

# *The***Gathering**

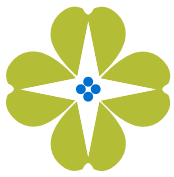
of the Cooperative  
Baptist Fellowship  
of North Carolina

# God's **MISSION** in the **WORLD**



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Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

The Gathering is a seasonal publication  
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# The Gathering

of the Cooperative  
Baptist Fellowship  
of North Carolina

in this issue:

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near Charleston, SC.

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# It's Not About You



By Larry Hovis  
CBFNC Executive Coordinator

For CBFNC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, we revised our organizational values to reflect CBFNC's growth and maturity:

- Community
- Missional Focus
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Leadership
- Flexibility
- Spiritual Formation
- Christian Education

In this and subsequent issues of *The Gathering*, we will explore these values in detail. In our most recent issue, Spring 2023, we gave attention to the first value, *Community*.

In this issue, we deal with *Missional Focus*: *We exist to participate in the mission of God in the world, rather than to perpetuate organizational structures. We believe God has a call for each Christian, each congregation and each ministry agency. We help in the discerning, implementing and equipping of that call.*

A journey through our history as Baptists in North Carolina reveals a distinct path of growth and development in our understanding and implementation of missions. North Carolina Cooperative Baptists can divide this path into three phases.

## Missions-Minded

In the early 19th century, Baptists in North Carolina were divided into two camps: Primitive (or Particular) Baptists and Regular (or General) Baptists. These terms were applied differently at various moments in history, and there was variety in each group. But in general, one camp believed in a strict doctrine of election and therefore did not support mission organizations and efforts outside the local church. The other group did support such efforts and founded the Baptist State Convention in 1830 in Greenville.

Throughout the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, these Baptists worked together to support organizations devoted to missions, education and benevolence. CBFNC was born out of this tradition. Older Baptists often describe churches as being “missions-minded.” They often recite a litany of causes they support outside the congregation—local, state, national and international.

As “missions-minded” Baptists, we believe that we are stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. All of us are called to share what we have, personally and congregationally, so that others may experience the love of Christ. Some of us may experience a call to serve vocationally as a missionary or in a specialized ministry, but all are called to give to missions.

In CBFNC, we are grateful for missions-minded Baptists because their ongoing support, financial and in other ways, enables us to engage in missions.

## Missional Church

CBF was founded in 1991 while CBFNC was founded in 1994. We will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year! In the early 2000s, about 10 years into our existence as a new Baptist movement based on old Baptist principles, we were introduced to the concept of the “missional church.” Missional church theology is captured by the statement, “God does not have a mission for his church; God has a church for his mission.” In the missional church concept, mission is not something you can outsource to another organization. It is not even a program of the church. Mission is the very essence of the church. All that a church does is an expression of the mission of God.

CBF in general, and CBFNC in particular, embraced the missional church concept. It captured the minds and hearts of many in partner congregations. The way it was implemented in most churches was through an increase in local church mission engagement.

## Embracing Neighbors

In 2015, through in-depth interviews with a broad sample of CBFNC church leaders, we learned that while most churches had adopted the language of “missional church,” and had increased mission activities—locally and sometimes beyond their community through mission trips and partnerships—something was missing. They were connecting with more people outside the congregation through their mission projects, but rarely did it result in

See “It's Not About You” on page 5.



# Engaging College Students: It Takes a Congregation

By Catherine Scott-Little, Thom Little & Adair Suggs  
*Lay Leaders, First Baptist, Greensboro*

**W**e have heard it said that when it comes to rearing a child, “it takes a village.” Having worked with college students at First Baptist Church in Greensboro for more than a decade, we have learned that “it takes a congregation.”

While we see engaging with college students as something we enjoy, helping students be involved in and become part of the congregation as a whole is the real goal for our work with students. For this, the congregation must welcome them and encourage them to be part of the broader church community rather than a separate ministry. Fortunately for us, we have such a congregation at First Baptist, Greensboro.

You would think building a college ministry in Greensboro, a city that is home to five universities, would

be easy. The reality is that practicing your faith traditions as a college student is not the norm. Therefore, we feel called to support students who make the choice to engage in a congregation. Working as a team with a heart for engaging students, the ministry has evolved over the years.

Early on we tried traditional Sunday morning Bible studies and found few students wanted to join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. A few years ago, we decided to try something different. Instead of asking them to come before the worship service, what if we offered a Bible study and light lunch after worship service? They could sleep in and still get nourishment, both spiritual and physical. First, we tried monthly meals provided by different Sunday School classes. We discovered that consistency—both in terms of meeting every week and having the same



church members attend rather than rotating groups—provided more opportunity to get to know the students.

