

BA CONNECTIONS

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Raleigh Baptist Association

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Volume 119

November/December 2025

Issue 6

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from the RBA Ministry Team

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Dr. Bill Slater
Mrs. Iris Woodard
Mrs. Anne Moody
Mrs. Cynthia Thelen

Mrs. Alison Keene
Rev. Burke Raper
Mrs. Andrea Raynor
Mr. Alex Taylor



BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER

Monday, November 3, 2025

10:00 am Fellowship

10:30 am Program

Location: Raleigh Baptist Association, 820 S. New Hope Rd, Raleigh

Please join us for a wonderful program featuring Amy Boone, Executive Director of the Women's Missionary Union of North Carolina and special music from Teresa Middleton of Trinity Baptist Church.

Amy will share from her heart, as she and her husband served as missionaries in Mozambique and South Africa for 14 years.

We will have a time of fellowship, prayer and write Thanksgiving notes to recipients of Missions Dignity, a ministry of Guidestone.



The Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by Baptist on Mission, seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. Working with scores of ministry centers and small churches in five Appalachian states, we help mobilize volunteers and resources to meet needs. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs around Christmastime. Baptist On Mission is calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through **Appalachian Christmas Outreach 2025**. The goal is to collect 24,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December 2025.

The statewide collection date is Saturday, November 1. Collection areas will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks.

Local Backpack Drop Off Locations:

- Olive Chapel Baptist Church, Apex, NC
- Raleigh Baptist Association, Raleigh, NC
- Shiloh Baptist Church, Garner, NC
- Wakemister Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

For More Information on this ministry go to:

<https://baptistsonmission.org/Appalachian-Christmas-Outreach>

ASSOCIATIONAL PRAYER TIME

Monday, November 10, 2025

Monday, December 8, 2025

Monday, January 12, 2026

11:00 am

Raleigh Baptist Association
820 S. New Hope Rd, Raleigh

RBA Winter Warmth Drive

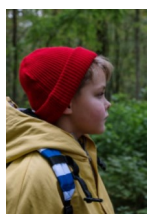
Consider donating new coats, blankets and socks. These items will be distributed to those in need during the winter season.

Collection Dates:

December 8 - 11, 2025, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off Location:

Raleigh Baptist Association, 820 S. New Hope Rd, Raleigh



Network and Mission Opportunities

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX COLLECTION DATES NOVEMBER 17-24, 2025

Drop Off Locations:

- Cary First Baptist Church, Cary
- Good Hope Baptist Church, Cary
- Faith Baptist Church, Knightdale
- Faith Baptist Church, Youngsville
- Louisburg Baptist Church, Louisburg
- Mid-Way Baptist Church, Raleigh
- North Henderson Baptist Church, Henderson
- Piney Grove Baptist Church, Fuquay Varina
- Richland Creek Community Church, Wake Forest
- The King's Chapel, Raleigh
- Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh
- Wakefield Central Baptist Church, Zebulon
- Wendell Baptist Church, Wendell



For More Information Go To:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



Wheels 4 Hope

Car Donations Needed

The Wheels 4 Hope mission is to provide safe, reliable, and low-cost vehicles to economically challenged individuals who cannot afford a car on their own. Qualified recipients are referred by local partner agencies. Please consider donating your used car and putting someone on the road to a better life. To donate your car call 919-832-1944 or visit www.wheels4hope.org

함께 TOGETHER
ENSEMBLE JUNTO ZUSAMMEN
TOGETHER



Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world. Your generosity today changes lives.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

GIVE TODAY AT
LOTTIMOON.COM

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2025 Annual Church Profile

The **Annual Church Profile (ACP)** is a survey that collects information from NC Baptist churches and associations. As your church completes the survey each year, you have access to data from prior year submissions at [SBC Workspace](#) and [ChurchPOP](#).

The 2025 ACP will be available January 1, 2026

The data submitted on this survey is based on the January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 church year.

<https://ncbaptist.org/ministries/information-technology-services/annual-church-profile/>

If you have any questions feel free to contact Iris Woodard at the Raleigh Baptist Association, 919-231-3995, iris@raleighbaptists.org. Or Russell Schwab at the Baptist State Convention of NC, 919-459-5582 or rschwab@ncbaptist.org

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you through this process!

RBA Prayer Ministry Luncheon Monday, November 10, 2025

11:00 Prayer Focus & Dedication Service
12:00 Prayer Luncheon

RSVP to iris@raleighbaptists.org or 919.231.3995

During the luncheon we will honor Rev. Keith Wagner for leading the RBA Prayer Ministry.

Keith will be the new Associational Leader for the Tar River Baptist Association starting in December 2025. We wish him the best as he transitions into this new ministry.

RBA Hunger Fund

Consider giving a gift in honor or memory of a loved one to the RBA Hunger Fund to help those who are struggling with food insecurity during the 2025 holiday season.

You may donate by mailing a check to the Raleigh Baptist Association
PO Box 46659, Raleigh, NC 27620.

Or

Give online at:

<https://www.raleighbaptists.org/>
Click on Give



Network and Mission Opportunities



The **Caring Connections Ministry** is active in the lives of the families we serve; we do not just sit behind a desk. This means driving a mom all over town for housing appointments, so she does not have to pay for Uber and lug car seats in and out each time. It is sitting on the floor of a shelter with a mother and her children as they wait their turn because she is scared to walk in alone. We are a caring voice on the other end of the phone at night because poverty and a crisis does not stop when the office closes. It is hard and messy, but also joyful and rewarding, because it is the work of Christ.

