adopt a new attitude, one that is designed to show people who Jesus really is.

We have a divine connection with the Lord when we embrace servanthood. He was the greatest servant of all, and His example in sacrifice and service set the tone for His entire ministry on earth. This is the ministry we are called to. We serve as if we are serving Him, which is a remarkable way to live and one that mirrors the heart of God. We were made for this!

The morning I read this came at the end of what was probably the hardest two weeks since I have been at my church. God reminded me (at the perfect time) that other people's actions should not dictate our actions.

So, remember...when those negative Nancys or complaining Karens show up you can boldly say...
BRING IT ON! I WAS MADE FOR THIS!

With much love,

P. S. No offense if your name is Nancy or Karen ;-D

- Rachel Sanders, NCBMA President



A Word from our Keynote Speaker

by Kevin Buzzard

I'd like to ask you to pray for three things in preparation for our ministry conference.

- Please pray for the Holy Spirit to go before us and prepare us for an encounter with Jesus.
- I'd like to ask you to pray for me as I prepare a message series around the Biblical teaching of remaining anchored in the storm.
- Lastly, please pray that Jesus will pave the way for all of us to get to the conference safely and without any distractions that may tempt us to stay home.

Thank you for your prayers!

“Come as You Are” Banquet Tuesday, 6:00 pm Cafeteria

In John 6:37 Jesus says, “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.” It is in this spirit of acceptance that we will host our “Come As You Are” banquet on Tuesday night. As Jesus welcomes us, we will welcome you. There is no dress code for this meal. Feel free to dress up or come casual, whichever you prefer.



It's not too late to register for the 2025 Conference!

Contact Rachel to register and make payment arrangements by October 29.

November 3-5 | Caraway Conference Center

Cost: \$325 | Private Room: Add \$85 | Commuter: \$175

First Time Attendees & Mentors

A big thank you goes out to all of those who have volunteered to be mentors. Once you receive contact information on your first timer, please make contact and if possible, plan to attend the orientation with them. If you have not received contact information on your first timer by the time you read this article, please let one of us know. The First Timers Orientation will be held on Monday, at 2:00 PM, in the Harris Conference Room. We look forward to seeing everyone in November at Caraway!

Mission Emphasis

Baptists on Mission (BOM) is our mission emphasis for this year's conference. BOM is a Christian missions organization that is an auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention of NC. The purpose of Baptists on Mission is to glorify God by involving churches and Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name. For more information attend our Breakout Sessions on Tuesday or visit the BOM website baptistsonmission.org.

Here are four of our largest ministries ...



State/National/Int'l Projects



Dental/Health Screening



Disaster Response



Mission Camps/Rebuild Centers



Friendly Reminders

- ◆ Only First Timers and attendees who did not attend the 2023 or 2024 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 notify Rachel.
- ◆ Door prizes are generally at the beginning of each 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.
- ◆ Although you can begin signing in to the conference at 1 pm on Monday, room check-in is not until 3 pm.
- ◆ Payments for silent auction baskets, body butter, Betty Walker Fund and Mission Empasis Offering need to be made with cash or check. Lauren Franks at New Things Pop Up Shop will accept credit cards, Apple Pay and cash.



This year we will have a silent auction during the conference. Baskets will be set up at the back of Hollifield Hall for viewing and bidding. Each basket has a value of over \$50. Starting bids will be \$25 and bidding will end just before the last General Session. So far, we have the following baskets:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beach | Date Night |
| Gardening | Kitchen Odds & Ins |
| Movie Night | Rainy Day |
| Soy Worx Candles | Scentsy Holiday Warmer |

If anyone else would like to make a donation to the auction, please contact one of our officers. Proceeds from our auction will go toward conference expenses, and we can only accept cash or check.

Membership Fees

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

Conference Activities

Monday evening , 7:50 pm Get into your comfy clothes, grab a snack and join us for a Round Robin of activities. Participate in all four activities, and you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 VISA gift card.

