

Rev. Eric Davidson, Associational Missionary
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Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 am.—12:00 pm.
Other Hours by Appointment

“Strengthening Churches to BE the Church: Equip, Encourage, Engage”

PASTOR’S HOLY LAND TRIP



The SCBA would like to invite all our pastors to be part of a trip to the Holy Land in 2019. **We are asking our churches to consider including a line item in your 2019 budget to assist financially in providing a once in a lifetime experience for your pastor.** What a great “Pastor Appreciation” gift over the next two years!!!

HERE ARE THE DETAILS OF OUR HOLY LAND TRIP:

Depart: RDU—December 2, 2019,
Return December 11, 2019

Cost: Round trip \$3,500.00, double occupancy.
Early Discounts: \$100 for reserving by March 2, 2019.
Deposit: \$350 at time of registration.
Price includes: breakfast & dinner daily, all hotel taxes & service charges. Travel insurance (optional).

Full information & the registration form is available at
www.nowministries.net.

The SCBA will also be *establishing a designated fund for the “Pastor’s Holy Land Trip”*. Churches and individuals can donate to this fund to financially assist pastors. The money received will be divided equally among the pastors participating in the trip. Donations designated for this trip will be tax deductible.

There is a real need for a church in the *Siler City area* to be the host site for a **“Bundles of Hope”** Diaper Ministry. The church decides when and how the diaper distribution takes place in your setting. And, there are three other **“Bundles of Hope”** churches in the Association that can offer help and “best practices” for the success of your church’s



diaper ministry. They are Hunt Springs (919.774.1822) in Sanford, New Life Praise (919.776-1877) in Pittsboro, and Sandy Branch (919.837.5331) in Bear Creek. If you would like more information, you can contact one of these churches or ready to begin, contact Eric at 919.776.9423.



Ebenezer Christian Children’s Home Begins Construction on 7th Home!

Hammers are pounding. Saws are buzzing. Drills are spinning. You can hear the sounds of construction as workers begin the remodeling of Ebenezer’s newest residential home for children in the Siler City area.

Their goal is to be able to remodel and furnish the home so it will be ready to receive children by May of 2019. Please Pray.

As we work on this construction, we invite you to become involved. We can use help with running electricity, installing plumbing, hanging sheetrock, installing fixtures, installing cabinetry, laying floors, painting, trim-work, and landscaping. If you or your church group would like to volunteer to help with any of these projects, please contact Neal Jackson, pastor at Beulah Baptist Church. He is helping the contractor with the coordination of the construction process. He can be reached at 336-315-0025.

Many of you have expressed an interest in helping Ebenezer with this home. We appreciate any contribution you can make.

These are a few current needs to make this a success:

- ◆ Food to fill the pantry, refrigerator, and freezer
- ◆ Household cleaning supplies and paper products
- ◆ Kitchenware (plates, cups, utensils, serving dishes, etc.)
- ◆ Small kitchen appliances (coffee maker, toaster, mixer, pancake griddle, crock pot, etc.)
- ◆ Small household appliances (iron, ironing board, vacuum cleaner, mop and broom, lamps, TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, etc.)
- ◆ Linens (9 twin beds, 2 queen beds, towels for 11 bathrooms, kitchen towels, etc.)
- ◆ Appliances (stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer)
- ◆ Furniture for all of the rooms (9 children’s bedrooms, 2 house parents’ bedrooms, 2 living rooms, kitchen, dining room, 3 offices, study, laundry room, 2 visiting rooms)
- ◆ Landscaping tools (shovels, rakes, blowers, weed eaters, gas cans, etc.)
- ◆ Window treatments (blinds for all of the windows, curtains, etc.)
- ◆ Gravel for the road
- ◆ Van to transport the children
- ◆ New roof



The NC Baptist Foundation has four educational scholarships available for Baptist students.

