

| CHURCH STEWARDSHIP | OCTOBER | YTD | CHURCH STEWARDSHIP | OCTOBER | YTD | CHURCH STEWARDSHIP | OCTOBER | YTD |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| ACORN HILL | 27.34 | 338.89 | JAMESVILLE, FIRST | 500.00 | 1,500.00 | SMITHTON, FIRST | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| AENON | 350.76 | 1,567.17 | KOREAN MISSION | 0.00 | 200.00 | SPEED | 0.00 | 78.50 |
| AYDEN, FIRST | 152.43 | 1,991.28 | LIGHT OF THE WORLD | 0.00 | 225.00 | STANTONSBURG, FIRST | 0.00 | 1,875.00 |
| BELHAVEN | 0.00 | 2,328.99 | LOVE | 0.00 | 500.00 | STOKES | 100.00 | 300.00 |
| BETHEL | 730.00 | 2,920.00 | MERCY | 0.00 | 0.00 | SWAN QUARTER | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| BIBLE | 257.83 | 3,979.95 | THE MEMORIAL | 0.00 | 250.00 | TARBORO, FIRST | 391.94 | 4,215.80 |
| CEDAR BRANCH | 369.00 | 3,936.00 | MILDRED | 383.92 | 2,210.26 | TRINITY | 0.00 | 1,666.64 |
| DISCOVERY | 0.00 | 0.00 | NEW HOPE MISSIONARY | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | WASHINGTON, FIRST | 1,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| EAGLES | 114.58 | 1,145.82 | NEW VISION COMMUNITY | 25.00 | 800.00 | WASHINGTON HISPANIC | 218.83 | 2,540.40 |
| EASTGATE | 50.00 | 500.00 | NORTHERN BLVD. | 200.00 | 800.00 | WASHINGTON, SECOND | 0.00 | 3,750.03 |
| ELM CITY | 0.00 | 250.00 | OAK CITY | 0.00 | 750.00 | WEBBS CHAPEL | 497.40 | 6,605.02 |
| EVERETTS | 254.74 | 527.62 | OAKMONT | 205.00 | 2,050.00 | WEST END, WASHINGTON | 0.00 | 460.00 |
| FAMILY CHURCH | 0.00 | 0.00 | PACTOLUS | 0.00 | 1,949.99 | WEST END, WILLIAMSTON | 327.23 | 4,014.11 |
| FARMVILLE, FIRST | 1,525.63 | 6,457.99 | PENDERS CHAPEL | 692.21 | 6,947.50 | WILLIAMSTON MEMORIAL | 833.34 | 9,083.40 |
| FOREST HILLS | 0.00 | 3,493.27 | PINETOPS | 868.54 | 5,416.16 | WILSON, FIRST | 0.00 | 6,300.00 |
| FOUNTAIN | 0.00 | 900.00 | PINETOWN | 0.00 | 200.00 | WILSON, FIRST HISPANIC | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| FREEDOM | 0.00 | 1,425.00 | PINEY GROVE | 683.00 | 6,961.00 | WINTERVILLE | 837.33 | 9,153.11 |
| GRACE | 277.75 | 2,123.82 | PLEASANT HOPE | 532.75 | 2,131.00 | | | |
| GREENVILLE HISPANIC | 0.00 | 0.00 | PLYMOUTH, FIRST | 0.00 | 4,500.00 | | | |
| HAMILTON | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | RALEIGH ROAD | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| IGLESIA AMOR DE DIOS | 25.00 | 250.00 | REDDICKS GROVE | 0.00 | 750.00 | | | |
| IGNITE, CHOCOWINITY | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | REDEMPTION CHURCH AT NEW HOPE | 0.00 | 991.44 | | | |
| IGNITE, GREENVILLE | 150.00 | 1,500.00 | RIVERSIDE MISSION | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| IMMANUEL | 200.00 | 1,200.00 | RIVERVIEW | 0.00 | 4,212.45 | | | |
| INTEGRITY | 100.00 | 1,100.00 | ROBERSONVILLE, FIRST | 175.00 | 1,750.00 | | | |
| | | | TOTALS | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | \$13,056.55 |
| | | | | | | | | \$153,022.61 |

Churches in action

Whenever you have a special event at your church, send a photo to the Association. The Christmas season is full of special times. They will be incorporated into a video presentation at the next SRBA Quarterly Gathering, January 15, 2014 at Pinetops Baptist Church.

