



From Keith

We are coming up to a favorite time of the year, Christmas. What a wonderful time to remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you toward two things:

1. Celebrate with joy and gladness the birth of Jesus this Christmas. It is so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of family gatherings, company gatherings, and Christmas shopping that we never slow down, much less stop, to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
What is a way that you can intentionally stop and just celebrate? For my young family, there are four things we do intentionally to stop and celebrate Jesus.
The first is a birthday cake and party for Jesus. With this, we make a homemade cake and decorate it. As we do, we make a point of talking about Jesus and His birth.
Second, we drive around town and hand out RACK (Random ACTs of Kindness) bags to those in need. As we do this, we discuss why we are handing out these bags.
Third is the Christmas Eve service. As a pastor, this was one of my favorite services and as an AMS no longer involved with the planning of a Christmas Eve service it is still a family favorite. There is something about this time that helps each person in my family to focus on the birth of Jesus.
Fourth, before bedtime on Christmas Eve, our family devotion which has turned into a tradition is the telling of the Christmas Story. Up to this year, I have always used some figurines from a nativity to tell the story, though this year as my family is getting older, I am thinking of adjusting the method of telling the Christmas Story.
Again, these are some of the things my young family does to slow down and stop to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What are some things that you or you and your family can do to stop and celebrate the birth of Jesus?
2. Invite a friend, relative, co-worker, or neighbor (I call this FRAN's- Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors) to church around Christmas. Did you know that the vast majority of people begin attending a church because of a personal invitation? It's true. Yes, our culture is changing, but people are still very open to an invitation generally, especially around Christmas and Easter.

Continued

(From Keith, cont.)

Thinking into 2024, there are two things I want to emphasize or reemphasize:

First, is the EQUIP Network Program through Southeastern Baptist Theological. EQUIP Network seeks to empower local churches and ministry organizations like NBA to take an active role in the theological education of their students. Those participating can earn credit hours for a Master in Divinity degree or Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree that is directly attached to SEBTS. My motivation for EQUIP is twofold.

For one, many of our pastors are bi-vocational (I prefer multi-vocational) and this number nationwide will only increase in the next 10-15 years. I predict it will be increasingly harder for pastors who know they will be multi-vocational to achieve a M.Div. or MA Ministry Degree in the traditional manner. More and more they will have to rely on online classes. Online classes are good and great and helpful, but they are missing the personal interaction with the one teaching the class and also others who are in the class. This is where EQUIP comes in. EQUIP allows a student to get that interaction, but even more they engage in mentoring as they prepare for ministry. The need for things like EQUIP will increase in the coming years, I for one would rather be proactive in this equipping rather than reactive.

Those taking the classes for credit, will need to apply to and be enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Though they may be taking classes for credit here at the association building, they are a student at SEBTS. As a student, those taking courses for credit will be responsible for tuition to SEBTS.

Secondly, EQUIP gives us as an association a tool to equip our churches. One of the things I love about EQUIP is anyone can audit a class or classes and even better they can do this FREE. While they will not get official credit for the class, they will get the training and benefit of the class. Imagine a Sunday School or Small Group leader taking Biblical Exposition (preaching class) or a discipleship class. Maybe a church leader taking a leadership class. I could continue with the possibilities of equipping for those in our churches.

Our start date is the week of January 22 for the Spring Semester. Classes will be in the evening or on Saturday. The Leadership Team and I are looking at starting with the possibility of 2 courses (3 credits each): Personal Discipleship and Disciple-Making Practicum and/or Bible Exposition I: Hermeneutics and Preparation Practicum.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible, so we can make the necessary preparations and help you get prepared prior to January 22. Note, we must have at least one student taking the course for credit for that course to be taught.

The second thing I want to emphasize as we head toward 2024 is a statewide emphasis called ServeNC. ServeNC is a ministry day blitz as your church serves and loves its community. To help you think about it, it is a rebranded Operation InAsMuch. Personally, I am all for anything that involves churches serving and loving their community. The date of ServeNC spans 2 weekends, so your church can choose the date that best fits. The date is August 3-10. In the months to come, I will be putting out a list of ministry project ideas, which will also include a list that the state is putting together. This list will include ideas for ages ranging from children to senior adults. First and foremost, I want to encourage your church to take advantage of this time and serve and love your community. Secondly, the association will also be putting a few different projects together to help mobilize churches.

