

The Encourager

Volume 10, Issue 1
January 2025

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14

2024 Annual Church Profile

Information was mailed out to all churches in August 2024 concerning the changes in reporting your ACP information.

The NC Baptist State Convention has developed an easier online process.

Data Based on Calendar Year: Submitted data is based upon the previous calendar year (Jan. 1. - Dec. 31) in order to bring consistency to reporting.

So for reporting by January 25th, 2025, our association will move to reporting for a calendar year.

For 2025, churches will be reporting their church data for January 1 - Dec 31, 2024.

There are no longer paper forms. You will need to complete the process online by going to ncbaptist.org/acp.

You will see a link for an ACP printed form.

That is for your convenience in gathering data for submission online, and to keep for your records.

It is not to be submitted to the Association, nor the Baptist State office.

DEADLINE TO ENTER YOUR CHURCH DATA ONLINE IS JANUARY 25TH, 2025.

The links for forms and instructions, are available on our website. www.mtzionassociation.com . You may submit your form online at <http://nc.sbcworkspace.com> or you may utilize the digital form by using the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/241303918097054>

I encourage you to go to the NC Revitalization Training shown on the right. Be sure to check out the message below by Rick Hughes, Church Health Consultant/Coach for Mt. Zion Association.

Will Christ be the center of you and your church celebration this Christmas season? Are you living for the things that Christ died for? The Christian needs to remember that our joy is because of Jesus, our songs because of our Savior, our love because of our Lord, our inheritance is because of His incarnation, and our blessings a result of His birth.

Will the transitioning of the church find the same centering? Our joy, our love and the blessings are all because of Jesus.

The problem we all face daily as people and the church, was made evident at Christmas. The baby in the manger came to show us that our biggest problem is within ourselves, not outside. Until we recognize this, we will not seek the hope and salvation that Jesus offers.

We must quit trying to tweak or change ourselves or our church. It is not going to happen. Our lives and church transition must keep a focus on the gospel and in Christ alone.

Rick Hughes, Church Health Consultant/Coach
Mt. Zion Association



REVITALIZE NC

START HERE

ONE DAY TRAINING

Tuesday, January 21st

Lebanon Baptist Church,
4635 Hicone Rd,
Greensboro, NC

Register here:

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/revitalizenc-start-here/>

for churches stuck in a rut



**"Laugh your way to a better Marriage"
small group study!**

**Begins on Monday, Jan 27th at 7pm
Limited to 10 couples.**

**For more Info contact: Garry Gates
email: ggates@mtzionassociation.com
phone 336-226-0249**



Sunday Night January 5

6:00 P.M.

Free Admission

Come and join us!!

From the producers of *Facing the Giants* and *The War Room*, this powerful movie drives home the importance of discipleship and forgiveness.

**Riverside Baptist Church
1568 Harden Street
Graham, NC**

***MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!***



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a blessed New Year!
Garry and Sandi*

*The Association office
will be closed
December 24th-31st.*



Monday, January 13th with lunch to follow

**Riverside Baptist Church
1568 Harden Street, Graham**

**We need a headcount by Friday,
January 10th so that lunch can be ordered.
Contact Garry at ggates@mtzionassociation.com**

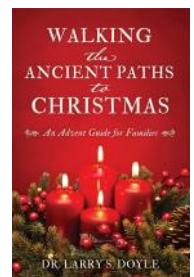
Walking the Ancient Paths to Christmas: An Advent Guide for Families

Walking the Ancient Paths to Christmas: An Advent Guide for Families is a devotional designed to enrich your family's journey through the Advent season. With daily reflections, Scripture readings, and activities like lighting Advent candles, this guide helps you prepare your hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. Explore the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings into the world and experience the transformative light of His presence.

Perfect for families, small groups, and churches, this devotional nurtures a deeper connection with God and one another during this special season.

Order your copy today: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or the Xulon Press Bookstore. Get your copy today!!

Author Dr. Larry Doyle is a Retired Pastor, Missionary, and Former Director of Missions for the Piedmont Baptist Association. He currently resides in Burlington, NC.





2025 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Merry Christmas from the WMU Council.

Upcoming events:

NOTICE: 2024-2025 WMU Dues letters were sent in October as payment is due 1/1/2025. This year the dues will increase from \$2 per member to \$3 per member.

