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176 Piney Grove Church Road La Grange NC. 28551 | 252-566-9478 | Hours: M-F 8:30AM - 4:00PM

**STATEWIDE AGING WELL CONFERENCE**



**Aging Well with Peace**  
Essential Tools to  
Prepare for a Fulfilling Future  
**March 27, 2025 | 10am – 2pm**  
**River of Life Baptist Church**  
8411 Ocean Hwy W, Sunset Beach, NC  
*\$10 includes lunch*



**SCAN THE CODE**  
to reserve your  
space by **March 25.**

## ***From Keith***

Let me tell you about Sam. Sam is a good guy, he is smart and hard-working. He has been working at Case Farms for the past 5 years and has been making significant strides in his career as he has worked his way to a supervisor position. If you asked him how things are going, he would say without hesitation, “Wonderful!” That is, until about 6 months ago. With the rapid change in responsibilities, demands, and stresses, Sam is finding himself in a fog, not knowing which step to take and which steps are stable to step on. Sam has been heard saying that he feels like his work life “is spinning in the mud.”

This is a fictional story, but like Sam it is so easy to get stuck. Whether it is your church or in your personal life, we get to where we feel like we are walking through a minefield, or maybe we are spinning in the mud. At the core of this feeling like you are walking through a minefield or spinning in the mud is a lack of clarity. It may be a lack of clarity that results in fear due to uncertainty and the unknown.

Maybe you are like me; when I approach a situation that is uncertain or unknown, I have the danger of ‘getting stuck in my head’ as I think about this solution or that solution or the dangers or the repercussions or .... I enter this situation that results in paralysis as I overthink and underperform or act. In other words, we get caught up in analysis paralysis.

I’ve been reading through Ecclesiastes, and I ran into this verse: *“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap (Ecc. 11:4, ESV).”* In other words, if we are constantly obsessing, fearing, and fretting over circumstances, we will never act (sow or reap).

*(Continued)*

(From Keith, continued)

Now, don't get me wrong. Prayer and careful consideration are vital. But faith isn't just about thinking; it's about *doing*. God didn't call us to be hermits lost in thought; He called us to be His hands and feet in the world.

My friend, a hard-won lesson I've learned is this: make the best decision you can with the information you have *now*. You can't predict the future. Because you make the best decision you can with the information that is available to you, you can't get bogged down in the "would'a, should'a, could'a." Most decisions can't and shouldn't be postponed indefinitely.

Let me ask you a few questions:

- 1) What areas in your life or in your church need clarity?
- 2) What decisions have you or your church been putting off?
- 3) What are the fears that are holding you back from moving forward?
- 4) Are the fears that are creating the delay true? In other words, are these fears based on reality or perceived?
- 5) What would it take for you to make that bold step the Lord has directed you toward?
- 6) What are you losing out on by delaying?

Your decisions, or lack thereof, shape your current situation. If your current situation is less than the call the Lord has placed on your life, you have to change your actions.

Ultimately, the challenge I give myself, and now give you, is this: "Get out of your head and get on mission." The mission isn't found in our head but in the world and the relationships around us.

Love to all,  
Keith



## 2025 Annual Meeting Date Announced

The NBA Executive Board voted at their February 10 meeting to move the this year's Annual Meeting to **Sunday, October 19**.

Further, Amendments to both the NBA Constitution & By-laws were proposed and will be voted on at the 2025 Annual Meeting that will effectively move the Annual Meeting away from the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of October, as it has historically been. The Amendment reads, *"The Annual Meeting will convene in a single session on a Sunday night in the month of October."*

This change is due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday night of October falling during the Fall/Halloween/Trunk-or-Treat season when several of our churches are sponsoring community outreach events that prevent them participating in the Annual Meeting. An Amendment that offers the flexibility to conduct the meeting "On a Sunday night in the month of October" is the solution that enables our churches to participate more widely in the Annual Meeting and still minister to their communities.

Because the scheduling of the Annual Meeting is set per the guidelines of both our Constitution and our By-laws, a vote to amend these documents can only take place at the Annual Meeting, and the result of the vote will take effect beginning 2026.

