

# *TheGathering* of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina



## Servant Leadership

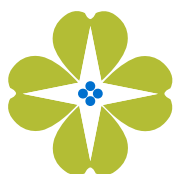


**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**CBFNC ANNUAL GATHERING**

March 14-15, 2024 | First Baptist, Greensboro

*More details inside.*





Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship **North Carolina**

*The Gathering* is a seasonal publication  
of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina,  
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# *The***Gathering**

*of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina*

in this issue:

Larry Hovis | *Executive Coordinator*  
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Communications Specialist*

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## ON THE COVER

Members of the CBFNC Coordinating Council and CBFNC staff gather during their summer retreat.



## Lolley Scholarship Nominations Now Open!

# DO YOU KNOW

*Nominations are now open for CBFNC's Lolley Fund Scholarship, our most prestigious theological education scholarship that requires potential recipients to be nominated by someone who can speak to their outstanding promise for Christian ministry and excellent potential for graduate-level work.*

***a student beginning to pursue a Master of Divinity?***

**LOLLEY FUND**  
FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

**NOMINATION DEADLINE  
is February 23, 2024**  
*(for fall term 2024)*

Students must be entering an M.Div. program. Those enrolled in NC partner schools will receive a matching award. Each Lolley Scholarship is valued at \$5,000 per year and is renewable for up to three years in a Master of Divinity program.

Find more info and the nomination form at [cbfnc.org/engage/scholarships](http://cbfnc.org/engage/scholarships).





# Servant Leadership



By Larry Hovis  
CBFNC Executive Coordinator

This article is the fourth in a series on CBFNC's organizational values. In this issue we focus on **LEADERSHIP: We enlist servant-leaders from local churches who guide us in understanding the needs of their congregations and communities. We seek leaders who reflect the multi-faceted make-up of our fellowship.**

During the height of our “Baptist battles” in the 1980s, a well-known Baptist leader made the provocative statement, “The pastor is the ruler of the church.” While that statement resonated with many in Baptist life at that time (and since), those of us who found a home in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship embraced a different kind of leadership based on servanthood.

The term “servant leadership” was popularized by Robert Greenleaf, a businessman, consultant, researcher and author. Though Greenleaf is credited with creating this term, the concept goes back much further to none other than Jesus. In describing the incarnation, Philippians says of him, “though he existed in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:6-7).

In teaching his followers about leadership, Jesus explained:

“The Kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves” (Luke 22:25-26).

Not only with his words, but by his example, Jesus modeled servant leadership when, at the Last Supper, he dressed like a slave and washed the disciples’ feet. Jesus promoted servant leadership.

This concept of servant leadership extends to both clergy and laity. It flows from our understanding of the Priesthood of All Believers. Both clergy and laity are called to servant leadership. In short, servant leadership requires a partnership between clergy and laity.

## Servant Leadership in the Church

Legally, pastors are employees of the church. Theologically, they work for God and serve the church. One way they serve is through their leadership. Pastors are not “bosses”

of the laity; neither should laity see themselves as managers of pastors. They work together to discern God’s vision, exercise their respective gifts in pursuit of God’s mission and support one another in working toward shared goals. Pastors “equip the saints” (Ephesians 4:12) to do the work of ministry.

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

is not the easiest approach  
to leadership.

It requires patience,  
understanding,  
communication and humility.

## Servant Leadership in the Fellowship

In a similar way, CBFNC is not a “preachers club.” We embrace both clergy and laity in our leadership. The Coordinating Council, CBFNC’s board of directors, typically consists of a roughly equal number of clergy and laity. Our moderators, the top elected leadership position in CBFNC, are drawn from both clergy and laity. Some of the most faithful and effective moderators through the years have been laity.

In CBFNC life, we seek to model effective partnership between clergy and laity. Our staff, while consisting of both clergy and laity, work in partnership with volunteer leaders on a daily basis. We include over 100 elected, volunteer positions in our leadership structure. Our staff spend a significant amount of their time engaging non-staff members, both clergy and laity, in the leadership of our fellowship.

