

# 2011-2012 Ministry Highlights



## Missions

### *Local Mission Engagement Grants*

A new initiative was started to award grants to churches who are doing innovative, creative ministry with an outside partner organization and other partnering churches. This year 10 churches received grants, and the ministries were each unique to their church's context. Applications for 2012-2013 Local Mission Engagement Grants will be available on April 1.

### *New Church Starts*

Seven Hispanic and three Anglo new church starts receive financial support. Three more are in the process of partnering with us. CBF national and CBFNC are collaborating together in a process of training, evaluating and approving new church starts. A New Church Start Academy was successfully held in collaboration with Campbell University Divinity School. A second one with Campbell is being planned for this summer.

### *Hispanic Ministry*

Pastor Javier Benitez continues as Leader/Coach for the Hispanic new church starts and is actively creating new Hispanic churches. He is also working with Hispanic leaders in other states to create an East Coast network

of Hispanic churches and ministries. Companerismo Cristiano Emanuel held successful retreats for families, men, women, youth and children this past year.

### *CBF Global Missions Partnership Ministries*

CBFNC churches continue to be involved with CBF field personnel and their ministries worldwide. North Carolina

personnel with active ministries inside the state include: LaCount and Anna Anderson in northeast North Carolina; Cecilia Beck in Shelby; and Fran and Mike Graham in Asheville.

A new collaboration with Chaouki and Maha Boulos will bring a team to Cairo, Egypt, in October. The team will be participating in the Evangelism Celebration and leading a women's conference. This past year, a team of pastors and lay mission leaders traveled to Beirut for the Evangelism Celebration and visited White Wings Retreat Center. The first stage of building is finished, but much more work needs to be done.

Our CBFNC covenant agreement continues with the Village of Hope in Ukraine. Gennady and Mina Podgaisky are hosting teams. While our major construction is finished, other major renovation projects and creative ministry with women and children continue to be encouraged. This past year, a dental clinic was held along with Vacation Bible School at Bucha Church.

Pastors and lay leaders continue to teach at the Belize Baptist School of Belize. The school meets for a week three times a

year at the Baptist Training Center in Camalote. Dr. Bob Lamb has passed the mantle of being the director to Rev. Susan Pasour, pastor of Mount Adar, Mebane.

In addition, CBFNC churches have built meaningful relationships with

Belize Baptist churches. Together, they have worked side by side renovating, building, and leading Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs. A new endeavor is happening with many CBFNC churches joining together to build Santa Elena Primary School. This school will meet the needs of Spanish, Mayan and Creole children attending overcrowded schools and will also function as a community center and hurricane shelter.



## Leadership Development

### Theological Education Scholarships

- Scholarships for Master of Divinity were awarded to 8 out-of-state students for a total of \$20,500.
- Scholarships for Bachelor of Theological Studies were awarded to 13 students for a total of \$20,000.
- Scholarships for CBFNC partner divinity schools were awarded to Campbell Divinity School, Duke Divinity School (Baptist House of Studies), Gardner-Webb Divinity School and Wake Forest Divinity School for a total of \$44,000.00 (equally divided between the 4 schools).
- More than \$260,000 in additional funds were also distributed to partner divinity schools according to Mission Resource Plan allocations.

### Divinity School Orientation

In an effort to provide a CBFNC presence on the campuses of our partner divinity schools, the Leadership Development Coordinator participated in orientations at Campbell, Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest in Fall 2011.

### Elevating Preaching Conference

Co-sponsored by CBFNC and Campbell Divinity School, the Elevating Preaching Conference was held on Monday, September 26, 2011. Over 120 people participated in the event that featured Carolyn Ann Knight of Atlanta, Georgia, Chuck Poole of Jackson, Mississippi, and Bill Shiell of Knoxville, Tennessee. Personal interest groups focused on the following topics: planning preaching, preaching resources, preaching with no notes, preaching with power point in the pulpit and conversations with guest preachers. The conference will become an annual event, rotating among partner schools.

### Peer Learning Groups

Peer Learning Groups meet monthly to provide opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, Bible study, discussion of ministry-related issues, and fellowship. There are 24 peer learning groups in North Carolina. These groups of 6-12 members each are sponsored by CBF and/or CBFNC. Funding for peer learning groups is offered through an annual application process with CBF National and CBFNC.

### Young Leaders Training

CBFNC and the Center for Congregational Health partnered to sponsor and lead three sessions of Young Leaders Training. Involved in these sessions are seven young ministers who are in their first several years of ministry experience in the local church plus three faculty representing CBFNC, CCH and a local pastor, plus one retired pastor who serves as minister in residence.