From the Front Cover —

**Statewide Aging Well Conference** info:

- Churches can make the conference a Retreat and book an overnight stay at Ft. Caswell if they act fast.
- Guest Speakers include CEO of Baptist Children's Homes, David Melber; Misty Piekar-McWilliams with NCDHHS Division of Aging; Scott Setzer, Provision Financial Resources; and Dr. Sherrie Lee, Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County.
- **For more information about this conference, contact NC Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) at 877.506.2226**

## The CHURCH NEWS Page

*As Submitted by the Churches*

**Deep Run First** (Michael Wright) Handyman Ministry has recently built 2 ramps for local persons in need. Valentine's Day was celebrated with an outing to Baron & the Beef. A group from the church visited with Wounded Warriors in Jacksonville, serving them a meal and enjoying fellowship. Food Bank served 56 families during February. Youth enjoyed WinterJam, February 15. Annual church yard sale is planned for March 1. Deacons hosted a Sunday School breakfast to highlight a new Young Adult Sunday School class. WMU purchased 100 bars of soap in support of NBA's Annual Project for migrant workers.

**Emmaus** (Jim Willoughby) A group from the church provided "Meals of Love" for Kitty Askins Hospice Center, February 19. During these winter months, items are being collected in support of Southeastern Medical Oncology Center and Kitty Askins. Sunday School Celebration will be observed March 2 at 9:45 AM. Monthly Senior Luncheon will be on March 13 at Noon for ages 50+; the public is always invited to attend free. *GRACEWAY* will present a song service on March 23 at 6PM. All are invited; a love offering will be received.

**Gateway** (Thayer Stamper) *Financial Peace University* began February 18 and will last 8 weeks. During February, the church family spent 10 days praying for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). One of Gateway's ministry partners, Harvesters International, has an active ministry in the DRC and has asked for prayers as they minister to orphans, local pastors, ministry leaders and families who are struggling amidst the harmful impacts caused by rebel groups in the DRC. A "Guys Overnight Camping Trip" is being planned for May 16-17 at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

**Love Memorial** (Richard Toler) Several men from Love will attend the East Coast Men's Bible Conference in Rocky Mount March 7-8. Revival services will be held Sunday, March 9 at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm and on Monday, 23

March 10-Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm. Dr. Michael Cloer will be preaching. A group from Love will be attending the NC Missions Conference in Winston Salem March 14-15. The March men's breakfast will be March at 8:00 am. Scott Littleton will be the special guest speaker. Love will enjoy a covered dish fellowship Sunday, March 23 after the morning worship service. Love Ladies will have a retreat at Carolina Beach March 27-30.

**Mount Nelson** (Jimmy Dale) Pastors Appreciation Day will be observed March 16, to celebrate Pastor Jimmy Dale and Youth Pastor Austin Morris. WMU ladies will take over morning worship for WMU Day on March 9. They will share personal testimonies, songs and the teen girls will share a skit. A group from the church will head out to WNC for a 4-day mission trip to help rebuild areas affected by Hurricane Helene; prayers would be much appreciated.

**Pinkney** (Steven Gay) New stained glass windows were installed in the Sanctuary in December. The children's Christmas Program with refreshments was December 15. Candlelight Service was December 24 and was well attended. A new list for volunteers to donate to Kitty Askins was posted. Pictures for the new Church Directory were taken January 18. Valentine's Dinner was February 8 with guest speaker Steven Keesecker; the meal was wonderful and the message was well received. The cards for the Joe Woodard ministry are being prepared.

**Restoration** (Khayyam Shepherd) Women's group, Titus 2 Ministry, enjoyed a time of food, fellowship and creativity at their Paint-Create-Connect afternoon on February 22 at the church. The church family surprised Pastor Khayyam with gifts and cards on his Birthday, February 6. *To follow the journey of this new church start, check out the church's website at [www.revivearcm.org](http://www.revivearcm.org) or follow them on Facebook at "RRChurchMinistries".*

*Continued*

## **CHURCH NEWS, Cont.**

**Rivermont** (John Morton) A Valentine's Luncheon was held following morning worship on February 16. Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Community Fellowship Luncheon will be March 18 with crafts at 11:00 and lunch at Noon. A spaghetti luncheon benefit sponsored by the Youth will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, for Carly Humphrey. It will begin at 11AM; tickets are on sale and will be available at the door. Students will be leading morning worship on March 30 at 10:30AM.

