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President's Note

The book of Philippians, where we find our theme verse for this year's conference, is often referred to as "the epistle of joy." The words "joy" and "rejoice" are found 16 times across its four chapters. I find this particularly meaningful when seen in the context of the people and the time. Paul was writing to a church that was undergoing persecution for their faith while he was under house arrest in Rome. Neither of those circumstances seem very joyful! But even still, the exhortation is to *rejoice always*.

In our particular verse (Philippians 4:4), the word "rejoice" is translated from the Greek "chairete" which Strong's Concordance defines as a primary verb meaning "to be cheerful, calmly happy, well off." I would sum all that up to say that it means to be joyfully content. Not to be content in the sense of *this is my lot in life, it won't get better, might as well be okay with it*, but rather to be content in the sense of *wow, I get to walk through this life with Jesus by my side, I have an amazing heavenly Father who loves and cares for me every day no matter what!*

At the moment, I am filled with another type of joy - joyful anticipation! I am so looking forward to our conference in November. I can't wait to see old friends and make new ones. If you haven't already registered for this year's conference, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible so that we can all meet and rejoice together!

Alicia Ashley,
NCBMA President



A Word from our Keynote Speaker

by Tim Bowes

Some time ago, I attended *Sing!* conferences hosted by Keith & Krystin Getty three years in a row. Each year, session by session, breakout by breakout, the word “creatives” was bandied about, but only in terms of musicians and visual artists and sound techs. Something about that stuck in my theological craw. I knew what it was, but I knew that was not the arena to discuss it. As a pastor, I was there to support the music team from our local church, not to debate the conference leaders’ terminology.

If we are all made in the image of God – you know, THE Creator – then we are all creatives, right? (Let me answer that; we are! YOU are!)

You are fearfully and wonderfully made; you are an image bearer; you are a creative!

Consider the role of administrative creatives; just as much as Michelangelo, Rodin, or Bernini saw a sculpture inside a rock, administrative creatives see the order in a mess. Just as much as van Gogh, da Vinci, or Monet saw a scene on a blank canvas before one brush was laid, administrative creatives see what is possible with a plan before an event is placed on the organization calendar. In the same regard, like Bach, Haggard, or Gershwin likely heard a tune before they wrote a note, administrative creatives are organizing before the beginning begins on any project.

As much as we admire the apostolic moxie of Paul, survey his writings and you will see a man who understood order and administration are also part of the heart of God. Here’s a small sampling:

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint...” (Titus 1:5)

“Let the elders who rule well...” (1 Timothy 5:17)

“But all things should be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

The fact is, Paul even saw God as the Chief Administrator over His Church; not only the Chief, but also establishing those to work in like fashion as Himself. Paul wrote, “And *God has appointed* in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then *gifts... helping, administering...*” (1 Corinthians 12:28, emphasis mine)

Here’s my point, or, dare I say, my points, I cannot wait to be with you all face to face, to exhort, encourage, affirm and challenge you all. You are my fellow creatives! We have work to be done. It likely will not be placed in a garden, hung on a wall, or hummed in the choir loft, but the gardens would be thickets, the walls would be piles of lumber, and the choirs would be searching for unordered music without our work.

Till then, keep creating!

Living in Eager Expectation,

Tim Bowes

Titus 2:11-14



Door Prizes

Who doesn't love winning a prize? Every conference attendee will automatically be entered into our exciting door prize drawings!

Winners will be announced at the beginning of each general session, so be sure to arrive on time and be in the room when your name is called—you must be present to win!

To make the fun even better, we ask each attendee to bring a door prize to contribute. The more prizes we have, the more winners there will be! If everyone brings a prize, there's a great chance that everyone will go home a winner.

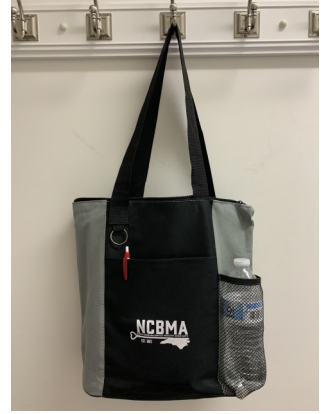
Thank you for helping make this one of the most enjoyable traditions of our conference. We love to see everyone win a door prize!



