June-July 2026

NEUSE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEUSE NEWS

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From Keith

Are you running on empty?

The sun is out, the humidity is rising, and the church calendar is packed. Between Vacation Bible School, mission trips, and summer camps, it feels like we just traded one kind of "busy" for another.

The truth is, most of us are more exhausted in June than we were in January.

I love popping in to see your VBS programs in action. The energy is amazing! But I also know that when I show up, I'm only seeing the tip of the iceberg. I don't usually see the weeks of prep work, the late nights, or the sheer effort you put in to make it happen.

We often think that if we stop, everything will fall apart. We worry that if we slow down, we're being "lazy." But here is some blunt honesty: **Rest is not a luxury. It is a God-given requirement for a healthy church and in our personal lives.**

If we want to hit the ground running this September, we have to find time to breathe right now.

The VBS Sprint

I want to pause and say **THANK YOU**.

Whether you are a pastor, a volunteer, or someone who helps behind the scenes, you are doing the work. VBS is one of the most powerful weeks of the year for the Gospel. It's high energy and high impact!

But here's the trap: if we treat the entire summer like a sprint, we're going to be **GASSED** by the time fall rolls around.

September is like our "New Year's Day" in church life. It's when everything starts fresh. If we enter that season tired and grumpy, our church family won't be at its best. A successful start in September depends on a rested July.

Continued

From Keith, *cont.*

4 Practical Ways to Slow Down This Summer

You don't need a month-long vacation to catch your breath. You just need to be intentional. Here are four ways all of us can find some margin in June and July:

1. **Simplify the Calendar.** Does every meeting really need to happen in July? Probably not. If you're a leader, clear some space. If you're a member, give yourself permission to say "no" to a few extra tasks. Give yourself the gift of empty space.
2. **Go "Radio Silent" for 24 Hours.** Pick one day where you turn off the email and the social media. No notifications. No "quick questions." Just silence. Let your brain reset.
3. **Audit Your Schedule.** Take a look at your church activities. Ask yourself: "*Is this helping us love God and love people, or are we just doing it because we've always done it?*" Sometimes, doing less allows us to do what matters **MORE**.
4. **Focus on "Fun" Fellowship.** Spend time with your church family without an agenda. Have a cookout. Go to a ballgame. Build the friendships that make church life so special.

4 Reasons Why Slowing Down is Good for Everyone

Why is this so vital? Because you are part of a body. If one part is worn out, the whole body feels it. Here is why the "Pause" is so powerful:

1. **It Provides Clarity** When you are constantly "doing," you can't "see." Getting a little distance from the daily grind allows you to see the big picture. Our best ideas for the future come when we aren't staring at a to-do list.
2. **It Protects Your Health** An unhealthy person cannot contribute to a healthy church. Period. Slowing down allows your physical, emotional, and spiritual batteries to recharge. Your church needs a healthy YOU.
3. **It Gives God Space to Speak** In the middle of a busy year, we spend a lot of time talking *to* God or talking *about* God. Summer is the time to sit at His feet and **LISTEN**. Let Him remind you why you love Him in the first place.
4. **It Builds Sustainable Momentum** Think of it like an athlete. They don't practice at 100% every single day. They rest so they can perform when the game starts. By resting now, we are gathering the energy we need for a massive impact this fall.

Catch Your Breath

I am so incredibly thankful for every person in the Neuse Baptist Association. You guys are the real deal. But even the best engines need to be turned off occasionally for maintenance.

Don't let time scarcity trick you into thinking you are too busy to rest.

The best part? When you slow down in June and July, you aren't falling behind. You are actually getting ready. You are preparing the soil for the seeds we are going to plant in September.

Enjoy the VBS high, celebrate the kids who meet Jesus, and then... take a nap. Go for a walk. Read a book.

A vibrant church in the fall begins with a rested church family in the summer.

How can I help you find some "margin" this month? I'm in your corner!

How can I pray for you?