While I realize August seems to be a long way off, I want to encourage you to go ahead and register your church participation by signing up at servenc.com. Or scan the QR code in the Serve NC graphic on page 5 of this newsletter.

Love you all and Merry Christmas,
Keith



Pastors, Ministry Staff, & Their Spouses
Appreciation Banquet

Friday, March 1, 2024
6:30 PM

at Neuse Baptist Association / RTC

RSVP Required By February 23





Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

WEEK OF PRAYER
for International Missions
December 3-10

Learn more at <https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/>

As We Prepare for Christmas Season with emphasis on our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we wanted to share a word of prayer for International Missionaries. There are many things we can be and should be praying for our missionaries and this month we want to focus on praying for their **strength and perseverance**.

Missionaries can often feel as though they've sown much with a little harvest. Pray for their strength and perseverance to run the race—that the Lord would remind them He is working deep in hearts even when it seems like nothing is happening.

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31)

~Your Ministry Prayer Team of Neuse Baptist Association

fellowship • discussion • prayer

PASTORS LUNCH

2nd tuesday of each month

Churches that had an active HUNGER OUTREACH MINISTRY during 2023 are asked to send an email to Wendy@nbachurches.com, being sure to include your church name and the specific type of Hunger Ministry you offered (meals, backpacks, food pantries, etc.) Thank you!

The CHURCH NEWS Page

As Reported by the Churches

Deep Run First (Michael Wright) The Annual BBQ Fundraiser provided a time of fellowship and the opportunity to reach out to the community; 800 plates were sold. Pastor Michael and Mrs. Denise were honored during the month of October with surprise pictures in the announcements and a basket with cards, gifts, etc. from members. A Fall Festival, with hot dogs, trunk or treat and cake walk was well attended and greatly enjoyed. A group visited Wounded Warriors in Jacksonville and provided snacks for the Warriors. Youth will enjoy an annual Friendsgiving with fellowship and a delicious meal. 150 Shoeboxes were collected, and a special prayer for the children who would be receiving them was held during morning worship.

Emmaus (Jim Willoughby) Thanksgiving food giveaway was held November 11. The church filled and prayed over 100+ Shoeboxes for OCC. Area music group *Highway Revival* offered a Christmas Concert at the church at 10:45 AM on November 26, and the church family enjoyed the annual Hanging of the Greens at 6:00 that evening. The annual Live Nativity is planned for December 13-14, from 6-8 PM on the church grounds. Choir will present its Christmas Cantata, *Silent Night*, during morning worship on December 17. The annual Christmas Dinner will also be on the 17th, at 5:00 PM, followed by the children's Christmas program at 6PM. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is planned for 5:00 PM. New Year's Fellowship & Prayer Service is planned for New Year's Eve.

Gateway (Thayer Stamper) On Sunday November 19, Gateway participated in "The Big Give". Instead of 'coming' to church that morning, they dispersed to 'be' the church, serving in various parts of the community. They then came back together at 6PM for a family-friendly night of worship, communion, baptism and celebration. During December, the church will conduct its annual Gift Collection in which they collect items to bless a couple of their ministry partners in tangible ways.

Kinston First (Jon Hoover) A Fall Festival was enjoyed on October 28, with live music by *Small Town Sunday* as well as food trucks, inflatables, hayrides, pony rides and a trunk or treat. Veterans were honored and recognized on Sunday, November 12 during 10:30AM worship.

Love Memorial (Richard Toler) A Community Thanksgiving Service was hosted on Tuesday, 11/21. A great time of fellowship was shared with attendees from Riverside, Brogden, Falling Creek Baptist, Falling Creek Community, May's Chapel, & Providence churches. A traditional Thanksgiving meal was enjoyed in the fellowship hall on Thanksgiving Day. Sonshiners will have a steak luncheon on December 9 and there will be a men's breakfast on December 10 at 8AM. An evening of music, poems, good food and fellowship will be enjoyed on December 17 at

6pm during the annual Love Family Christmas. A Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 at 6PM. Baptist Men will have a steak dinner on Saturday, January 20 and Dr. Michael Cloer will be the guest speaker. Baptist Men's Day will be observed Sunday, January 21.

