

The Encourager

Volume 10, Issue 10
October 2025

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14

Those entering the ministry do so because they feel called to serve, and they are there during the most stressful and difficult times of our lives. They serve in this role 24/7 365 days a year.

In addition, they study the scriptures, prepare messages, and engage with other pastors so that they remain vital and relevant to answer God's call on their lives.

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Below are some ways that you and your church family can celebrate your Pastor(s).

How can we celebrate our Pastors?



1. **A special note** - It's important for everyone to know they matter. Pastors are no different. Let him or her know how much they have ministered to you or your family, and how much it has meant to you.
2. **Organize a meal train.** Meal trains aren't just for new parents, or people going through difficult times! Your pastor and his family would be great recipients for a meal train - especially during seasons with many special church events. <https://www.mealtrain.com>
3. **A grocery or gasoline gift card.** This type of gift is always welcome! Add a card with a special note to make it even more special!!
4. **A date night.** If your pastor has a spouse, provide concert tickets and/or a gift card to a nice restaurant. Plan for childcare, if necessary. Your pastor and his or her spouse will love the special time together, especially if church members know not to call during this time.
5. **A mini-vacation.** This is perfect for taking gift #4 to the next level. Throw in a place to stay, a gas card or two, and some spending money (and/or childcare), and you've got a fantastic and memorable gift sure to recharge your pastor for more great ministry.
 - Caraway has the Powell House for Pastors with a cost of \$33 per night for up to 5 nights. If the conference center is serving meals, they can eat for free. <https://caraway.org/powell-warren-mountain-house-for-ministers/>
 - Ridgcrest also offers a discounted rate for full time pastors. ridgcrestconferencecenter.com
6. **Signature item.** Does your pastor have a fun item they love? Some pastors love ties, some pastors love cool socks or certain teats. If you know your pastors signature item, then surprise them with something they will love!
7. **Audible.com membership.** Many pastors are readers, and even if they're not, they're probably listeners. Especially if your pastor has a multi-church district or a long commute, an Audible membership is a great gift to help him or her multitask by "reading" between visitations, on the way to the office, or even while exercising.
8. **Yard work.** Older children or youth could offer their services to mow lawns, rake leaves, or shovel snow at the pastor's home. This will save the pastoral family some effort and will add some precious family time back into their schedule!



November 13th 11:00am - 1:00pm

Riverside Baptist Church
1568 E. Harden Street, Graham, NC 27253

“How to Win the Bonus Round” - Make Your Retirement Years, Your Bonus Years
Austin Decker - NCBAM

SIGN UP REQUIRED

It is **FREE**, and a light lunch will be included.
To sign up by email: sandiking@mtzionassociation.com
or call Sandi at the office: 336-226-0249

**Last Date to sign up is
Monday, November 10th**



Virtual website training and assistance are available to N.C. Baptist churches and associations.

You can get free assistance on questions about your website or receive a free website with training. This is provided by [generous giving](#) by NC Baptists as we are on mission together!

1. Get a free church website with training.

If you need a new free church website, you can sign up for a 2-hour Zoom training session along with a template to get a head start on designing your website!

All trainings are virtual, and scheduled for 1:00pm

UPCOMING DATES

October 14th, 2025	November 4th, 2025
October 28th, 2025	November 11th, 2025

You can choose the best date for you on the sign up form here: **Sign Up:** <https://form.jotform.com/250773860560157>

2. Get help with your existing website. Do you need some help or training in WordPress, Wix, Squarespace or another content management system? If so, please fill out the website help form to request assistance. **Submit Request:** <https://salmonson.wufoo.com/forms/church-website-training-assistance>

3. Get the free guide: Marketing Your Website Using Google and Bing Search. Want your church or association website to appear on the first page of search in Google and Bing? Download the free manual to help with Search Engine Optimization (SEO). **Download PDF** [Here](#)

4. Get a free Canva guide and a free non-profit account.

Want a free Canva guide to get a free non-profit account for creating logos, graphics, bulletins and flyers? Download the free manual to find out how.

Download PDF [Here](#)



Fall is here. Go outside and enjoy God's beautiful work!

