August 2026

NEUSE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEUSE NEWS

AMS, Dr. Keith Hudson keith@nbachurches.com | Office Manager, Wendy Parker wendy@nbachurches.com
176 Piney Grove Church Rd La Grange NC 28551 | 252-566-9478 | Hours: M-F 8:30AM - 4:00PM

## From Keith

Have you ever tried to pour water out of a bottle with a narrow neck?

No matter how much water is inside, it can only pour out as fast as that small opening allows. It doesn't matter how fresh the water is, or how thirsty you are. The bottle itself limits the flow.

That is a bottleneck.

And **the truth is**, many of our churches are stuck in a bottleneck right now. We have the life-giving message of the Gospel, and we have communities desperate for hope. Yet, the ministry feels like it's dripping out at a snail's pace.

A ministry can only grow as fast as its leader's capacity to focus on what matters most. When a pastor spends their week managing tasks that others could handle, they inadvertently become the lid on the church's growth.

If we want to see our churches thrive this fall, we have to widen the bottle. That means understanding the "Big Three" for our pastors and stepping into the "Big Three" for ourselves.

### The Pastor's Big Three

To understand how to help, we have to know what our pastors actually need to be doing. There are three core pillars that belong almost exclusively to the primary leader:

1. **Sermon Preparation:** Feeding the flock with theological depth and spiritual food through preaching and teaching. This also includes dedicated time for prayer. My dear pastor, do not be guilty of what Andrew Murray calls, "The Sin of Prayerlessness."
2. **Vision and Strategy:** Keeping their eyes on the horizon and directing the trajectory of the ship.

*Continued*

## From Keith, *cont.*

3. **Leadership Development:** Equipping and pouring into others so they can do the work of ministry. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:11-14, "And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,* until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (ESV; emphasis mine)."

If your pastor is spending less than half of their week on these three areas because they are busy fixing the copier, mowing the grass, or managing minor squabbles, the church has a bottleneck.

**Part 2: The Believer's Big Three**

How do we fix it? We don't just need pastors to delegate; we need church members who are ready to step up.

If you want to widen the bottleneck and unleash your church's potential this fall, here are the Big Three pillars for the average believer:

**1. Own Your Ministry**

According to Ephesians 4, the pastor's job is to *equip you* to do the work of ministry. The church is not a theater where we watch the pastor perform; it is a team where everyone plays.

- **The Shift:** Step up and take true ownership of an area. Whether it's Sunday School, greeting at the door, or running the soundboard, treat it as your ministry—not the pastor's.

**2. Solve Problems at the Source**

In unhealthy churches, every minor issue gets dumped on the pastor's desk. If a lightbulb is out, a door is squeaking, or a minor disagreement pops up, people expect the pastor to fix it.

- **The Shift:** If you see a practical need or a minor conflict, handle it yourself with grace and kindness. Every time you solve a problem at the source, you protect your pastor's time and energy for the things *only* they can do.

**3. Move from Consumer to Contributor**

A bottleneck happens when the congregation relies on the pastor for 100% of their spiritual life. If the pastor is the only one praying for the sick, visiting neighbors, and studying the Bible, the church cannot grow physically or spiritually.

- **The Shift:** Take ownership of your own spiritual growth. Feed yourself on the Word. Pray for your neighbors. Reach out to the hurting people in your pew. Be a disciple-maker, not just a passenger.

August is the ultimate transition month. The slower days of summer are winding down, and the high-energy ministry year is right around the corner.

Let's not enter the fall season with exhausted pastors and stagnant systems.

When we free up our leaders to focus on what matters most, and when we step into our own calling to serve, we unlock the true potential of the local church.

Let's clear the bottleneck, share the load, and get ready for a powerful season ahead!

In partnership,

Keith

# The CHURCH NEWS Page

*As Submitted by the Churches*

**Deep Run First** (Bert Potter) *Imagination Station* VBS was a success with 59 participants. Three scholarships were awarded to students within the church; the scholarships were given by families in memory of members of the church. Friends in Faith gathered to share a meal together and enjoyed The Dawson Road Singers. Youth led worship on 5th Sunday in May. They performed a skit, led in song, ushered, and prayed. The church family is studying the Book of Revelation during their Summer Bible Study. Church Food Bank served 51 families in June.