Now we provide a weekly home cooked lunch immediately after worship, sharing conversation and prayer requests over food, and then lead a brief Bible study. With this approach, we slowly began to build a small core of students. More importantly, we began to build community with them.

The team members develop relationships with students and students develop relationships with each other. Students share good news and bad; what we sometimes call their “happies and crappies” for the week. When students are facing a challenge, they feel free to share and are supported by the group. A team member communicates weekly updates and checks on students regularly. When students are not there, they are missed and remembered. When they have performances or special events outside of church, members of the team attend and celebrate with them.

As suggested from the title of the article, other members of the congregation play a significant role in the ministry. Whenever a new student attends the worship service, inevitably a church member tells them about the lunch or, more often, brings them to one of our team members or walks them to the café where we have the lunch.

More importantly, they make the students feel welcome in the service, greeting them with a smile and building relationships, making sure to sit with a student whenever they are there; sometimes even befriending a student, waiting for them in the lobby so they can walk in together.

While it is easy to talk about what we offer the students, perhaps more significant is what the students contribute to the congregation. They bring a vitality to the church and, with the help of the congregation, become an integral part of the church body.

We have students who sing in the choir and assist with the children’s ministries. Students have coached Upward basketball teams and assisted with youth events and even chaperoned youth mission trips. Other students have assisted with church mission service days. For the last few years, the college students have fielded at least one team in our annual youth fundraising “Trivia Night” and two years ago, they were the trivia champions!

In short, while our college lunches with Bible study are perhaps a unique part of college ministry at FBC Greensboro, they succeed because of the support and encouragement of the wider congregation and ministerial staff who welcome and include college students into the broader church community, building relationships within and outside of the college group. ✚

**When students  
are facing a  
challenge, they  
feel free to share  
and are supported  
by the group.**

## **It's Not About You, *cont'd. from page 3.***

these folks participating in the church’s communal life—worship, fellowship and Bible study. Their churches were failing, they felt, to cultivate relationships with those who were the recipients of these mission efforts. Church leaders wanted more.

As a result of this study, CBFNC re-branded our missions ministries under the heading, “Embracing Our Neighbors.” Not only are we called to reach our neighbors, in word and deed, with the love of Jesus, we are called to embrace them. You can’t embrace someone from a distance. Embrace requires proximity. Embrace implies a close relationship.

### **Each Understanding is Essential**

So, what is the “right” way to understand missions? Does each new phase replace the previous one? When we receive a new understanding, do we abandon the old ones?

Absolutely not.

As missionary Baptists, we are called to be missions-minded; supporting mission partners as they engage in the mission of God in ways unavailable to individual Christians and congregations.

As missionary Baptists, we are called to cultivate missional churches, not only engaging directly in missions, but seeing all that the church does as an expression of the mission of God in the world.

As missionary Baptists, we are called to embrace our neighbors with the love of Jesus, meeting them “up close and personal,” cultivating genuine relationships that welcome them fully into the beloved community of our congregations and our fellowship.

As a famous California megachurch pastor began his best-selling book, “It’s not about you.” It’s about God and your participation in God’s mission in the world. Thanks be to God for loving us so much to include us in the divine mission to create a beloved community that embraces all. ✚



# Clergy Need Confidential, Collaboratively-Crafted & Connected Search Partners

Responding to God's calling as a minister is complex. Metaphorically, it means the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. But leaving that one chapter means stepping away from fully invested relationships and work, shared dreams and a known ministry context. When done well, it means creating space for grieving, separation, healing, and new beginnings. So again, it's complex.

But before you transition from one chapter to another, you must back up a bit earlier into the story to when the thought of discerning something new was met with a sense of excitement, different levels of anxiety and lots of questions:

*Why something new? Why now? Will I even be able to find something matching my strengths and passions? What will this require of me? Who can I trust?*

"When I was in a season of transition (even an exciting transition), I felt alone, confused and anxious. Amid that season, the most comforting things to me were when I received consistent communication, knowing that I had voices advocating for me in the room and trusting in the process," noted Tyler Tankersley, senior pastor of Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem.

I've been there before. After pastoring a new church start, an unexpected opportunity to change ministry context was introduced to me that would take our family 951 miles away from home. I would not have been able to journey on that eight-month discernment process without the help of trusted friends, colleagues and mentors, who asked the right questions, affirmed my gifts, prayed for us throughout and gave insight into how to end and start well.

