

AMS, Dr. Keith Hudson (keith@nbachurches.com) | Office Manager, Wendy Parker (wendy@nbachurches.com)
176 Piney Grove Church Road La Grange NC. 28551 | 252-566-9478 | Office Hours, M-F 9:00AM - 5:00PM



A Word From Keith

A few days ago, I had the joy of taking part in an Ordination Council. It has always been my encouragement that these times be wonderful and helpful conversations with the candidate for ordination. While this task is something that must be taken seriously, I hope that the candidate walks away from the time encouraged. As we had that discussion I began thinking about the difference between pastors who advance the Gospel and pastors who do not. This is a huge topic that we could come up with a large list of characteristics. Yet, as I thought about it, four characteristics quickly came to mind. In reality, these characteristics apply equally to you as a believer as you journey through this life:

- Be Faithful
- Be an Example
- Be Passionate
- Be a Leader

Let me take a moment to speak to the first characteristic: Be Faithful. By being faithful, I mean to remain steadfast in the Lord; to abide in the Lord. Yellowstone National Park is known for its geysers; in fact, there are about 500 geysers in Yellowstone National Park. As you already know, the most famous one is called Old Faithful. What makes Old Faithful so amazing is the predictability of the eruption: it is constant, like clockwork. It is *faithful*.

When you and I are faithful we, like Old Faithful, are constant and like clockwork. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are who you say you are. There is nothing fake or not genuine about your faith in Jesus. I imagine you are like me, in that you have met believers who 'wear' a faith mask. They say one thing and do another. Sometimes these individuals will act one way at certain times or around certain people and then another way at other times. So often we call these individuals hypocrites. We get the word hypocrite from a compound Greek word, *hypokrites*, which generally connotes an actor or a stage player. The Greek word

(Continued)

From Keith, (Cont.)

literally means “an interpreter from underneath”. You see, actors in ancient Greek theater wore large masks to mark which character they were playing, and so they interpreted or told the story from underneath their masks. To be faithful is to be maskless and genuine in your faith, to be obedient.

By being faithful I also mean to remain focused on or to keep your eyes on Jesus. When I think of this I always think of Peter as he walked on the water. While I know there is so much to this story, and my observation being just a small piece, I think of Matthew 14:30-31 where it says, “But when he (Peter) saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (ESV)’” Looking at the story, it seems that Peter was walking and I mean more than just a few steps, and things were going great. I can only imagine what was going through Peter’s mind as he put one foot in front of the other, literally walking on the water. Further, he took each step while looking at Jesus, yet it was only when he looked away that he began to sink. You see my friend, Peter lost his focus on the Lord. Peter — like so many today — struggled with being faithful. He wore a mask of self-righteousness and he lost focus.

My friend, when you think about your life and your faith journey, are you being faithful? My desire isn’t to make you feel guilty but to help you see your current state. I am convinced that you can’t move toward where you want and need to go, without first knowing where you currently are.

To help, let me give you some practical thoughts and steps. **(Continued on Page 8)**



**Ault
Scholarship**

of Neuse Baptist Association

Applications for the *Russell & Joan Ault Scholarship of Neuse Baptist Association* are now being accepted through **April 1st**. Current high school seniors and those pursuing college degrees (including advanced degrees) are encouraged to contact the NBA Office to request the link to the online application. Previous award recipients are eligible to reapply.

pastors, be sure to note this change of schedule:

fellowship • discussion • prayer



now 2nd thursday of each month



Pastors, Ministry Staff, & Their Spouses

Appreciation Banquet

*Friday, March 1, 2024
6:30 PM*

at Neuse Baptist Association / RTC

RSVP Required By February 23



The CHURCH NEWS Page

As Submitted by the Churches



Welcome, Abide Bible Church!

(Jamal Hyman)
Abide is a new church plant coming soon to Goldsboro and the newest member of Neuse Baptist Association, as of our 2023 Annual Meeting in October.