In partnership,

Keith

The CHURCH NEWS Page

As Submitted by the Churches

Deep Run First (Bert Potter) The 72nd Homecoming Celebration was observed 5/17 with guest speaker, Craig Ham. Annual Yard Sale on 5/2 was a great success and included a bake sale sponsored by the Youth and a drawing to win an antique trunk, donated by a church member. Linda Herring was guest speaker at WMU's recent monthly meeting. Church's Food Bank assisted 91 families in April. Individually wrapped snacks are being collected for Kitty Askins in Goldsboro as part of the Outreach Ministry.

Emmaus (Jim Willoughby) Youth Sunday was held 5/24 with a Memorial Day theme and Youth leading morning worship. Monthly Senior Lunch will be held at Noon on 6/11 and 7/9; all Seniors are invited to join for good food and fellowship at no cost. Fathers will be recognized and will receive a gift of appreciation during morning worship on Father's Day, 6/21. A July 4th cookout/ picnic will be held to celebrate our country's 250th birthday; the public is invited. "Illumination Station" VBS is scheduled for July 19-23 with classes for all ages, from nursery through adults. A team will prepare and serve a meal for staff, residents, and families at Kitty Askins on 7/29.

Gateway (Thayer Stamper) Mission Mondays, to raise funds in support of ministry partner Harvester's International, are planned for 6/8 at Firehouse Subs in Goldsboro and 6/22 at Bonfire's Burrito Bar in Goldsboro. A portion of sales will go to this ministry cause and the community is invited to participate by simply going out to dinner on those evenings. Kingdom Quest VBS will be held June 26-28 for ages 3 years to rising 6th grade.

Love Memorial (Richard Toler) Mothers were honored on Mother's Day with a hot breakfast and recognition during worship, and a Memorial Day service of honor was also held. Throughout April and May, children and youth joined the worship team, filling services with songs of praise. A fundraiser lunch, prepared by the Kitchen Crew, raised support for a school in Indonesia. Awana closed out the year with a joyful celebration. The Sonshiners will enjoy their annual indoor picnic later this summer. The annual yard sale and golf fundraiser for Transformed Student Ministry (TSM) was a great success, thanks to strong church-wide support, and TSM will serve On Mission in WNC at the end of July. A Kids Fun Bible Zone will be offered each Sunday this summer for ages 4 through 6th grade. A Father's Day breakfast will be held on 6/21 and Emerald Crossing VBS will take place June 22-26. Welcome to new Church Secretary, Kristen Greene.

Pinkney (Steven Gay) Ladies have completed their Bible Study, *Alive: Growing in Your Relationship With Jesus.* The Ladies Banquet on 4/25 with speaker Debbie Cann was an eye-opening experience for all the mission work her team accomplishes. Church collected more than 75 cans of shaving cream and delivered them to NBA, for the Association Annual Project. All graduates were honored on 5/17, and Mothers were honored on Mother's Day.

Rivermont (John Morton) Youth (Cross Trainers) led their bi-annual Prayer Drive-Thru on 5/24 in the church parking lot. Persons in need of prayer stayed in their cars while youth prayed with them. The outreach was open to the church and the community.

Rosewood — AMS Keith Hudson has accepted the call to serve as Rosewood's Interim Pastor for 6 months; view their announcement seeking a new Senior Pastor further in this newsletter. Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS is planned for July 13-16.

Sandy Bottom (Rick Mondell) Graduates will be honored during morning worship on 6/14. "Illumination Station" VBS will be held June 15-18, beginning with a meal each night at 6 PM classes starting at 6:30. Revival is planned for July 12-15, with *Highway Revival* kicking everything off during 9:30 AM worship on 7/12.

Seven Springs (Phillip James) Mothers were honored on Mother's Day with special recognition and the presentation of a beautiful rose and gift. The church family gathered after worship on 5/17 in a time of fellowship and praise to participate in the President's rededication of the United States to God. Worship group *Eternity* will lead the morning worship service in music on 6/7.

Snow Hill (Brick Crowder) FBC Kids Summer Missions Club will launch June 3 for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Together, they'll be exploring the world, studying the lives of missionaries, and learning what the Bible teaches about Missions. The club will meet Wednesdays at 7 PM throughout the summer. "Illumination Station" VBS will be held June 10-12 from 5:45-8:15 PM for ages 3 through 5th grade.