Tuesday evening, 7:00 pm After our Banquet, everyone is encouraged to put on their jammies and head downstairs for movie night. We will be watching "Finding Normal" starring Candace Cameron Bure.

While driving cross-country, a surgeon (Candace Cameron Bure) has an unexpected encounter in North Carolina that derails her plans to join her boyfriend in the Hamptons.

We hope you'll join us for a relaxing night of fellowship, laughs and of course popcorn!

Conference T-Shirts

Order now! The shirts will be light gray with a black & white conference logo. Cost is \$20 for short sleeved and \$25 for long sleeved. To order T-shirts and make payment arrangements, contact Rachel no later than 5 pm on Friday, October 24.



Breakout Sessions

Name: _____
 (please circle your choices and mail to Rachel.sanders@bbcjaxnc.com)

First Timers Orientation: Monday at 2pm in the Harris Conference Room				
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. Doug Barclay <i>Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts</i>	Rev. Doug Barclay <i>Developing Your Spiritual Gifts</i>	Rev. Joel Stephens <i>Serving Well Through Conflict and Criticism</i>	Rev. Joel Stephens <i>When No One Notices: Finding Fulfillment in the Hidden Work</i>	Rev. Joel Stephens <i>Pigs, Pearls and Other People's Problems: What "Fixers" Should Do When They Can't Fix It</i>
Johnny Blevins <i>Loving Like Jesus: Applying the 5 Love Languages Beyond the Home</i>	Johnny Blevins <i>Loving Like Jesus: Applying the 5 Love Languages Beyond the Home</i>	Rev. Scott Bishop <i>Ministry Hurt is Not My Identity</i>	Rev. Scott Bishop <i>Response to Ministry Hurt</i>	Rev. Scott Bishop <i>Abiding in Rest After Ministry Hurt</i>
Professional Development				
Ji Ae Park <i>Basic AI for Ministry Assistants: Your Digital Helper</i>	Ji Ae Park <i>Basic AI for Ministry Assistants: Your Digital Helper</i>	Greg & Michelle Wagoner <i>BOM Volunteer & Training Opportunities</i>	Greg & Michelle Wagoner <i>BOM Volunteer & Training Opportunities</i>	Greg & Michelle Wagoner <i>BOM Hurricane Helene Update</i>
Davis Blount <i>Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) and How It Impacts Our Churches & You</i>	Davis Blount <i>Retirement Distribution Options After SECURE & SECURE Act 2.0</i>	Davis Blount <i>How to Create a Culture of Generosity in Your Church</i>	Davis Blount <i>What I Have Learned in Regional Financial "Lunch & Learns"</i>	Davis Blount <i>Other Tax Updates and Q & A</i>
Lee Corder <i>Google Docs</i>	Lee Corder <i>Google Sheets</i>			
Personal Effectiveness				
Kim Setzer <i>STRENGTH > fear</i>	Kim Setzer <i>My Soul Has Peace, but Does My Mind or Body Have Rest?</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>
Teresa Almond, Brenda Boyles & Deborah Richardson <i>Girl Talk</i>	Becky Hansley <i>DIY Decoupage Craft Project</i>	Becky Hansley <i>DIY Beaded Wind Chime</i>	Becky Hansley <i>DIY Reverse Glass Painting</i>	Teresa Almond, Brenda Boyles & Deborah Richardson <i>Girl Talk</i>
Bonus Time: Tuesday Beginning at 2pm				
Lauren Franks <i>New Thing Pop Up Shop</i>	Explore	Davis Blount <i>One on One Consulting</i>	Relax	Becky Hansley <i>Body Butter Shop</i>



Thank you to all those who have submitted their Breakout Session choices. **Please note ... there have been some changes to the breakout schedule since our last newsletter.** Be sure to check it out and let Rachel know if you want to change any of your choices.