Deep Run First (Michael Wright) Fifty-seven families were assisted through the church's Food Bank during the month of December. The true meaning of Christmas was celebrated with a Christmas play, "*Friend in Jesus*". WMU sponsored Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Boxes; 22 families were assisted through the project. Choir presented their cantata, *Bethlehem Morning*. A Lottie Moon Christmas mailbox was set up during December, in which members donated funds toward the Lottie Moon Offering to use the mailbox. Church collected 158 Shoeboxes, which exceeded their goal, in support of OCC. 2024 started off with new members joining the church.

Emmaus (Jim Willoughby) Annual Valentine Fish Fry for Senior Adults will be held on February 10, hosted by one of the adult SS classes. A snack collection for the patients and families of Kitty Askins Hospice Center will run through the month of February. Monthly Senior Luncheon will be on February 8, at Noon. Everyone 50+ is invited for fellowship and a delicious meal at no cost.

Falling Creek (Robert Ellis) The church family enjoyed a memorable Fall and Holiday Season, with events including a Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween, a Community Thanksgiving Service with Love Memorial, baptism of 4 individuals in December, a Talent Show, and a Candlelight service. Plans for more missions opportunities in 2024 are underway.

Love Memorial (Richard Toler) Several high school seniors and college students attended *Passion* in Atlanta, GA, January 2-4. BBQ chicken fundraiser for the church's Indonesia Mission was held January 14. Baptist Men's Day was observed on January 21 with a Men's Breakfast, Men's Choir, and speakers Jeff Jernigan and Mike Williams. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday was observed on January 28 with an Ingathering for

the Wayne Pregnancy Center. Preacher Roy Jernigan spoke to Awana families on January 21 and clubbers surprised him with a 99th Birthday party! Awana clubbers continue to collect money for the Africa Schools Project. As of fall 2023, Awana is operating in 2,852 PUBLIC schools in Africa. Other public schools are asking for Awana as positive results in academics, attendance, and behavior occur where Awana is present. Sunshiner's will meet on February 15 for a light luncheon and plan activities for 2024. Church members are making plans to attend NC Missions Conference, East Coast Men's Bible Conference, and Spring Jubilee this year.

Northview (Rick Whaley) Advent services started on Sunday December 3 and were observed through the month of December. Pastor Rick Whaley had a Christmas get-together at his home on Wednesday evening, December 13. Refreshments were served. Church Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 17 following the morning worship service. Pizza was served and gifts were exchanged.

Pinkney (Steven Gay) Tuesday Men's Meeting will resume March 2024. Members of the church family are asked to volunteer for monthly donations for Kitty Askins for 2024. Annual Valentine Banquet is planned for February 10 at 6PM. Church is supporting the missionary work of Joe Woodard by gifting \$5 McDonald's gift cards for Youth in need.

Rivermont (John Morton) Church exceeded its LMCO goal — to God be the Glory! A new year of Monthly Fellowship Luncheons with craft time began January 16.

Rosewood (Tim Lipp) A service to honor the retirement of Music Director, Judy Lewis, was held January 7. A Floating Reception in her honor was held the same afternoon at her home. Amplified Youth enjoyed their annual Ski Trip, January 12-15. Commissioned Hearts (Ladies Group) will host their annual Chili Cook-Off, February 11. Amplified Youth will host a Valentine Banquet on February 17. Women's Sunday is planned for February 18.

Church trip coming up? Call the NBA Office to see about the availability of one or both of our 15-passenger vans.

Church News, continued

Trinity (Dave Fishman) Deacon Ordination was celebrated on January 14, ordaining Joey Coor into the ministry of Deacon. Wednesday evening Bible Studies resumed for Kingdom Kids as well as Adults on January 17. Monthly Fellowship Lunches also resumed on January 24, providing a time of fellowship and devotion for those able to attend. A Helping Hand Ministry will start in February, to provide ministry and service to those in need within our church and community.