The Way (Carlos Peralta) A Pancake Dinner Fundraiser was held 5/29 to raise funds for summer youth camp. Congratulations to Youth Pastor, Blake Paulk and wife Denise as their family grew with the addition of a new baby born 5/20.

Ministry Positions *(As Submitted by the Churches)*

Rosewood First Baptist Church located in Goldsboro, North Carolina, with the leadership of the Holy Spirit, has begun the prayerful search for a new Senior Pastor. We are a church that welcomes All to worship and serve with us. We are committed to the Baptist doctrine, focused on the inspirational worship of God and dedicated to applying the Bible to all areas of life. Our congregation is community-oriented and mission-minded. Rosewood First Baptist Church is a place to belong where we worship God, teach the word and serve our community. There's a strong tradition of multi-generational families growing and thriving in our church. We value the faith walks and contributions of all members from our youngest children to our most senior role models.

We are seeking a **Senior Pastor** who has a strong grasp of the Word of God and a desire to share with the congregation through preaching, teaching and pastoral care. We seek a pastor who will show the love of Jesus by Serving our church, family, and community. Rosewood First Baptist Church recognizes evangelism to be of great importance to build a vibrant church community by tracking new members of all ages but primarily focused on young families. The person selected for this role should also be able to supervise and provide strong leadership to the current ministerial and administrative staff.

The successful candidate will possess a strong call to pastoral ministry. They should have received advanced education and should possess 5 to 10 years of experience in local church ministry.

Candidates interested in being considered for the senior pastor should send their resume to:
PastorSearchRFBC@gmail.com

Union Baptist Church is seeking a Spirit-led, **Bi-vocational Pastor** to lead our congregation in worship, ministry, and community outreach. We are a Southern Baptist congregation looking for a shepherd who balances a passion for the pulpit with a heart for the welfare and oversight of our church family.

(This announcement has been edited for space. To see full announcement visit nbachurches.com/newsletter/ministry-openings.)

Qualifications

The ideal candidate must meet the following criteria as established by our church by-laws:

- **Scriptural Integrity:** Must meet the qualifications for leadership as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
- **Denominational Standing:** Must be an ordained Southern Baptist minister in good standing (or scheduled for ordination).
- Note: Candidates pending ordination may be extended a call contingent upon the *approval of the appropriate ordination committee.*

How to Apply

Please submit your resume, cover letter, and a link to a recent sermon (if available) by mail or email to:
Union Baptist Church
c/o Laura Williford
209 Firetower Rd.
La Grange, NC 28551
Unionbaptistchurch1928@gmail.com

June Birthdays

Frederick Parker, New Beginning – 6/8
Jeannie Willoughby, Emmaus Pastor's Spouse – 6/10
Kevin Gardner, Gateway Assoc. Pastor – 6/20
Nora Morton, Rivermont Pastor's Spouse – 6/20

June Ministry Anniversaries

Rick Mondell, Sandy Bottom – 10 years
Robert Ellis, Falling Creek – 7 years
John Morton, Rivermont – 4 years
Alex Ellis, Davis Grove – 4 years
Phillip James, Seven Springs – 3 years

July Birthdays

Ivy White, Supply Pastor – 7/2
Larry Carter, Grainger – 7/4
Sabrina Hyman, Abide Pastor's Spouse – 7/5
Keith Hudson, AMS – 7/17
Wayne Adkins, Retired Pastor – 7/19
Laura Russ, Cabin Pastor's Spouse – 7/24
John Morton, Rivermont – 7/28

July Ministry Anniversaries

Kevin Gardner, Gateway Assoc. Pastor – 17 years
Rudy West, Calvary – 8 years
Tim Gore, Fremont – 8 years