**Emmaus** (Jim Willoughby) The church family will provide food for patients, family, and staff at Kitty Askins Hospice Center on July 29 and will assist with the annual First Responders Luncheon, sponsored and hosted by Trinity, on August 1. Monthly Senior Luncheon will be served August 13 at Noon; area Seniors are invited to attend at no cost. A Back-to-School party is planned for August 15 at 6PM at the church. *Graceway* will be in concert on Sunday, August 23 at 6PM. A love offering will be received; the public is invited. Please make plans to visit the Emmaus Baptist Church food stand at the Wayne County Fair when you visit the fair October 1-10!

**Falling Creek** (Robert Ellis) Mothers were honored with gifts on Mother's Day, May 10 and Fathers were honored with gifts on Father's Day, June 21. Betsy Holmes, who has served the church as Secretary and Treasurer for the past 10 years, was honored for her years of selfless devotion on May 31st prior to her family relocating to Pennsylvania. Welcome to new Secretary/Treasurer, Sky Hudson. Graduation Sunday was observed June 14th, honoring Tyler Jones for his graduation from Wayne Early Middle College High School. He was presented with a Bible and the prayers of his church family as his begins the next step in his life. Independence Day was celebrated July 5 with a luncheon after morning worship. The church continues its outreach to Grantham Elementary and Middle schools, Wayne Pregnancy Center, Meals on Wheels, Kennedy Home and Greater Vision Ministry.

**Fremont** (Tim Gore) "God Squad" is the name of the Community Youth Ministry serving Fremont Missionary Baptist & Cornerstone Church in Fremont, meeting monthly on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. They often go 'on the move' and assist those in need within their community. On August 29 they will enjoy an outing to a Wilson Warbirds ballgame. The "Tim Gore-Preach-Off" — an event where Pastor Tim Gore of Fremont and his friend and namesake, Pastor Tim Gore from Timberlake Church of God in Hope Mills, NC, open the Word together — will take place August 30 at 6 PM. This is their second Preach-Off, and will be hosted by Timberlake Church of God.

**Gateway** (Thayer Stamper) Men of the church enjoyed a time of fellowship and good food during their Prayer Breakfast on July 25. Chuck E Cheese in Goldsboro opened their doors on July 20, for Missions Monday. A portion of the total sales that evening was donated to ministry partner, Harvester's International. Baptism Sunday will be observed August 2nd. The church family will come together for one Worship Service at 10:30 AM on Sunday, August 16 to celebrate the church's 20th Anniversary. Coffee and donuts will be served prior to the service.

**Goldsboro First** (Adam Street) This year's Mission Project for VBS was a school supplies & food collection, which were packed and distributed to Boys & Girls Club of Wayne County and Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County. Some from the church family attended and enjoyed Faith & Family Night at the Wilson Warbirds ballpark on July 11. Youth enjoyed Bible Study followed by blueberry picking with Pastor Vernon on July 19.

**Kinston First** (Jon Hoover) "Meat & Greet", a new Men's Ministry, will kick off Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 PM at the church. They'll fire up the grill, enjoy some incredible food, hear from respected leaders in the community, and have honest conversations about the things that matter most to men—faith, family, leadership, work, and living with purpose. All men and boys are invited to attend to "come hungry, leave sharper". A women's Bible Study will take place at the same time; childcare provided.

**Love Memorial** (Richard Toler) *Emerald Crossing* VBS was a wonderful success, June 22-26. Transformed Student Ministry (TSM) and Connect College students were blessed to serve in Western NC through rebuilding efforts and ministry to the homeless in Asheville. Kids Summer Fun Zone for children ages 4 through 6th grade continues each Sunday evening through the end of August. Sonshiners are looking forward to their outing to Mike's Farm, August 20. Summer will be wrapped up by celebrating Fifth Sunday on August 30, with a church-wide potluck following morning worship and a Fifth Sunday Night Sing during the evening worship.