Let's be honest; the ministerial transition process takes time. Churches have their timeline and procedures. Sometimes there is a gap in options available, especially ones that match your gifts and interests. It can feel like you've stepped out in faith, only to have no opportunities come your way, or the opportunity you truly hoped for does not seem to work out. Meanwhile, you are trying to remain faithful and effective in where you are currently serving.

"Trusting the process can be difficult, but the resources you receive will empower confidence, stability and wisdom while you make pivotal decisions about your future. Whether you're a new minister to CBF North Carolina or a long-time partner congregation, the ongoing encouragement and caring support you receive from CBF North Carolina will pave the way for the next phase of your ministry," urged Mark Reece, senior pastor of First Baptist, Elkin.

But when it is done with excellence, the search process for both clergy and the church brings empowering clarity. For churches and clergy that work through CBFNC's ministerial transitions process, introspection and clarifying of core values, vision, current realities and hopes for the future are a must.

"Journeying alongside a church that has done this kind of work is tremendously helpful," said Kristen Tucker, senior pastor of First Baptist, Smithfield. "I got to hear the discernment and vision of the church. I got to read over their notes and begin considering the vision God had placed on their hearts."

CBFNC is invested in creating a highly confidential, collaboratively-crafted and connected search process for all clergy, no matter the type of ministerial role you are seeking. You are not just another resumé to send but a unique individual with passions, giftedness, strengths and experiences that we want to distinguish and connect with the corresponding needs of a congregation.

Begin the process with us by visiting [www.cbfnc.org/transitionsclergy](http://www.cbfnc.org/transitionsclergy). You will have the opportunity to create a profile around your unique sense of calling, desires and needs, receiving resumé feedback and coaching for the search process. Eventually, we will hand-match your profile with churches that have also done excellent work identifying their core values, vision, demographics, congregational profile and desired ministerial leadership profile. ✚



By Andy Hale  
CBFNC Associate  
Executive Coordinator

## PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!

**CBFNC WANTS TO LEARN FROM MINISTERS** about healthy ministerial search processes. Your experiences provide immeasurable insight into how we can coach search teams around cultivating empowering, genuine, clarifying and robust search processes. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey to help us better resource clergy and churches to navigate the search process.





# Annual Gathering



*Be sure to join us for the  
**2024 Annual Gathering**  
at FBC Greensboro, March 14–15!*





# Students & Leaders Share About the CBSF Spring Break Mission Trip Experience

Every March, students from across North Carolina have an opportunity to serve God by joining in our Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship (CBSF) spring break mission trip. David Stone, CBFNC campus ministries associate & western region campus minister, has developed a long standing relationship with Metanoia in North Charleston, South Carolina. Metanoia is directed by Rev. Bill Stanfield and was started over 20 years ago by CBF of South Carolina.

From March 3-10, 19 students from Western Carolina University, Campbell University, University of Mount Olive and even Furman University journeyed down to the Charleston area to help Metanoia with increasing affordable housing opportunities in the North Charleston area. This year students took down a dilapidated old fence structure beside a new construction residence for a first-time home buyer and replaced it with a new wooden fence for that residence and for the neighbor who lives next door.

Most students will tell you that these mission trip events are the highlight of their academic year for building Christian community with other college students from across the state. Two students and one leader share about their experiences on this year's spring break mission trip.

College students work with Metanoia in South Carolina.



**AVERY BROWNING**  
Campbell University Student



The group of college students and leaders who participated

I chose to spend my spring break this way because I love missions and I love to help. I was joined by three staff who each played an important role on this trip and the work we did was

I went on the same mission trip last year and enjoyed renewing my friendships. It was great to connect with new college students this year and get to know their stories.

On this year's mission trip, we built a fence with a gate that needed to be replaced around a house for a family. We also cleared brush from an adjacent property. We installed another gate for Metanoia's storage shed and other things the group requested for the community in which we were serving.

Last year we helped build a park among other things and it was exciting to see the park being used by children this year.

My faith grew during the week. I was able to grow stronger in building relationships as well as taking time to worship with other college students. I felt renewed by knowing we worked hard and made a difference in the lives of the people in the Charleston area as we strengthened our relationship with each other and the Lord.

Interacting with the members of the neighborhood was very rewarding. I learned most from Brother Yes Lord. He is a resident in the community and I got to witness how people interacted with each other in that community through him. I also learned that even when his situation was not the best, he still put his faith in the Lord and gave thanks to God through the hard times.