**Rosewood** (Tim Lipp) *Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Pastor Tim Lipp and his family upon the death of his father, Rev. Daniel Lipp on February 11. Rev. Lipp's 40-year span in ministry included serving as Minister of Education at Madison Avenue in the mid-1970's.*

Pickleball Fellowship on Tuesday nights at 7PM in the Family Life Center continues to be an enjoyable time of activity & fellowship. Women's Sunday was observed February 23 during morning worship. A spaghetti fundraiser was held Friday, February 28.

**Snow Hill First** (Brick Crowder) Another Baptism took place on February 23; to God be the Glory! Men of the church also enjoyed Breakfast together that morning, and a Welcome Luncheon was held after morning worship for all New Members and Visitors of the church. "Focus on WMU Sunday" was observed February 16. Students traveled to Raleigh to attend WinterJam on February 14.

**Trinity** (Dave Fishman) Baptist Women's Day was observed February 16<sup>th</sup> with women and girls leading worship with singing, praying, serving and sharing. Pastor's wife Stacy shared A Mother's Story — part of her testimony surrounding the death of their son, Matthew. Helping Hands Ministry has been busy serving within the community through cleaning, organizing, fixing, and other things within homes as well as yards. Fellowship Lunch continues the fourth Wednesdays of each month at noon with fellowship and food. Church participated in the Association's Annual Project by providing toothbrushes

for Personal Care Gift Bags for Seasonal Farm Workers. Annual Spring Bazaar Vendor Event will be held March 22 beginning at 10 am. All are invited to stop by and check things out and see how our neighbors share their many gifts and talents.



### **March Birthdays**

Alex Ellis, Davis Grove — 3/1  
Greg Kincaid, Neuse — 3/10  
Jeff Russ, Cabin — 3/14  
Carol Carter, Grainger Ministry Spouse — 3/21  
Jim Willoughby, Emmaus — 3/22  
Norm Davis, Retired Pastor — 3/23  
Susan Dale, Mt. Nelson Ministry Spouse — 3/31

### **March Ministry Anniversaries**

Ron Varner, New Life — 13 years  
Michael Lewis, Community — 6 years  
Dave Fishman, Trinity — 4 years  
Tim Lipp, Rosewood — 2 years

**Meals of Love for Kitty Askins**

We invite our area churches, civic groups, and individuals to make a meal to share with our patients, their families, and staff at Kitty Askins Hospice Center. It will mean so much to them!

Meals can be shared one time, or your group can sign up to provide meals on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis. Meals should feed 30-35 people, please.

To sign up or to learn more, please contact our Patient Experience Coordinator:

**RACHEL TURNER**  
CELL: (919) 583-4470  
OFFICE: (984) 345-2783  
EMAIL: rturner@3HC.org



## MINISTRY POSITIONS

### Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC  
Compensation package based on experience.

The ideal candidate will possess a heart for ministry, a deep knowledge of the Bible, and a strong commitment to the Baptist faith and values. As the primary leader of our church, said individual will provide biblical preaching, spiritual guidance, and leadership for our church family, while helping us grow in our mission to serve God and our community.

***This posting has been edited due to space constraints. To see this posting in its entirety, please visit [NBA's website](#).***

### Children's Director

First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC

First Baptist Church of Goldsboro is seeking a Children's Director who will minister to children on Sundays, Wednesdays, and will devote 2 hours to ministry on Thursdays. Ideal candidate will be a female. Position is part-time. Interested candidates are advised to send a resume with cover letter to:

**[office@fbcgoldsboro.org](mailto:office@fbcgoldsboro.org)**

### Church Office Administrator

Rosewood First Baptist Church  
Part-Time, Monday - Friday, 9AM - 1PM  
Pay Negotiable

Candidate needs to be proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint), Canva, Adobe Acrobat (pdf.), and File Management. Duties include office receptionist, publish weekly bulletin, prayer lists, record attendance and tithes given, assist pastoral staff, record and send memorial letters, mail bulletins to shut-ins, order curriculum for Sunday School and WMU, order office supplies and materials for committees as requested.

