

Carolina Baptist Association

December 2025 Newsletter



CAROLINA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

LIFTING HIGH THE CROSS OF CHRIST TOGETHER

From the DOM

The HOLIDAYS are HERE!! And as all of us usually always say, **"Where did this year go?"**. We're always expressing surprise, nostalgia, and amazement. A year typically brings about numerous significant changes. Maybe it included some significant "Life Changes", such as a career change, changes in your family, health issues, ... Often, a year has some 'loss' of loved ones. BUT in the midst of it all, we find it to be a universal sentiment about the perception of time. I, along with most of you, have experienced some of those significant life changes this year, but the good news is: *God has been in control of all of them, and for that I am very THANKFUL and GRATEFUL to God.* "Oh, give THANKS to the Lord, for HE is GOOD! For His mercy endures FOREVER." I Chr 16:34. "I will praise YOU, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will **TELL of all** Your Marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in YOU; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." Ps 9:1-2. Let's take time at Thanksgiving and Christmas in our gatherings with family, friends, and our church family to testify to the *Goodness of God and His mercies*. Take every opportunity to turn any conversation into a Gospel Conversation and tell people about the *Goodness of God and His mercies*. The world needs the message of HOPE that we possess. And the Holiday season is a great time of the year to take advantage of those moments and those conversations. Don't let the secular celebrations drown out the spiritual implications of our God, whom we are so Thankful for, and for the birth of His Son, Jesus,

whom He sent to this earth to provide us His salvation. Go Tell It on The Mountains (or the Beaches) over the hills, into the valleys, along the highways and the byways. JESUS is LORD!!

Speaking of "Singing Praise": Don't miss our annual associational Christmas Carol Sing, which will be hosted by New Home Baptist on Sunday evening Dec. 7th at 5pm. Any church can participate with a soloist, a choir, a trio, a quartet... LET'S SING PRAISES to JESUS!

And then Christmas is also the time of the year when we receive our annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®?

In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith. Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations. The best news of the LMCO is that 100% of this offering goes directly to the support of OUR missionaries on the field. That helps to make the desire to give go even deeper. Pray, then GIVE.

Let's honor her legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel.

Finally, let me just say to each of you, to all of our churches, what a joy it has been for me to begin this journey alongside you, serving as your Director of Missions (or as it says on my door: Associational Missionary). Dec. 31 will wrap up my first year of service, and it has been a tremendous year of getting to know so many of you, visiting in all of our churches, and preaching in many of them. I've come to love "Carolina Baptists" and am more passionate about the work that God has called us to do than I was on Day 1! Passion & Partnership in the Gospel means more and more to me each day. Let's Get After It! And may 2026 prove to be the best year in the life of the CBA as we seek God for Revival, Refreshing, Restoring, and Revitalizing the work of The Church in our neck of Horry County.

Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy, Prosperous, God Honoring New Year,

Your DOM,

Mark George

Save the Date

- Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 5 PM at New Home Baptist Church - **CBA CAROL SING**
- Thursday, Dec. 25 - JESUS' BIRTHDAY - Merry Christmas!

- Tuesday, Jan. 5, 11:30 am Pastors' Lunch provided by Palmetto Family Council at El Cerio in Conway
- Sunday, January 18, Sanctity of Life Sunday
- **Tuesday, Jan. 20, 5:30-7:30 - CBA Qtrly Exec. Comm. hosted at BEREBA BAPTIST. Meal at 5:30, meeting at 6:30. (NOTE THE NEW VENUE - all of our Qtrly Meetings in 2026 will be hosted in one of our churches with a Meal, Fellowship, and a Guest Speaker. Please make every effort to be present and BRING FOLKS with you.**
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, Noon-3 OR 6-8:30 (Repeat) Bylaws & Constitution Workshop at CBA Office led by Steve Rohrlack from the SC Baptist Convention. A meal will be provided at either meeting. RSVP requested.
- Mon-Thur Feb. 16-19 PASTOR'S RETREAT at the Retreat at Church Creek on John's Island, SC. NO CHARGE! Contact Mark for information and registration. Limited to 15 pastors.
- Thursday Feb. 26 SC Baptist IMPACT Gathering at Shandon Baptist in Columbia. Registration required. Contact CBA office for details or go to Impact.scbaptist.org
- Sat. Apr. 11, 8am-noon. Deacon Training led by our SC Baptist Stated Exec. Dir. Tony Wolfe. Location to be determined.
- October 2-11, 2026 - CBA Wide Simultaneous REVIVALS