Feeling Called to be a *Bivocational Pastor?*

If so, you're invited to a Breakfast Conference
Saturday, March 16 at 9 AM
at the NBA Office
Please register by March 13

2024 NBA Executive Board Meeting Dates

- Monday, February 12
 - Monday, April 8
 - Monday, June 10
 - Monday, September 9
- Meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the NBA Office.
- All NBA Officers, Pastors & church ministry staff, as well as church representatives to the Association comprise the voting board.
- All other individual(s) interested in the missions & ministries of Neuse Baptist Association are invited to attend.

NBA Annual Meeting Date:

Sunday, October 27
Time & Location to be Determined

NBA has a **FREE** HP LaserJet P1102 printer to give to an NBA Church or Pastor in need. One unused (still in box) toner cartridge is included as well. The printer works very well but is no longer compatible with our updated office technology.



Annual NBA Project: Men's Personal Care Bags for Migrant Workers

Each year, NBA Churches join together to provide Personal Care Bags for **male** migrant farm workers who travel from Mexico to work during the summer with Tull Hill Farms in Kinston. Along with the items listed below, we provide a Spanish Bible and tract.

1. Choose an item from below that your church will collect or purchase **80** of.
2. Notify NBA of the item the church plans to collect.
3. Collect / purchase items and drop them off to NBA **before Memorial Day**.

- Bath Towel
- Bath Cloth
- Shampoo
- Men's Deodorant
- Bar of Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Men's Razors
- Men's Shave Cream
- Chap Stick
- Bags of Hard Candy
- Writing Tablet
- Ink Pens
- Gently-used Men's long-sleeved button down shirts (**please no jackets or sweaters**)

VOLUNTEERS to help assemble bags are also needed May 28-30! Please call Wendy!



Region Rally
Thursday, February 22
The Memorial Baptist Church
 (1510 Greenville Blvd SE, Greenville 27858)
5:45 - 8:30 PM

The rally will highlight the variety of opportunities NC Baptists have to be involved in missions across our state, in our nation, and around the world. Featured will be worship, testimony, mission video, and a prayer time for missions. These rallies are for men, women and youth- everyone interested in missions is encouraged to attend. A main focus of these rallies will be state, national, international partnerships and projects (including Disaster Relief) and the NC Missions Offering.

A meal is provided for the NC Mission Rallies at no charge but **reservations are necessary to ensure a proper meal count.**

Register online at <https://baptistsonmission.org> or call Melanie Crawford at 919-459-5596.

Wheelchair Ramp Building Training
Saturday, February 10
Baptists on Mission Office
 (205 Convention Drive, Cary NC)
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Learn the principles involved in building a ramp to meet the needs of those facing accessibility issues. This is a great training for students, women and men to serve their communities.

Event contact:
 Paul Langston
 919-604-4778
plangston@ncbaptist.org



2024 BAPTIST MISSIONS CONFERENCE
LIVING SENT
 EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A MISSIONARY

SPEAKERS


 TOM RICHTER


 ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ


 QUINTELL HILL


 JEFF IORG


 MARK RICHT


WORSHIP LEADER
 LAURA STORY

APRIL 5-6, 2024 • HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH • CHARLOTTE, NC

For more information call Melanie Crawford at 800-395-5102 x 5596 or visit baptistsonmission.org/missionsconference



Gateway Community Church in Pikeville will be hosting the live-streamed

IF: 2024 Conference for Women

Friday, February 23 (6:30 PM - 11 PM), and Saturday, February 24 (10 AM - 5:30 PM). This event is for ages 14+.

Cost is \$30 and includes:

- Access to streaming IF: 2024 gathering
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday
- Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday.

Childcare not provided but nursing babies are welcome.

Visit g8way.cc to register to attend.

Coming in May: Church Vision Intensive

May 3-4
NBA Office / RTC

This is a specific and special time to pray 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 & lunch on Saturday will be included.

What we ask of you:

1. Registration —
 - i. Must include both the Pastor and individual team members' names.
 - ii. Registration deadline is **April 19**.
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.

To register, email wendy@nbachurches.com or call the NBA Office: 252-566-9478. Registration deadline is April 19.