***This posting has been edited due to space constraints. To see this posting in its entirety please visit [NBA's website](#).***



NBA Churches  
VBS Dates  
for  
2025:

Deep Run First — June 16-18  
Emmaus — June 22-26



# Ault Scholarship

*of Neuse Baptist Association*

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FEBRUARY 1 - APRIL 1

Request a link to the application  
by emailing [wendy@nbachurches.com](mailto:wendy@nbachurches.com)

*Applicants should be in good standing with an NBA Church*

*We recently digitized our hard-copy Newsletter files. As I was scanning the newsletters, I thought how neat it would be if we could offer our Association and our churches a glimpse back at some of its history. With that in mind, I bring you a segment we'll run for the next few months:*

### **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**Seventy ago:** A “religious census” was taken among residents of Pink Hill, and 64 persons said they would attend a Baptist church if one were started there; 86 persons said they’d welcome a Baptist church in town; 55 persons reported to be unsaved. NBA Missionary H. R. Sterling encouraged Neuse Baptist Association to ‘think it over and pray about the wisdom of a Baptist church and the need for it in Pink Hill.’

**Fifty years ago:** According to the March 1975 newsletter, Snow Hill First celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Fremont celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Also, at the end of 1974, the number of Foreign Missionaries was 2,609 — crossing the 2,600 mark for the first time in history.

**Twenty-five years ago:** The Association-wide Singles Ministry had their first meeting on March 31, 2000. A mission trip to Alaska was announced, with plans to travel October 4-14, 2000. The first meeting for interested folks would be in April, 2000.

**Twenty years ago:** Bicycles are a major mode of transportation in Asia, so GA’s from Rosewood collected used bicycles, and Inmates from the Wayne Correctional Center donated their time to refurbish them. The bikes would then be shipped to victims of the 2005 Tsunami.

**Ten years ago:** NBA Seniors who were interested were invited to join seniors from Goldsboro First for a sight-seeing trip to Atlanta, which would take place in May, 2015. The trip would be 4 days and 3 nights and would cost \$469/person.

**Five years ago:** NBA Churches began to be affected by Covid, which meant the need to creatively plan services and events that were deemed “safe”, to guard against the spread of infection. During this season, NBA was without a DOM and Wendy was home recovering from foot surgery.



### **Latest Update From the NBA Prayer Ministry Team:**

We pray you have a full and rich relationship with our Heavenly Father through His One and only Son! You may already know or have read Jesus’ prayer for the nations as well as the generations in John 17; we wanted to point out some specifics to help guide us in Kingdom Praying (taken from *Prayer Prompts for Prayer Groups* by Chris Schofield).

1. Pray for believers to exemplify a Christ-like character before the world (v. 11).
2. Pray for divine protection from Satan (v. 15).
3. Pray that believers will live set apart and holy lives in Christ (v. 17).
4. Pray for Christians to be one in mission and purpose (v. 20—21).
5. Pray that believers will join Christ in His redemptive work and behold His glory (v. 24).

Remember: keeping our focus on Jesus will put those “not welcome” moments in perspective!

Praying for you as we serve Him,  
Your Prayer Ministry Team

### **NBA Executive Board Meetings 2025**

**Monday, April 14**  
**Monday, September 8**

All meetings will begin at 6:00 PM  
and will be held at the NBA Office.

# ANNUAL PROJECT



## PERSONAL CARE GIFT BAGS FOR SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

Each year, NBA Churches work together to provide personal care items for seasonal farm workers in Kinston arriving from outside the USA. The items get sorted into reusable shopping bags and distributed to the workers at the beginning of their farm season in June. **This year we are providing 100 bags** to meet the need.

### WHAT WE NEED:

- Churches willing to contribute items.
- (See reverse side for list of specific items).
- 100 of each item is needed.
- *Men's items only; there are no women in the farm camps.*
- To ensure that all items get provided we ask churches to select the item they're able to contribute and contact Wendy at the NBA Office. This also prevents duplicates & excess.