For more details on all these forthcoming gatherings call Mark George.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for our churches seeking a Pastor: Bayboro, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Zion, Oakey Swamp, Pleasant Grove, Sharon, and Springfield.
- Pray for our DOM, pastors, and churches, and church leaders as we work TOGETHER to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Pray for increasing obedience, holiness, and bold witness empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for awakening in our churches.

Connie Maxwell
BOWLING NIGHT

**COLLECTING GIFT
CARDS FOR 8 GIRLS:**

*Walmart
Chick-fil-a
McDonald's
Other fast food, etc.*

**FRIDAY
DEC 5**

7 PM

**SOUTHGATE
BOWLING CENTER**

**1902 S IRBY ST
FLORENCE, SC 29505**

EVERYONE INVITED



Bowl with the girls from Connie Maxwell!

CAROLINA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
5-7PM

HOSTED AT NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH
1685 HWY 139, CONWAY, SC 29526

PLEASE RSVP TO JOY JORDAN AT (843) 503-4089



Annual Church Report

The SC Baptist Convention is requesting each of our churches to complete the ACP (Annual Church Profile) ASAP. However, we have until the end of the year to get the ACP complete. Last year our association only had 15% of our churches participate. This year we'd like to see that number grow to at least 35%. The ACP is now completely ONLINE at <https://sbcworkspace.com/account/login>. If you don't know what the ACP is, need your login information, or some other assistance, please contact scott@carolinabaptistsc.com. Thank you!

Church News

Dogwood Hill Baptist Church

December 20 - Food ministry from 8:00-9:00 AM

December 21 - Cantata @ 10:45 AM
- Play @ 6:00 PM

December 24 - Candlelight Service

Macedonia Baptist Church

Sunday, December 7 @ 6:00 PM - Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 21 @ 6 PM - Christmas Program titled *The Mystery of the Missing Manger*. We will have a soup supper to follow. Please make plans to join us.

Mt. Leon Baptist Church

Sunday:

Sunday School - 9:45-10:45 AM

Call to Worship - 10:45 AM

Sunday Evening - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Weekly Schedule:

Monday - Men's Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Tuesday - Ladies Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Thursday - Round Table Bible Study @ 7 PM on the Book of Revelation

All meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall

2nd Thursday Rocking Seniors

10-12 PM - Time for devotional, fun, games, and lunch provided

New Home

December 21 @ 6 PM - Christmas Candlelight Service

Oakey Swamp

December 7 @ 6 PM - Adult Choir Musical followed by our Annual Christmas Party. All are welcome!

December 14 @ 6 PM - Christmas Candlelight Service including a performance by our Youth Choir.

Ten Ways for You to Be A Blessing This Holiday Season

Originally shared by Associational Missions Strategist Jamie Rogers in the November CMBA Newsletter:

I love Chuck Lawless, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. In fact, every time I get to be instructed by him, I tell my wife what a treasure he is to God's Church. If you are familiar with him, you will know that his blog (found through chucklawless.com) often includes a series of lists like the one I am sharing here. These are excellent ideas to inspire you to seek out ways to be a blessing to the people around you the upcoming holiday season.

1. **Invite someone that is grieving over to your home for a meal or coffee.** The Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons can be a joyful time of year for many of us, but for people who are going through a tough time they can be extremely depressing. If you know someone that is hurting for whatever reason, consider inviting them to your family's Thanksgiving Day meal, or just a random night of the week for supper.
2. **Look for ways to be encouraging.** There is honestly enough bitterness and anger in our world. Those of us who follow Jesus are supposed to be different. Rather than buying into the cynicism of the world around us we can stick out by being different, and one way to be different is to choose to be an encourager to the people around us. Try this: look for reasons to speak words of encouragement to other people, and then say them to them. Think of your pastor, church staff member, Sunday School Teacher, or any other random person that you notice a reason to be encouraging to.
3. **Invite an international friend to your family's Thanksgiving or Christmas celebration.** We have a number of new international people that have moved to the CMBA area over the last few years. Many of them have never made a REAL, American

friend. As a part of The Church here what better way is there for us to welcome them here and to share the hope of the good news about Jesus with them? Holidays are days where they may be more apt to accepting your invitation. So, whether you work with them, frequent a restaurant they own, they teach at your child's school, etc...this is a good time to make a new friend and invite them over! (We can help you connect with them if you need someone.)