Deadline to send us your photos is January 8th.

Please pray for the following Churches seeking pastors

Belhaven
Bethel
Cedar Branch
Eagles
Everetts
Jamesville, First
Pinetown
West End,
Williamston
Winterville

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GREENVILLE, NC (UPS 503-840)

Postmaster send change of address to:
SRBA - 606 Country Club Dr., Greenville, NC 27834 - 6386
Published Monthly

SRBA Quarterly Gatherings for 2024

January 15 - Pinetops Baptist, Edgecombe County
Reception & exhibits beforehand

April 15 - Redemption at New Hope, Wilson County
Reception & exhibits beforehand

July 15 - Washington, 2nd Baptist, Beaufort County
Reception & exhibits beforehand

October 21 - Winterville Baptist, Pitt County
Dinner & exhibits beforehand



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Regional Pastors Meetings - December 2023

| Area | Host Church | Date | Time |
|-----------|---|--------------------|------------|
| Beaufort | First Baptist Washington | Tuesday, Dec. 12 | 8:30 a.m. |
| Edgecombe | Penders Chapel Tarboro <i>Lunch Provided</i> | Monday, Dec. 4 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Martin | Piney Grove Williamston | Wednesday, Dec. 20 | 8:30 a.m. |
| Pitt | SRBA Office Greenville | Wednesday, Dec. 13 | 8:30 a.m. |
| Wilson | Bible Missionary Wilson | Wednesday, Dec. 6 | 8:30 a.m. |

Hot Topic: Approaches to church security (conversation started to be emailed to pastors)

To you and yours from
Tom Doubt
Linda Franks

Interim Associational Missionary Message

In the secular world, the Christmas Season, or should I say Holiday Season, began months ago. You may be like me, and found it annoying to see Christmas trees and wreaths in September TV ads. Even what used to be the official kick-off for sales, Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, has moved backwards.

In June, evangelical Christians in France weighed in on whether to replace public religious holidays with secular ones. Some argued there are no biblical references mandating Christian holidays. Others believed that by keeping Christian holidays on the calendar we are continuing a long historical tradition of celebrating our faith, and an occasion to witness to the lost.

Of our two major Christian holidays, Easter is in closer agreement with scriptures marking Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the start of Passover, and His crucifixion and resurrection (cf., John 12:12). Christmas, on the other hand, is a less precise date for the birth of Jesus.

During the first two centuries AD, Christians did not celebrate Christ's birth. The census that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-3) could have been one of several conducted in 8-4 BC, each would have lasted several months. Scripture mentions shepherds in the fields at night, suggesting the birth occurred during the spring. December 25, 336 AD was the first time Christmas was celebrated, but primarily because it was a Christian holiday in the midst of pagan festivities.

More important than a precise date are the reasons we celebrate the birth of our Savior. This month, how much of the true meaning of Christmas can be found? Certainly not in buying jewelry or serving honey-baked ham. The secular world is quite happy to keep the title of the holiday, but water down and distort how and why the Son of God came to redeem us.

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation every day. The Christmas season provides two unique ways to do this. First, it is a time for Christians to gather and celebrate the joy of our common blessing. Why not invite other churches to go caroling, come to your cantata or Nativity event, or even to your Christmas Eve service? Second, make a determined effort to invite the unchurched in your community. The Association can help. If you send us dates of your events, we will post them on the SRBA website and send emails to our other churches

Keep the SON in your eyes.

Tom Doubt

WMU News

Thank you, again, so much for the support for our Redbox ministry. We were able to reach our goal of 1,000 tubes of toothpaste! Because of your generosity, incarcerated women will be reminded of the love of Jesus this Christmas.

Praying with you,
Corby Bunting, SRBA WMU Director

Week of prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas offering

Churches are encouraged to pray for this offering during the week of December 3-10. The entire offering is used to support international missionaries. Resources can be found at imb.org/lottiemoon

Available Ministry Positions

Belhaven: Full-time Pastor - email resume to: belhavenmissionaryb@gmail.com or by mail to: Belhaven Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 400, Belhaven, NC 27810 Attn: Ricky Radcliffe/Pastor Search

Bible: Youth Minister/Director (full-time) - Contact the church at 252-243-7078 or bmbcwilson@gmail.com

Webbs Chapel: Part-time Youth Pastor - Contact Pastor Stephen Duncan revstephenduncan@gmail.com

West End, Williamston: Full-time Pastor - Send resume to: applicant.webc@gmail.com

Winterville: Full-time Pastor - send resume to PastorSearch@wintervillebaptist.org or mail to Winterville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1669, Winterville, NC 28590

Go to southroanoke.org/church-jobs/ for additional information.