## Challenges to Servant Leadership

Servant leadership is not the easiest approach to leadership. It requires patience, understanding, communication and humility. It requires setting aside ego and personal agendas.

*See “Servant Leadership” on page 4.*

## Servant Leadership, cont'd. from page 3.

Servant leadership faces significant challenges in our time. The pervasive anxiety of contemporary society makes servant leadership difficult.

In some churches, political divisions, declining attendance and falling financial resources sometimes pit clergy and laity against one another. Laity blame clergy for the church's failures to measure up to an idealized past. Clergy blame laity for their lack of commitment and faithfulness.

In our fellowship, the most committed and engaged laity are aging and passing on. Younger laity have not replaced the lay leaders who founded us three decades

ago. They are stretched for time and not as interested in denominational affairs. As a result, our volunteer leadership pool, as well as engagement in our gatherings and ministries, involves fewer laity.

These challenges, while significant, will not detract us from living out this core value. We are committed to servant leadership and full partnership between clergy and laity in exercising leadership. We must seek new ways to involve both clergy and laity in leadership. We do this because we are followers of Jesus, our greatest model of what it means to be a servant leader. ✚

# Abuse Prevention for Churches

*If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. – Matthew 18:6*



By Jay Kieve  
CBF Director of Ministerial Transitions &  
Abuse Prevention and Response Advocate

Jesus reserved his harshest language for people who harmed children. Unlike others in the ancient world, he taught that children should be protected and treasured, even urging his followers to emulate them. The earliest churches adopted Jesus' commitment to child protection. Church leaders included in their first century instructional document, the *Didache*, a prohibition against harming or killing children. The church believes in protecting children. And yet, in the United States today, one in 10 children will experience sexual abuse by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) values Jesus' instructions and the early church's commitment to protecting children from abuse while in our care at church and everywhere else. The commitment to child protection is reflected in our abuse prevention training for all CBF global staff and field personnel, along with a robust protection policy for our work. This means that all office staff, all team members who visit churches and all missionaries understand their roles in preventing abuse and reporting abuse when suspected.

Along with training our CBF workers, we offer robust options for training and support to CBF-connected churches too. CBF staff and partners bring an array of educational offerings and protection policy creation assistance to ministers, lay leaders, those who work with children and youth, and entire churches. Abuse prevention programs can be tailored to an individual church's needs and context. **Options for support and training include:**

- **GRACE Safeguarding Training** – This is a comprehensive prevention program offered in partnership with Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment (netgrace.org). Offered in two phases, churches receive a training for church leaders, prevention policy development assistance, building safety assessment and an all-church training event. The fees for GRACE safeguarding training are offset by a grant from CBF.
- **Stewards of Children** – This is an evidence-informed, video and conversation-based training that includes a workbook for participants. This training is ideal for a post-worship event for youth and children's workers, ministers and everyone who loves children.
- **Custom Abuse Prevention Training** – Crafted in conversation with a church's ministry team, CBF can fashion the training and support to local desires, from a single training session to retreats for parents.

Churches interested in learning more about training options or seeking review of their protection policies, are invited to contact CBF's Abuse Prevention and Response Advocate, Jay Kieve: [jkieve@cbf.net](mailto:jkieve@cbf.net). ✚



# CBFNC Launches Church Sustainability Initiative



By Andy Hale  
CBFNC Associate  
Executive Coordinator

**W**e've all seen the symptoms but may find it hard to accept them. Our rapidly changing world affects every aspect of society, including the church.

Much has been made in the last decade of the “Nones” and “Dones” when describing church participation. The church was already experiencing rapid decline well before these words entered our lexicon. According to Gallup, religious participation within the United States hovered around 70% or higher from 1937 through 1999. However, religious participation has steadily declined since the turn of the century with 9.2% of adults exiting each decade. The U.S. Mainline Protestant population was 31% in 1967 but only 12% in 2022, making the decline even more abundantly clear.