Upcoming events:

Mission Projects 2026 sheets were mailed September 1st. Please return by October 1st, so I can get the 2026 calendars out by mid-December 2025. You can also email them to me. jwpji@att.net
Thank you.

On Thursday, October 16, 2025, Dinner for Ralph Scott Residents provided by Antioch and Mt Zion Baptist Churches. Holly Hill Baptist Church at 6 pm.

WMU NC Red Box Ministry for 2025. We will be collecting Chap Sticks. Each church that signed up for this ministry is asked to collect at least 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 (336-684-6255) or the Associational office by Thursday, October 23, 2025.

Appalachian Backpack Ministry – Bring your filled backpacks to First Baptist Church Burlington on Saturday, November 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Last year NC Baptists provided 23,307 backpacks that were distributed to VA, WV, NC, PA and in the Graffiti churches in MD, Manhattan and Bronx NY.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer service will be Monday, November 3, 2025, at Eastlawn Baptist Church in the Sanctuary, 432 N. Sellars Mill Rd Burlington NC 27217. Our guest speaker will be Clay Leonard from the Baptist Children's Homes. Please come and fellowship with us.

Operation Christmas Child – shoeboxes - Collection week, November 17, 2025, thru November 24, 2025.

Past Events:

Our dinner for the Hearing Impaired was held Tuesday September 16, 2025 at Riverside Baptist. We had 52 in attendance.

NOTICE: 2025-2026 WMU Dues notices will be sent out in early October as payment is due 1/1/2026. The dues are \$3 per member (more details in notices).

Ongoing events:

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.

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. 35-45 attendees.

Pat Parks

Associational WMU Director
(cell: 336-684-6255)



Monday, October 13th
10am with lunch to follow

New Covenant Fellowship
1913 Rogers Road
Graham, NC

We need a headcount by Friday, October 10th for lunch preparations. Contact Garry at gates@mtzionassociation.com



2025 Event Calendar

Oct 13 th	10am	Pastor Gathering, New Covenant Fellowship 1913 Rogers Road, Graham
Oct 16 th	WMU	Dinner for Ralph Scott Residents
Oct 23 rd	WMU	Red Box Ministries Chap Sticks Due
Nov 1 st		Due Date for Appalachian Backpacks at FBC Burlington
Nov 3 rd		World Day of Prayer
Nov 10 th -11 th		Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting
Nov 13 th	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
Nov 17 th - 24 th		Operation Christmas Child Collection week
Dec 4 th	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 reschedule any event due to low enrollment.

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/>

HOME⁺TOWN

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

7:00PM - 8:30PM

Richard Childress Racing Event Center
425 Industrial Drive, Lexington, NC

GUEST APPEARANCES BY
MIKE DILLON, AUSTIN
DILLON, & RICHARD PAYNE

FREE EVENT!

REGISTER TODAY AT
HOMETOWNMENSFELLOWSHIP.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



EVERY REGISTRANT IS ENTERED TO
WIN 2 VIP PASSES AT CHARLOTTE
MOTOR SPEEDWAY. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN



Edward Graham
COO of Samaritan's Purse &
Billy Graham's Grandson



Ty Dillon
Kaulig Racing NASCAR Cup Driver



Parker Webb & Guilford

<https://www.itickets.com/events/484165>



Cost: \$30

includes:
3 sessions with
Kelly, as well as
coffee and
snacks

Oct 10th 7-9pm
Oct 11th 9am - 12pm

The Lamb's Chapel, Airport Campus
3539 Alamance Road
Burlington, NC

Join us for a powerful and refreshing weekend as we gather women of all ages for a time of worship, teaching, and meaningful connection. We're honored to welcome **Kelly Minter**— nationally acclaimed Bible teacher, author, and speaker—who will guide us through Scripture with grace, depth, and authenticity.

Whether you're feeling weary, searching for purpose, or simply hungry for more of God, this is your invitation to pause, be renewed, and grow in faith alongside other women.

Let's laugh, learn, and lean into what God has for us—because you were made for more than just getting by. Register below!