Update to past events:

Red Box Ministry - We previously reported that we collected 650 packs of gum. We actually collected 890. We committed to 500. WMU NC was delighted that we had 390 over as they picked up over 400 more inmates due to the western NC disaster. Thank you, churches!

Appalachian Backpack Ministry – Mary Alexander (1st Baptist Burlington) reported 849 backpacks collected this year. Last year 479 were collected.

Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer service was held Monday, November 4th, 2024, at Eastlawn Baptist Church. 24 were in attendance. We collected \$145 and these funds were sent to Baptist Women’s Alliance in Falls Church, Virginia.

Ongoing events:

VOLUNTEERS needed for BINGO!

The WMU hosts Bingo each month as listed below; some attendees have a type of disability. Prizes and refreshments are always needed, please take them to the Association office or contact Cindy Atkins. Also let Cindy know if you can help –336- 565-8047. We are also in need of jewelry boxes. If you can help let me know. Pat Parks 336-684-6255.

Oak Creek Retirement Community, 1st Thursday & 3rd Monday, 343 Baldwin Road, Burlington, 3:00 pm, volunteers arrive at 2:15 pm to set up. No refreshments. Approx. 20 attendees.

Ralph Scott Residents, 3rd Thurs. monthly - Holly Hill Baptist Church, 2818 Edgewood Ave, Burlington, 6:00 pm for about an hour. Refreshments are provided by the Associational churches. 20-45 attendees.

John Robert Kernodle Sr. Center, 4th Tuesday monthly - 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, 1:00 pm, volunteers arrive at 12:15 pm to set up. No refreshments. 45-50 attendees.

Pat Parks - Associational WMU Director

Pastors Gatherings

2nd Monday of each month

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage Small Group Study

January 27th

Contact Garry Gates - ggates@mtzionassociation.com
336-226-0249

Baptist Children’s Home Food Round Up

April 1st - 30th - Church Collection Dates

May 5th - Drop off Deadline

VBS / Children’s Worker Clinic

6:30pm April 17th

Ministry Assistant Luncheon

Noon April 24th

Senior Adult Banquet - Mt. Zion Baptist Church

6:30 – 8:30pm August 7th

MZBA ANNUAL MEETING & Outreach Event

October

Minister’s & Wives Christmas Banquet

6:00 December 4th

Senior Adult Lunch and Learn

11:00 am – 1:00pm

March 6th

“Ripe for the Picking” - Bearing Fruit as we Age
NCBAM

June 12th

TBD

November 13th

“How to Win the Bonus Round” - Make your Retirement Years Your Bonus Years - NCBAM

Please Note. The dates and times of the 2025 proposed calendar are subject to change based on future availabilities of venues and speakers. MZBA reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any event due to low enrollment.

Other Events with NC Baptists

Feb 25th

NC Baptist Discipleship Conference
The Summit Church, Raleigh, NC

March 14-15

Living Sent NC Missions Conference
Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

For more information on these events and more, visit: <https://ncbaptist.org/events/>

Mt. Zion Baptist Association
P.O. Box 1005
Burlington, NC 27216



Garry Gates

Associational Missions Strategist

Sandi King

Office Administrator

OFFICE HOURS

M - TH

9AM - 2PM

336.226.0249

Physical Location

2744 Ramada Road
Burlington, NC 27215

Visit Us On the Web and on Facebook!



www.mtzionassociation.com



<https://www.facebook.com/MtZionAssociation/>

2025 BAPTIST MISSIONS CONFERENCE
LIVING
Sent
EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A MISSIONARY
MARCH 14-15, 2025 · CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH · WINSTON-SALEM, NC
Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you". John 20:21
<https://baptistsonmission.org/events/missions-conference>

DISCIPLE MAKING
CONFERENCE
THE SUMMIT CHURCH
Tuesday, February 25th, 2025
The Summit Church (Capital Hills Campus)
3901 Capital Hills Drive, Raleigh, NC
Register Here:
<https://ncbaptist.org/events/2025-disciple-making-conference/>

First Baptist Church, Clemmons, NC – Saturday, April 12
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Durham, NC - Saturday, May 3
Register Here:
<https://baptistsonmission.org/training/disaster-relief-training>