That didn't stop us from building. Many church campuses and organizational structures were designed for a specific era of abundance, including the necessity for replicable Sunday school rooms, expansive sanctuaries, large gathering spaces and recreational areas. It made sense for most churches at the time. However, considering the decline in religious participation and the financial impact of those leaving, it can feel like a state of hyperventilation is necessary.

What should we do when it feels like the most faithful next step is to curl up and succumb? Experiencing fear, frustration, anxiety and resentment, among many other emotions, is entirely natural. Feeling disappointed and abysmal about what could happen next is also okay because these are God-given emotions. However, these emotions can lead us down an irreversible spiral if left unchecked.

Business as usual should not be the order of the day. What comes next for most churches will require a new set of insights, resources, skills and emotional tenacity. In short, this moment requires holy adaptability rooted in a receptiveness to what the Spirit of God is doing through all of this.

For 30 years, CBF North Carolina has existed because of and for the church. Now, more than ever, our role is to come alongside churches, cultivating new resources and exploring pathways forward. The Church Sustainability Initiative is our next, most faithful step in providing resources and support for many congregations seeking what comes next.

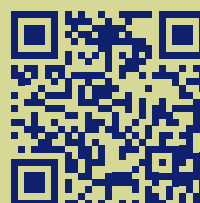
The Church Sustainability Initiative is a collaboration with CBF Global that focuses on partnering with congregations to discern their next, faithful step and to explore new pathways by examining their sustainability and vitality. After listening to churches across the state, we have identified seven compelling stories of congregations that serve as models for potential pathways forward. These pathways include resetting ministry with a specified and nuanced focus; ending well and becoming a legacy church; developing revenue-based space partnerships; selling church facilities while restarting with a new approach; sharing space with other congregations and more.

The new initiative also examines the mythology around hiring young ministers to bring young people back to the church and what happens when a congregation lacks the drive to fulfill its biggest aspirations.

Such a journey should not be made in isolation. The Church Sustainability Initiative is built around learning cohorts with churches across our fellowship. When we can commiserate about our present circumstances and explore new possibilities with others, it reminds us that we are not alone and can enrich others through shared experiences.

CBFNC will launch a pilot Church Sustainability cohort in January beginning with a learning summit, the development of a congregational team and the support of a trained guide. The guide will lead four church-wide conversations, coach the congregational team and facilitate comprehensive assessments to help inform potential pathways forward.

For more information about the Church Sustainability Initiative, visit [www.cbfnc.org/churchsustainability](http://www.cbfnc.org/churchsustainability). ✿



**SCAN  
the QR code  
NOW  
to learn more!**



# THRIVING TOGETHER

CBFNC ANNUAL GATHERING

March 14-15, 2024 | First Baptist Church, Greensboro

**REGISTER NOW!**

[cbfnc.org](https://cbfnc.org)



**30**  
YEARS

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. -Psalm 100:5*



# Welcome Ride 2023 Was a Great Success



By Jamie Rorrer  
CBFNC Director of  
Communications



Larry Hovis was greeted by friends from across North Carolina on his Welcome Ride journey from the mountains to the coast.



In case you missed it, the CBFNC Welcome Ride took place October 1-7. This year's ride featured Larry Hovis, CBFNC executive coordinator, cycling for seven days from the North Carolina mountains to the coast as part of the state-wide 2023 Cycle North Carolina ride. The purpose of Welcome Ride was to raise awareness and funds for CBFNC's Welcome House Community Network (WHCN) missions program. This was the third time CBFNC has held a Welcome Ride and it was an overwhelming success that raised more than \$40,000!

CBFNC established the WHCN in 2020 as its signature missions program. The goal of the WHCN is to establish Welcome House ministries in every North Carolina city and town, providing a tangible expression of the call to love the stranger and to invite them into God's beloved community as a neighbor. In just three short years, the ministry has grown to over 40 Welcome House expressions throughout North Carolina and beyond with about 60 churches engaging in this ministry of welcome in the name of Jesus.