Students build a new





**REV. DARREN R. MYERS**  
**First Baptist Mount Olive**

As someone who has not had much experience with mission trips to other areas of the United States or the world, I can say this one was truly a joy and a meaningful experience to attend.

Working on landscaping for these new construction houses for under privileged families was truly a joy to experience. It was very laborious throughout the week, but the results outweighed the cost that it took from us in the end.

Not only was it a joy to help those families who would eventually have a nice place to stay, but it was a similar joy and a privilege to be with the people that I worked with. What I noticed the most about this group, was that they were truly doing what was called by God for God's people to do in this world.

This call consists of being the presence of love and compassion to the "least of these" as stated in Matthew 25: 31-45. This group of students and leaders was a very friendly, compassionate and loving group. They worked very hard at the tasks that were needed to be done throughout the week, regardless of what it took to complete the job. These attributes of compassion, friendliness and love embodied the leader of the group, David Stone which showed through him the entire time we were there.



in the CBSF Spring Break Mission Trip.

help our community. We had 19 undergrads and with Metanoia.

ships with the people from last year. It was also es.



Clearing brush in the affordable housing neighborhood.



**KAITLYN CABANISS**  
**Western Carolina University Student**

This spring break I had the opportunity to attend my second spring break mission trip with fellow CBSF college students and it was just as incredible as last year. We worked with Metanoia ministries and Water Mission to help serve the local north Charleston community. We worked hard to build a fence for a new house Metanoia

was building and organizing and setting up for the annual "Walk for Water" fundraiser done by water mission.

Despite many of us college students not knowing one another, we had the unique opportunity to come together and work and fellowship under our shared faith. We enjoyed working together during the day and laughing with one another at night. The Bible talks a great deal about the importance of fellowship; while we worked hard and played hard, we also worshiped hard.

Different students led us through worship and devotion each night. We were able to hear from the perspective of our peers and sing praises with strangers turned friends.

While I feel we had a good opportunity share the love of God with our neighbors in the north Charleston community, something that really stuck out to me about that week was a quote from our foreman at Metanoia, Duncan Cheney. Duncan said, "You won't change the community's life in a week, but you might change yours."

So often we as Christians are constantly searching for ways to be better and to show God what good work we are doing, when in reality God uses us to do his work. It turns hard work into an opportunity to dwell with God and draw closer to him. That's a perspective that makes anyone want to work with the joy of the Lord in their heart. ✝



fence during the mission trip.

# Global Service Corps Missionaries Serve Alongside Field Personnel In North Carolina

## Delores Stimpson Serves the Research Triangle Area

Refugees who resettle on the western edge of North Carolina's Research Triangle benefit from the same passion and commitment to excellence Delores Stimpson provided Fortune 500 companies throughout her long career as a director of information technology programs.

They also receive blessings from her deep well of compassion, empathy for overcoming challenges and belief that Jesus meant what he said about loving your neighbor as yourself.

Stimpson became manager of the Welcome House Community Network's Triangle West region, which provides temporary residences for newly arriving refugees, Jan. 1. of this year. Stimpson serves through Global Service Corps, a CBF program that offers mission opportunities to young college graduates and post-career volunteers, who serve alongside field personnel. She serves with Kim and Marc Wyatt, CBF field personnel, who founded the Welcome House ministry in North Carolina in 2015.

Stimpson manages the ministries of Welcome Houses in Chapel Hill, Durham and Hillsborough. She became affiliated with Welcome House when she helped Temple Baptist Church in Durham, her home congregation, open a house in 2020. Then she started coordinating work on the west side of the Research Triangle as a volunteer in 2022.

Stimpson was commissioned regionally at Temple Baptist Church on March 12, and will also be commissioned at the CBF General Assembly in Atlanta, June 28-30. She will be a member of CBF Global Missions' International North America Team.

Delores' path to this ministry has been filled with many twists and turns. From growing up in rural Yadkin County, to attending Winston-Salem State University, to becoming a military wife during the Vietnam War, to teaching herself about computers that led to a robust career in information technology, God was preparing her for this.

Despite her success, her path was a challenge. "As a woman of color, I heard my share of queries about my qualifications," she acknowledged. "I turned them into long-lasting friendships.

Toward the end of her career and especially after retirement, she poured her energy and skill into Temple Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, treasurer and deacon chair. And Temple's Welcome House residents snuggled up close to her heart.

When Marc Wyatt recruited Stimpson to expand beyond Temple's house and coordinate Welcome Houses on the west side of the Triangle, he mentioned Global Service Corps as a "post-career opportunity."