Mount Nelson (Jimmy Dale) A profession of faith was made during morning worship on 11/5. Inside Out Youth Group went on a retreat to the mountains the weekend of 11/10. Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 PM a "Silent Christmas Communion Service" will be observed.

Northview (Rick Whaley) Pastor Appreciation Day was held on Sunday, 10/22 for Pastor Rick Whaley, who has been at the church for two years. A spaghetti meal was served. Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, 11/12, followed by a Thanksgiving lunch. Plans are being made to attend *The Greatest Gift* play in Benson on Sunday, December 10. The Church Christmas Party is planned for Saturday, December 16. Donations were made by church members to Kitty Askins. Peanut Brittle is being made and sold for a fund raiser.

Pinkney (Steven Gay) Youth held a yard & bake sale on 11/4. Homecoming was celebrated 11/5 with special music presented by *Canaanland*; a fellowship luncheon followed worship. Revival was held 11/6-8 with guest speaker, Lloyd Hargis. Sunday, 11/12 Baptism was observed; the candidate was a senior adult. Church served their local area as a collection point for OCC Shoeboxes, November 13-20. The annual "4-S Supper" (soup, sandwiches, salad and sweets) was enjoyed 11/15. "Christmas at Pinkney" was observed 11/18, with homemade crafts, baked goods, soup, chili, sandwiches, and cakes to purchase. Christmas play followed by light refreshments is planned for December 17.

Trinity (Dave Fishman) Ladies Sunday School Class put together over 20 "Snack" baskets for shut-ins within the community in celebration of Thanksgiving. Over 40 Christmas Shoeboxes were collected, packed, and sent for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. 2nd Annual Pancake Supper will be held December 4 from 6 to 7:30 PM. All are welcome; (tickets are only \$8 for all-you-can-eat pancakes). Annual Live Nativity is planned for December 17, from 6 to 8 pm. This will be a drive through event at the front of the church. Christmas Eve Service with communion and candlelight will be at 7 pm. College & Career Sunday School Class is heading up the collection of "Winter Bags" for the homeless in Goldsboro, they will consist of gloves, hats, socks, Bibles, etc.

Church Vision Intensive

February 23-24, 2023

NBA Office / RTC

This is a specific and special time to pray through and think through where your church is going over the next 5-8 years. Beginning Friday evening and running through Saturday, we will seek the Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment as we work through the crafting of your church's Vision, Mission, Strategy, Values, and Measures that will purposefully move you to accomplish what only God can accomplish through you over the coming years. Our time together will include teaching and equipping with tools which will be given to assist in working through these pieces. Teams will be given time to break away and work through the process on behalf of their church, and then come back together for a time of review. When you leave on Saturday, you will have a significant outline for your church that will simply need to be polished and enacted. Even better, the vision you leave with will be unique to your church, because your church is unique with its own personality, giftedness, and DNA.

Dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday is included.

What we ask of you:

- 1) Registration —
 - Must include both the Pastor and individual team members' names.
 - Registration deadline: **February 12.**
- 2) If you have a presentation-sized white board that can be utilized during the team break-out sessions, please let us know.
- 3) Your commitment to pray and seek the Lord's guidance before, during, and following this Intensive.
- 4) Your commitment to be here physically, mentally and spiritually.

This training time is made possible without a registration fee due to your generosity as we are On Mission together.

Registration can be made via email to Wendy@nbachurches.com or by calling the NBA Office at 252-566-9478.

NC Baptist Singers & Orchestra

will be in concert at Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell on Monday, February 12, 2024 and at Aversboro Road Baptist Church in Garner on Monday, April 22.

Both concerts begin at 6:45 PM.

There is no admission charge.

NBA has set aside our 2016 van these dates, for any church who wishes to use it to attend these concerts.