Larry rode a total of 460 miles over the course of the week. He was joined at times by other cyclists including

his good friend and cycling partner Steve Bissette and Ben Carson, pastor of FaithBridge United Methodist Church in Blowing Rock.

Special thanks to the pastors, CBFNC'ers and ministry partner Anna Anderson, CBF field personnel, who greeted Larry and his team along the way. Churches represented included First Baptist, North Wilkesboro; First Baptist, Hillsborough; University Baptist, Chapel Hill; First Baptist, Henderson; Lakeside Baptist, Rocky Mount; Spilman Memorial Baptist, Kinston; Oakmont Baptist, Greenville; and The Memorial Baptist, Greenville.

Thank you to all who made Welcome Ride 2023 a huge success. Your gifts will allow CBFNC to share the welcome of Jesus with many folks who really need it. ✝



# Supporting and Advocating for Baptists Celebrating 40 Years

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF BWIM



CBF congregations are pastored or co-pastored by women.

Therefore, in its 40th anniversary year, BWIM is committed to growing its current programs and advocacy. BWIM also plans to implement new programs and initiatives to affect change so that women will be able to thrive as they minister and lead among Baptists.

BWIM supports women pursuing ministry with current programs such as the mentoring program, book clubs, events and through one-on-one support from BWIM's staff. New programs are in development including support for Baptist women of color in ministry and an expansion of the benefits of peer relationships as found in the mentoring program.

Congregations and church leaders can also engage with BWIM to grow in the ways they uplift women in ministry and leadership. Opportunities include participating in BWIM Month of Advocacy in March, utilizing BWIM's training for pastor search committees to equitably consider female candidates and taking advantage of the resources such as the "Equally Called" curriculum created in partnership with CBF Global. BWIM is also developing a new initiative to help congregations explore how to cultivate environments of empowerment for women.

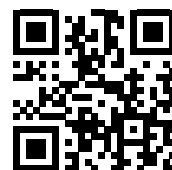
Learn more & connect with BWIM at [www.bwim.info](http://www.bwim.info). ☘



By Meredith Stone  
BWIM Executive  
Director

For the past 40 years, Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) has provided support for women in ministry and advocated for equal opportunities for women in leadership among Baptists.

BWIM's State of Women in Baptist Life Report 2021 revealed that there is still a significant gap between where Baptists who support the ordination of women proclaim to be and what women in ministry are actually experiencing in Baptist settings. According to a survey included in the report, 86% of women in ministry among Baptists reported experiencing obstacles to their ministry because of their gender. Additionally, while 51% of the students enrolled at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-connected seminaries are women, only 7.4% of





# Artist Women in Ministry & Leadership: of BWIM & BWIM NC

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF BWIM NC



By Ka'thy Gore  
Chappell  
BWIM NC  
Executive Director



Many pastors and church leaders gathered to recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of both organizations.



This has been a year of celebrating the number “40” for BWIM NC! We have been celebrating our 40th anniversary by remembering, dreaming, launching and learning.

We have been remembering the group of men and women who met at College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro in 1983 to support North Carolina women called to ministry. We have been dreaming of opportunities to live out the BWIM NC mission of “Telling Stories, Opening Doors & Building Community.” We have been launching new offerings such as the BWIM NC “Gathering at the Well” podcast on Spotify. We have been learning from our bi-monthly/virtual BWIM NC “Lunch & Learns,” earning a grant from the Lilly Endowment’s Compelling Preaching Initiative, providing scholarships for six divinity school students and hosting the 2023 BWIM NC “Symposium” on P.L.A.Y. (Pray. Laugh. Accomplish. Yearn.)

The 2023 “Symposium” on P.L.A.Y. was of course one of the BWIM NC 40th anniversary celebration highlights and the culmination of the anniversary celebratory year. The newly designed annual meeting titled “Symposium,” launched virtually in 2020 and this year’s 40th anniversary celebration was the second, annual in-person “Symposium” for BWIM NC.

