

The Encourager

Volume 11 Issue 9
September 2026

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14

OCT 8, 2026
9:30AM-3 PM

PROVIDENCE CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

TRAINING DESIGN LAB

Train the Trainers



Move beyond knowledge transfer to hands-on equipping.

This interactive workshop equips ministry leaders to create and facilitate dynamic training environments. Whether you're a pastor or ministry leader at any level, this experience will strengthen how you train and empower others.

You'll walk away with practical tools including a Training Design Starter Kit, ready-to-use templates, a reusable training session framework, and the knowledge to design experiences that truly engage and equip. Lunch included.

Exceptional value: A \$150-value workshop for only \$70 per person

Register Here - <https://pci.jotform.com/form/261594976558175>



OCTOBER 15-25, 2026
COME SERVE WITH US

- VOLUNTEERS WILL PLACE RIDE WRISTBANDS ON FAIR ATTENDEES
- TIMES TO SERVE: 9:00AM - 3:30PM OR 3:30PM-10:00PM
- FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING THE DAY OF YOUR SHIFT
- OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE CHRIST IN WORD AND DEED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TRACEY FORD AT TFORD@NCBAPTIST.ORG

TO SIGN UP, USE THE QR CODE SHOWN HERE OR GO TO <https://form.jotform.com/261804515039152>



Pastor Lab: Personal Leadership Development



Monday, September 14th
10 - 11:30am with lunch to follow

Lakeview Community Church
101 Boone Road, Burlington

Lab Facilitators

Aaron Wallace, Director Missions Catalysts Group, NC Baptists
Jonathan Davis, Great Commission Catalyst, Regions 3 & 4, NC Baptists
Mike Dodson, Great Commission Catalyst, Regions 4 & 3, NC Baptists

We need a headcount by Friday, September 11th for lunch preparations. Contact Garry at ggates@mtzionassociation.com
Suggested donation for lunch \$5.

Thank you for the important ways you serve churches in NC! Our churches help to strengthen our shared mission of reaching people with the gospel.

The digital ACP form opens each year on Jan. 1 and collects data from the previous calendar year. To help you prepare, we have provided a [pre-recorded tutorial video](#) that walks through the process and answers common questions. You can also find answers to FAQ at ncbaptist.org/acp_faq.

ACP data helps us celebrate what God is doing through our churches and better serve N.C. Baptists across the state. We encourage churches to utilize the digital form as it streamlines reporting, reduces errors and lowers costs.

If you have questions, or need assistance we are here to help! Please call (800) 395-5102 or email communications@ncbaptist.org.



Hometown Men's Fellowship 2026

Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 pm
Doors open at 6:00pm

Richard Childress Racing Event Center
425 Industrial Drive
Welcome, NC

This is a FREE event, and registration is now OPEN!

Our lineup this year is headlined by Frank Turek, founder and president of the Christian apologetics ministry CrossExamined.org. Frank is an award-winning author, and was a mentor to Charlie Kirk. Daytona 500 Champion Austin Dillon will join us this year as well!



Frank Turek



Austin Dillon

Grizzly coolers will be given to every 100th registrant, and everyone registered will be eligible to win 2 NASCAR Cup Pit Passes, must be present to win! Registration is limited to 1,200 this year, register now to secure your spot!

REGISTER HERE!

<https://www.itickets.com/events/486693>



Mileage rates for 2026 are divided into two periods to account for a mid-year inflation adjustment:

Effective July 1, 2026, the IRS standard business mileage rate is 76 cents per mile. The rate for eligible medical and moving purposes is 23.5 cents per mile. Charitable mileage remains fixed by statute at 14 cents per mile.

- **Jan 1 – June 30, 2026:** Business was 72.5 cents; Medical/Moving was 20.5 cents.

- **July 1 – Dec 31, 2026:** Business is 76 cents; Medical/Moving is 23.5 cents.



FOCUS ON MISSIONS September 2026

Continue to ask God for his blessings!

Upcoming events:

Our Dinner for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at Riverside Baptist Church. Please bring your favorite dish or two and join us!

I have mailed the Mission Projects signup sheets to the WMU leaders in your churches. They are due back to me by October 1, 2026, so I can get the calendars out by mid-December.

Red Box Ministry for 2026 – the Mt. Zion Associational WMU has signed up for 500 pairs of women's gloves (Specifications: one size fits all; Please remove the tag, paper, etc. and fold together as a pair.) Each WMU group/ Church is asked to contribute 50 pairs. Due by Thursday, 10/22/2026, to me or the Associational Office.

World Day of Prayer Monday, November 2, 2026, at Mars Hill Church in Hillsborough. More info to follow next month.

Appalachian Backpacks due to First Baptist Burlington, Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Operation Christmas Child – shoeboxes - Collection week, November 16, 2026, thru November 23, 2026.

Ongoing events:

Bingo:

Ralph Scott Residents, Thursday September 17, 2026 - Holly Hill Baptist Church, 2818 Edgewood Ave, Burlington, 6:00 pm for about an hour. Refreshments are provided by the Associational churches. 35-45 attendees.

Pat Parks - Associational WMU Director
(cell: 336-684-6255)
email: (jwpil@att.net)

2026 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Pastors Gatherings

2nd Monday of each month
September 14th Lakeview Community Church
Pastor Lab: Personal Leadership Development

Administrative Leadership Team Meeting

11:00 am September 21st
MZBA Office

Senior Adult Lunch and Learn events w/meal included

11:00 am – 1:00pm October 1st
Trip to Siloam Homes
Space is limited for this event, so sign up early!

Minister's & Wives Christmas Banquet

6:00 December 3rd
More details coming soon!!

Please Note. The dates and times of the 2026 proposed calendar are subject to change based on future availabilities of venues and speakers. MZBA reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any event due to low enrollment.

Happy Labor Day!

Monday, September 7th



Sunday, September 13th

Mt. Zion Baptist Association
P.O. Box 1005
Burlington, NC 27216



Garry Gates

Associational Missions Strategist

Sandi King

Office Administrator

OFFICE HOURS

M - TH

9AM - 2PM

336.226.0249

Physical Location

2744 Ramada Road
Burlington, NC 27215

Visit Us On the Web and on Facebook!



www.mtzionassociation.com



<https://www.facebook.com/MtZionAssociation/>



KOURY CONVENTION CENTER

3121 W Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27407
November 16th -17th, 2026

Registration opens on Sept. 15!

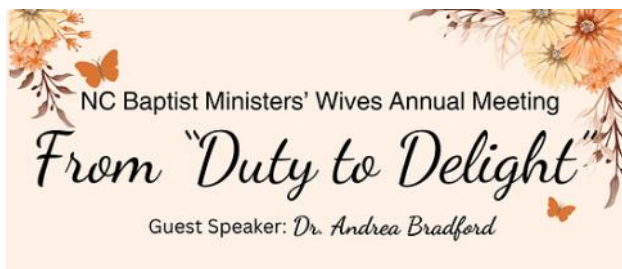
Join in celebrating the different ways God is using N.C. Baptists to draw people to Himself from every nation, tribe, people and tongue. Don't miss times of worship, teaching, ministry reports, breakout sessions and more.

For more information go to: <https://ncbaptist.org/annual-meeting/>



Pastor's Conference - Register Here!

<https://form.jotform.com/261234099989170>



Pastor Wives Conference - Register Here!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1u-8ZraDC4b-Cl-MmEf_i9uy1cMf0fxaOgmkZhXOPa7quvA/viewform