4. **Be grateful.** Those of us who follow Jesus have all the reason in the world to be grateful. We were sinners, enemies of God, and dead in our trespasses and sins, BUT GOD, who is rich in mercy and love sent His Son to save us by giving us eternal life. If you don't have any other reason to be grateful this season, well there you go!
5. **Be Joyful.** Joy is not a circumstantial feeling; it is a mood of the heart. Christians should be people marked by joy. This Holiday season we can be a blessing by carrying in us and with us the joy of the Lord.
6. **Don't be a grouch.** This goes along with the previous two, but there is too much grouchiness in the world today. We are not to be like everyone else. We can remember truths about us that God has shared in His Word and be changed by them!
7. **Find someone to be generous to this season.** I know many of us are hurting financially this season, but there are people around us who are worse off than we are. Whether it's through your congregation's Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, the Association's Prisoner Packets, Food Donation center (We have several churches in GREAT need of food for theirs. You can contact us about congregations that could use it.), or Christmas partnerships, you can find someone or some place to be generous this Season. Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"
8. **Pray for people you know are hurting.** No matter what the reason, pray for people you know are struggling, and send them a message that you did and are praying for them.
9. **Send a handwritten note.** When was the last time you got a handwritten note from someone? It still means something to get a handwritten note from people with words of encouragement.
10. **Prepare a meal for someone that could use a break.** Do you know a single mom? Do you know someone that's facing a hard season? There aren't many ways that are better to bless someone than by taking them a homecooked meal to help them through a busy day or season.

These are just a few ways you could be a blessing this season. I know there are many more. What other items would you add? Go and do some of those as well.



CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AN INITIATIVE OF PALMETTO FAMILY COUNCIL

Palmetto Family Council, the voice for biblical values in South Carolina, is excited to announce the creation of the **Church Ambassador Network**. We want to develop a thriving partnership between government and church leaders to bless the people of our state. We believe pastors can have a transformational, gospel-centered impact on state government. God created the church and government. There are problems the church is uniquely equipped to handle that the government can't, and the government can do things the church can't. When both work together according to God's design, the result is a blessing for all the people of our state. The Church Ambassador Network exists to bring the shepherds of government and the shepherds of the church together to solve problems neither can fix alone. We will minister to our government leaders as people, as shepherds, and as partners locally, relationally, theologically, and practically. We are part of a nation-wide network in 21 states bringing the gospel to bear on the great issues affecting the building block of society, the family. We are Christ-centered, non-partisan and evangelical. You can learn more at this link [CAN](#). We would like to share more about this visionary new initiative at a free luncheon with evangelical pastors in your area. Would you join us for lunch on **Monday, January 5 at 11:30 AM at El Cerro Mexican Restaurant at 101 Rivertown Boulevard, Conway**? Please respond by email to Al Phillips at al@PalmettoFamily.org.

Till All May Know,

Al Phillips

Church Ambassador Network

WWW.PalmettoFamily.Org

Our Vision – A South Carolina where God is honored, religious freedom is preserved, families thrive, and life is cherished.

WMU CONFERENCE

Save the Date!

- Christ-centered
- Good food
- Sweet fellowship
- Worshipful music
- Challenging and encouraging teaching

**FREE
ENTRY!**



MARCH 10, 2026

DINNER AT 6:00 PM

PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM

PLEASANT UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
2940 MINNICK RD, AYNOR, SC 29511

SINGER
ADDIE NORRIS

GUEST SPEAKER
MELISSA NOBLES



For more information please contact Sandy Jenkins at
blessedjenkins@sccoast.net or (843) 742-3598

Help Wanted!

Camp La Vida is hiring! We are asking you to help us identify qualified young women in your church and association to serve at Camp La Vida over Summer 2026. For more information please go to camplavida.org/staff.



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