

# The Encourager

Volume 10, Issue 6  
June 2025

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14



Dates	Church	Curriculum	Times
June 9th - 13th	Crossroads	True North	6:00 - 8:30pm
June 9th - 12th	Haw River	Wonder Junction	6 - 8 pm
June 8th - 12th	Riverside	Magnified	6 - 8:30pm
June 21st	Oak Grove	The Greatest Show	10am - 2pm
June 22nd - 25th	Kinnett	Wonder Junction	June 22nd - 5pm June 23rd - 25th 6:30-8:30pm
July 7th - 11th	Antioch	Start the Party	10am - 2pm
July 10th-13th	FBC Mebane	Camp Fire Light	July 10-11th - 6:00 - 8:30pm July 12th - 9:30am-Noon with Waterslide July 13th - 11am with Hot Dog lunch to follow
July 13th - July 18th	Mt. Zion	Magnified	5:30pm - Dinner 6-8:15pm - VBS
July 14th - July 18th	Mars Hill	Magnified	6:30 - 8:30pm
July 20th - 24th	Integrity	True North	July 20th - 3-5:30pm July 21st - 24th - 5:30 - 8:30pm
July 29th - 31st	Glen Hope	Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God	5:45pm - Dinner 6:15pm - VBS
August 3rd - 6th	Westside		Contact Church for Details
August 4th - 5th	Edgewood	Magnified	6 - 8:30pm

# 5 Quick Tips for VBS Follow-up

By: Melita Thomas

The weeks after VBS are crucial for outreach, yet follow-up often falls through the cracks. Everyone has good intentions, but post-VBS fatigue and busy schedules make it easy to delay. However, follow-up won't happen on its own—you need a plan before VBS begins. Here are five proven ways to connect with children and families afterward:

- 1) **Appoint a Follow-up Director**  
Just as you have a VBS Director, enlist someone to lead follow-up efforts. This person should form a team to ensure every child is remembered. The first few weeks post-VBS may be your only chance to connect with unchurched families, so don't lose the momentum of VBS by putting it off.
- 2) **Prioritize Relationships**  
Train VBS workers to engage with parents during drop-off and pick-up. Find common ground, be welcoming, and create positive church impressions. Follow-up should go beyond a postcard—it's about fostering relationships, which take time but open doors to sharing the gospel.
- 3) **Bridge VBS to Other Ministries**  
Partner with Children's Ministry leaders to connect kids to ongoing programs. Invite Sunday School teachers to join follow-up efforts so visiting kids recognize familiar faces when they return. Kids need to feel a sense of ownership—this is MY church, MY classroom, MY teacher, MY friends—and giving them that sense of ownership is one way to help them feel loved and accepted and that they belong.
- 4) **Host Family Connection Events**  
Plan activities within two weeks of VBS, such as a movie night or cookout, to reconnect with unchurched families. Consider partnering with a minor league team for a Faith Night—reserve a seating section, organize a pre-game picnic, and encourage families to mingle.
- 5) **Deliver a Small Gift**  
Visit each visiting child's home with a meaningful gift like a Kids Worship CD, Playbook, or Devotional Bible. These resources reinforce what they learned at VBS and allow parents to hear the gospel too.

Monday, June 9th with lunch to follow  
Siloam Homes \* 1053 Quakenbush Rd, Snow  
Camp, NC 27349

We need a headcount by Friday, June 6th for lunch preparations. Contact Garry at [gates@mtzionassociation.com](mailto:gates@mtzionassociation.com)



## Church Walk-Thru Guide



### First Impressions Church Walk-Thru Resource

Providing a welcoming guest experience is crucial to reaching and retaining those who visit your church. Guests to your church will make a decision about a return visit within the first 11 minutes of entering your parking area. This interactive survey is a starting point for assessing and determining the effectiveness of your church's first impressions.

Church Walk-Thru Guide  
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

<https://ncbaptist.org/resource/resource-church-walk-thru-guide/>

June 12th 11:00am - 1:00pm

Holly Hill Baptist Church  
2818 Edgewood Street  
Burlington

"Be on Guard" - Avoiding Medicare Fraud  
Stephanie Bias - NC Dept of Insurance

### SIGN UP REQUIRED

It is **FREE**, and a light lunch will be included.

To sign up by email:

[sandiking@mtzionassociation.com](mailto:sandiking@mtzionassociation.com)

or call Sandi at the office: 336-226-0249

**Last Date to sign up is June 9th**



Summer is upon us! We thank God for our many blessings.