VBS 2026

Snow Hill First - June 10-12, Lifeway
Kinston First - June 12-14, Adventure HQ 3.0
Sandy Bottom - June 15-18, Lifeway
Deep Run First - June 19-20
Mount Nelson - June 21-25, Lifeway
Madison Avenue - June 22-25, Emerald Crossing
Goldsboro First - June 22-26, Emerald Crossing
Love Memorial - June 22-26, Emerald Crossing
Gateway - June 26-28, Kingdom Quest
Jordan's Chapel - June 28-30, Lifeway
Cabin - July 12-17, Lifeway
Rosewood - July 13-16, Snowball Mtn Challenge
Community La Grange - July 19-23, Lifeway
Emmaus - July 19-23, Lifeway
Seven Springs - July 29-Aug 1, Emerald Crossing

JUNE 29-JULY 31, 2026

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
7 AM -3 PM

CREATION KIDS CAMP

$180 FOR THE WEEK
*INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND SNACK
CHILD BRINGS THEIR OWN LUNCH

ACTIVITIES:

- BIBLE LESSONS/DEVOTIONS
- REMEDIATION/ENRICHMENT IN MATH & READING
- RECESS
- BREAKFAST/LUNCH/SNACK
- ARTS/CRAFTS
- SCIENCE ACTIVITIES CONNECTED TO BIBLE LESSONS
- BIBLE GAMES

FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE FINISHED GRADES K-5

TO REGISTER:
- USE CODE
- EMAIL
- OR TEXT

192 WOODLAND CHURCH ROAD
GOLDSBORO, 27530

VICTORIA BELL
919-273-4995

IMAGINEMOREPROJECT@PROTON.ME

Engaging Exposition

PREACHING CONFERENCE

LEADING FROM THE PULPIT

SEPTEMBER 14-15 | SEBTS.EDU/EVENTS

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

CENTER FOR PREACHING & PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

H.B. CHARLES, JR.

SCOTT PACE

HERSHAEL YORK

Partnership Opportunity with Love Memorial

Churches Working Together!

Hygiene Kits for Western Carolina

Snacks

Bottled water, nabs, granola bars, fruit cups, chips, sweet treats

Pop-Top Foods

Beanie-Weenies, Chef Boyardee, etc.

Plastic Utensils

Forks, spoons, knives

Personal Care

Wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, poncho, emergency blanket

NBA Churches in need of a Mission Project for VBS are invited to collect any or all of the above items and deliver them to Love Memorial Baptist Church on or before July 11. Love's Youth – Transformed Student Ministry – will assemble the items into kits to distribute during their Mission Trip to WNC in July.

For more information call Love Memorial at 919-735-8855

You Don't Have to Run the Race Alone: The NBA as Your Encourager

In the opening of his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes, *"I thank my God in every remembrance of you."* He knew that while the work of the Gospel is joyful, it is also demanding. Every church and every leader needs a "Barnabas"—a son of encouragement—to stand beside them when the road gets long.

At the **Neuse Baptist Association**, we believe our focus as an **Encourager** is perhaps our most sacred task. We aren't just here to track statistics; we are here to sustain the hands of those doing the work of the Great Commission. Simply put: **We are your biggest cheerleader. We are for you!**

