

Officers



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President's Note

Living in coastal North Carolina my entire life, I have become accustomed to storms...especially hurricanes. I remember as a child listening to the wind howling and whistling through the cracks in the boards my dad used to cover the windows and doors. I eagerly waited for the moment my parents said it was time to open the door and assess the damage. I always hoped it would be like when Dorothy opened the door in the Wizard of Oz...it never was. :-D

Every storm is different. Some come through quickly and it's almost like it was never here. Others rip through and leave a path of destruction that takes years to recover from. Then there are those that you never fully recover from...only adapt to a new normal.

Spiritual storms are no different. No two are like but they all have one thing in common. They are not too difficult to tackle when we have God by our side. And guess what...they DO NOT take Him by surprise. Psalm 46:1-2 tells us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."

No matter what kind of storm you are going through today, you can look to God for refuge and strength. After all, He is the One that allows the storms in the first place, for our good and His glory. Though it's sometimes hard to see when you're in the midst of it, I do believe every storm has a silver lining.

Always remember...You are LOVED!

- Rachel Sanders, NCBMA President

Keynote Speaker

by Rachel Sanders

I am so pleased to be able to announce our 2025 Keynote Speaker. He received great reviews for the breakout sessions he led at our 2024 conference and was also listed as a possible keynote speaker on our conference evaluations. Our 2025 Keynote Speaker is Pastor Kevin Buzzard!

Pastor Kevin was born and raised in Teays Valley, West Virginia. God called him to the ministry during a summer mission trip to the Philippines. Upon return, he immediately enrolled in Seminary and has served the church in vocational ministry ever since. He is the senior pastor of Sawyer's Creek Baptist Church in Camden, NC and also serves as an adjunct professor of biblical counseling at Mid Atlantic Christian College. He is blessed with an amazing wife, Susan, and two wonderful children, Eli and Emery.

We look forward to what God will have Pastor Kevin bring us during our conference general sessions this year!

Worship Leader

by Rachel Sanders

This year Jonah Simpson will be our worship leader. We witnessed Jonah's heart for the Lord at our last conference when he and his team led us in an awesome night of worship.

Jonah is the Assistant Worship Director at Sawyers Creek Baptist Church in Camden, NC. He and his wife Jessi have been married for almost 10 years and have 2 amazing boys who are 6 and 7. He has been involved in the music program at SCBC since 2018 and has served in several other roles through the years including deacon and small group leader. In 2023 Jonah answered a call from the Lord to come on staff as the AWD, and with the support of his family and friends he has enjoyed growing spiritually and musically over the past 2 years. One of his ministry goals is No Walls Worship! Meaning the only rules for worship is that it is done in Spirit and Truth, and we take our worship everywhere we go. He looks forward to worshipping with us in November!

Conference Theme

by Alicia Ashley

I've always thought that storms are such a great metaphor for the trials we all must endure in our lives. They can be frightening and destructive; they can cause upheaval and uncertainty; they can change our lives in ways we can't even imagine. It's no wonder that when the storms of life come our way, the natural tendency is to be afraid. But fear is not what God wants for us. He wants us to have peace, even in the storm. How do we do that? By reminding ourselves of Who He is and what He's promised. By taking refuge in the One Who is bigger and more powerful than any storm. We find strength in the storm when we find God in the storm.



Conference Registration

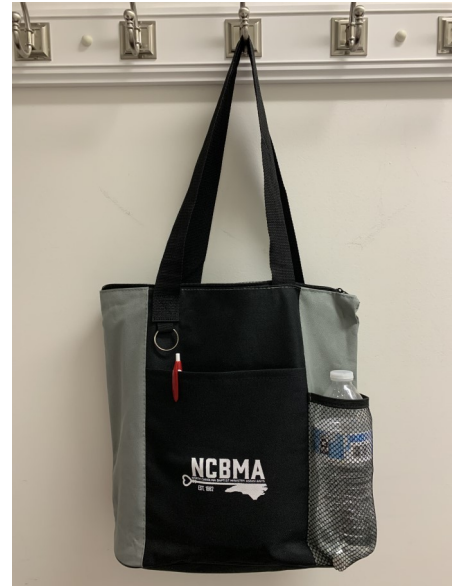
We will be returning to the Asheboro area this year as we gather together, on November 3-5, at Caraway Conference Center. We appreciate those who have already sent in their registration forms and deposits/payments. Early registration is encouraged, especially for those requesting a private room, as rooms are assigned on a first come basis. If you don't have the full amount available yet, a \$50 deposit will hold your spot. You can pay the remaining balance, at your convenience, as long as it is paid in full by August 31. T-Shirts will be available for purchase again this year. In order for the T-Shirts to be available at the conference, the size and sleeve length (short or long), along with payment, will be needed when registrations are due. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, you can still be a part of the NCBMA by sending in an annual membership fee of only \$30. This will help with the administrative costs of the NCBMA. As a reminder, only active members qualify to serve as future officers.