ITEMS DUE TO NBA OFFICE ON OR BEFORE

# MAY 23, 2025

**Please see reverse  
for complete list and  
more information.**

# ANNUAL PROJECT

## *ITEMS NEEDED*

PERSONAL CARE GIFT BAGS FOR SEASONAL FARM WORKERS



***ALL ITEMS ARE FOR MEN ONLY***

**100 of each of the following are still needed:**

- Bath Towels
- Individual Bags of Candy other than chocolate

*Items need to be  
full-sized, and  
please remember  
they are for MEN!  
Thank you!*

**PLUS, we are again collecting any number of :**

- Gently-used, clean, button down long-sleeved work shirts  
*in sizes Small, Medium, Large & XL only*
- Ball caps or sun hats

**Items need to be delivered to the NBA Office on or before May 23, 2025.**

*Special thanks to Pedro & Gabriela Trejo and  
Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Amanecer of Kinston for their great help with this project!*



**Contributions from Churches,  
January 2025**

<b>Churches</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Abide		
Adamsville	100.00	100.00
Anointed Vision		
Bethel		
Cabin		
Calvary, Golds		
Casa del Dios		
Community		
Davis Grove		
Deep Run First		
Emmaus	416.18	416.18
Falling Creek	404.70	404.70
Fremont	500.00	500.00
Gateway	1200.00	1200.00
Goldsboro First		
Grainger		
Horeb		
Immanuel	92.50	92.50
Jordan's Chapel		
Kinston First		
La Grange First	527.00	527.00
Love Memorial	719.24	719.24
Madison Avenue	652.75	652.75
Mount Nelson	19110.08	19110.08
Neuse	1134.41	1134.41
New Beginning		
New Hope		
New Life	110.25	110.25
Northview		
Nueva Amanecer		
Pikeville First		
Pineview		
Pinkney	332.24	332.24
Rivermont	1147.83	1147.83
Rosewood First	387.36	387.36
Sandy Bottom		
Seven Springs	300.00	300.00
Snow Hill First	1430.35	1430.35
Spilman Memorial	350.00	350.00
The Way	250.00	250.00
Trinity		
Union		
<b>Total CHURCHES</b>	<b>29164.89</b>	<b>29164.89</b>



*This image is hyperlinked for digital users.  
Hard copy readers should visit  
[baptistsonmission.org](http://baptistsonmission.org) for more information about  
the 2025 Baptist Missions Conference.*



## **Coming Up on Our Calendar**

### **March 2025**

- 09 — Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn — Noon @ NBA Office
- 14-15 — NC Baptist Missions Conference,  
"Living Sent", Calv. Bapt. Ch., Winston-Salem
- 15 — Submissions Due for April Newsletter
- 17 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg — Noon @ NBA Office
- 27-25 — Statewide Aging Well Conference,  
Sunset Beach NC, 10-2 PM

### **April 2025**

- 01 — Ault Scholarship Applications Ends**
- 10 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn — Noon @ NBA Office
- 14 — NBA Executive Board Meeting, 6PM @ NBA Office
- 15 — Submissions Due for May Newsletter
- 18 — Good Friday, NBA Office CLOSED**
- 20 — Easter Sunday**
- 27 — Fill the Tank Sunday

### **May 2025**

- 08 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn — Noon @ NBA Office
- 11 — Happy Mother's Day!
- 15 — Submissions Due for June/July Combined Newsletter
- 19 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg — Noon @ NBA Office
- 26 — Memorial Day, NBA Office Closed**

### **June 2025**

- 08-10 — SBC Annual Meeting — Orlando, FL
- 12 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn — Noon @ NBA Office
- 15 — Happy Father's Day!**
- 16 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg — Noon @ NBA Office

### **July 2025**

- 04 — Independence Day — NBA Office CLOSED**
- 10 — Pastors Lunch & Learn — Noon @ NBA Office
- 15 — Submissions Due for August Newsletter
- 21 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg — Noon @ NBA Office

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