

The Encourager

Volume 9, Issue 12
December 2024

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14



***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.*

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.

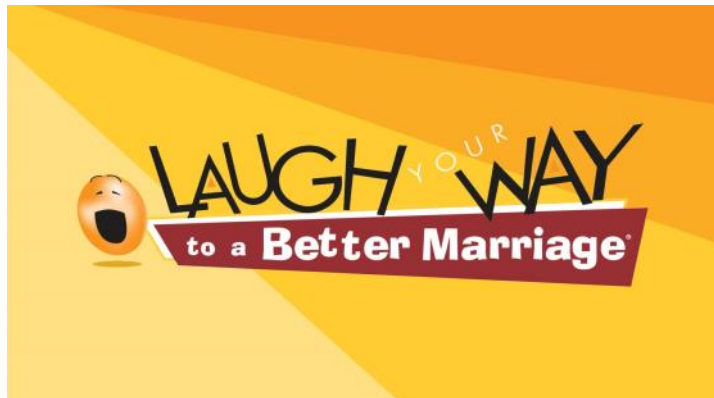
It is not to be submitted to the Association, nor the Baptist State office.

**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>



No Pastors Gathering in the month of December. We will resume January 13th.



"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



Lebanon Baptist Church,
4635 Hicone Rd, Greensboro, NC 27405

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



Praying for the Nations 2025 Prayer Calendar

In 2025, join N.C. Baptists across the state in praying for the nations. When you sign up to pray, you will receive monthly resources to guide you in prayer.

Link to join prayer group and free downloadable calendar here:

<https://ncbaptist.org/praying-for-the-nations/>

To purchase tabletop calendar click here:

<https://store.ncbaptist.org/product/praying-for-the-nations-2025-prayer-calendar/>



Christmas Advent Devotionals for your family

Take your family through 25 devotionals about the coming of Christ this Christmas season. Beginning on Dec. 1, this devotional will inspire you and your family to put Jesus at the center of Christmas.

Free Printable Calendar click here!

<https://ncbaptist.org/resource/resource-family-advent-devotions/>



<https://baptistsonmission.org/events/missions-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>

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

2025 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Pastors Gatherings

2nd Monday of each month

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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

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/>



COMING SOON

Dewey's Bakery Connect 4 Faith
Holiday Fundraising Store

Visit our FULL Dewey's Bakery Holiday Store that benefits this 501(c)3 nonprofit.

GRAND OPENING NOVEMBER 5TH!! ☺

11:00am – 8:00pm first day special hours

Dewey's Bakery gives back through this partnership which helps fund the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Initiative,

resources, ministries, and services provided through Connect 4 Faith.

Purchase fresh, scrumptious treats for yourself and for favorite gifts!

Enjoy Classic Moravian Sugar, Ginger Spice, and Lemon cookies;

Moravian Sugar Cake; Cheese Straws; and lots MORE!

Come see us in Alamance Crossing

3160 Waltham Blvd., Burlington. (between Shoe Dept. and Pink)

Visit Connect4Faith.org.

C4Foffice@connect4faith.org

(336) 850-1008



Thank you
for your support!



**DISCIPLE MAKING
CONFERENCE**

THE SUMMIT CHURCH

Tuesday, February 25th, 2024

The Summit Church
(Capital Hills Campus)
3901 Capital Hills Drive, Raleigh, NC

Register Here:
<https://ncbaptist.org/events/2025-disciple-making-conference/>