Conference Bags

Again this year, NCBMA canvas logo bags will be provided to first-time attendees and those who have not previously received one. If you attended the 2023, 2024 or 2025 conference and received a bag, we kindly ask that you bring it with you to use again this year.

This helps us be good stewards of our resources while continuing to welcome new attendees in a special way.



First Time Attendees & Mentors

We are excited to welcome five first-time attendees to this year's conference! We are also thankful to have five wonderful mentors who have already volunteered to walk alongside them, helping make their first conference experience enjoyable and meaningful.

If this is your first time attending, be sure to join us for our First-Time Attendee & Mentor Orientation at the beginning of the conference. This special session is designed to help you become familiar with the conference, meet new friends, and feel right at home from the very start.

Throughout the conference, you'll have the opportunity to choose breakout sessions in three areas:

- **Spiritual Enrichment**
- **Professional Development**
- **Personal Effectiveness**

You'll also enjoy a bonus opportunity for one-on-one consultations.

Your mentor will be available throughout the conference to answer questions, help you find meeting rooms, guide you through the schedule, and make sure you feel welcomed every step of the way.

Current members, there's still time to make a difference! If you would like to serve as a mentor, please let us know, to ensure any new members will have a friend. Mentors begin connecting with their first-time attendee before the conference, helping answer questions and ensuring they arrive at Caraway feeling informed, relaxed, and excited for the days ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to serve as a mentor. Your willingness to invest in others is helping make our conference a warm and welcoming experience for all!

Mission Emphasis

My Life Matters of Roxboro, NC

As part of the work of My Life Matters (MLM), in the spring of 2006, a former parachute factory was leased and converted into a ministry facility. It is 23,000 sq. ft. of relational ministry activity space. Each week, the facility is utilized for several clubs, Bible studies, special activities, and partnership events. MLM has leased the facility for 20 years, and, at the end of 2025 the opportunity to purchase the facility became possible. Not only the building they have been using – affectionately known as “The Warehouse” – but a lot behind and a former retail property in front became available.



Jumping into action, MLM has been working to engage donors to raise \$1.6 million for the purchase of this property. People have asked, “Why buy now?” The joyful answer is simple; MLM seeks to purchase now because it has only become available now. People have asked, “Why must MLM purchase this property?” Right now, My Life Matters enjoys dynamic relationships with many borrowed ministry spaces. For example, MLM has gospel clubs in every public school. To be frank, there is no guarantee these places will remain.

My Life Matters seeks to steward a space in which ministry will always be possible. My Life Matters needs financial partners in this endeavor, and MLM also needs teams to help us steward and improve the property.

2026 Conference
November 2-4 | Caraway
Cost: \$325



Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional, and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all. Come to Caraway and enjoy God’s beauty! If you have been before you know that the NCBMA Conference is a way to make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how to better minister to others, and more.

Registration form is located on the last page of this newsletter.



Pictorial Directory

Remember Church Directories will be on-site Tuesday to take photos for our 2026 NCBMA Directory. Each person photographed will receive a pictorial directory as well as a pdf download.

Contact Brent Price at 423.718.2240 if your church would like to schedule a pictorial directory.

Betty Walker Endowment Fund & Scholarships

As many of you know (if not all), the Betty Walker Endowment Fund was established to provide funds for our organization forever. We receive 95% of the interest and the Executive Committee directs how that money is used. We have chosen again this year to use that money to provide scholarships to our members. Whether you are retired and don't have the income you once had, you are brand new and didn't get to ask for budgeted money or somewhere in between, we want to help.

Please don't let the cost of the conference be the reason you miss out. Contact one of your officers for more information.



Conference Activities

On Monday evening we will gather together for a night of Bingo. Winners from six games will go home with prizes. The final game will be for the Grand Prize of a \$50 VISA gift card.

On Tuesday evening we will have our Annual Banquet followed by a concert by Andrew & Katherine Liggit.



T-Shirts

The deadline to order logo T-shirts is September 30. If you want a shirt and haven't ordered one yet, please do so soon!

Raffle

We will be offering a raffle this year. Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Be sure to bring cash or check to pay for your tickets. All proceeds will go towards paying ministry and conference expenses not covered by conference fees. The drawing will be held at the end of the last General Session on Wednesday.