## CHURCH NEWS, continued

**Madison Avenue** (Brad Parker, Interim) Baptism was observed July 19.

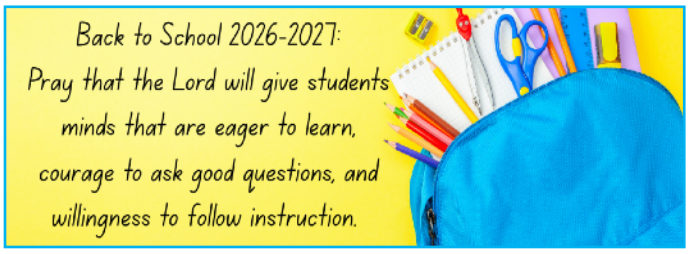
**Neuse** (Greg Kincaid) Come play a free, LIVE game of Candy Land and win candy and prizes on Saturday, August 15 from 2-5 PM at Neuse's Vernon Avenue location. All ages welcome! The annual Christmas in July outreach event was held July 18th; attendees enjoyed hot dogs, games, snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn and fellowship.

**New Hope** (Scott Wright) Women enjoyed their most recent Women's Fellowship with guest speaker Linda Herring. Two new Wednesday night ministries, Aftershock Teen Ministry and TeamKIDS, have begun and are thriving. Several new families are faithfully visiting on Sundays. A handful of new members joined the fellowship in the last month, prompting the need for a New Members Sunday School Class, taught by Pastor Scott. The New Hope Baptist softball team enjoyed some friendly competition with New Hope Friends in Goldsboro this Sumer. *Illumination Station* VBS was a great time together during the last week of July.

**Pinkney** (Steven Gay) The church family enjoyed an outing to a Wilson Warbirds game on July 10. *The Brown Family Singers* shared the message in song, July 19. VBS was held July 26-29 with a meal served nightly and classes for all ages, including adults. Outreach ministry to Kitty Askins continues.

**Restoration** (Khayyam Shepherd) The church family will join two sister churches to host a Back-to-School Celebration at Southeast School Park in Kinston on Saturday, August 8 from 3-6 PM. There will be school supplies and backpack giveaways, food, Christian hip-hop, prayer and fellowship during this outreach to their community as part of ServeNC.

**Rivermont** (John Morton) Cross Trainers (youth) will be hosting a coat drive for the upcoming school year by collecting new and gently-used coats for children and teens in the community. A church-wide yard sale is planned for October; exact date to be determined.




**Rosewood** (Keith Hudson, Interim) Members of the youth group traveled to Alabama for camp the week of July 20.

**Sandy Bottom** (Rick Mondell) Revival was held July 12-15, with guest speakers Mark Creech and Ivy White. Special music was provided nightly by Sandy Bottom's choir as well as choirs from Gray Branch Baptist Church and Rivermont, and by Mrs. Mona Knowles.

**Seven Springs** (Phillip James) *Emerald Crossing* VBS will take place July 29-August 1st from 6:00 to 8:45 PM, with a 5:30 meal served each evening. All ages are welcome with classes available for children, youth, and adults.

**Snow Hill First** (Brick Crowder) Parent-Child Dedication is planned for Sunday, August 9. Baptism Sunday was observed July 19. A church-wide meal and "Night of Worship & Testimony" was observed on July 16 as Al & Vanessa Murray shared their testimony of the goodness of God in spite of their house being flooded by Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Tune in to Pastor Brick & Allison's podcast, "Say Truth Podcast" on Spotify by clicking here.

**Trinity** (Dave Fishman) The 3rd annual First Responder's Lunch will be held Saturday, August 1st from 11 AM until 1 PM. Cheeseburgers and hot dogs will be served with a side of heart-felt appreciation, love & respect for all paid or volunteer First Responders and their families who are able to attend. A Back-to-School Celebration is planned for Sunday, August 2 from 2-4 PM at the church and all area school kids are invited to attend. There will be a free ice cream social and school supplies will be given away.