Opening Date: January 1, 2019

Deadline Date: February 15, 2019

More detailed information can be found on each scholarship at <http://www.ncbaptistfoundation.org/scholarships.aspx>. The NCBF Central Area Manager is Robert Simons. 1.800.521.7334 ext. 1682

"Your Missionary's Musings" for January - "We can do more together"!!! Eric

As we begin a new year, I want to continue the discussion from the November 2018 "LINK" on the state of the church. In part, I wrote these words: "Someone jokingly (?) said, if culture, i.e., a way of living, returned to the 1950s, then the Church is ready and set to flourish! The 'way' we did church in the 1950s, and the 1960s, and even the 1970s 'worked'! BUT that was then and now is now, obviously. We have either heard it and/or said it ourselves, 'I miss the good ole days.' [Let's not forget] in the church's 'good ole days', churches were 'full' because many people's lives centered around the activities of their church. I wonder if, in church life today, we want the church of yesterday for us instead of for those outside the church. We are living in a 'post Christian culture', and a large, and growing, segment of today's population is not interested in church. Could it be our 'wants' aren't attractive to their 'needs'?"

I want you to clearly hear this from me: Church revitalization is **NOT** a pronouncement of blame or the impending death of a church. However, church revitalization is **VITAL** for the continuing health and future of the church! In fact, most every church can use revitalization in some area of the church.

In his article, "Why Most Established Churches Need Revitalization", Sam Rainer pointed out this misconception associated with church revitalization. He wrote: "A need for revitalization does not necessarily mean an entire church is unhealthy. Even the healthiest of established churches have at least one area requiring work, if not several. Sometimes the entire church needs revitalization. In other cases, a particular area of the church needs revitalization."

In fact, the majority of established churches could use some degree of revitalization. Around 65% of churches are in plateau or decline. This one statistic reveals close to 7 out of 10 churches are in need of revitalization. Granted, a lack of growth does not mean the entire church is failing, but it does indicate something is missing— somewhere the church is deficient.

What happens to cause this problem? The reasons are numerous, and each church's story is different. However, one key theme is simply the patterns a church develops over time. Established churches have established patterns. These congregations have a consistent (or established) schedule. They keep doing the same established programs year after year. Annual events become embedded into the culture. Such is the nature of an established church. But these patterns can create either a healthy movement or an unhealthy movement in the church.

Healthy established patterns create healthy churches. Unhealthy established patterns create unhealthy churches. Clearly, more churches have unhealthy patterns as compared with healthy patterns. The stats are undeniable. But I'll dig deeper. There is more beneath the surface. Numerical declines are merely a symptom, not the root problem.

Pastors become comfortable. Status quo pastors have status quo churches. Once a church has accepted a pastor, it's easy for that pastor to cruise. Change always comes with a level of risk. Shepherding is impossible detached from risk-taking. When pastors stop taking risks, churches become complacent.

Budgets get messy. Churches can go years without a budget strategy, creating a jumbled mess of operating line items and an endless list of designated accounts. I recently saw a church budget with a designated account for a cassette tape ministry. Church budgets are often the most common area in need of revitalization.

Ministries linger without purpose. Established patterns of programs are wonderful, until they stop working. Unfortunately, churches are guilty of hanging on to programs instead of desiring the fruit they produce. When the program itself is more important than the results, a church loses the purpose of ministry.

Facilities become cluttered and dated. Deferred maintenance has killed numerous ministers with good intentions. Neglected facilities become an albatross around the neck of many pastors. Even the

best-established churches often have closets full of junk—old trophies, dusty puppets, and binders of music from the 1970s. In severe cases, the entire campus has not been touched in decades.

Technology outpaces staff. When a church has established patterns and rhythms, the temptation is to neglect technology. In a lot of churches, a decade can pass before it becomes necessary to adopt new technology. Unfortunately, by then it's often too late and staff are too far behind.

A church needing revitalization in one of these areas is not necessarily unhealthy. However, most established churches need help with at least one. When multiple areas of the church fall behind, the effects are compounded."

If you would like to have an "outside perspective" regarding your church, you don't have to hire a consultant. You have a resource in the SCBA, called your Associational Missionary (me)!!! I will be more than happy to help you begin a conversation around the area, or areas, of your church that will benefit from revitalization.

