

Officers



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President's Note

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME...AND ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!
This is something our pastor often reminds us of. It's easy to say, but do we believe it? Do we believe that God is actually good all the time...that He loves and cares for us regardless of our circumstances? As we go about our day to day lives, we often forget how good He truly is.

There's often a misconception among new believers that when we put our faith in Christ our lives somehow become easier, that surrendering is the hard part. As we know, that is far from the truth. We know that when we make the decision to live for Him, a target is put on our backs. I believe that is especially true for those who have committed their lives to daily ministry. Of course I'm talking about our Pastors and our Missionaries, but I'm also talking about you and me. Satan will do whatever he can to make us doubt...to make us want to quit doing what we do...to make us stop going the extra mile for the ministry. There are times that I have allowed Satan to get me off course, but then I remember God's goodness, His love and mercy.

Let me encourage you. When you feel like you can't answer another phone call, when you think you can't smile at one more complaining church member (bless their hearts), when you want to scream "that's not my job!", take a walk. Go to your sanctuary or other quiet room for 5 minutes and climb into the lap of God. Let His arms surround you with peace and assurance. He's got you!

I'm reminded of our last conference: Relax, Refresh, Renew. It was so good to be together, experiencing God's goodness and taking the time to relax, refresh, and renew. As we have been praying and making plans for our upcoming conference, He has reminded us of His goodness and that we can find refreshment and renewal in Him alone. I pray that we will lean into Him more and more in those times of doubt and disillusionment. You are LOVED!

Rachel Sanders,
NCBMA President

2024 Keynote Speaker

Joel Stephens

by Rachel Sanders

I am so pleased to be able to announce our 2024 Keynote Speaker. His name came up multiple times on past evaluations and I have thoroughly enjoyed every single breakout session I have taken of his. Our 2024 Keynote Speaker is Pastor Joel Stephens!

I first met Pastor Joel when I was the Secretary/Treasurer for NCBMA. He has led several breakout sessions over the years. A few of our favorites are "What Your Pastor Wishes You Knew", "Hurt People Hurt People" and "Reigniting Your Quiet Time". Pastor Joel is excited to be joining us and is eager to see what God has in store for our time together.



Meet Joel:

Joel has been a Christ-follower since 1981 and has served the Church in a pastoring role since 1996. He has been serving as the Associate Pastor of Discipleship at Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, North Carolina since August of 2018. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 26 years, and have four children: Carson (married to Maddie), Carrie, Cooper, and Cathryn. Joel's driving passion is to help other Christ-followers connect with the truth of God's Word in a life-changing way.

Worship Leader

Ashley Rouselle will be joining us again this year as our Worship Leader. She has led worship for us at our last two conferences and is excited to be used by God in this capacity again. Ashley has lead worship for over 15 years and is currently at Hudson First Baptist. If you were at our previous two conferences, you know that Ashley is very talented and loves serving God with her musical talents. In fact, several of you commented that our Talent & Testimony time last year, led by Ashley, was one of your favorite parts of the conference.



Conference Theme from Joel Stephens:

God was/is always faithful; and He has brought me to a place of refreshment and renewal. To complete the metaphor: He carried me through the Desert of Disillusionment to an oasis where He restored my call to serve Him. And lately, He's been showing me – from the story of Elijah – some of the mistakes I made that contributed to my disillusionment; and He's been teaching me from other places in the Scripture what I need to do to prevent disillusionment in the future.



**YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!**

Your officers have been working diligently and are excited about this year's conference! Please join us in praying for God's guidance, as the pieces start coming together for each aspect of the conference. The 2023 evaluation sheets are being taken into consideration and changes being implemented. This is why it is so important for you to fill out the evaluation sheet before leaving the conference. It helps us as we strive to make each conference an experience of spiritual, professional, and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all. Don't forget to send in your registration with payment and invite your Plus One!

Breakout Sessions

Confirmed Breakout Leaders

- Davis Blount, Baptist State Convention of NC
- Whitney Goulding, Baptist State Convention of NC
- Liz Tablazon, Baptist State Convention of NC
- Becky Hansley, Homemaker & Artisan Soaper



Conference Registration

This year, we will get to enjoy the beauty of the ocean as we gather together, on November 11-13, at Caswell Conference Center on Oak Island. A big THANK YOU goes to those who have already sent in your registrations and deposits. Early registration is encouraged, and a \$50 deposit will hold your spot. You can pay off your remaining balance, at your convenience, as long as it is paid in full by August 31. There are a limited number of rooms available in the Smith Conference Center. Those rooms are assigned on a first come basis. Once it is full, the Palmetto and Oleander buildings, which are across the parking lot from the conference center, will be used as needed. Also, please note that T-Shirts are available for purchase this year. The size and sleeve length (short or long) are needed, along with payment, before the order can be placed. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, you can still be a member of the NCBMA by sending in your annual membership dues of only \$30. This helps 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.