Get Your Tickets!

Confirmed Raffle Items include:

- Bath & Body basket
- Tupperware basket
- Doterra essential oils basket
- SoyWorx candle basket



Breakout Sessions

Name: _____
(please circle your choices and mail to aashley@phbcelkin.com)

First Timers Orientation: Monday at 2pm (location TBD)				
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				
Renea Henderson <i>This is the Day</i>	Renea Henderson <i>This is the Day</i>	Rev. Joe Wood <i>Joy in the Journey: Finding God's Joy in Everyday Ministry</i>	Rev. Joe Wood <i>Serving with a Joyful Heart: Ministry Beyond the To-Do List</i>	Rev. Joe Wood <i>Rejoice Always: Choosing Joy as a Spiritual Discipline</i>
Karen Scoggins <i>How to Be Women of Joy</i>	Karen Scoggins <i>How to Be Women of Joy</i>	Gerald & Susan Hodges <i>The Discipline of Joy</i>	Gerald & Susan Hodges <i>The Discipline of Joy</i>	Gerald & Susan Hodges <i>Joy for the Long Run</i>
Professional Development				
Davis Blount <i>From Bookkeeper to Strategic Ministry Leader</i>	Davis Blount <i>Church Finance Fundamentals</i>	Davis Blount <i>Best Financial Practices for Small & Medium Churches</i>	Davis Blount <i>Internal Controls that Protect Your Ministry</i>	Davis Blount <i>Church Finance Case Studies</i>
Lee Corder <i>Google Docs</i>	Lee Corder <i>Google Sheets</i>	Lee Corder <i>Google Forms</i>	Lee Corder <i>Google Docs</i>	Lee Corder <i>Google Sheets</i>
Rev. Tim Bowes <i>Making the Best U.S.E. of the Time</i>	Rev. Tim Bowes <i>All In: Balance is Cultural, Commitment is Biblical</i>	Matt Ponce-de-Leon <i>Engaging Addiction Crisis as a point of Contact in the Local Church</i>	Matt Ponce-de-Leon <i>Engaging Addiction Crisis as a point of Contact in the Local Church</i>	Matt Ponce-de-Leon <i>A Heart ready to Help: Preparing for Addiction -Related Encounters</i>
Personal Effectiveness				
Kim Setzer <i>Renew. Restore. Reconnect. Rejoice</i>	Kim Setzer <i>Gratitude, Confidence & Joy: Foundational Elements in Ministry</i>	Kim Setzer <i>Renew. Restore. Reconnect. Rejoice</i>	Kim Setzer <i>Gratitude, Confidence & Joy: Foundational Elements in Ministry</i>	Kim Setzer <i>Rejoicing Builds Resiliency</i>
Mike Maher <i>Fire Safety Basics</i>	Mike Maher <i>Fire Safety Basics</i>	Ji Ae Park <i>AI: Your Digital Helper</i>	Ji Ae Park <i>AI: Your Digital Helper</i>	Rev. Tim Bowes <i>My Life Matters: Local Missions in the Trenches</i>
Bonus Time: Tuesday Beginning at 2pm				
Davis Blount <i>One on One Consulting</i>		Remember: Church Directory		Explore or Relax on your own

Breakout Descriptions

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Renea Henderson

Director, Renea Henderson Ministries

- ***This is the Day:*** Life has a way of leaving us weary, discouraged, and emotionally drained. Sometimes our hearts feel heavy, our souls grow tired, and our spirits seem dry. But God's Word reminds us that joy is one of His greatest gifts—a source of strength, healing, and renewal. Come experience a refreshing dose of laughter and encouragement as we discover how God uses joy to renew our minds, restore our hearts, and breathe life into our weary souls. Together, we'll explore the healing power of laughter and the lasting joy that can only be found in Christ.