"I said, 'There's no such thing as post-career,'" she reported. "I've had a full career, and I'm still working. It's just a different career. Now, I have the time to do things I wanted to do years ago. I could not turn that down."

"Delores is right for this task because she has succeeded in life, both professionally and personally, during a time when being a confident, well-educated and purpose-driven woman of color has been nothing short of heroic," said Marc Wyatt. "She's a person whose faith has been forged through life experiences I never will fully understand.

"Delores has so much to offer when it comes to sharing the love of God with strangers who become neighbors," added Wyatt.

Larry Hovis, CBFNC executive coordinator, expressed similar sentiments.

"In many ways, Welcome House has become the most visible face of CBFNC's ministry priority, 'Embracing Neighbors,'" Hovis said. "It has become not just a network, but a movement that has spread beyond Raleigh to all parts of our state and beyond."

"The appointment of Delores is a recognition of her response to the call of God to embrace neighbors in Durham and the surrounding area. She exemplifies the best of her church and our CBFNC community as she leads us to share the gospel with the people of the world, right in her own backyard," said Hovis. ✿



By Marv Knox  
Contributing Writer &  
Founder of Fellowship  
Southwest



L to R: Pastor Randy Carter, Larry Hovis and  
Delores Stimpson at her commissioning service.



# Woody and Bev Baker Serve the Ahoskie Area



By Anna Anderson  
CBF Field  
Personnel

**M**y husband, LaCount, and I first met the Bakers when they walked into the benevolence office that we use through First Baptist in Ahoskie. A long-standing, vibrant CBF congregation, the church had asked us to help manage their benevolence ministry in a way that could become more efficient and better organized. Having grown up in Ahoskie, the Bakers were home from Australia for a stateside visit from their work of the last 20 years with the Wycliffe Bible Translators organization. During that visit, they shared a little about growing up in Ahoskie and talked about the way much had changed in the community they have always called home.

Fast forward to 2022 when Woody and Bev made an appointment to see us after having met with Marc and Kim Wyatt looking for mission opportunities in North Carolina. Anxious to return home to NC to be with their aging mothers and the desire to have a purposeful time of continuing to do ministry and mission work, the Bakers were searching for opportunities in the Ahoskie area. Not quite ready to officially retire, they felt that God was calling them to work in some other type of ministry before they ended their careers.

the church wanted to see ministry continue to happen in that community, but knew they could no longer keep things going by themselves. A plan was unfolding to make the Presbyterian Church a special place of community ministry beginning with the Roanoke Chowan Christian Women's Job Corps (RCCWJC), which would be the key figure in the building's reimagining.

The Ahoskie Food Pantry had already been meeting at the church and continues to meet there. The RCCWJC has space in the building for classrooms, computer labs, clothing and household donations ministry, a well-equipped kitchen and the newly renovated fellowship hall that serves as a multi-purpose room. Special monthly ecumenical services with a free meal are being held for the community as well as events such as memorial services, grief share groups, health fairs and other happenings are being held at the church.

And now it has a new name: The Gathering Place. In partnership with CBF's rural poverty coalition, Together for Hope, The Gathering Place is flourishing.

When they learned of the things happening at The Gathering Place in their hometown, Woody and Bev knew this was just the opportunity for them. They are working with us as Global Service Corps volunteers for the next two years while also continuing to keep their relationship with Wycliffe Australia.

Woody and Bev are helping to manage the building and plans are in the works for renovation of the former pastor's study to become a resident apartment for them. They serve as the on-site managers and this will help tremendously in the future development of more activities and plans for the building.

Bev is working in the meal preparations for CWJC classes and other special events and helping out in the ESL classes as well. Woody is keeps the schedule of the building organized and is working on plans for getting a Christian Men's Job Corps started in the area.

Since arriving in January, they both have been a wonderful addition to The Gathering Place. Winnie Matthews, who serves on the Board of Directors of Roanoke Chowan Christian Women's Job Corps and was a former member of the Presbyterian Church, says that "Woody has helped me tremendously in the administration of the building. And Bev is taking on tasks with lots of organization and purpose; they both are a huge help at The Gathering Place."

Exciting things happening in Ahoskie? Absolutely!

To learn more and support the ministries of these field personnel and Global Service Corps volunteers, visit [cbf.net/field-personnel](http://cbf.net/field-personnel).



The Bakers help manage The Gathering Place, a community ministry in Ahoskie, as part of their work as Global Service Corps missionaries.



The Wyatts had suggested that Woody and Bev get in touch with us because there were some exciting things happening in Ahoskie that we might be interested in talking to them about.

