

# Rowan Southern Baptist Association Newsletter

## February 2011

### The Vital Importance of Baptist Associations

Two hundred years ago, in the infancy of the Baptist presence in North Carolina, the churches were few and far between. Most of the members were subsistence farmers, tradesmen, and shop keepers. The primary modes of transportation were the horse, the river boat and the feet. Cash was a rare commodity. There was no money to hire professional builders to build new houses of worship. Pastors were frequently bi-vocational. So if a new church house was to be built the “Baptist men” had to come together to donate their strength and skills for the building. The “Baptist women” had to feed them. If a school was to be built and staffed, the people had to combine their meager resources to erect the building and hire the teachers. If a young man was called to the ministry, several local churches contributed to his support. The Pastors were lonely and isolated. They looked forward to the “annual meeting” of the area churches when they could pray together, and encourage each other in fellowship and worship. Revivals in the autumn were highlights of the church year. Choirs came together for “singing schools” taught by itinerant music teachers. Representatives of mission boards, seminaries, colleges, orphanages, and hospitals visited the “annual meetings” to solicit funds to support their mission endeavors. The “annual meetings” of the area churches regularly lasted a week. There was preaching, singing, praying and dinner-on-the-grounds under the old brush arbor. Everyone was blessed. The isolated congregations were strengthened. Plans were made for new mission work. These pioneer Christians knew they needed each other. They greatly valued their spiritual associations.

These rural and small town churches of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries came together to form Baptist Associations. Before there was a Baptist State Convention or a Southern Baptist Convention there was the local Baptist Association. The first such in our state was the Sandy Creek Association, begun under the leadership of Rev. Shubal Stearns in June of 1758. All Southern Baptist Churches can trace their roots back to the Sandy Creek Baptist Church, begun by Stearns and his brother-in-law Daniel Marshall in 1755. Within 17 years these Separate or Missionary Baptists had begun 42 other churches in the wilderness of western North Carolina. This was the beginning of cooperative missions work in our state.

Much has changed, but much remains the same. Baptist congregations still need each other. We can do far more good in the work of Christ’s kingdom on earth when we cooperate than when we try to go it alone. We can ask great things from God and accomplish great things for God when we unite our resources for a common purpose. We need one another’s fellowship, prayers, wisdom, experience and encouragement now more than ever.

I have observed a sad situation. When our Baptist forefathers were isolated by great distances, they greatly desired association. They knew that strength in numbers assured survival and spiritual growth. Today, when we can come together so easily (by car, by phone, by computer) we sometimes isolate ourselves. We often depend more on a website or a webinar put together by some church in New York or California more than we do our own flesh and blood brothers and sisters right here in our own area. This ought not to be.

My prayer and fervent hope is that all the Rowan Southern Baptist Churches will more than ever value their spiritual heritage of Cooperative Missions and Mutual Spiritual Support. Some say the day of the Baptist Association is over. I say the best days of the Baptist Association are in the future. Brothers and Sisters pray for one another. Let’s come together in the unity of Christ and the glory of the Cross. There are over 80,000 people in Rowan Association who do not attend an Evangelical Church. There are 6,426 unreached people groups in the world where there is no access to the Gospel of Christ. We have a great Redeemer, an all-powerful Lord and a great Mission. We need each other now more than ever. We all need the Rowan Southern Baptist Association.

Dr. Dale Robertson, Moderator



# Rowan Southern Baptist Association

## 2011 VBS Training Workshop

Come and Enjoy With Us  
the Taste of the Big Apple



Opening Worship Rally  
Music and Drama  
Special Emphasis on  
Pre-Teen/Teen Attendance  
Door Prizes  
Craft & Snack Ideas

Please pre-register by calling  
**704-637-3407** or emailing  
[RowanSBA@bellsouth.net](mailto:RowanSBA@bellsouth.net) - Please  
pre-register by Friday, February 18.  
Please give the name of your Church  
and the number of people attending.

I ♥ VBS

**Saturday, February 26, 2011**  
**8:30 am to 12:00 noon**  
**8:00-8:30 am Registration**

**North Main Baptist Church**  
**1501 North Main Street,**  
**Salisbury, NC**



Be ready to shop!  
LifeWay store will be open  
from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm.  
You will be able to buy your  
VBS material before, during,  
and after this clinic!  
Call Monica Walser @ LifeWay for  
specific items. Materials will be  
available at the workshop.  
Contact Monica at 336-765-6322  
or email at  
[monica.walser@lifeway.com](mailto:monica.walser@lifeway.com)

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### **WMU Focus Week**

February 14-20, 2011

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February 14 - 20 is Focus on WMU Week and also the Week of Prayer for WMU NC and the Heck-Jones Offering. The Heck-Jones Offering provides funding for the missions and ministries of WMU NC including mission trips, prison ministry, ministry to military families, Camp Mundo Vista, and many others. Churches should have received Week of Prayer guides and offering envelope information.