Save the Date:

Deacon Family Ministry Training

Saturday, April 27, 2024

9AM - Noon

NBA Office / RTC

More Information to Come

RSVP Requested by April 15

NC BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES RETREAT

JULY 8-10, 2024 | CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER



centered in
CHRIST

You have encircled me behind and in front,
And placed Your hand upon me.
Psalm 139:5



Sharie is passionate about seeing people fully become who God has made them to be.

<https://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw>



SERVE NC
AUGUST 3-10, 2024



SERVENC.COM

Current Church Ministry Openings

As Submitted by the Churches

Community Baptist Church is seeking a **Pianist**.

Please email Resume to:
Community Baptist Church, 351 Antioch Ch Rd,
Goldsboro NC 27534 or call Pastor Michael Lewis at
919-222-6685 and leave a message.

Madison Avenue Baptist Church is seeking a **Bi-Vocational Minister of Youth & Children**.

Candidate must be a college graduate or current student pursuing a degree related to youth/children ministry. Experience in an established successful youth program preferred. For more details about this position, visit nbachurches.com/newsletter/ministry-openings/. Interested candidates should contact the Madison Avenue Church Office at 919-734-3761.

New Hope Baptist Church, Kinston, is seeking a **Part-time, Bi-vocational Pastor** to grow with the church in reaching our goal of the position becoming full-time. New Hope is a Southern Baptist Church and would love to find a candidate who has some pastoral experience in a church of at least similar size (attendance 30-50 over the past year). He would possess strong expository preaching and pastoral ministry skills. In our community, a heart for youth outreach, a love for people inside as well as outside of the church, and for visitation is essential. A servant's heart, and experience in congregational ministry including teaching and modeling discipleship is desired. An accredited seminary or divinity school degree is preferred. Resumes can be emailed to: NewHopeBaptistChurchPSC@yahoo.com or by USPS: New Hope Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 5, Deep Run NC 28525. Resumes will be considered until October 31, 2023.

Sandy Bottom Baptist Church (4568 Hwy 55 West, Kinston), is in search of a **Sound Technician** for Morning Worship from 8:45 - 11:00 AM and some Wednesday evenings from 6-7 PM. The position is paid. If interested, please call Pastor Rick Mondell at 919-396-2163.

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church (601 Madison Avenue, Kinston), is accepting applications for a **Music Director** to lead our traditional church music program. This person needs to be able to play the piano and/or organ. The church currently has Sunday morning worship and weekly choir practices. For more information or to submit a resume and letter of interest, please email info@spilmanbaptist.org

First Baptist Church, Kinston (2600 Rouse Road, Kinston) is actively seeking a **Part-time Worship Leader** to play a pivotal role in guiding our congregation towards effectively communicating the gospel message through the music we sing. Our core belief centers on worship music rooted in biblical theology, designed to be both accessible and memorable, with a timeless quality that resonates far into the future. Our current selection of songs include contemporary songs by artists such as the Gettys, Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Sovereign Grace Music, alongside cherished classics from the rich tradition of hymns. We are committed to upholding the rich tradition of church music by embracing the finest songs from every generation. Our belief is grounded in the understanding that a song's worth is not solely determined by its novelty, nor should it be dismissed solely due to its age. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a pastoral commitment to guiding the congregation in worship. This involves not only preparing the church for worship through weekly communication about upcoming services but also imparting a deep understanding of the theology behind the music we sing and inspiring active participation in the worship service. This candidate should be in agreement with our doctrinal beliefs found here on our website. The worship ministry at the Village Chapel in Nashville, TN is an excellent example of what we hope to build here at First Baptist Church. You can view their worship style here: [Village Chapel Worship](#). If you would like to submit your resume for consideration, we ask that you would do the following:

- Prayerfully consider the position
- Read our [Statements of Faith](#)
- View several songs from the [Village Chapel Worship Playlist](#) to get an idea of what we are looking for.

If after doing these things you believe the Lord is leading you to submit your resume, please do so by filling out the following form where you can also submit your resume: [FBC Worship Leader Position](#).