### Coach Training/Certification

We have now trained 20 CBFNC coaches, provided coaching services to CBFNC pastors/staff during 2011. Additional training opportunities will be offered in 2012-2013.

### Deacon Training

Deacon/Spouse Training experiences were held in 2011 around the theme "Growing Churches in Challenging Times" with over 250 participants from approximately 30 CBFNC churches. Two similar training events are scheduled for 2012: Oakmont, Greenville, on March 10, 2012, and a new topic "Recovering Hope for the Church" at Mission, Locust on September 22, 2012.



## Churches and Ministers in Transition

### Ongoing ministries include:

- Assisted approximately 72 ministers each quarter to help them discern when it is time to move into a new ministry position or to stay where they are.
- Assisted approximately 34 search committees each quarter in seeking either a staff minister or pastor.
- Provided emotional and financial assistance to seven ministers who suffered forced termination of employment from their churches.
- Conducted two "Welcome to NC" events for ministers new to our state or recent seminary graduates serving their first full-time congregational position. Thirty-two ministers plus spouses participated.

### New ministries include:

- Added a coaching dimension with our work with search committees to not only help them develop a search process and provide them with the resumes of appropriate ministers, but to meet with them more frequently and coach them through their search process. Three congregations have utilized this service, with more to come in 2012-2013.
- Offering coaching services to pastors in their first post-seminary call for the six months to a year of his/her new ministry.
- Established eight regional networks statewide and enlisted a volunteer coordinator whose responsibilities are to encourage and connect with the ministers and churches in their region and then to network them together as the need for resources, etc., surface. This networking is the present and future paradigm for our life together. These regional coordinators will also assist ministers and congregations in transition.

## Collegiate Ministry

### ***CBFNC Collegiate Ministry on Campus***

This year CBFNC hired three part-time campus ministers for Cooperative Student Fellowships at three state schools. Ashley Mangrum is the campus minister at UNC; Lawrence Powers is at ECU and Nathan Willard is serving at WCU.

CBFNC has also helped place interns on some of the historically Baptist campuses. Their role is to help connect those students with the ministry opportunities offered by CBFNC and CBF.

### ***Congregational Collegiate Internships***

This was the second year of a three-year Lilly grant that provides stipends, orientation and debriefing for college students who are interested in discovering more about the ministry of the church. This is a national project, but NC churches have been strong supporters of this initiative with 31 churches hosting interns this past summer. Wingate University has partnered with us to provide the orientation for the students.

Exit interviews have shown that about 40% of the students who participated are considering ministry as a calling, but the vast majority said that the internships gave them a much better perspective on the value of congregational ministry.

### ***CBFNC Collegiate Internships***

CBFNC also provides some funds for internships with a wider perspective on ministry. We funded interns who worked with children's ministry, college ministry and community ministry.

### ***Missional Formation Communities***

CBFNC is exploring ways to minister to young adults who are in our congregations and beyond our walls. We have helped to foster two community groups in the western part of the state that are working to minister to this population.

### ***Retreats***

CBFNC sponsored the fourth Mid-Winter Retreat for college students. More than 50 students and leaders attended the retreat at Camp Mundo Vista.

***Tampa Sessions*** was the collegiate missional experience that brought students from across the U.S. to Tampa during the CBF General Assembly. The students came three days before the General Assembly and talked about immigration issues, attended the Baptist Joint Committee lunch and participated in many other components of the CBF General Assembly.

A fall retreat took place at Blue Ridge Assembly that was hosted by the Clemson and Winthrop Cooperative Student Fellowship groups. They invited all student groups in the southeast. CBFNC had students from four campuses that attended.



## Christian Social Ministries

### ***Racial Reconciliation***

The Racial Reconciliation Ministry team held a day-long workshop at First, Asheville, which was well and diversely attended. The Ministry Team has also been conducting listening sessions at partner divinity schools to hear students' perspectives and discover how we can be an active resource to graduates.

***Gospel Without Borders***, The Baptist Center for Ethics' documentary co-sponsored by CBFNC, was screened around the state at First, Greensboro; Providence, Charlotte; and First, Raleigh. CBFNC then sent this resource to all partner churches, colleges, and divinity schools. The documentary is a non-partisan, biblically based film about immigration, which includes the story of CBFNC pastor, Hector Villanueva, who faced deportation. Hector was granted a cancellation of deportation after the CBFNC network organized character reference letters and packed the courtroom as a show of support.