Woody says his response was, "exciting things? in Ahoskie?" We had told the Wyatts about the new ministry center that was beginning to take shape at the former First Presbyterian Church in Ahoskie. The congregation could no longer support the church there and the decision had been made to close the doors. The few remaining members of





# Meet Our New Moderator

## "10 Questions with Stacy Nowell"

✦ *Do you have a hidden talent? If so, what is it?*

I don't know that it's a hidden talent, but I do really enjoy home improvement projects. I'm certainly not a professional, but I wouldn't call myself a novice either. Some of the more involved projects include ripping out and re-laying flooring. Also, I once took apart a wooden play set that I purchased on Facebook Marketplace (I do these projects because I like them but also because I'm cheap) and rebuilt it piece-by-piece, swapping out the rotted boards for new ones. I also sew a little bit and make curtains, pillows, bedding, etc.

✦ *What do you do to "refill your tank"/recharge?*

Is napping considered a legitimate hobby? If so, I'm a pro. I also enjoy reading, home-improvement projects, crafting, listening to music and hiking.

✦ *What book are you reading now or have you recently read?*

I don't have nearly as much time for pleasure-reading as I'd like, but it's fun to re-read some old favorites with my kids. Right now my daughter and I are working our way through the *Hunger Games* series.

✦ *Where was the last place you visited?*

My family and I take an annual spring break trip to North Myrtle Beach. I love it because it takes minimal planning and I love the sounds of the ocean waves.

✦ *What's on your bucket list?*

I would love to go on a Viking River cruise somewhere through Europe.

During the CBFNC Annual Gathering in March, Stacy Nowell was elected to serve as the new moderator of the Coordinating Council. She has been serving as moderator-elect for the past two years and has been active in Cooperative Baptist life for many more having served in positions for CBF Global and CBF Virginia.

Stacy is the senior pastor of First Baptist in Huntersville, where she has served since 2015. Stacy is married to Luke Nowell, who is also an ordained minister. Together, they have two children. Stacy enjoys crafting and DIY home improvement projects in addition to spending quality time with her family. She is a graduate of Baylor University and McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. She is currently pursuing her D.Min. at Duke Divinity School.

✦ *Name something most people don't know about you.*

I grew up in an automobile-loving family and I really like going to races. We went to the Indy 500 several times when I was a child and as an adult, I go to NASCAR races any time I can snag tickets. Along that theme, my dad and I rebuilt a totaled '78 Corvette together when I was 16 and that was my first car.

✦ *What's been your favorite band/musician?*

Oh my goodness, I like so many bands and musicians, and my tastes are fairly eclectic. Recently I've been playing these albums a lot: "Thanks For Listening" by Chris Thile, "Midnights (3am Edition)" by Taylor Swift and We The Kingdom's new self-titled album. I also think the bluegrass artist Sierra Farrell is amazing, and more people need to know about her!

✦ *How would your friends describe you?*

I think they'd tell you that while I'm outgoing professionally, I'm more introverted personally. They'd also say I'm fun and have a good sense of humor, that I'm earnest – I care a lot about the people and things that matter to me, and that I avoid pretense – what you see is what you get.

✦ *Name something that makes you happy*

A cup of coffee in the morning makes me happy. And even though they're getting too old for it, I love snuggling my children when they'll let me.

✦ *What are you looking forward to as moderator of CBFNC?*

I love the people that make up CBFNC and it's a gift to get to work with them. That's what I look forward to most; doing good things with great people! ✦



# Chapel Hill Church Finding New Ways to Care for Neighbors & Creation

Hillside Church in Chapel Hill is a church on mission to bless our local community and care for creation. Since the pandemic began, we have seen our small monthly pantry that served 30 families a month, grow to a twice-monthly pantry visited by over 100 families each time we are open. We give two bags of canned goods, pantry staples, paper products and, when needed, diapers and wipes. We also give a bag of produce and a bag of frozen meats.

We receive regular food donations from The Food Assistance Program (TFAP), the Durham food bank, Wegman's supermarket and from private donors. The volunteers who run our pantry come from our church, our partner church (Crosstrail Church), the local Mormon congregation, the Boy Scout troop that meets in our church, volunteer groups from UNC and volunteers from a Chapel Hill Facebook mothers group.

In addition to the food pantry, we also host the Blood Connection mobile blood bank six times a year and take up a special monthly offering to help people who are behind on their rent.

Hillside promotes community thriving by opening up our church building for others to use, such as the Chinese Congregation that's a part of our church. The Zion Karen Baptist Church, a Burmese congregation, meets in our

extremely reasonable compared to other venues in our area.