**NEUSE BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**


EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**Monday February 12
6:00 PM
NBA Office**

Contributions from Churches — Sept - Oct, 2023		
	<u>Sept-Oct., YTD2023</u>	
<u>CHURCHES</u>		
Adamsville	150.00	1450.00
Anointed Vision		
Bethel		2746.60
Cabin	464.00	1515.00
Calvary Goldsboro		600.00
Calvary Kinston		100.00
Casa del Dios	510.00	2470.00
Community		61.29
Davis Grove		
Deep Run First		4762.00
Emmaus	354.87	4073.33
Falling Creek	671.58	4427.78
Fremont		
Gateway	2400.00	12000.00
Goldsboro First	1822.57	1822.57
Grainger		1000.00
Horeb International		
Immanuel	170.00	850.00
Jordans Chapel		850.00
Kinston First	2619.80	4893.56
La Grange First		6056.00
Love Memorial	781.57	4765.36
Madison Ave	1309.00	1956.20
Mount Nelson	3741.76	27237.06
Neuse	1722.17	12691.26
New Beginning		
New Hope		
New Life	236.00	1460.00
Northview		
Nueva Amanecer	400.00	800.00
Pikeville First		
Pineview	500.00	2500.00
Pinkney	530.95	2863.02
Rivermont	1002.15	5550.75
Rosewood First	531.63	2926.61
Sandy Bottom		2700.00
Seven Springs	600.00	2700.00
Snow Hill First	1525.37	7607.21
Spilman Memorial		1000.00
The Way		1000.00
Trinity		1825.36
Union	400.00	1200.00
Total CHURCHES	22443.42	130460.96

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
Acts 1:8

Designated Funds	(YTD Balance)
Vans ('16 & '08) Use	194.58
Miscellaneous Donations	1140.22
Payments for Trainings	0.00
NCMO % Rebate	2506.72
Handy Man Donations	0.00
Hunger Fund	1200.00
Bldg Capital Improvements	0.00
Block Party Trailer Ministry	482.63
Total Des. Funds '23	<u>5524.15</u>
Rollover Funds	
NCMO Rebate	3919.09
Hunger Fund	1.05
Capital Improvement	0.00
Misc. Donations Rollover	0.00
BPT Rollover	0.00
Handy Man Donation Fund	8157.35
Vans Use Rollover	0.00
Total Rollover Funds	<u>12077.49</u>
Designated Funds Total	17601.64



December Birthdays

Michael Lewis, Community -- 07
Luis Miranda, Supply Pastor -- 28
Dave Fishman, Trinity -- 29
Michael Wright, Deep Run First -- 29

January Birthdays

John Wiggins, La Grange First -- 06
Denise Wright, Deep Run First Pastor Spouse -- 11
Aubrey Jones, Retired Pastor -- 23
H. Powell Dew, Jr., Spilman Memorial -- 27
Jack Sauls, Retired Pastor -- 31

January Ministry Anniversaries

Jeff Russ, Cabin -- 13 years
H. Powell Dew, Jr., Spilman Memorial -- 3 years



December 25-January 1
Monday January 15

Coming Up On the Calendar

December 2023

- 12 — Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 18 — NBA Leadership Council Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 24 — Christmas Eve
- 25-29 — **NBA Office Closed for Christmas Holidays**



January 2024

- 01 — **New Year's Day, NBA Office CLOSED**
- 09 — Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 15 — **MLK, Jr. Holiday, NBA Office CLOSED**
- 15 — Info due for FEBRUARY Newsletter
- 22 — NBA Leadership Council Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 22 — EQUIP Network Classes Begin @ NBA Office

February 2024

- 12 — NBA Executive Board Meeting, 6PM @ NBA Office
- 13 — Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 14 — Happy Valentine's Day!
- 15 — Info due for MARCH Newsletter
- 19 — NBA Leadership Council Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 23-24 Church Visioning Intensive Training @ NBA Office

March 2024

- 01 — Pastors/Ministry Staff/Spouses Appreciation Banquet, 6PM @ NBA Office, **Must RSVP.**
- 15 — Info due for APRIL Newsletter
- 18 — NBA Leadership Council Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 19 -- Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
Goldsboro NC
Permit No 139

Neuse Baptist Association
176 Piney Grove Ch Rd
La Grange NC 28551
252-566-9478