Rev. Gerald & Susan Hodges

Retired Pastor

- ***The Discipline of Joy:*** Joy is not the absence of trouble or suffering, nor is it an emotional response we conjure up. "Rejoice in the Lord" is a command and it is a discipline. In this breakout we will explore how the book of Philippians presents joy as a spiritual discipline—not merely an emotion that depends on circumstances. Paul repeatedly calls believers to choose joy by fixing their minds and lives on Christ, even in suffering, uncertainty, and hardship.
- ***Joy for the Long Run:*** God's commands and warnings for us to perseverance in the faith go hand-in-hand with the promises of God that assure us we are kept in the grip of his grace. We keep following Christ because we belong to Him, and knowing that we belong to Him gives us reason to keep rejoicing. This is what we will explore and unpack in this breakout.

Karen Scoggins

Speaker & Pastor's Wife, First Baptist Church Hendersonville

- ***How to Be Women of Joy:*** We will discuss scriptural truths about joy and being joyful, rejoicing women of God. We will look at the reasons women find joy, as well as the reasons they lost that joy along their way. We'll look at scriptural ways we can find our way back to rejoicing with the Lord, and regaining our lost joy!

Rev. Joe Wood

Associate Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

- ***Joy in the Journey: Finding God's Joy in Everyday Ministry:*** Ministry assistants often carry many responsibilities and can feel overwhelmed. This session explores how to find joy in daily tasks, interruptions and seasons of service.
- ***Serving with a Joyful Heart: Ministry Beyond the To-Do List:*** Ministry assistants are often the ones who keep the day-to-day life of the church moving forward. From answering calls and preparing documents to organizing events and caring for people's needs, it can sometimes feel like a never-ending list of tasks. This session explores how God uses even the smallest details of our work for His purposes and reminds us that ministry is not measured only by what we accomplish, but by the love and faithfulness we bring to serving others.
- ***Rejoice Always: Choosing Joy as a Spiritual Discipline:*** Joy is more than a feeling—it is a choice and a reflection of our trust in God. Ministry assistants walk through many different seasons: celebrations, challenges, unexpected changes, and moments of pressure. This session explores how we can cultivate a lasting joy that is rooted in Christ rather than dependent on our circumstances.

**Visit Our
Website**

ncbmassistants.org



Breakout Descriptions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Davis Blount

Compensation & Benefit Services, BSCNC

- **From Bookkeeper to Strategic Ministry Leader:** Expand church financial professionals influence beyond accounting and compliance by becoming trusted advisors who support the church's mission and vision by using financial management as a strategic tool for advancing ministry.
- **Church Finance Fundamentals:** Equips financial personnel and leaders with core practices needed to manage ministry money with integrity. Participants leave with practical habits — a monthly close checklist, committee-meeting prep, and red flags to watch for — that keep the finances trustworthy over the long term.
- **Best Financial Practices for Small & Medium Churches:** Sample best practices include right-sizing internal controls, tools, and habits for ministries without a full finance department. The goal is a lean financial team, volunteer and/or paid staff, can protect the church and the financial team as well as a large church.
- **Internal Controls that Protect Your Ministry:** Sample internal controls that any church can apply regardless of size or staffing. The core message is that controls exist to protect the people handling finances as much as the finances itself.
- **Church Finance Case Studies:** This session puts real financial controls into context through documented incidents—sourced from court records and law enforcement releases—alongside illustrative composite scenarios covering restricted-fund misuse, informal borrowing, and clergy housing allowance missteps.

Rev. Tim Bowes

Pastor, East Rock Community Church

Director, My Life Matters

- **Making the Best U.S.E. of the Time: a Practical Guide for Busy People to Maximize their Calendar:** Everyone is busy. Even those who watch TV all day are busy. The question is not whether we are busy, but whether we are maximizing our busyness for the glory of God? Secondly, the busiest servants seem to be those who are also most willing to take on yet another task. How can

the righteous restless best organize this holy willingness? With a few simple steps, even the busiest of God's servants can prioritize what is preeminent, accomplish the necessary, not lose sight of what is most important personally or professionally, and feel empowered to give all in all settings. This session will introduce a time management strategy called "The U.S.E. Calendar." It makes no claims of being revolutionary; it's a practical tool for busy people that can be shifted and shaped by each participant to suit their own needs and challenges.