Breakout Descriptions

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Rev. Doug Barclay

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Jacksonville

- **Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts:** In this session we will identify our spiritual gifts.
- **Developing Your Spiritual Gifts:** Having identified our spiritual gifts, we will learn how to develop them.

Rev. Scott Bishop

Pastor, Swan Creek Baptist Church, Jonesville

- **Get Better Not Bitter in the Storm of Ministry Hurt:** We have all heard it said, "There is no hurt like church hurt." This is a very true statement, but the hurt we experience does not have to define who we are. The Lord calls us to Himself and invites us to find rest in Him. We need a heart like His. We need the mind of Christ. In this series of classes, we will discuss how to rely on the God of all Grace to guide us into Biblical responses to very real church hurt.

(3-part series, however, classes may be taken individually)

- **Ministry Hurt is Not My Identity**
- **A Biblical Response to Ministry Hurt**
- **Abiding in Rest After Ministry Hurt**

Rev. Johnny Blevins

Associational Missions Strategist, Elkin Baptist Association

- **Loving Like Jesus – Applying the 5 Love Languages Beyond the Home:** Many people think the love languages are only for marriage or family. But Jesus calls us to love everyone. Understanding how people receive love enables us to love them better and enables us to build healthier relationships at work and in our community. This session will help us to see how to apply the five love languages beyond the home.

Rev. Joel Stephens

Hopewell Baptist Church, Monroe

- **Serving Well Through Conflict and Criticism:** Ever feel caught in the middle of church conflict or weighed down by unexpected criticism? Learn practical, biblical tools to respond with wisdom, protect your heart, and serve with grace—even when it's hard.
- **When No One Notices: Finding Fulfillment in the Hidden Work:** Do you ever wonder if the behind-the-scenes work you do really matters? Come be renewed and reminded that God sees every unseen effort—and that your quiet faithfulness has eternal value.
- **Pigs, Pearls, and Other People's Problems: What "Fixers" Should Do When They Can't Fix It:** Some people are "fixers:" they see a problem (or a person with a problem) and they just HAVE to "fix it/them." But what about when it/they refuse to be helped? Where's the line between "helping" and "enabling?"



Breakout Descriptions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ji Ae Park

Information Technology Information Services Manager
Assistant Operations, BSCNC

- **Basic AI for Ministry Assistants – Your Digital Helper:** Learn how AI can support your daily ministry work while keeping your human touch and spiritual discernment at the center. This practical, non-technical workshop introduces ministry assistants to free AI tools that can lighten administrative load without compromising privacy or authenticity. You'll see a simple framework for guiding AI and learn security habits that protect sensitive information. Whether you're curious about AI or ready to experiment, you'll leave with actionable strategies, sample prompts, and the confidence to use AI as your helpful assistant for the work that matters most.

Lee Corder

Senior Manager of Billing Services, Old Dominion Freight Line, Thomasville

- **Google Docs:** This breakout introduces Google Docs, covering its core features, some key differences between it and other common word processors, and how to leverage its file sharing and real-time collaboration tools.
- **Google Sheets:** This breakout introduces Google Sheets, covering its core features, some key differences between it and Excel, and how to leverage its file sharing and real-time collaboration tools.

Greg & Michelle Wagoner

Baptists on Mission Volunteers

- **BOM – Volunteer & Training Opportunities:** Please join us to learn more about NC Baptists on Mission. We will share with you the many ways you can serve as a volunteer and the training opportunities available to you.
- **BOM – Hurricane Helene:** We will share about the impact of Hurricane Helene in Western NC, our personal experience serving that area, and ways you can still help.