It was a true anniversary celebration, complete with casual attire, a bounce house and obstacle course,



interactive music and table activities, an exhibit hall of women authors and vendors, and workshops. The keynote speaker was Amber Burgin-Brothers, mental health specialist, minister, farmer and educator. She challenged participants to make “play” a priority and not the first thing we delete from our schedules when life becomes too complicated or stressful based on Proverbs 17:22 “A joyful heart is good medicine.”

Learn more & connect with BWIM NC at [www.bwimnc.org](http://www.bwimnc.org). 🌸



# Collegiate Ministry Fosters FUTURE CHURCH LEADERS



Students meet for a weekly Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship gathering in the Charlotte region.

**A**s an undergraduate whose college experience was interrupted, disrupted and uprooted by the COVID-19 pandemic, CBFNC's Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship (CBSF) campus ministry offered me a place of consistency as I discerned my calling into ministry. Attempting to discern my call was difficult when my peers and mentors were so far away. And I had spent so much time watching church at home that I didn't quite know where I'd fit in a real-life ministry setting.

Then I met Caitie Jackson, my CBSF campus minister at Wingate University. She was leading a "Coffee and Conversations" group on campus.

Once per week in our on-campus Starbucks, Caitie would come prepared with a topic for us to discuss and the appropriate study materials. Topics would range from prayer life to missions to LGBTQ+ inclusion. She would offer to buy us a coffee and we would chat, updating her about our lives, what stressed us out or what we were excited about before we dove into the structured conversation.

Sometimes when life seemed like it was too much, we tabled the structure and honed in on what was going on

in our personal faith lives. At other times we just needed a break and used the time to enjoy each other's community. There is something life-giving about taking an hour to slow down and have a conversation in a space where you can just be you.

Truthfully, I do not drink coffee that much. I kept going each week because my CBSF campus ministry group always left me wanting more.

For the first time in a while, I felt like I fit in. There was a space on campus where the people not only affirmed my calling but were excited about it. They wanted to explore this calling with me, struggles and strife included. And while I was going through this time of exploration, I got to learn about and be invested in the spiritual lives of my peers too. This mutual support was what I had been craving in the post-COVID world.

This community fostered my sense of calling in two important ways.



By Mallory Challis  
*M.Div. Student  
Wake Forest University  
School of Divinity*





Mallory Challis and other students find community and fellowship through CBFNC's collegiate ministry.

First, I was re-learning how to be engaged with ministry again. After such a long time away from the church pews, it was helpful to have an accessible, welcoming community that affirmed my sense of calling and also challenged me to reflect on what it meant to say I was "called." This faith formation helped me better understand my own spirituality and encouraged me to seek more faith experiences as I explored and discerned this calling.

Second, Caitie modeled for me what it means to be a

responsible, caring and loving minister. As I thought about what it might look like to be a woman in ministry, I could look toward her as an example of how I want to do ministry. I could ask her questions and express my nervousness to her with no judgment. I felt seen, nurtured and loved because every week in Starbucks, she was there to help me grow.

Learn more about CBFNC's collegiate ministry at [cbfnc.org/collegiateministry](http://cbfnc.org/collegiateministry). ✚



# THIS IS THE WAY



## CBSF MID-WINTER RETREAT Registration Now Open!

The Annual CBSF Mid-Winter Retreat is a gathering for college students and young adults from college campuses and CBFNC congregations across North Carolina. It's a time of growing in faith and relationships while building community across the state.



**REGISTER HERE**



# CBSF Mid-Winter Collegiate & Young Adult Retreat

Feb. 2-4, 2024 | Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC

# Lay Leader Profiles

MEET TWO OF THE MANY LAY LEADERS WHO SERVE IN CBFNC LIFE AND HELP US IN UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF THEIR CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES. *One profile is about a lay leader who volunteers with CBFNC's Welcome House ministry to support immigrants and refugees. The other profile is about a lay leader who serves on one of CBFNC's ministry teams to support pastors.*

## GWEN BOWLES

*Mars Hill Baptist Church, Mars Hill*



### WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN CBFNC?

I teach ESL (English as Second Language) online to immigrants through CBFNC's Welcome House ministry.

### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

I answered a Facebook post from Kim Wyatt of Welcome House.

### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE?

When I first read that Facebook post, little did I know what a difference it would make in my life. It was asking for volunteer online ESL teachers through Welcome House. In-person classes had been shut down because of COVID. I had never taught ESL, but I do know how to teach people to read and frankly, I was going a little crazy staying home without a ministry.

### DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES/DUTIES.

My role as an ESL teacher begins with an assessment of new students to place them in the correct level of instruction. With the help of my co-workers, we can provide classes via Zoom for beginners, advanced beginners, intermediate and advanced learners. After the assessment and proper placement, I meet with my students twice a week for an hour each session. The levels I teach are advanced beginners and advanced. I teach for four hours a week and then spend approximately another three or four hours preparing to teach. I also maintain contact with students and former students throughout the week by texting.

### WHAT'S THE BEST THING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SERVING IN THIS WAY?

Together, my students and I have learned. Yes, we learned to speak, read and write English. But, we have learned so much more:

- To be friends and share our lives and families with each other.
- To pray for each other in our variety of faiths.
- To support each other through times of sickness, grief and joy.
- To share our countries' customs and celebrations.
- To support each other in further education and job searches.
- To continue our friendships via texts even when we no longer have class together.

One former student put it this way. He said, "I really appreciate your messages. These make me feel like I have a part of my family nearby." Because I live in the NC mountains, I have never met any of my students in person. But we have learned to share the love of God's wonderful family despite our differences. I am grateful for my new family.



## WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED IN THIS ROLE?

Since we are blessed to be retired and live near our children and grandchildren, they keep us busy with school, church and sporting events. My husband and I are also back to traveling and participating in other volunteer ministries at our church. There are times when it is challenging to keep the schedule of our lessons. But, with the help of a co-worker for my advanced beginner class and a sometimes flexible class time for my advanced students, we are able to meet those challenges.

Another challenge is keeping my boundaries and not teaching at night or on weekends. Sometimes it is very hard to give up a student who starts working and can only attend at those times; the guilt stings. Perhaps the biggest challenge has been trying to help (from a distance) students who have mental health issues from the trauma of fleeing their homeland and those who have lost a family member or job.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OTHERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS MINISTRY?

You will make some of the best friends ever and be blessed beyond measure.



### REEVES MCGLOHON

*First Baptist Church, Mount Holly*

#### WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN CBFNC?

Helping Pastors Thrive Ministry Team

#### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

I worked with Kendell Cameron, who is on the CBFNC Coordinating Council, in a variety of roles when he was the pastor of First Baptist, Mount Holly. When Kendell left to go to First Baptist, Albemarle, Tim Moore served as our interim pastor. Both of these men have strong ties to CBFNC and through them I became better acquainted with CBFNC and the work of the organization. Kendell encouraged me to consider accepting an opportunity to serve on the Helping Pastors Thrive team and Tim seconded his encouragement.

#### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE?

I have had the opportunity to serve our church in several capacities over the years (Finance Team, Personnel Team, Spiritual Gifts Team, Administrative Board and Deacons) and my service gave me great insight into the elements of leadership required of a pastor. Before retiring a decade ago, I spent many years in education administration including serving as a school superintendent.

I saw many similarities between the job I had leading a school system and that of a pastor leading a congregation. One of the similarities is the need for targeted support for when an individual first assumes the role of superintendent of schools or pastoring a church. Given my own experiences with assisting new school superintendents during their initial year on the job, I felt that I could bring insight and expertise to the Helping Pastors Thrive team.

#### DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES/DUTIES.

As a new member of the Helping Pastors Thrive Ministry Team, my role has included a great deal of listening and learning from other members of the group who have more experience in working with this specific team and a more thorough knowledge of what pastors need. As a lay person on this team, I bring a different perspective to the group and interject that point of view as the group plans activities that meet the needs of pastors.