- **All In: Balance is Cultural; Commitment is Biblical:** Very often, those committed to serving the Lord are constantly pulled in multiple directions, making it possible, nay, likely, for some part of life to suffer. How can we get it all done without going mad or experiencing burnout? Our culture often uses words like "balance," but that word assumes that all parts of our life deserve equal weight and attention. This session helps participants see that there is one Lord, and from Him we are given one life that we are meant to live with one passion. Participants will hear how we can be all in on all that is important in life, and that faithful servants don't have to give up one *important thing* in pursuit of *another important thing*. Know what is important, and DO IT without reserve; be ALL IN.

Lee Corder

Senior Manager of Billing Services, Old Dominion Freight Line

- **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.
- **Google Forms:** This breakout introduces Google Forms, covering its core functions for collecting data and built in tools for analyzing the results, as well as how to leverage its sharing features.

Breakout Descriptions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT cont.

Rev. Matt Ponce-De-Leon
Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church
Director, Blessed Hope Ministries

- ***Engaging Addiction Crisis as a point of Contact in the Local Church:*** This practical breakout is designed to equip church administrators and staff with simple, effective tools for responding when an addiction crisis comes through the church doors. Participants will learn what information to gather for pastoral staff, how to make a quick assessment of the situation, and how to personally offer meaningful support and ministry during a crisis moment. The goal is to help church staff feel better prepared and more confident when they find themselves serving as an initial point of contact for individuals and families affected by addiction.
- ***A Heart ready to Help: Preparing for Addiction-Related Encounters:*** This devotional session looks to Scripture for a deeper understanding of addiction and addiction-related behaviors. Through a biblical perspective, participants will be encouraged to develop greater empathy and compassion for individuals struggling with addiction and for their families. The session will also build confidence in church administrators and staff, reminding them that they can make a meaningful difference from their own position. Participants will be encouraged to cultivate a willing heart and a desire to help, even when addiction-related situations may feel uncomfortable or outside their experience.

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Rev. Tim Bowes
Pastor, East Rock Community Church
Director, My Life Matters

- ***My Life Matters: Local Missions in the Trenches:*** Some would define "missions" as taking the gospel to unreached people groups. Some would define "discipleship" as strengthening those committed to following Christ. Clearly, discipleship *and* missions are necessary. Is it biblically viable and physically possible to pursue both wherever God has placed you? At My Life Matters (MLM), we believe the call to make disciples isn't just for those who cross the waves, but is for those who will cross the sidewalk, cross the street, cross their town, or cross their county. It's not easy to reach lost people, *or* to disciple those ensconced in cultural Christianity, yet into the nearest trench and at the most holy battle is exactly where MLM believes every saint should go. This session is not about signing participants up to serve with MLM, but about giving vision for how every person can gain fresh passion and vision for faithfully sharing the gospel in their own setting.

Mike Maher
Fire Chief, Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Department

- ***Fire Safety Basics:*** Learn practical fire prevention and emergency response skills that can be used at home or in the workplace. This session covers common fire hazards, safe housekeeping and electrical practices, fire protection equipment, and simple steps to prepare for and respond to a fire emergency.

Ji Ae Park
Information Technology Information Services Manager
Assistant Operations, BSCNC

- ***AI – Your Digital Helper:*** NOTE: A detailed description will be sent once we have it. Ji Ae says that AI has advanced so much in the last year that the content of this breakout will be much different than last year's.

Kim Setzer
Grief Services

- ***Renew. Restore. Reconnect. Rejoice.:*** During this session we will discuss the importance to renewing, restoring, and reconnecting, to give us capacity to rejoice. We will identify and develop individualized action plans for coping with ministry related stressors.
- ***Gratitude, Confidence, & Joy: Foundational Elements of Ministry:*** During this session we will explore how gratitude, confidence, and joy build a foundation for successful ministry. We will identify strategies to ensure we are incorporating these into our daily lives to find balance, intention, and sustainability in our ministry roles.
- ***Rejoicing Builds Resiliency:*** Rejoicing and resilience are deeply connected. When we rejoice we shift our focus from the difficulty we are experiencing to God, who remains faithful through difficulties. During this session we will identify how to stay focused on God when challenges arise in ministry and throughout our daily lives, builds resiliency.

2026 Conference Registration

November 2 - 4, 2026 Caraway Conference Center



Cost:

Double Occupancy: \$325

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

Private Room: Additional \$95

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: Nicole Mosley

1175 Wyke Rd.

Shelby, NC 28150

Total Amount Due: _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____