Real Encouragement for Real Ministry

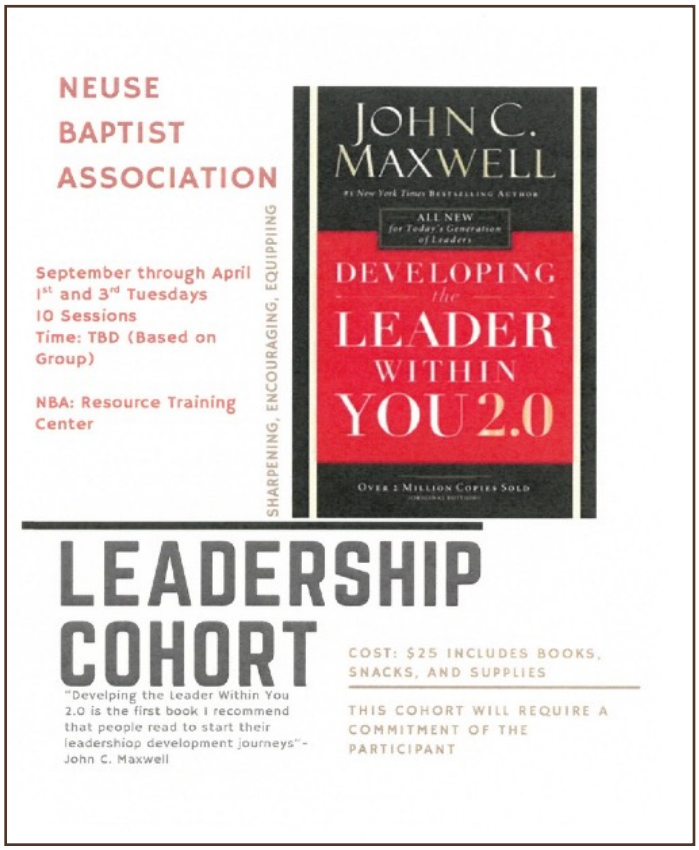
Encouragement isn't just a sentiment; it's a commitment to be present in the trenches with you. Here is how the NBA is currently pouring back into you and your leadership:

- **Conversation & Coffee with Keith:** Mondays are often the toughest day in ministry. This June, I am hosting a trial run of informal "drop-in" hours. No agenda, no set structure—just a time to talk, vent, or catch up over coffee.
  - **Dates:** June 1, 8, 15, and 29 (No meeting June 22)
  - **Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
  - **Location:** Riley's Southern Goods and Garden (*405 E Washington St, LaGrange*)
- **Pastor-to-Peer Support & Cohorts:** We provide spaces where you can take off the "leader" hat and simply be a brother.
  - **Monthly Lunch & Learns:** Join us every **3rd Thursday** for a meal and fellowship with other area pastors.
  - **Preaching Cohort:** Our second year kicks off this **September**. This is a dedicated space to sharpen your craft and find encouragement in the pulpit. See the graphic in this newsletter for more information.
  - **Leadership Cohort:** Launching this **September**, this new group focuses on the unique challenges of leading a local congregation. See the graphic in this newsletter for more information.
- **Celebrating Your Wins:** In the NBA, your victory is our victory. Whether it's a record-breaking VBS or a single baptism, we love to share your "God-stories" to encourage the wider association.
- **A "Phone Call Away" Support:** When a crisis hits or a leadership challenge arises, you have a direct line to your associational staff. You are never more than a phone call away from a listening ear.
- **Staff Appreciation & Future Retreats:** We are committed to honoring your hard work. While we have focused on appreciation events in the past, we are currently exploring retreat opportunities to provide you with much-needed rest and renewal.
- **Conflict Mediation & Peacekeeping:** Sometimes encouragement means helping a church navigate a difficult season. We provide a neutral, biblical perspective to help resolve tensions and restore unity.
- **Pulpit Relief:** One of the greatest gifts we can offer is a Sunday off. We help facilitate a network of vetted speakers so you can take time for rest or family without worry.

A Community of Care

If you've been feeling the weight of ministry lately, remember: the Neuse Baptist Association isn't just an organization you belong to; it's a family that belongs to you. We are here to cheer you on, lift you up, and remind you that your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Our Vision: Being a Catalyst to Encourage and Support Churches to be Great Commission and Great Commandment Churches.



Contributions from Churches, April, 2026

Churches	Apr, 2026	YTD 2026
Abide	100.00	400.00
Adamsville		
Anointed Vision	2000.00	2000.00
Bethel	294.20	975.99
Cabin		501.75
Calvary		
Casa del Dios		500.00
Community La Grange	150.00	200.00
Community Saulston		
Davis Grove		
Deep Run First		
Emmaus	912.96	2,006.78
Falling Creek	502.80	1,266.17
Fremont		500.00
Gateway	1,200.00	4,800.00
Goldsboro First		1,215.00
Grainger	500.00	500.00
Horeb		
Immanuel	105.00	315.00
Jordan's Chapel		900.00
Kinston First		
La Grange First	527.00	527.00
Love Memorial	454.58	1,580.58
Madison Avenue	667.00	2,306.46
Mount Nelson	629.09	6,447.19
Neuse	1,237.44	5,197.42
New Beginning		50.00
New Hope		
Northview		
Nueva Amanecer	400.00	400.00
Pikeville First		
Pineview	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pinkney	409.06	1,529.11
Restoration		
Rivermont	755.25	2,552.75
Rosewood First		
Sandy Bottom		1,405.16
Seven Springs		1,600.00
Snow Hill First	1,585.36	5,329.26
Spilman Memorial		400.00
The Way		
Trinity		250.00
Union		400.00
Total CHURCHES	13,429.74	47,055.62