#### WHAT'S THE BEST THING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SERVING IN THIS WAY?

The dedication and enthusiasm among my fellow team members is amazing. Everyone within the group has a full plate but they are willing to take on the tasks associated with "Helping Pastors Thrive." When we meet, I am always impressed with their commitment to their colleagues.

#### WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED IN THIS ROLE?

My biggest challenge as a member of the Helping Pastors Thrive Ministry Team has been "getting up to speed" so that I have a base of understanding that will allow me to effectively contribute to the work of the group.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OTHERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET INVOLVED WITH CBFNC?

CBFNC is an organization that "the more you know about it, the more you like it." Like many lay persons in CBFNC churches, prior to getting involved in this leadership capacity, I really didn't understand much about the organization, what it stood for and what services it provided. As I've gotten more involved, I am a more effective source of information to my own congregation. ✝



# New Missional Opportunities Resource Guide

*“Jesus said, ‘Go and do likewise.’”*

—Luke 10:37b



By Mary Kaylor  
CBFNC Associate  
Coordinator

Since our beginning, CBFNC has taken seriously the call as Christ followers to go and serve. We embrace our neighbors near and far by resourcing local church mission engagement and supporting missional catalysts.

To better help CBFNC churches identify mission opportunities in our state and beyond, the CBFNC Missions Engagement Team has produced a new Missional Opportunities Resource Guide. With this resource, it is our hope that church and missions leaders will find meaningful opportunities for you and your congregation to engage with mission work happening in our state, our nation and our world.

The resource is split into two parts. In the first section, you will be introduced to our CBF field personnel with North Carolina roots. Each field personnel profile will provide you with a summary of their work as well as ways you can engage with them. You will find that our NC-related field personnel are involved in a variety of ministries and each one offers multiple avenues for engagement.

The contact information for each field personnel is provided on their profile. You may reach out to them for more information about how your congregation can engage with their work.

The second part of this resource is a listing of other CBFNC-endorsed missional opportunities.

These are missional organizations that align with CBFNC values and welcome partner congregation engagement. Many have worked with CBFNC partner congregations in the past and offer a variety of projects.

You will find the website for each of these organizations in their profile to learn more about how your congregation can serve with them.

The Missional Opportunities guide is available for downloading in our digital Resource Library at [library.cbfnc.org](http://library.cbfnc.org) or by scanning the code. We will continue to add new opportunities to the guide and update it on a regular basis. For more information on CBFNC’s commitment to missions, visit our web site at [cbfnc.org/embrace](http://cbfnc.org/embrace). ✦



## THANK YOU to the members of the CBFNC Missions Engagement Team for creating this new resource for churches:

Kevin McDaniel, Chair | *Hominy Baptist, Candler*  
Coleman Long, Chair-Elect | *First Baptist, Wilmington*  
Leah Reed, Past Chair | *First Baptist, Raleigh*  
Randy Carter | *Temple Baptist, Durham*  
Jesse Chapman | *First Baptist, Asheville*  
Roy Dobyns | *First Baptist, Boone*  
Dave Hawes | *Godwin Heights Baptist, Lumberton*  
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Amy Grizzle Kane | *First Baptist, Greensboro*

## EQUALLY CALLED: Celebrating Women’s Leadership in the Church

BWIM and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship partnered to create Equally Called, a FREE 4-session video and curriculum resource for all ages to help your church articulate the biblical and theological basis for affirming the calling of women and nurture a culture that more fully welcomes their leadership.

Adult, youth, and children versions are available in English and Spanish.



Celebrating Women’s  
Leadership in the Church

# EQUALLY CALLED

Consider how Scripture reveals God’s plan for all of humanity—male and female together—to serve God’s people.

4-session video and curriculum available in age-graded formats for Adults, Youth and Children



Curriculum launches at General Assembly  
in Atlanta, June 28-30.