At the age of 24 Kara is raising three little boys under the age of four and experiencing homelessness. She believed that if she could just earn a little more money, she could keep paying for a hotel and save up for an apartment. But reality was harsh, money ran out, getting to daycare without a car was a challenge, support was non-existent, and every step alone was a struggle. Together we explored long bus routes, searched for hotels near daycare and job options and visited every housing resource available. We talked and wrestled with options. I gave her a safe place to vent, to dream, and to know she was not alone. Out of options, I went with her and sat on the floor of a shelter beside her and her boys until she felt comfortable enough to stay. This is the ministry of presence. We not only offer emotional support but mentor women to equip them with life skills, build stability, and grow in confidence and provide a place where they never feel alone. As I left her family at the shelter that night, I hugged the boys and Kara looked overwhelmed. I asked, "Do you need a hug, too?" She shook her head yes and we embraced, this gesture providing her comfort and reassurance, as adults need encouragement as well.

Kara's story is just one of many. I am grateful for all the ways volunteers and churches help us carry out our mission every day. Contact me if you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, Christmas sponsorship, or hosting a collection. You can support our efforts through a financial gift by using the QR code below or by mailing a check to the address below. Thank you for your support as we walk alongside families in poverty and strive to be a calming Christ-centered presence.

Cynthia Thelen, MSW
Caring Connections Ministry
PO Box 46659, Raleigh, NC 27620
919.231.3995 ext. 109
www.caringconnectionsministry.com



**Pay Pal Link to
Caring Connections Ministry**



Baptist Children's Homes of NC Annual Thanksgiving Offering

Help support the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina through their Annual Thanksgiving Offering.

For More Details Go To: <https://www.bchoffering.org/>
Or Call 1-800-476-3669

Baptist Children's Homes
PO Box 338
Thomasville, NC 27361

Lighting the Path: Honoring and Inspiring African American Pastors and Spouses *A Celebration for Empowerment and Encouragement!*

Pastors and spouses, you are cordially invited to attend our Lighting the Path celebration, dedicated to honoring and inspiring pastoral couples for their unwavering commitment and service. This special event is designed to serve as a beacon of appreciation, shining a light on the faithful service of our spiritual leaders and their spouses.

Date: December 9, 2025
Time: Doors open at 5:30 PM
Location: Raleigh Baptist Association,
820 S New Hope Rd, Raleigh, NC 27610
Dinner: Will be served during the celebration

Guest Speaker: We are honored to welcome Pastor Paul Anderson, Sr. Pastor of The Fountain of Raleigh Church, as our guest speaker for the evening.

Join us as we come together in celebration and gratitude, as we empower and encourage those who have dedicated their lives to guiding others in faith. Your presence will make this event even more special as we honor the remarkable impact of our pastors and spouses.

Sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of NC. Please RSVP to Rev. Jae Richardson admin@jaerichardson.com

RBA Calendar and Bulletin Board

November 2025

- 3 Women's Day of Prayer - RBA
- 6 Ministers Connections Group - Franklinton Baptist Church
- 10 Association Prayer Time - RBA
- 10 Prayer Ministry Luncheon
- 10-11 NC Baptist State Convention - Greensboro
- 26 RBA Closed
- 27 RBA Closed - Thanksgiving

December 2025

- 4 Ministers Connections Group - Franklinton Baptist Church
- 8 Association Prayer Time
- 9 African American Pastor Event-RBA
- 22-31 RBA Closed

January 2026

- 1 New Year's Day - RBA Closed
- 12 Associational Prayer Time
- 13 Missions & Ministry Council
- 13 Resource Commission
- 19 Martin Luther King Day-RBA Closed

Ministry Openings

Good Hope Baptist Church, Cary, NC is seeking a Part Time Preschool Director. The Preschool Director is responsible for overseeing the daily operations, curriculum development, staff management, and spiritual integration of Good Hope preschool. This role ensures a safe, nurturing, and faith-centered environment that promotes early childhood development and aligns with the church's mission and values. For More information go to:

<https://goodhopechurch.org/preschool-director-job/>

Email Address for sending Resume:

careers@goodhopechurch.org

Bethany Baptist Church, Wendell, NC is seeking a Part Time Worship Pastor/Director. The Worship Pastor leads all music and worship ministries of the church. Working closely with the Senior Pastor, they help create gospel-centered, Spirit led worship experience that engage the congregation and help believers to become fully formed disciples in Christ. The church is a vibrant and growing congregation that blends a modern worship style with the richness and deepness of multi-generational worship.

Send resume to wearebethany@gmail.com and/or go to the link on the RBA website to see a full job description and application form.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church (MVBC) is prayerfully seeking a Children's Ministry Director who is called by God to serve in the children's ministry and use their spiritual gifts to further the mission of our church. The Director will play a key role in revitalizing the children's ministry by providing leadership and discipleship for our Mount Vernon family and guests.

Our search committee is passionate about our children and dedicated to praying for whom God will provide. We look forward to serving alongside you in glorifying our Lord through discipleship.

MVBC has a weekly attendance of 180-200 and a diverse, multigenerational congregation eager to grow the Kingdom family and magnify the Trinity in all of life, through Jesus Christ.

If you feel God is calling you to this position, please submit a resume and cover letter to childdirectorsearch@mvmcraleigh.org.

Baptist on Mission, Cary, NC are in need of both CDL and non-CDL drivers and hosts for the Mobile Dental Health Screening Ministries. For more details contact Krissy Watson at 1-800-3955102 ext. 5603, kwatson@ncbaptist.org or Dee Payne at 1-800-395-5102 ext. 5610 dpayne@ncbaptist.org

For complete Church Staff Job Descriptions and Other Ministry Openings please visit our website under "Ministry Placement"

Go To: www.raleighbaptists.org

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**Linking
The Great Commission
To Church Mission
For Kingdom Growth**
Matthew 28:19-20

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