Missions Emphasis



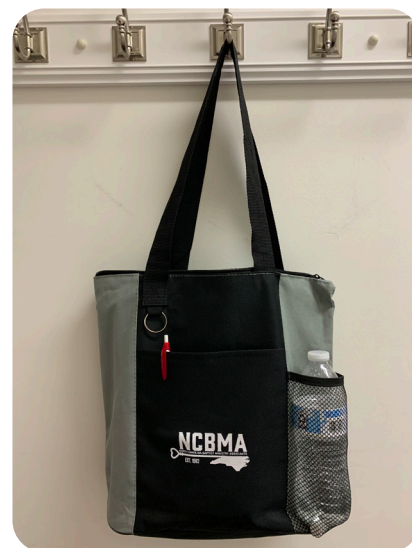
This year, our Missions Emphasis will be to help as many children as possible go to Camp Caswell and learn about Jesus and His love. Camp Caswell has two children's day camps: SeaBreeze for children Kindergarten through 5 years and, Coastal Explorer for children 6–8 years of age. Each week of camp costs \$150 per child. Camp activities include crafts, swimming, beach days, gym games, and praise time. Twice a week a trained environmental specialist takes the children to explore and learn about our coast through activities such as fishing, crabbing and using microscopes. Each Friday the children join together for a time of Praise and Worship. The camp runs from June 3 through August.



Whether you are an administrative assistant, ministry assistant, office administrator/manager, secretary, financial secretary/treasurer, or office volunteer we would love to have you be a part of the NCBMA. Those who have been to the conference before know that it is a great way to make new friends, reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, and learn how to better minister to others. That is why it is important to invite someone else to attend. If each organization attending the conference would meet the “Plus One Challenge”, as mentioned in the Winter newsletter, then the majority of First-Timers would already have someone from their association or church to show them around. Regardless, the goal is for no one to be alone at their first conference. Mentors will be assigned, as needed, to help First-Timers find their room, show them around, and be on hand to answer any questions they may have. We want to make each First Timer feel special and welcome, so current members need to prayerfully consider saying “yes” to being available as a mentor!

Conference Bags

Did y'all love our 2023 Conference Bag as much as we did? When planning for last year's conference we made the decision to invest in a bag that we could carry for multiple years. We splurged a bit to get a higher quality canvas. That being said, if you attended our conference last year and received one of these awesome bags, you will not receive a bag this year. All First-Timers and others who were unable to attend last year will receive one at this year's conference. Remember to plan accordingly and bring your 2023 bag (or other if you prefer) when you come to Caswell in November.



Introducing the 2024 Nominating Committee

A big THANK YOU to Rebecca Moon, Tammy Davis & Krissy Harvel for agreeing to serve on our 2024 Nominating Committee. These ladies are honored to have the opportunity to serve our organization in this manner. Please join us in praying for God to make clear who He wants in the positions of President-Elect, 2nd Vice President and on the Advisory Committee. If you feel that God is leading you to volunteer for one of these positions or you just want more info on what would be expected, please contact one of your Executive Committee Members. We are more than happy to talk about it and answer any questions you might have.

2024 Conference Registration

November 11-13, 2024 | Fort Caswell



Cost:

\$265 -Includes NCBMA membership (\$30), conference fee and materials, lodging, and meals

Private Room: \$350. If you do not have a roommate and do not want a private room, we can assign a roommate to you.

Commuter: \$175-Includes NCBMA Membership, conference fee and materials, Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Wednesday breakfast.

Register early!

\$50 deposit is due at registration.

Installments are accepted.

Final payment is due by August 31.

Make checks payable to NCBMA and mail to:

Attn: Gayle Gestrich

703 Vernon Dr.

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Refunds for cancellations*

Excluding \$30 membership fee:

Before July 31: 100%

August 1-31: 60%

After August 31: No refund

*No exceptions.

Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Place of employment _____ Position _____ Association _____

Mailing Address (work) _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Email (Required) _____

Roomate(s) _____ Need Private Room _____

Physical Needs _____

Food Allergies _____

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

Conference logo t-shirt:

Pricing: Short Sleeve: S-XXXL \$20 Size _____

Long Sleeve S-XXL: \$25 Size _____

This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website at ncbaptistsecretaries.com. If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Amy Parce at NCBMA@gmail.com with their name and email to have them added to our list. Thank you!