Saturday, March 5, is **Missions Day** at **Women's ACC Basketball Tournament**, Greensboro Coliseum. This event will provide the unique opportunity for guests to hear a Women's ACC Legend speak in regards to her faith and career, participate in the interactive Fan Fest, as well as see some good basketball! Some of the youth and leaders of our association have attended this event for several years and recommend it highly. Cost is \$14 per person. Deadline for tickets is February 23. For more information, see [www.wmunc.org](http://www.wmunc.org) or call Dee Dee Moody at 704-637-3325.

### ***Fulfilling the Great Commission:***

### ***Making Transformed Disciples***

### ***State Evangelism Conference***

*February 28-March 1, 2011*

*Friendly Avenue Baptist Church*

*4800 West Friendly Avenue*

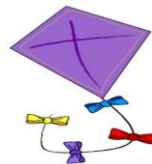
*Greensboro, NC 27410*

*For more information:*

*(919)459-5563*

*(800) 395-5102*

*[evangelism@ncbaptist.org](mailto:evangelism@ncbaptist.org)*



**March 19 is GA Day** at Camp Mundo Vista. Cost is \$15. Theme: **“Missions in Asia”**. Children will meet missionaries, have crafts and recreation, do missions, and have lots of fun. See Tarheel Talk, the WMU NC website, or call Dee Dee for information.

February 19 is **Children's Ministry Day** across the state. Perhaps you could engage the children of your church in a mission's project on that day.

### **Financial Accountability Seminar**

**Monday, March 14**

**7:00 pm**

**Associational Office**

Seminar will provide safe & proper techniques on how to handle church contributions, record keeping and budget planning.

Pastors, Treasurers,

Church Secretaries are encouraged to attend. Call the Associational Office if interested in attending.

**The Youth Services Bureau** of Rowan County is in need of volunteers (especially men) who would be willing to work with their one-on-one mentoring program for teens and preteens. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Laura Porter at 704-633-5636.

### **RA County-Wide Racer Day**

First Baptist Church, Salisbury, NC

Saturday, March 5, 2011

Registration: 9:00 am

Contact Ron Moose at [rmoose@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rmoose@carolina.rr.com) or call 704-507-9357 for more information.

## PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

The pastors of the churches along with other staff members are invited to meet each Tuesday from 11:30 to 12:30 at the Association Office Building. We usually bring our own lunch and our schedule is something like eating from 11:30-11:50, and about 11:50 we start some type of program or emphasis, and then about 12:20 close with prayer. I know that Brent is not here, and he was certainly the spark of our Association and Pastor's Conference, but as a Pastor you need the fellowship, and other Pastors need fellowship with you, so in all reality, even if you don't realize it, you are the spark of the Pastor's Conference.

The fellowship is great, and you need it. Having been in the ministry for over 56 years, I know that sometimes the most lonesome man in town is the Baptist Pastor. You are busy, sometimes too busy, you are constantly with people, you have many church members, but not all that many friends. You must be friendly with all, but not close friends with any, because if you do, somebody will get jealous. So, pastor, come and join the fellowship with others who are in the same place that you are. I realize that church members are reading this along with pastors, but they need to know that the one who ministers to them is in a special place that God has called him into. They need to know that their pastor holds a "special office" that God has called him to. As a man called of God to a special office, even though he many times is surrounded with people, he can feel alone, and he needs time to be ministered unto for himself. Everyone has a pastor except the pastor and his family.

Along with the fellowship we will deal with some subject that is pertinent to your life. Right now we are dealing with several subjects under the heading of "Pastor, Magnify your Office". There is the Office of Pastor that God set up for churches, and Men that God calls to fill that office. We are saying, Pastor, Magnify the Office that God has called you to fill. Under that, we are saying (1) Magnify your office through your call, (2) Magnify your office through your preaching, (3) Magnify your office through winning the lost to Jesus, and (4) Magnify your office through ministering to your people. We are trying to help with time management also. You could contribute to these ideas as well as receive from them, so come join us. Church members encourage your pastor to make the time for this association with fellow pastors of RSBA.