And, your Association has a "Church Revitalization Team" that will walk with you in the process of revitalizing your church.

Here's an important question to ask about the church: "In one year, two years, five years, if nothing changes, where will the church I am a part of be?"

"If we change X, where will we be one year, two years and five years from now? ... You don't know for sure where you [will] end up, but if you start asking the question, you'll be amazed at what you discover. Try it." (Carey Nieuwhof)

HERE'S TO "REVITALIZING CHURCHES" IN 2019, AND BEYOND!!!

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO THE SCBA CHURCHES

With the cooperative funding from the churches, your Association has the following financial grants available to our churches:

- ◆ Missions Facilitation Grant – available to individuals and to churches to do missions
- ◆ Hunger Grant – for anything associated with feeding the hungry
- ◆ Bundles of Hope – funding for a diaper ministry in your church

Contact the office [919.776.9423 or domscba@gmail.com] for more information or to receive an application.

SAVE THE DATE !!! Sunday, April 28, 2019

2:45 pm until 5:30 pm

Hunt Springs Baptist Church, Sanford NC 27332
SCBA "Spring Gathering"

ATTENTION: Youth Leaders and Youth of ALL AGES

You will have the opportunity to be part of "Blessing the Community"! After instructions and a "sending prayer", you will depart from Hunt Springs for an hour of ministry and mission for Hunt Springs' neighbors. Then, you will return to the church to participate in an "all-generational" Food Pack.

We don't want to just talk about missions, we want you to DO missions, and that's what "Blessing the Community" is all about!!!

Lord willing, youth (and others) will have the opportunity to be part of "Blessing the Community" for the neighbors of the church where our "Spring Gatherings" will be held for years to come!

| CHURCHES | November | YTD |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Antioch | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| Bear Creek | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Bennett | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Bethany | \$ 250.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Bonlee | \$ - | \$ 635.00 |
| Brookdale | \$ - | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Brush Creek | \$ - | \$ 1,720.50 |
| Centro Familiar Cristiano | \$ - | \$ 1,350.00 |
| Cool Springs | \$ 1,225.00 | \$ 4,600.00 |
| CoolWater Cowboy Church | \$ 133.74 | \$ 667.46 |
| Cornerstone | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| Cumnock | \$ - | \$ 2,500.00 |
| East Sanford | \$ 100.00 | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Emmaus | \$ - | \$ 8,800.00 |
| Fall Creek | \$ 350.00 | \$ 3,850.00 |
| Fellowship | \$ 200.00 | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Flat Springs | \$ - | \$ 3,190.50 |
| Filipino American | \$ - | \$ 200.00 |
| Goldston | \$ - | \$ 2,296.00 |
| Good News | \$ 250.00 | \$ 2,750.00 |
| Gum Springs | \$ - | \$ 1,875.00 |
| Hickory Grove | \$ - | \$ 2,040.00 |
| Hickory Mountain | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Hunt Springs | \$ 198.00 | \$ 2,904.00 |
| Jonesboro Heights | \$ - | \$ 5,004.00 |
| Joy | \$ 650.00 | \$ 2,600.00 |
| Juniper Springs | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Kingdom Builders of Christ | \$ - | \$ - |
| Loves Creek | \$ 143.75 | \$ 1,581.25 |
| Mays Chapel | \$ - | \$ 840.00 |
| Moncure | \$ - | \$ 2,115.41 |
| Moons Chapel | \$ - | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Mount Olive | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| New Life Praise | \$ - | \$ 550.00 |
| New Salem | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| Oakley | \$ - | \$ 6,339.57 |
| Pittsboro Baptist | \$ 471.75 | \$ 6,264.76 |
| Pleasant Hill | \$ - | \$ - |
| Primera Iglesia Bautista | \$ - | \$ - |
| Rives Chapel | \$ - | \$ - |
| Roca Fuerte | \$ - | \$ - |
| Rock Springs | \$ - | \$ 750.00 |
| Rocky River | \$ 416.50 | \$ 7,015.81 |
| Sandy Branch | \$ 958.56 | \$ 12,694.50 |
| Sanford, First | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 16,000.00 |
| Shepherd's Flock | \$ 157.24 | \$ 1,165.32 |
| Siler City First | \$ 375.00 | \$ 4,125.00 |
| Tramway | \$ 300.00 | \$ 3,300.00 |
| Tyson Creek | \$ 625.00 | \$ 3,646.00 |
| TOTAL CHURCH INCOME | \$ 12,804.54 | \$ 135,720.08 |
| OTHER INCOME | | \$ - |
| INTEREST INCOME | \$ 5.18 | \$ 67.44 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$ 12,809.72 | \$ 135,787.52 |
| Expenses This Month | \$ 12,486.27 | |
| Expenses To Date | \$ 139,541.48 | |
| Budget Requirements Per Month | \$ 14,819.50 | |
| Budget Requirements To Date | \$ 163,014.50 | |
| SCBA FUNDS | 11/30/2018 | |
| Capital Bank - Checking | \$ 15,201.83 | |
| Capital Bank - Restricted | \$ 28,225.32 | |
| BUDGET 2018 | \$ 177,834.00 | |