This is only a mock up and not an actual representation of what the shirt will look like.

Conference Bags

Again this year we will only be giving out the NCBMA canvas logo bags to newcomers and attendees who have not already received one. If you attended the 2023 or 2024 conference and received a logo bag, you will not receive a bag this year and will need to plan accordingly.



First Time Attendees & Mentors

Welcome **First Time Attendees!** An orientation just for you, along with your **Mentor**, will be held at the beginning of the conference. The purpose of the orientation is to acquaint you with the different aspects of the conference. Breakout sessions which address Spiritual Enrichment, Professional Development, or Personal Effectiveness, and a bonus time that includes one on one consultations will be discussed. Your mentor will then be available, as needed, to assist you with finding your room, showing you around and guiding you through the schedule. Current members, please say 'yes' to becoming a mentor so those who are new to our organization will have someone reaching out to them, prior to the conference, and helping them get the information they need so they can relax and enjoy their time at Caraway.



Your Executive Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on our 2025 Nominating Committee. Your responsibilities as a committee will be to contact recommended candidates to fill the positions of 1st Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer & one Advisory Committee member. If you are able to commit to this very important committee, please contact Rachel. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

Breakout Sessions

Confirmed Breakout Leaders

- Pastor Scott Bishop, Swan Creek Baptist Church
- Greg & Michelle Wagoner, Baptists on Mission
- Davis Blount, Baptist State Convention of NC
- Stan & Tammy Budd, Eastview Baptist Church
- Becky Hansley, Homemaker & Artisan Soaper
- Joel Stephens, Hopewell Baptist Church
- Kimberly Setzer, Buffalo Cove Baptist Church



This year we are bringing back the silent auction and need your help. We are looking for 10 baskets or stand-alone items for our auction (ideas for themed baskets: beach, coffee, spa, movie, etc.). We are asking for each basket or item to be a minimum \$50 value. If you, your church, your association, etc. are willing to provide a basket or item for the silent auction, please let Rachel know. Proceeds go towards conference expenses not covered by the conference fees.

Mission Emphasis

Baptist 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. At times, non-Christians/non-church members may also participate with BOM in certain ministries and projects or donate to these mission causes. BOM has 19 ministries including Children's Missions, State Missions, National Missions, Prayer Support and Disaster Recovery. BOM welcomes others to come and see that God gives new life to all through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For more information visit the BOM website baptistonmission.org.



Conference Expenses & Scholarships

As you know, we had to increase the conference fee this year by quite a bit. We do apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We are willing to work with you if you need to wait for your new church budget to pay the amount of increase (\$60).

We feel it is important to make you aware of the following information:

- Your \$30 Membership Fee is used during the year to pay for our website, email, and other administrative needs.
- This year's conference cost is \$310 per person. We are only asking you to pay a conference fee of \$295.
- The conference fee covers the cost of your lodging, meals while at conference, speakers, materials, etc.
- Your officers are working diligently to lower Executive Committee spending. For example:
 - * We only pay up to \$0.25/mile and 1 meal when required to travel for meetings (instead of the IRS rate).
 - * Last year your officers paid for half of their overnight meeting accommodations and meals. This year, we opted for a day trip instead of an overnighner.
 - * We meet via Zoom when feasible.

While it was absolutely necessary to increase the conference fee, we don't want it to be a burden to anyone. Partial conference scholarships are available and any requests we receive will remain confidential. Please reach out to one of your officers for more information. Additionally, if you have been blessed and are able to bless others, you now have the opportunity to help fund these scholarships. There is a place on your registration form to give if you are led to do so.

2025 Conference Registration

November 3 - 5, 2025, Caraway Conference Center



Cost:

Double Occupancy: \$325

Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, lodging and meals at the conference

Private Room: Additional \$85

If you don't have a roommate and do not want a private room, we will assign a roommate to you.

Commuter: \$175

Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, and meals at the conference

Membership Only: \$30

If you are unable to attend this year's conference, we encourage you to send in your membership dues. This will retain your active membership status and help with administrative costs.

Register Early!

\$50 deposit is due at registration.

Installments are accepted.

Final payment is due by August 31.

Refunds for cancellations

Excluding \$30 membership fee:

Before July 31: 100%

August 1 - 31: 60%

No refund after August 31.

Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Place of employment _____ Position _____ Association _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email (required) _____

Roommate _____ Private Room? _____

Physical Needs _____ Food Allergies _____

First time attending the conference? _____ Would you serve as a mentor to a first-timer? _____

Conference t-shirt (optional):

Short Sleeve S - XXXL: \$20 Size _____ Long Sleeve S - XXXL: \$25 Size _____

Please make checks payable to NCBMA and mail to:

ATTN: Gayle Gestrich

703 Vernon Dr.

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Total Amount Due: _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____