At different times, we will find ways for the lunch to be furnished, and sometimes, we will have outside guest speakers to come and talk to us. We have about 1/4 of the pastors of our association to come on a regular basis, and of course, any pastor would have to miss sometimes, but Pastor put this in your schedule and be faithful to it just like you do your study time or visiting time. You need us, and we need you. Remember we are an Association of Churches, but not unless we associate.

Jim Harris, Director of Pastor's Conference. (at least until we get another DOM, then we will let him direct us)

### WMU Missions Extravaganza

Now is the time to begin making reservations for Missions Extravaganza at Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center on April 8-10, 2011. This conference is an opportunity to meet missionaries, hear testimonies of God's provision, receive training in age-level organizations, attend sessions on how to strengthen your walk with God, and enjoy the fellowship of women across the state. There will be a birthday party on Saturday night for WMU NC. This weekend promises to be both inspiring and fun-filled! Visit the [wmunc.org](http://wmunc.org) website or call Dee Dee if you have questions.

**Linda S. Beck**, local writer and author of "My Sanctuary" and "The Event-filled Life" is available to speak at churches, senior citizen clubs and travels to speak for Christian Women's Club. Linda feels that the Lord has used her stories to speak to others about His guidance in her life. If you are interested in having Linda speak, contact her at [lindainthecards@gmail.com](mailto:lindainthecards@gmail.com).

### Revival

Speaker: David Reynolds



Woodleaf Baptist Church  
7750 Woodleaf Rd.  
Woodleaf, NC 27064  
704-278-0419

Sunday, March 6 - 6:00 pm  
March 7-9 - 7:00 pm

**The 2011-2012 Annual Report is available. Stop by the Associational Office to obtain a copy.**

832 South Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144  
Phone: 704-637-3407 Fax: 704-637-5722  
E-mail: [RowanSBA@bellsouth.net](mailto:RowanSBA@bellsouth.net)  
[www.RowanSBA.org](http://www.RowanSBA.org)

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
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Salisbury, NC**

**Job Opening**  
**Interim Director of Missions**

Rowan Southern Baptist Association is accepting resumes for  
Interim Director of Missions.  
If interested submit resume to:

Rowan Southern Baptist Association  
832 South Main Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
Attention: Search Committee

**Deadline: February 28, 2011**

**2011 Ministerial Tax Issues and  
Planning Financial Support Seminars\* for  
Ministers and Key Church Leaders**

Go to [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org) for dates, locations and other  
information. Search Ministerial Tax Issues/Upcoming Events.

**Prevent Child Abuse Rowan**

The Mission of Prevent Child Abuse Rowan is to STOP child  
abuse in Rowan County through education, intervention and  
support. Children are often powerless to stop the abuse  
themselves.....They need your help!

As a non-profit organization, the only way that we can  
accomplish our mission is through the work and dedication of  
volunteers. We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities  
available. If you have just a few hours a month to help out or  
are interested in participating in a more significant way, please  
contact us.

We truly welcome your time and talent as part of the solution  
to this very important issue.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**Prevent Child Abuse Rowan**

**Lori Arntz, Volunteer Coordinator**

**130 Woodson St.**

**Salisbury, NC 28145 (704) 639-1700**



**Revival**

Evangelist David Harrison  
Southside Baptist Church  
500 Morlan Park Rd.  
Salisbury, NC 28146  
704-633-1419

Sunday, February 6  
11:00 am & 6:00 pm

February 7, 8 & 9  
7:00 pm

**Mission Rallies**

In February, NC Baptist Men will host a  
series of Mission Rallies across the state.  
These rallies will highlight the variety of  
opportunities NC Baptists have to be  
involved in missions across our state, in  
our nation, and around the world. Featured  
will be worship, testimony, mission video,  
and a prayer time for missions. Everyone  
interested in missions is encouraged to  
attend - men, women, and youth

For more information, visit  
[www.baptistonmission.org](http://www.baptistonmission.org).

**February Birthdays**

5 Mrs. Janette Seagroves, Pastor's wife/First Baptist Cleveland  
13 Rev. Clyde Yates, Retired Pastor  
14 Rev. Bobby Seagroves, Interim Pastor/First Baptist Cleveland

**February Anniversaries**

9 Dr. & Mrs. J.W. (Dot) Loy Jr. Retired Pastor

**Phaniels Baptist Church** is  
seeking a conservative part-time  
**Youth & Children's Minister**

Please mail resume to:  
Phaniels Baptist Church  
2685 Phaniels Church Rd.  
Rockwell, NC 28138  
No phone calls please.