NCBAM (NC Baptist Aging Ministries) will be sponsoring an "Aging Well" Conference at the NCBAM **Care Village at Kennedy Home** on **Thursday, March 14** from 10 AM until 2PM.

This annual conference explores aging well spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

The cost to attend this session is **\$10**, which includes lunch.

To register, visit ncbam.org/events or call: 877-506-2226.

Prayer

Hey Friends, did you know there are at least 100 recorded prayers in Scripture? They start in the book of Genesis and don't stop until the book of Revelation. We believe there are many to demonstrate to us the importance of communion with God! It's to be a part of every believer's daily communication with Him.

So, if you need direction...look to Jesus.
If you need healing...ask Jesus.
If you want peace...follow Jesus.
If you want to be the person God designed and desires you to be...be more like Jesus.

Please know we are praying for you and if you have any specific concerns, we invite you to email them to prayer@nbachurches.com .

There is also a link on our NBA webpage, nbachurches.com/prayer-wall .
Just look for the blue button near the bottom of the page that says, "Share your prayer request".

God bless you—real good!
Your Prayer Ministry Team
Rev. Dave Fishman, Team Leader



InJoy Thrift Stores was initiated by Christian businessmen and women with a goal of supporting local and international

Christian ministries. InJoy's mission is to not just run a successful thrift store, but exists first to honor God in all that we do. We want to reach the least, the last, and the lost, and we do this by increasing missions funding and creating fulfilling volunteer opportunities in the Christian community by operating thrift stores.

We get our name from Jesus' words in John 15:11 — "I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

Income created by the sale of goods after normal business expenses creates significant income for Community Christian ministries chosen by a local Board of Directors. Half of our proceeds are designated to help an organization called DOOR International (Deaf Opportunity and Outreach). They help translate the Bible into sign language. There are currently over 70 million deaf people in the world and less than 2% know God.

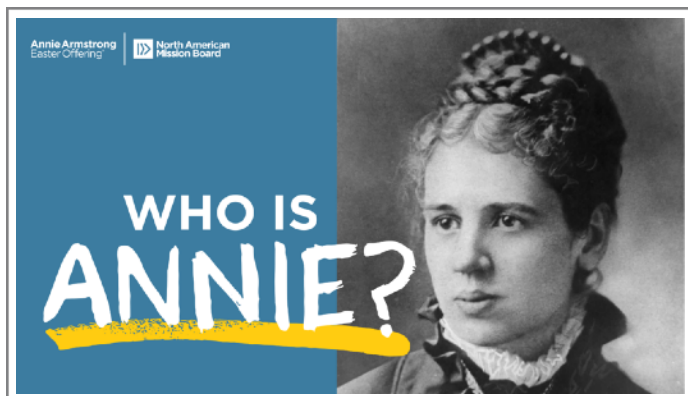
Located in the heart of Goldsboro on Ash Street in the Sunrise Shopping Center, InJoy Thrift Store has two stores in Goldsboro: a clothing and housewares store as well as a furniture/bookstore.

You can help be a local missionary in three ways:

- 1) Shop InJoy. If you love a bargain, you can shop InJoy and know that the proceeds go to worthy causes like Wayne Pregnancy Center.
- 2) Donate gently used clothing or furniture.
- 3) Volunteer.
 - i. *We have so many tasks that need to be done. We say if you can hang a piece of clothing, or plug in a lamp, we can use you! Maybe it's to vacuum or even to help with washing dishes or taking out the trash. If God has laid on you a servant's heart, we would love to talk to you.*

**Stop by the store, located at
1711 East Ash Street
Goldsboro NC 27530**

Or call us at 919-947-5749



Annie Armstrong (1850-1938) spoke up for missions and missionaries in a way no one ever had. She championed missions support among Southern Baptist churches and cast a grand vision for their growing involvement in praying, giving and going. Since 1895, what is now called the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has fueled Southern Baptists' mission work in the US, Canada and their territories. In that time, churches and individuals have given more than \$2 billion to help make Jesus known to every man, woman, boy and girl in North America.