### August Birthdays

Thayer Stamper, Gateway – 8/2
Jennifer Toler, Love Memorial Pastor's Spouse – 8/7
Jocelyn Gore, Fremont Pastor's Spouse – 8/7
Jodie Gay, Pinkney Pastor's Spouse – 8/7
Paige Hudson, AMS Spouse – 8/9
Stacy Fishman, Trinity Pastor's Spouse – 8/14
Steven Gay, Pinkney – 8/14
Dana Thacker, Immanuel Pastor's Spouse – 8/19
Jean Kirk, Retired NBA Secretary – 8/22
Bev Varner, Retired Pastor's Spouse – 8/31

### August Ministry Anniversaries

Thayer Stamper, Gateway – 20 years
Jimmy Dale, Mt. Nelson – 12 years
Wendy Parker, NBA Office Manager – 11 years
Roy Savage, Pikeville First – 7 years
Wes Johnson, Pineview – 7 years
Adam Street, Goldsboro First – 1 year

# Ministry Positions *(As Submitted by the Churches)*

**Northview Baptist Church** (600 Patetown Road, Goldsboro) is searching for a **Bi-vocational Pastor** to serve our church during our weekly worship service. Interested persons may contact George Glisson at 919-273-6422 or **1gglisson@gmail.com**. We are in prayer and seek your prayers for our church. We look forward to seeing who God will send our way.

**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.)*

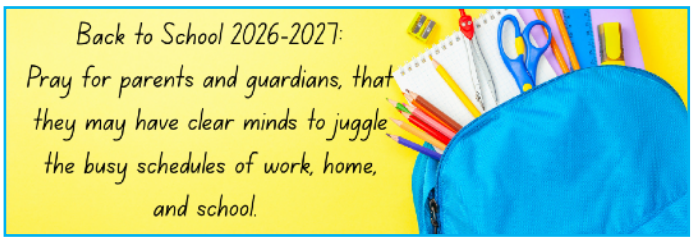
**Qualifications**

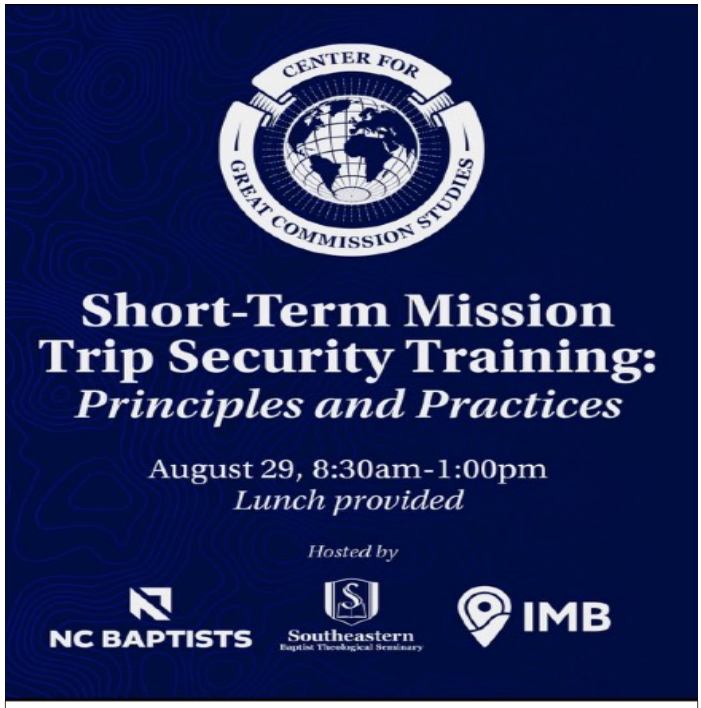
The ideal candidate must meet the following criteria as established by our church by-laws:

- **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






*"Whether you're going on a short-term mission trip, or whether you send mission teams on a regular basis, this workshop is designed for you! Join us as we discuss how you can best prepare yourself and others for short-term ministry overseas. In this workshop, we will talk about phone security, managing your digital footprint, and the ethical and practical foundations for maintaining security measures on your next short-term trip. You don't want to miss it!"*
For more information and to register, visit thecgcs.org/short-term-misisons-workshop-2026.