SCBA WMU: Time seems moving at warp speed as another year is entered into the history books and 2019 officially begins. What better way to begin this year than to participate in 30 Days/30 People—Prayer Emphasis for January 2019—a partnership with the WMU NC and the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, BSCNC. Baptists across NC will be praying through the month of January for a specific unreached people group living in our state. You may participate in two ways: sign up for a free daily text reminder by texting PRAYPND to 474747, or receive reminders by email at great-commission-partnerships-30days-30peoples-ncbaptist.org and scrolling down to “Daily Emails” and following directions. God is able. The question to ask ourselves: are we willing to commit the time to pray for these unreached people groups within our own state?

Coming in February: 10-17, WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering® and Week of Prayer; and 11-17, Focus on WMU. Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to bless others and let them know they are appreciated. Check out page 7 of January MM for interesting ideas for ministering to your church family and community during these winter months.

Looking for ways to strengthen your leadership skills? Consider taking an online course through the Christian Women’s Leadership Center. Each four-weeks long course costs \$30.00 and is accessible from a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Visit cwlcleaders.com/courses for information and to register.

This quote from Oswald Chambers seems appropriate for pondering as we begin this new year: “It is easier to be an excessive fanatic than to be consistently faithful, because God causes an amazing humbling of our religious conceit when we are faithful to Him.”

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15: 58) and let’s see what God will do!

SCBA WMU: Susan Ferguson, (919) 548-0115
fergusonst@earthlink.net

2019 IRS issued standard mileage rates

www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2019

58 cents per mile for each business mile.

20 cents per mile to cover moving or medical purposes

14 cents per mile driven for charitable organizations.



**A Mission Trip is being planned for
June 15-22, 2019, to Sterns,
Kentucky. Interested in going?**

Some of what we will be doing are: Working at The Lords Café, preparing and serving lunch, ministering at the Horizon Adult Day Care, Prayer Walking, and Laundry Ministry. There are opportunities for construction projects if you are interested in that area. So many ministry opportunities available. If you are a hair stylist and want to be a blessing to others, there is a hair and nail salon ministry available. Cost will be kept as low as possible. We will be having an informational meeting coming up in the Spring of 2019. Let us know if you are interested in going on Mission for Jesus.



Contact Nancy Evans at
919.776.9423 or email sandycreekassn@windstream.net.
Or contact Susan Douglas at 919.548.2654 or
email bluebud@windstream.net

REACHOUT CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

Susan is a 15 year old teenager who came in for a pregnancy test. Her appearance, talk, and mannerisms might cause one to believe she is more mature than she really is. Her pregnancy test turned out to be negative. "Wow, I am so relieved", she said. "Why are you relieved" I asked. "My mother would kill me if I was pregnant and I am not seeing that guy anymore. Also, I want a \$700 puppy for Christmas, and if I was pregnant I couldn't have a puppy". What is the mindset of a teenager who equated a baby and integrity in regards to her lifestyle. We are praying Susan will receive the greatest gift of all this Christmas, JESUS. "And she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name JESUS for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center would like to welcome our new staff person, Angela Campbell, who has taken the position of Director Client Services. Angela has a heart for God and a heart for hurting women.