Prayer Prompt

Dear Heavenly Father-We ask that you give the AMS search team wisdom as they review the resumes they have received. Thank you for the promise to give wisdom generously if we ask. (James 1:5). In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SRBA Prayer Team

Reports from the SRBA Leadership Council

Prayer Team

As a member of the prayer team, one of my favorite ways to pray is 'on site' at our SRBA churches. We have seen God move in unexpected ways as we go to each church to pray. This fall we have prayed at churches in the Washington and Edgecombe areas. We look forward to praying at the remaining churches in 2024.

Corby Bunting, Team Leader

Impacting Lostness

Reviewed an evangelism program for churches to be involved evangelistically in their communities. Reviewed discipleship and evangelistic literature for churches. Ordered 30 copies of *The Unsaved Christian*, by *Dean Inserra* and *One to One Bible Reading* by *David Helm* for distribution to pastors in the SRBA.

Evan Johnson, Team Leader

Ministry and Mission

The overall purpose of the SRBA Ministry and Missions Team is to train, equip, and encourage SRBA churches to advance the kingdom of God by accomplishing the gospel mission of God in our communities, throughout our region and around the world. In 2023, we were able to partner with churches for community construction efforts, a new church plant with a 3-day community outreach, backyard Bible club, and more. This team also had the privilege to partner with local churches who were taking an international mission trip together. As a movement of churches on mission together, we love to see and support churches working cooperatively to advance the Gospel here, near, and far.

As we did in 2022, our team looks forward to the close of the year where we support the BCH foster families connected to the Kennedy Home.

As we look ahead to 2024, please consider sharing your mission activities and needs with the association and consider opening your trips up to other churches to join in the mission. We truly are better together and on mission together!

Greg Hombirg, Team Leader

NC Baptist Annual meeting highlights November 5-7, 2023

- 1,880 attended (1,515 messengers from churches, 365 visitors)
- Next year's annual meeting in Greensboro: November 4-5 (Pastor's Conference is Nov. 3-4). Danny Akin, President, SEBTS, will deliver the convention sermon.
- All 3 convention officers were elected to a 2nd term: President, Quintell Hill (Multiply Community Church, Monroe), 1st Vice-President, Jason Miller (Dutch Cove BC, Canton), and 2nd VP, Allan Murray (Centerville BC, Kelly).
- Messengers approved a 50/50 split in Cooperative Program giving, half is retained in NC, half goes to the national SBC. Receipts in excess of the 2024 budget (\$31 million) will be divided equally among NC ministries and global ministry partners.
- A celebration was held for 30 missionaries from NC churches that will be going on the mission field through the International Mission Board of the SBC.
- Messengers approved a resolution on Equal Protection for the Preborn with a commitment to end legalized (i.e., elective) abortions.
- Did you know Baptists on Mission has 2024 plans for 17 state and national mission trips? Nine international mission trips are also planned. These plans do not include Impact NC, Disaster Relief, or ServeNC projects. Plenty of options for your church, or to form a collaborative effort with other churches. More information can be found at BaptistsOnMission.org

Senior adult living and care resources

If you are exploring options for senior adult living, you can find information for Christian communities around the country at Caring.com. Facilities range from independent living to skilled nursing homes. For example, in NC, the Piedmont Christian Home in High Point offers assisted living, and in Pittsboro the Christian Village has freestanding homes. There is no charge to search the Caring directory, nor for their help in providing details about various options.