Our church has also taken steps to care for creation by installing energy-efficient lighting in several rooms throughout our building and in our parking lot. We have also installed solar panels on our roof and our church is a certified "Cool Congregation" through NC Interfaith Power and Light ([ncipl.org/](http://ncipl.org/)).

At Hillside Church, we believe God calls us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The ministries described above are some of the ways we do that in addition to preaching the Gospel and leading discipleship groups. We believe promoting human flourishing and caring for God's creation are aspects of the whole church preaching the whole Gospel to the whole world. We want church to be a safe place where people are made new and sent into the world in Jesus' name. ✝



By Rob Tennant  
Senior Pastor  
Hillside, Chapel Hill

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good news of Jesus Christ.**

building on Sunday afternoons, and their youth group joins ours for weekly youth group meetings.

Mi Escuelita is a bilingual pre-school that rents space in our building. Our church is the meeting location for a local Boy Scout troop. We rent parking spaces to UNC students. And finally, a dozen or so churches in the area rent our building for special events. In some of these relationships, we allow outside groups to use our building for free; in others, we charge, but our rates are



Top: Hillside Church volunteers care for neighbors by distributing bags of food. Left: Pastor Rob Tennant donates blood during church-hosted mobile blood bank. Right: Hillside's food pantry.



# Meet the 2023



## Lolley Scholars

Providing support and scholarship assistance to students engaged in theological education is an essential part of CBFNC's work. In 2008, Dr. Randall and Lou Lolley worked with CBFNC to establish the Randall and Lou Lolley Endowment for Theological Education to fulfill their dreams of supporting men and women preparing for ministry in the form of scholarships for theological education. The Lolley Scholarship is CBFNC's most prestigious scholarship, offered to future Baptist ministers pursuing a Master of Divinity at any of the four partner divinity schools in North Carolina. Candidates are nominated by someone who can speak to their outstanding promise for Christian ministry. Through generous individual and congregational gifts to the Lolley fund, CBFNC is able to support students for all three years of their Master of Divinity program. Please join us in congratulating the 2022-2025 Lolley Scholarship recipients.



**NORA CROUCH**  
Master of Divinity  
Wake Forest School of Divinity  
Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

"I want to be part of the change when it comes to church hurt. I desire to uplift women and minorities who have been pushed aside and oppressed. I believe it is important to break the stigma of mental health in the church. I do not believe that I should force my beliefs on others but should welcome all and let God's love take over. I enjoy sharing the gospel and educating others about Christianity. However, I believe there is a safe way to do that without being harmful. Divinity School has opened my eyes to all the potential for change. It has opened my heart to a diversity of people. It has grown my empathy drastically. I hope to be part of the change that the church needs in order for Christ to do His good works."



**NATHANIEL HORTON**  
Master of Divinity  
Campbell University School of Divinity  
Zebulon Baptist Church, Zebulon

"I was asked by a coworker last summer how I feel to be called as a minister. I answered that it felt right; it felt natural. Being able to guide and support people along their spiritual journey, helping to find a path for those lost in the hectic nature of life and spending time fellowshiping and growing with other believers feels like a challenge I was called to tackle. Ministry in church is important, but ministry should not just happen in a church building. Ministry should happen in all the different areas of our lives. Whether it is in a church, in our communities, in our homes and even at a rowdy East Carolina tailgate, we should all minister to others through our speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."



**BAKER LAWRIMORE,**  
Master of Divinity, Duke Divinity School  
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

"Music ministry, teaching and pastoral ministry all have so much in common. I feel called to no ultimate position. I do, however, feel called to a closer walk with God. This is what I seek in my vocation and in my studies at Duke Divinity School. The potential for spiritual and vocational growth through this degree program is thrilling to me. What will it look like to be further educated in the faith, to better understand God's love and the stories of God's people? Could it look like pastoring a church? Teaching a choir? Directing music for children and youth? Whatever the journey brings, I seek to walk in my vocation to the step of a familiar tune, singing the song CBF has been singing for years."

## To GIVE...

### TO SUPPORT THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF FUTURE MINISTERS,

contributions may be given to  
the Lolley Fund online



or by mailing a check to CBFNC  
2640 Reynolda Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

**Your support is essential to providing theological education to future Baptist ministers!**



# Your gifts to a CBFNC endowment fund can plant seeds of blessing, hope, & help.

Designate a gift for scholarships, new church starts, or where it is most needed. Please remember CBFNC in your will or estate plan.