Learn more at [www.cbf.net/equallycalled](http://www.cbf.net/equallycalled)







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## WAYS TO GIVE

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## DONATE BY DEC. 31! *Every gift makes a difference!*

### CBFNC HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS August – October 2023

Elizabeth and Walt Barnes *in honor* of Kim and Marc Wyatt  
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Nancy and Steve Brown *in honor* of Larry Hovis  
Shirley and Ronald Cava  
*in honor* of Fran Cawthorn and Ashley Bean  
Deborah and Donald Cherry  
*in honor* of former Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle  
William Duke *in honor* of Kim and Marc Wyatt  
Donald Horton, Jr. *in honor* of Marion Horton  
Michael Johnson *in honor* of Larry Hovis  
Coleman Long *in honor* of all refugees seeking  
safe harbor and welcoming communities  
Crystal and Bill Leathers *in honor* of Larry Hovis  
Linda Merchant *in honor* of Kim and Marc Wyatt  
Mary Beth Rehm and Edwin Brown  
*in honor* of Kim and Marc Wyatt  
Miller Sigmon *in honor* of Kaye Tomlinson  
Sharyn and Harold West *in honor* of Glenda Reece  
David Williamson *in honor* of Larry Hovis

Susan Corbitt *in memory* of all my former G.A.  
leaders at Hester Baptist Church  
Patricia Garrett *in memory* of Carol E. Dunning  
Patsy and Tommy Hardin *in memory* of  
Bob Shepherd and Don Durham  
Betsy and Dennis Herman *in memory* of Cindy Vestal  
Judy Pope *in memory* of Marcia McQueen  
Nancy Robinson *in memory* of George Pettigrew  
Lydia and Andrew Tatum *in memory* of  
William James and Thea Frances Tatum

### MINISTERS ON THE MOVE

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

Sheree Bagley to First Baptist, New Bern  
as Director of Children's Ministry

Keith Dixon to Boiling Springs Baptist, Shelby  
as Senior Pastor

Mark Gaskins to Murfreesboro Baptist, Murfreesboro  
as Pastor

Josh Godwin to First Baptist, Wilmington  
as Minister to Students

Chris Hillman to First Baptist, Whiteville  
as Senior Pastor

Aimee Hobbs to First Baptist, Rutherfordton  
as Senior Pastor

Tracie Jernigan to First Baptist, Wilmington  
as Minister of Worship Arts

Todd Padgett to Mount Pisgah Baptist, Fayetteville  
as Pastor

Jeff Spargo to Covenant Baptist, Gastonia  
as Pastor

Damon Thomas to First Baptist Smithton, Belhaven  
as Senior Pastor

Patricia Turner to First Baptist, North Wilkesboro  
as Associate Pastor

When you make a move or know someone who has changed places of ministry, please email [transitions@cbfnc.org](mailto:transitions@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 . . .

### JANUARY 2024

SOUL TENDING: NAVIGATING THE VOICES  
OF VOCATION RETREAT

— *CUIDADO DEL ALMA: NAVEGANDO POR  
LAS VOCES DEL RETIRO DE VOCACIÓN*

St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville

January 21–23

CHURCH SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

— *CUMBRE DE SOSTENIBILIDAD DE LA IGLESIA*

Camp Dogwood, Lake Norman

January 26–27

SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT

— *RETIRO DE FORMACIÓN ESPIRITUAL*

Camp Agape, Fuquay-Varina

January 26–27

### FEBRUARY 2024

SEMINARIAN SUMMIT

— *CUMBRE DE SEMINARIOS*

Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC

February 2

MID-WINTER COLLEGIATE AND YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

— *RETIRO COLEGIADO DE MITAD DE INVIERNO Y ADULTOS  
JÓVENES*

Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC

February 2–4

YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

— *CAPACITACIÓN DE VOLUNTARIADO EN MINISTERIO JUVENIL*  
Online

February 24

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS OF  
OUR CHILDREN AND TEENS

— *UNA RESPUESTA FIEL A LA CRISIS DE SALUD MENTAL  
DE NUESTROS NIÑOS Y ADOLESCENTES*

Online

February 26

SAVE THE DATE!

CBFNC ANNUAL GATHERING

March 14–15, 2024 | First Baptist, Greensboro