The Go Collective

Helping every church send college students on mission.

Are you a college student or young adult exploring what it means to be on mission with God? The Go Collective equips you to live on mission—right now and for the rest of your life. Together with other young adults, you'll dive into God's Word, receive mentorship and be trained to impact the nations with the gospel.

NC Baptists will cover the costs of the equipping portion and will offer partial scholarships to students during their 2027 summer mission trips. For every week that a student is on the field, NC Baptists will provide $100, up to 8 weeks. They'll also match any funds that the sending church is willing to contribute, up to $300.

Be sure to visit their website for more information. For printed newsletter readers, visit https://ncbaptist.org/ministries/college/go-collective/

Interested college students/young adults ages 18-24 are encouraged to apply online by **October 30, 2026**.

NBA Churches, make sure to share this new endeavor with the missions-minded college students and young adults in your church! If any students from NBA apply and are accepted, let the NBA Office know so that we can celebrate their commitment in future editions of Neuse News.

Coming Up on the Calendar

All events will take place at the NBA Office unless stated otherwise.

June

01 — Coffee & Conversation w/ Keith @ Riley's Southern Goods & Garden, 9-11 AM
(Also June 8, 15, 29)
09-10 — SBC Annual Meeting, Orlando FL
15 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg., 9:00 AM
18 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn, Noon
21 — Happy Father's Day!

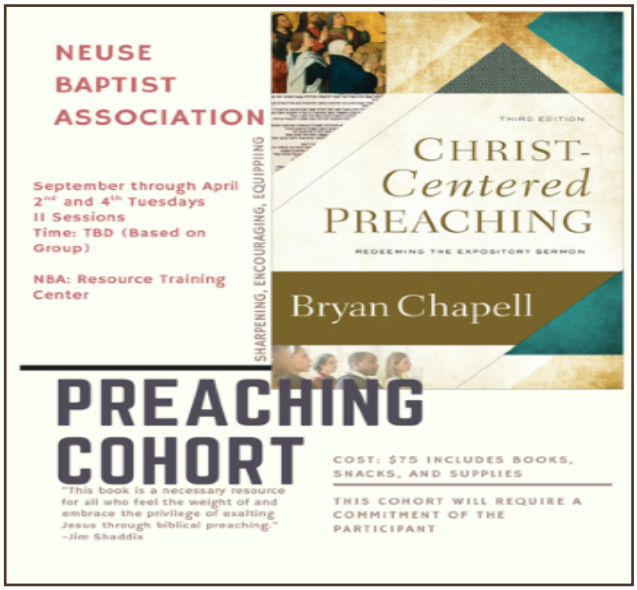
July

(There will not be a Pastors' Lunch & Learn this month.)

03 — Independence Day Holiday, NBA Office Closed
04 — Happy 4th of July!
06 — Coffee & Conversation w/ Keith @ Riley's Southern Goods & Garden, 9-11 AM
(Also July 13, 20, 27)
15 — Items Due for AUGUST Newsletter
17 — Happy Birthday, Keith!
20 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg., 9:00 AM

August

01-08 — ServeNC Week
15 — Items due for SEPTEMBER Newsletter
15 — Deacon Training, 9:00 AM - Noon
17 — NBA Leadership Team Mtg., 9:00 AM
20 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn, Noon
23 — Global Hunger Sunday *Churches, please collect*



NEUSE NEWS
NEUSE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

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