**For more information, contact Jim Hylton at (336) 759-3456 or [finance@cbfnc.org](mailto:finance@cbfnc.org).**

*Gifts from individual supporters established this endowment fund to supplement the CBFNC annual operating budget. Gifts to this fund assist all areas of CBFNC ministry as we strive to join the work of God in the world.*

## CBFNC HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

January – April 2023

Belle Allen *in honor* of Stephanie Parker, Keeley Tarkington,  
Brooke Nugent, Larry Hovis and Andy Hale  
Linda Denney *in honor* of Larry Hovis  
Gwen and Steve Canady *in honor* of  
Stephanie Canady Parker  
Marion and Donald Horton *in honor* of Don and  
Mary Ann Horton and Marion Horton  
Sandra Jarrell *in honor* of Wanda Kidd  
Crystal and Bill Leathers *in honor* of Dave Hawes  
and team for their work  
Joan P Lennon *in honor* of Kelly and Philip Belcher  
Melinda Alvarez *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Sandra Canipe *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Kaye and Woody Catoe *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Wendy and Tom Graves *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Margaret Grissom *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Melissa Iannelli *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Michael Johnson *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Mary and Brian Murphy *in memory* of Lou Lolly  
Carolyn and Wayne Saunders *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Laura Lee Slate *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Mary Lou and Grady Stephens *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
David Straw *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Elois Willis *in memory* of Lou Lolley  
Kim and Larry Hovis *in memory* of Lou and Randall Lolley  
Karen and Andrew Manidis *in memory* of  
Lou & Randall Lolley  
Laura and Gary Moore *in memory* of Lou and Randall Lolley  
Jennifer Byard Talley *in memory* of Lou and Randall Lolley  
Lois and Donald Hawkins *in memory* of Randall Lolley  
Jeanne and Roger Baucom *in memory* of  
Rev. and Mrs. Morris S. Hollifield  
Mary Ann and Billy Howell *in memory* of  
Skeeter and Ellie Collins  
Barbara Huggins *in memory* of Kay Huggins  
Miller Sigmon *in memory* of Ken Alton  
John Vestal *in memory* of Cindy Vestal

## MINISTERS ON THE MOVE

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Dan Armistead, Embrace Church, High Point,  
as Pastor

Evelyn Crews, First Baptist, Mount Gilead,  
as Pastor

Christian Davis, First Baptist, Wilmington,  
as Minister of Engagement

Claudia Grainger-Sink, Trinity Baptist, Raleigh,  
as Associate for Middle School and Families

Tim Lipp, Rosewood First Baptist, Goldsboro,  
as Pastor

Taylor Miskel, Westwood Baptist, Cary,  
as Associate Pastor for Youth

Ward Page, Zebulon Baptist, Zebulon,  
as Pastor

Brett Pardue, Oxford Baptist, Oxford,  
as Pastor

Eric Porterfield, Oakmont Baptist, Greenville,  
as Pastor

Donna Sand, First Baptist, Rutherfordton,  
as Minister of Children

Johnny Serratt, Wise Baptist, Wise,  
as Pastor

Adam Woods, Union Cross Baptist, Kernersville,  
as Pastor

Joe Yelton, First Baptist, Rutherfordton,  
as Interim Pastor

When you make a move or know someone who has changed places of ministry, please email [ahale@cbfnc.org](mailto:ahale@cbfnc.org). For assistance with transitions, visit [cbfnc.org/transitions](http://cbfnc.org/transitions) or call us at 336.759.3456.





www.cbfnc.org

## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship North Carolina

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A Look Ahead . . .

### JUNE

CBF GLOBAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
—REUNIÓN ANUAL DE LA CBF GLOBAL  
Atlanta, GA  
June 29–30

### AUGUST

ENCUENTRO DE HOMBRES RED LATINA  
—RED LATINA NETWORK MEN'S MEETING  
Quaker Lake Camp Retreat Center  
August 25–26

### OCTOBER

YOUTH BEACH RETREAT  
— RETIRO JUVENIL EN LA PLAYA  
Fort Caswell  
October 13–15

GROWING YOUNG 2-DAY WORKSHOP  
—TALLER DE 2 DÍAS PARA JÓVENES EN CRECIMIENTO  
Trinity Baptist, Raleigh  
October 16–17

RETIRO DE MATRIMONIOS PASTORALES  
—PASTORAL MARRIAGE RETREAT  
Greensboro/Raleigh  
October 27–28

**READ ALL ABOUT** the CBSF  
spring break mission trip  
experience inside on  
pages 8 and 9!