**Contributions from Churches, 2nd Qtr, 2026**

| Churches | Q2, 2026 | YTD 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| Abide | 300.00 | 600.00 |
| Adamsville | | |
| Anointed Vision | 2000.00 | 2000.00 |
| Bethel | 852.39 | 1534.18 |
| Cabin | 781.26 | 1,283.01 |
| Calvary | | |
| Casa del Dios | 500.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Community La Grange | 200.00 | 250.00 |
| Community Saulston | | |
| Davis Grove | | |
| Deep Run First | | |
| Emmaus | 1,593.29 | 2,687.11 |
| Falling Creek | 741.63 | 1,505.00 |
| Fremont | | 500.00 |
| Gateway | 3,600.00 | 7,200.00 |
| Goldsboro First | | 1,215.00 |
| Grainger | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Horeb | | |
| Immanuel | 315.00 | 525.00 |
| Jordan's Chapel | | 900.00 |
| Kinston First | | |
| La Grange First | 1,054.00 | 1,054.00 |
| Love Memorial | 1,702.95 | 2,828.95 |
| Madison Avenue | 1,123.00 | 2,762.46 |
| Mount Nelson | 5,085.67 | 10,903.77 |
| Neuse | 5,336.76 | 9,296.74 |
| New Beginning | | 50.00 |
| New Hope | | |
| Northview | | |
| Nueva Amanecer | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Pikeville First | | |
| Pineview | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Pinkney | 1,267.59 | 2,387.64 |
| Restoration | | |
| Rivermont | 2,182.23 | 3,979.73 |
| Rosewood First | 2,794.98 | 2,794.98 |
| Sandy Bottom | 1,548.23 | 2,953.39 |
| Seven Springs | 1,200.00 | 2,800.00 |
| Snow Hill First | 4,680.03 | 8,423.93 |
| Spilman Memorial | | 400.00 |
| The Way | | |
| Trinity | 500.00 | 750.00 |
| Union | 400.00 | 800.00 |
| **Total CHURCHES** | 41,659.01 | 75,284.89 |

## 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.*

**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, consider collecting a special offering in support of Hunger Outreach.*

**September**

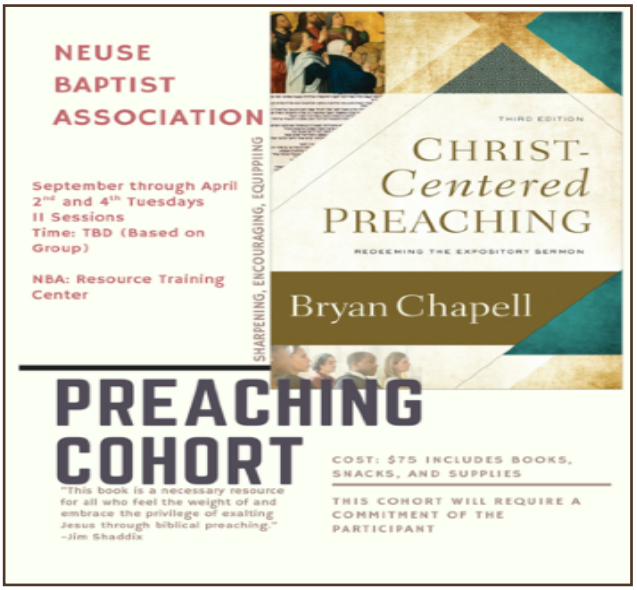
*Preaching Cohort begins; sign up with Keith >>>>>>>>*

07 — **Labor Day, NBA Office Closed**
14 — **NBA Executive Board Mtg., 6:00 PM**
15 — Items due for OCTOBER-NOVEMBER Newsletter
**17 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn, Noon**

**October**

*October is Pastor Appreciation Month*

**11 — NBA Annual Meeting @ Gateway, 6:00 PM**
(401 W Main Street, Pikeville, 27863)
**15 — Pastors' Lunch & Learn, Noon**




NEUSE NEWS
NEUSE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
Goldsboro NC
Permit No 139