Needs.....Preemie Diapers, Baby Wash, Bottled water (small or large), Large Diaper Bags, Baby Nail Clippers, Baby Thermometer, Toilet Paper, and Paper Towels.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Together for LIFE, Debbie Puryear, Executive Director

ROC Pregnancy Center —
403 Carthage St
Sanford, NC 27330
Web: www.reachoutcpc.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday—Thursday: 10am - 3pm
Phone: (919) 292-2657
reachoutcpc@gmail.com

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| January—Calendar of Events- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | | SCBA Office Closed |
| 9 | 1:00pm | Mission Development Team mtg. SCBA office |
| 10 | 10:30am | Jubilee Choir Practice begins at SCBA office |
| 15 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City |
| 17 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford |
| 24 | 1:00pm | Executive Council Team Mtg. at SCBA office |
| February—Calendar of Events- | | |
| 5 | 2:30-4:30pm | SCBA Sisterhood Secretaries mtg. |
| 13 | 1:00pm | Mission Development Team mtg. SCBA office |
| 19 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City |
| 21 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford |
| March—Calendar of Events- | | |
| 10 | | Daylight Saving Time begins |
| 13 | 1:00pm | Mission Development Team mtg. SDBA office |
| 19 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City |
| 19 | 7:00pm | KY Mission trip mtg. At Fellowship Baptist, Siler City |
| 21 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford |
| 28 | 1:00pm | Executive Council Team Mtg. at SCBA office |
| April—Calendar of Events- | | |
| 2 | 2:30-4:30pm | SCBA Sisterhood Secretaries mtg. |
| 10 | 1:00pm | Mission Development Team mtg. SDBA office |
| 16 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Best Food, Siler City |
| 18 | 12 Noon | Pastor's Luncheon at Golden Corral, Sanford |
| 22 | | OFFICE CLOSED for Easter |
| 28 | 3:00pm | SCBA Spring Gathering |

Children's Activities Coordinator Needed

First Baptist Church of Sanford, NC is seeking to hire a part-time person (20 hours per week) to serve as the interim Children's Activities Coordinator. The Coordinator provides direction and oversight for the entire children's ministry at First Baptist Church (infant – 5th grade, approximately 45 children but often have 80-100 at events). The Coordinator leads a 5-minute children's sermon every Sunday morning during worship service. Major events/activities include Sunday School, Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, and Vacation Bible School, summer camp, plus other smaller activities. Must be a committed, spiritually mature Christian in good standing in their church, and must love working with children. Background search required. Apply by contacting the church office at 919-774-4220 or by email at fbcadmin@fbc Sanford.com.



SCBA Disaster Relief Trailer

An updated and freshly stocked DR trailer is available to all the churches of the SCBA. The trailer can be used locally, and beyond, for "handyman ministry" or for disaster relief and recovery!!! PLEASE contact the SCBA office [919.776.9423 or [domsoba@gmail.com](mailto:domscba@gmail.com)] to check-on the availability of the trailer!!!

Attention! Seniors 50-Plus

If you are age 50 and/or above and enjoy singing, here is an opportunity for you! The Jubilee Choir would like to invite you to join them in 2019 to come together for fellowship, fun, and singing to the Lord. Practice begins Thursday, January 10, at the Sandy Creek Baptist Association office at 10:30am.



Do you value human life? Check out this Scripture.

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16
"... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31
"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34

Jesus showed in His actions and teaching that all people should be valued. God makes and loves each person, so everyone has value; new-born, elderly, healthy, ill, useful members of society or in need of care. So Christians should treat all human life with respect.

"... You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;..." Psalm 130:13-14