Week of Prayer for North American Missions
March 3-10, 2024

- 1) *Being in awe of God more than you are afraid of man.*

When you and I are more afraid of man than we are in awe of God, we will be more faithful and obedient to man rather than the Lord. Oftentimes we call this fear of man peer pressure, people-pleasing, or codependency. To be faithful to the Lord is to see Him bigger than anything or anyone else. When the Lord is bigger and you are more in awe of Him than anything or anyone else, then you will be faithful.

- 2) *Spend time with the Lord.*

The way we spend our time signifies what we value. When we spend time reading and studying the Bible, time in prayer, time simply sitting still letting the Holy Spirit speak into us, and time in worship, we signify what we value—a loving devotion to the Lord. Further, when we spend time with the Lord we become more and more like Him, and as we do, we become more and more faithful.

- 3) *Know with confidence that God's ways are better than our ways.*

Isaiah 55:8-9 the Lord tell us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (ESV)." More often than not when we fail to be faithful, it is because we think, 'my way is better or easier or faster'. The reality is He has a far better vantage point. He sees things and knows things that we don't and possibly never will. My friends, God's ways are better than ours.

- 4) *Grow in faith one day at a time and one step at a time.*

There is this myth called "Super-Christians". It is believed that they can bound over buildings with a single bounce. Even more, it is believed that they become that way overnight. Let me dispel that myth, it simply isn't true! There is no such thing as a "Super-Christian" and for those that we look at and think they are a "Super-Christian" I can tell you that they have come to that place through years of being faithful. You see, there are different levels of maturity in faith. The Bible relays this idea of different levels of maturity in faith in 1 John 2 when it refers to believes as "children" "young men", and "fathers".

My friend, are you more faithful than you were a month ago? Are you waking up in the morning with the mindset of "Jesus first"?

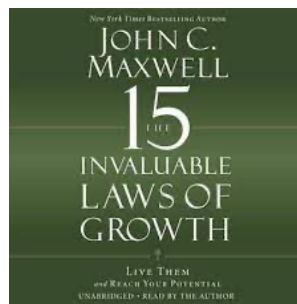
- 5) *Put away your feelings of shame, doubt, and fear.*

Feelings of shame, doubt, and fear will bind and restrain you greater than handcuffs or a straight jacket. Not only will these things bind you but they will pull you down faster than quicksand. They will prevent you from breaking out and being all that the Lord has created you to be.

While it is true that sin has consequences, sometimes those consequences are short-lived lived and sometimes they are long-lived. While this is fact, I've got some really good and great news for you. As a popular worship song says, "He's a chain breaker". There is no need to live as a slave to these feelings of shame, doubt, and fear. My friend, as a follower of Jesus, He has set you free. Jesus tells us in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (ESV)."

My friends, live faithfully. Impact the world around you through your life of faithfulness. And if you do, you will be amazed at what the Lord will do.

Love to all,
~Keith



15 Invaluable Laws of Growth Live Them and Reach Your Potential

Growth is essential in life to get better and better, but it doesn't just happen. It requires intentionality and a desire to expand beyond

your current capacity. John C. Maxwell's book, *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*, clarifies how you can do just that. You will learn to:

- Focus on growth with purpose
- Identify the best environment to support your growth
- Stretch your abilities
- Pursue your lifelong dreams

PASTORS, have we piqued your curiosity?! If so, make plans to join us for the monthly Pastors Meeting, now moved to Thursdays, as we explore this training together. If you can't attend in person and would like to attend via Zoom, contact the NBA Office.