### ***Hunger Fund***

The CBFNC Hunger Fund continues to give grants to churches and non-profits addressing food insecurity issues in our state. Since its inception in 2009, funds have been distributed to Brunswick Islands, Supply; Hominy, Candler; Open Arms Fellowship, Creedmoor; St. John's, Charlotte; Gates Emergency Ministries, Gatesville; The Memorial, Greenville; City of Hope Church, Shelby; Second Harvest Food Bank, Winston-Salem; and El Buen Pastor, Winston-Salem.



## Growth and Development of our Fellowship

### **Partner Congregations**

CBFNC welcomed 9 new partner congregations to our fellowship. Currently, a total of 365 churches provide financial support for state and/or national CBF ministries.

### **Financial Report**

CBFNC issued an *Offering for Global Missions Challenge* and offered to match dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000, all gifts from North Carolinians to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, given between our state general assembly in March and the National General Assembly in June. The challenge was exceeded, and Larry Hovis presented a check for \$100,000 on behalf of CBFNC to Rob Nash, CBF Coordinator for Global Missions, at the national assembly in Tampa.

In spite of lingering effects of the recession, financial support of CBFNC remains strong, with both undesignated and designated giving for 2011-2012 trailing the previous year only slightly, making it the second highest year in our history for financial support.

### **Staff Growth**

Ka'thy Gore Chappell joined the CBFNC staff as Leadership Development Coordinator. She came from the staff of Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, followed by service in several North Carolina churches, including First, Asheville; First, Cary; and Forest Hills, Raleigh.



### **General Assembly**

Our annual General Assembly was held at First, Asheville, with 1,100 persons in attendance. The theme was *The Heart of Jesus: Living Justice and Mercy*. David Gushee, professor at McAfee School of Theology, and Nancy Hastings Sehested, Asheville pastor and prison chaplain, served as preachers for the worship services.

### **Fellowship on the Move**

Over 225 Hispanics, African-Americans, and Anglos gathered at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville for a worship service, topical workshops, a fellowship meal, and a regional organizing meeting where attendees, grouped by counties, shared concerns, elected a facilitator and voted to move forward on issues facing their communities. Issues raised include joblessness, veterans' issues, education, racial profiling and immigration.

At Flat Rock, Mount Airy, members of 16 local churches gathered for a fellowship meal, ministry workshops on a variety of topics and worship featuring musical talent from several churches.

First, Sylva, hosted a joint meeting of the Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship (WNCBF) and CBFNC which included a meal, ministry workshops and worship with Hector Villeneuve bringing the sermon.

## Faith Formation and Church Resources

### **From Events to Experiences**

The Faith Formation Ministry Council is responsible for many retreats, conferences and workshops. A challenge this year has been to begin moving these "events" to "experiences." For example, before the Children Mission Days, those who registered received a pre-retreat study that encouraged children to create a microenterprise business. The monies they raised would go to buy mosquito nets for Kenyan children and gift cards for Afghan refugees now living in California. During the retreat, the children got to meet and hear the stories from CBF missionaries who led those ministries. Those who participated in the microenterprise venture were interviewed on video. The video was shown as part of that day's worship service. A handout was given to all of the children with suggestions of other ways they could make a difference in their own communities. The offering from the children's microenterprise efforts totaled over \$4,000. We are transitioning deliberately but steadily to transform events into experiences.

### **Retreats**

In addition to the two Children's Mission Days, CBFNC hosted five youth retreats, two choir festivals, an adult retreat, and a staff ministers' retreat. More than 100 workshops of interest to adults were offered this year as part of the General Assembly and Fellowship on the Move gatherings across the state. The CBFNC staff led several training events for local churches through the year, including deacon retreats, missional understanding, spirituality retreats, Sunday School teacher training and evangelism training.

### **Resource Library**

CBFNC is developing a new virtual resource library, housed on the website, that is being unveiled at this year's General Assembly. Resources for all areas of church life and ministry are being identified from a variety of sources, including original resources shared by local church leaders.

### **Bible Study**

This year, CBFNC strengthened our partnership with *Baptists Today* by providing a significant portion of Rick Jordan's time to write the online teacher's guides for Nurturing Faith, a new Sunday School/Bible Study curriculum.

### **Congregational Coaching**

"Finding and Embracing Your Church's Future: A Coach Approach to Strategy Planning" was conducted in five CBFNC churches in 2011-2012 and four are planned for 2012-2013. This three- to five-month process is designed to help churches discern God's leading for their future, explore their options, make realistic plans, broaden their leadership base and create partnerships in their community to move the church forward in missional ministry.

### **Church Administration Resources**

In May, CBFNC sponsored the conference, *Governance and Ministry for the Missional Church*, led by Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Institute.

CBFNC also consulted with 50 churches during this time period with administrative needs related to personnel, finance, and tax and legal issues.