Current events:

All 2024-2025 WMU Dues have been collected. Thank you churches for your dedication.

Our dinner for the Visually Impaired, May 13, 2025, at Riverside Baptist was a great success. We had a total of 61 that night. Thank you to the churches that participated.

Congratulations to Carolyn Willett of Riverside Baptist, as she had joined our Associational WMU council as a member of our Missions Involvement Team. We are so happy to have her!

Upcoming event

I have secured our Red Box Ministry for 2025. We will be collecting Chap Sticks. Each church that signed up for this ministry is asked to collect 50 chap sticks. They can be any brand. Blister packs are allowed. No tint. No Burts Bees which is more like tinted lip-gloss. These are due to me or the Associational office by October 23, 2025.

Ongoing events:

**VOLUNTEERS needed for BINGO!**

The WMU hosts Bingo each month as listed below; some attendees have a type of disability. Prizes and refreshments are always needed, please take them to the Association office or contact Cindy Atkins. Also let Cindy know if you can help -336-565-8047. We are also in need of jewelry boxes. If you can help let me know. Pat Parks 336-684-6255.

Oak Creek Retirement Community, 3rd Monday monthly, 343 Baldwin Road, Burlington, 3:00 pm, volunteers arrive at 2:15 pm to set up. No refreshments. Approx. 20 attendees.

Ralph Scott Residents, 3rd Thursday. monthly - Holly Hill Baptist Church, 2818 Edgewood Ave, Burlington, 6:00 pm for about an hour. Refreshments are provided by the Associational churches. 30-45 attendees.

John Robert Kernodle Sr. Center, 4th Tuesday monthly - 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, 1:00 pm, volunteers arrive at 12:15 pm to set up. No refreshments. 45-50 attendees.

## 2025 Event Calendar

June 1 <sup>st</sup>		Disaster Relief Sunday
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Pastor Gathering, Siloam Homes
June 8-9		SBC Pastor's Conference (Dallas, TX)
June 10-11		SBC Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 1pm	Senior Adult Lunch and Learn Holly Hill Baptist Church, Burlington "Be on Guard" - Avoiding Medicare Fraud Stephanie Bias, NC Department of Insurance
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Mission Dignity Sunday
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Senior Adult Banquet & Annual Meeting Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 1pm	Senior Adult Lunch and Learn Riverside Baptist Church, Graham "How to Win the Bonus Round" - Make your Retirement Years, Your Bonus Years Austin Decker, NCBAM
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Minister's & Wives Christmas Banquet

*Please Note. The dates and times of the 2025 proposed calendar are subject to change based on future availabilities of venues and speakers. MZBA reserves the right to cancel or re-schedule any event due to low enrollment.*



**AUGUST 2-9, 2025**  
**Any project. Any day.**

**If your church didn't exist,  
would your community notice?**

**ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name through service projects. Every church. Every community.**

**Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard or serving meals to those in need, your church knows your community's specific needs and can choose the best project to make a difference through ServeNC.**

**Click here to sign up!**

**<https://ncbaptist.org/servenc/>**

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](http://www.mtzionassociation.com)



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



## Meet Kendra Joyner!

How can Kendra assist, encourage or equip your church to advance the gospel of Christ among children and families?

KENDRA JOYNER  
Children's Ministry Strategist



Meet Kendra Joyner, the new children's ministry strategist, who works with churches to train the youngest disciples so they live gospel-driven lives rooted in God's Word.

Click below to learn more about Kendra, and her heart for children's ministry!

<https://ncbaptist.org/article/lay-a-solid-foundation-ga-with-new-childrens-ministry-strategist-kendra-joyner/>

Let Garry know if you would like Kendra to help with your Children's ministry!

Kendra is doing a free workshop on Children's ministry at Mt Zion Baptist Church in Liberty on Sunday June 8, 1 3 pm - all are invited. Discipline in the classroom or small group will be included.



## CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

### CHURCH EMAIL MARKETING

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025

Via Zoom beginning at 10:am

Join us for an online Church Email Marketing training! Explore best practices for crafting engaging and impactful emails for your church, that drive participation and foster deeper connections within your congregation.

Learn how to create compelling subject lines, best practices on email designs, segmenting your audience and measuring success with key metrics. Whether you are looking to boost event attendance, increase volunteer involvement, or share important updates, this training will equip you with the tools to effectively communicate and inspire your church.

Register Here!

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/church-communication-training/>