Contributions from Churches, 4th Qtr 2023

Churches	Oct-Dec., 2023	FY 2023
Abide		
Adamsville	450.00	1750.00
Anointed Vision	2500.00	2500.00
Bethel	8226.04	10972.64
Cabin	495.15	2010.15
Calvary, Golds		600.00
Calvary, Kinst		100.00
Casa del Dios	510.00	2470.00
Community		61.29
Davis Grove		
Deep Run First		4762.00
Emmaus	1079.63	5152.96
Falling Creek	732.38	5160.16
Fremont	250.00	250.00
Gateway	3600.00	14400.00
Goldsboro First	1822.57	1822.57
Grainger		1000.00
Horeb		
Immanuel	255.00	1020.00
Jordan's Chapel		850.00
Kinston First		4893.56
La Grange First	3346.00	9402.00
Love Memorial	1132.15	5596.14
Madison Avenue	1632.00	2944.20
Mount Nelson	3925.86	31162.92
Neuse	2602.40	14485.46
New Beginning		
New Hope		
New Life	241.00	1701.00
Northview	400.00	400.00
Nueva Amanecer		800.00
Pikeville First		
Pineview	500.00	2500.00
Pinkney	877.59	3430.36
Rivermont	1705.03	6762.93
Rosewood First	598.76	3248.96
Sandy Bottom	900.00	3600.00
Seven Springs	1200.00	3600.00
Snow Hill First	2771.20	9503.16
Spilman Memorial		1000.00
The Way		1000.00
Trinity		1825.36
Union	400.00	1600.00
Total CHURCHES	42152.76	164337.82

All contributions listed were received on or before December 31, 2023.

Designated Funds	Balance YTD
Van Use Donations	0.00
Miscellaneous Donations	0.00
Payments for Trainings	0.00
NCMO % Rebate	0.00
Handy Man Donations	0.00
Hunger Fund	0.00
Bldg Capital	0.00
Block Party Trailer Ministry	0.00
Total Des. Funds '24	0.00
Rollover Funds	
NCMO Rebate	6425.81
Hunger Fund	1.05
Misc. Donations Rollover	2313.77
BPT Rollover	482.63
Handy Man Donation Fund	8157.35
Vans Use Rollover	150.00
Total Rollover Funds	17530.61
Designated Funds Total	17601.64



February Birthdays

Lorie Ellis, Davis Grove Pastor Spouse — 06
 Brittani Gardner,
 Gateway Associate Pastor Spouse — 12
 Tim Lipp, Rosewood First — 28

Ministry Anniversaries

Dr. Berk Tinsley, Anointed Vision — 23 years



Coming Up on the Calendar

February

- 01 — Ault Scholarship Applications Accepted
Feb 1 — April 1 (Contact NBA for Application)
- 08 — Pastors Lunch Meeting,
Noon @ NBA Office
- 10 — Baptists on Mission Wheelchair Ramp
Building Training, Baptists on Mission
Office, Cary NC — 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- 12 — NBA Executive Board Meeting,
6PM @ NBA Office
- 14 — HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**
- 15 — Info due for **MARCH** newsletter
- 22 — Baptists on Mission Region Rally,
The Memorial Baptist Church,
Greenville — 5:45 PM - 8:30 PM

*The Church Visioning Intensive Training originally scheduled for February 23-24 has been MOVED to **May 3-4**.*



March

- 01 — Pastors/Spouses/Ministry Staff
Appreciation Banquet, 6PM @ NBA Office.
(RSVP Required)**
- 14 — Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 14 — NCBAM "Aging Well Conference", Care Village @
Kennedy Home, 10 AM - 2PM; \$10; Includes
Lunch
- 15 — Info due for **APRIL** newsletter
- 16 — Breakfast Conference for Potential Bi-vocational
Pastors, 9 AM @ NBA Office
- 18 — NBA Leadership Council Meeting,
Noon @ NBA Office
- 29 — Good Friday, NBA Office CLOSED
- 31 — Easter Sunday**

April

- 01 — Ault Scholarship Application Window Closes**
- 05-06 — NC Baptist Missions Conference, Charlotte
- 08 — NBA Executive Board Meeting 6PM @ NBA Office
- 11 — Pastors Lunch Meeting, Noon @ NBA Office
- 15 — Info due for **MAY** newsletter
- 27 — Deacon Family Ministry Training, 9 AM - Noon,
NBA Office (No Lunch)

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
Goldsboro NC

Neuse Baptist Association
176 Piney Grove Ch Rd
La Grange NC 28551