Interim Associational Missionary activities for November

- Represented the Association at the funeral for Scott Setzer's mother, Nov. 6
- Attended NC Baptist Pastors Conference and Baptist State Convention NC, Nov 5-7
- Promoted cooperative efforts among SRBA churches for Serve NC 2014
- Met with pastors at monthly meetings in 5 counties. Led the SRBA Leadership Council meeting, Nov. 16
- Developed a request-for-proposal to upgrade SRBA computers and IT system
- Developed a strategy for pastors' retreats in 2024
- Provided information for pastor search preparation to 4 churches
- Responded to a Hispanic mission church's request to join SRBA
- Visited 3 churches during Sunday morning worship
- Provided guidance to 7 pastors on pastoral ministry issues
- Provided counseling to leaders in 2 churches regarding conflict management

Partnership teams for Serve NC2024

Last month we reported that 7 SRBA churches had signed up for ServeNC during the week of August 3-10. To sign up does not require a definite plan of how to serve in your community; there is time to develop specifics once you are committed. This is a great opportunity to reach out to nearby churches and form partnership teams. You don't have to do it alone, and what a blessings to work alongside other believers.

AMS Search Team Update

The SRBA AMS Search Team is continuing to meet and review resumes. To date, we have received and reviewed a little over 50 resumes from interested candidates. We are currently praying over our tier one candidates. Resumes will be accepted through November 15. Please continue to pray that God will lead in such a way that the person He has chosen will be revealed to each team member.



PRAY FOR ISRAEL

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you."
Psalm 122:6

Israel: Ways to pray and respond Jerusalem needs our prayers now more than ever. We're heartbroken to see war come to the land where our Savior was born, where He lived, died and rose again so that the nations could find eternal peace.

As the crisis in Israel unfolds, know that the state convention and Baptists on Mission are working together with other ministry partners to send relief and hope to those who are caught in conflict.

Baptists on Mission has set up a crisis response page to see other ways of supporting as needs arise. And know that when you give to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO), you are supporting disaster relief efforts that extend all the way to Israel.

Thank you for continuing to be on mission together and praying that everyone in the region will find lasting peace.

On mission together,
Todd Unzicker
Executive Director-Treasurer,
N.C. Baptists

2024 NC Disaster Relief Training dates

baptistsonmission.org

February 24th Jacksonville
March 9th Raleigh
March 23rd Huntersville
April 20th Forest City
May 4th Dillsboro

2024 NC Construction Skills Training

baptistsonmission.org

Shelby Mission Camp March 9th & September 14th
Red Springs Mission Camp March 16th & September 21st
Charity Mission Center March 23rd & October 12th

2024 SBC Annual Meeting

June 9-12, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN
Details and hotel reservations:

<https://sbcannualmeeting.net/hotels/>

Theme: *One Mind, One Voice* (Romans 15:5-6)

Annual Church Profiles

If your church has not completed their 2023 Annual Church Profile, please consider doing so at this time. Should you need assistance, please let us know; we are here to help.



Bible trivial question

How many divine announcements were made to people in the New Testament concerning the birth of Jesus?

Hint: only in two of the Gospels.

Answer elsewhere in the newsletter.

Church Security Measures

A Lifeway Research study surveyed 1,000 Protestant pastors in September 2022 about security measures that were in place during worship services. The survey, published June 6, 2023, revealed 81% of churches had some kind of security measure in place. As shown below, the top two measures were having a plan in place for an active shooter, and having armed church members. The full report can be read at <https://research.lifeway.com/2023/06/06/>.

Percentage of US pastors who say their churches implement each security measure

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Active shooter plan | 7 % |
| Armed church members | 54 % |
| Radio communication | 26 % |
| No firearms policy | 21 % |
| Armed private security | 20 % |
| Uniformed police officers | 5 % |
| Metal detectors | 1 % |

How to say “Merry Christmas” in:

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| French: | Joyeux Noël |
| German: | Frohe Weihnachten |
| Spanish: | Feliz Navidad |
| Italian: | Buon Natale |
| Dutch: | Vrolijk kerstfeest |
| Hebrew: | Chag Molad Sameach |
| Aramaic: | Eedookh Breekha |
| Ukrainian: | Rizdvom Khrystovym! |
| Hawaiian: | Mele Kalikimaka |



The cartoon is a drawing of a homunculus, where the size of each part of the body reflects the number of nerve cells controlling that part. Notice the large tongue and lips, as well as the hands, relative to other parts of the body. We were created with the capability to use both the tongue and hands for good, but the Bible also warns us of the dangers of not controlling our tongue or hands.

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless (James 1:26-27). He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity (Proverbs 21:23).

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth (Proverbs 10:4). The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight (Psalm 18:24).