Davis Blount

Compensation & Benefit Services, BSCNC

- **The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and how it impacts our churches and you:** On July 4th the president signed a new tax bill. This session will be an overview of the Act and how it impacts individual taxpayers and our churches.
- **Retirement Distribution Options after SECURE and SECURE Act 2.0:** As many of us are getting closer to retirement, or have loved ones who will pass along their retirement accounts in their estates, we will review the various tax laws and strategies when it comes to taking retirement distributions
- **How to Create a Culture of Generosity in Your Church:** I have been asked many times how the church can raise the salary of the staff without impacting the budget. Rather than trying to cut ministry costs does your church have a culture of generosity? We will explore how churches are increasing awareness of generosity in many of our NC Baptist churches.
- **What I have learned in regional Financial Lunch & Learns:** During the latter half of 2025, I have led five Financial Lunch and Learns throughout NC. I will review the top five, maybe seven, financial topics discussed with other Financial Administrators.
- **Other Tax Updates and Q & A:** Generally an open forum to ask basic financial questions along with other tax updates not included in the OBBBA.



Breakout Descriptions

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Teresa Almond, Brenda Boyles & Deborah Richardson Experienced Ministry Assistants

- **Girl Talk:** *This year we are setting a few parameters to allow time to discuss more than one topic and to give everyone an opportunity to give input (if they so choose):*
 - ◇ *We will take topics from the floor.*
 - ◇ *To allow us to have multiple topics of discussion, there will be a 10-minute time limit for each topic.*
 - ◇ *Once a person has spoken on a topic, we ask that they don't speak again until everyone has had an opportunity to do so.*

Rev. Stan & Tammy Budd Eastview Baptist Church, Jacksonville

- **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.

Becky Hansley, Homemaker & Artisan Soaper, Maysville

- **Decoupage Craft Project:** "Decoupage" actually comes from the French word "decouper," which means to cut out or cut from something else. Those who attend this session will use cut fabric to create a Christmas/Winter shadow box. Preregistration is required for this class and is limited to 16 people.
- **Beaded Wind Chime:** In this session, we will create a beautiful beaded wind chime. When we hear the chimes we can remember that He controls the wind and the waves and we have nothing to fear. Preregistration is required for this class and is limited to 16 people.
- **Reverse Glass Painting:** This is an art technique where the artist paints on the back of a transparent surface, like glass, and the image is viewed from the other side. Attendees of this session will create their own reverse painting, using our theme scripture as inspiration. **We ask that you bring a 5 x 7 picture frame with removeable glass.** Preregistration is required for this class and is limited to 16 people.

Kim Setzer Grief Services

- **STRENGTH > fear:** In this session we will observe how our faith can increase through difficult and often fearful circumstances. We will learn ways to be intentional to grow our faith and strength in the presence of fear and uncertainty.
- **My Soul Has Peace, but Does My Mind or Body Have Rest?:** In this session we will identify ways to be intentional to take care of ourselves from a holistic perspective to ensure we can do our best to fulfill God's will for our lives. It is well with our soul, but what about my mind and body?



North Carolina Baptist Ministry Assistants

Finding Strength in the Storm

November 3 - 5, 2025

Conference Itinerary

Monday, November 3

- 1:00 pm Sign in Begins - Lobby
- 2:00 - 2:30 pm First Timers Orientation - Harris Conference Room
- 2:45 - 4:00 pm General Session One - Hollifield Hall
- 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 Activity Round Robin - Kappa Alpha

Tuesday, November 4

- 7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast - Cafeteria
- 8:30 - 9:45 am General Session Two - Hollifield Hall
- 10:00 - 10:50 am Breakout Session 3
- 11:00 - 11:50 am Breakout Session 4
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch - Cafeteria
- 1:10 - 2:00 pm Breakout Session 5
- 2:00 pm Free Time Begins
- 6:00 pm Come as You Are Banquet –Cafeteria
- 7:00 pm Pajama Party-Movie Night - Miller Room

Wednesday, November 5

- 7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast - Cafeteria
- 8:45 - 9:15 am Business Session/Officer Installation - Hollifield Hall
- 9:15 - 9:45 am Room Checkout
- 9:45 - 11:00 am General Session Three - Hollifield Hall
- 11:00 am Depart for Home

