

# The Encourager

Volume 11, Issue 2  
February 2026

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14

## I.N.C.R.E.D.I.B.L.E.

### Teachers and Group Leaders

What makes the difference between being a good teacher or group leader and being an INCREDIBLE teacher group leader?

Below are "10 marks of Incredible Teachers" as outlined in the book of the same name by Josh Hunt. See how you can go from good to incredible as a teacher/leader, and inspire your people to do more to share, teach and serve!

- I** INSPIRES THE HEART - Someone who creates an inspired learning experience! Head knowledge is not enough.
- N** NEVER STOPS LEARNING AND GROWING - As a teacher, it is important to continue to learn new techniques and to grow in our relationship with Christ.
- C** COMMITTED, REALLY COMMITTED! - Committed in our walk with Christ and to helping others to become more Christ like.
- R** RESULTS - Results in terms of discipleship and transformation. Seeing God at work!
- E** EXAMPLE - Set an Example! Philipians 3:17
- D** DILIGENCE - Not waiting until the night before to prepare. Having a good group or class takes some work! But it is worth it!
- I** INCUBATE NEW GROUPS OR CLASSES - Who are you mentoring and equipping to start a new group?
- B** BIG DREAMS - If God is really at work in your class or group, what will the next year look like?
- L** LOVES THEIR GROUP - Your group or class members know when you love teaching and love them!
- E** ENJOYS GOD - The joy of God should be evident in your life, and follow through in your teaching!

## Adult Sunday School & Small Group Training

**\*\*NEW DATE\*\***

**Saturday, February 28th**  
**10:00AM - 12:30PM**



If you haven't already signed up, there is still time! We are extending the current window for the discounted rate!

Register and pay by  
February 23rd for just \$15 per person!  
That includes the materials, training and lunch!!

February 24th through the 27th cost is \$20  
February 28th cost will be \$25

Register online:  
<https://www.mtzionassociation.com/upcoming-events>

To Register in Person:  
Stop by the Mt. Zion Association office, M-Th  
9am - 2pm



Make VBS unforgettable this year! Vacation Bible School is many churches' largest evangelistic ministry. As you plan and prepare for God to do amazing things, join the NCVBS Training Team for a **free** Regional Training!

This training equips your volunteer team to gain valuable Biblical learning, direction in VBS administration, insight into children's learning levels, cost-effective decorating ideas and more. A bilingual training is also available!

**No matter which VBS curriculum you choose**, experience fun and engaging breakouts that will generate renewed excitement and vision for Vacation Bible School. Sign your team up today!

There are 6 training dates available, and you can choose the location nearest you! Just click on the link below to go to the registration page.

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/vbs-regional-training/>



## Partners in Ministry



**Church Appreciation Breakfast**  
**March 12 at 830am**  
**ACS Gymnasium**

We are deeply grateful for your church's role in nurturing the spiritual growth of our students. Your partnership is essential to the Warrior Legacy, and we invite you to bring staff members on campus for a time of eating, engaging other believers, and exalting our Lord through prayer.



### AGENDA

0830: Arrival at Gym  
0835: Blessing & Eat  
0930: Bible Message  
0940: Prayer time  
1000: Dismissal

### RSVP

There is no cost for the breakfast; however, help us plan by using the link below to share numbers attending from your church.

**I Plan to Attend!**

**If you have questions, please contact Joel Medley at 919-656-6385 or via email:**  
[jmedley@alamancechristianschool.org](mailto:jmedley@alamancechristianschool.org)



**CLICK HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGGa2D1DjodZ7GS-AW0pDrvRE8DCHcGu7IFC3WX6XP77SGg/viewform>



The Baptist Children's Food Round up is just around the corner. If you wish to collect food, we will share the food list when it becomes available. If you wish to collect gift cards, or funds, now is a great time to start!

All of our churches always do a great job in supporting the food drive, and any ministry opportunity we have through the Association. We are so grateful for our churches!

Here is what Moore's Chapel did last year. They used mason jars to collect money for the Baptist Children's Home food roundup, and were able to raise \$1,000 for the BCH ministry through this fundraiser!

This idea may be something that appeals to your church, or it could possibly spark an idea for your own fund raising program at your church!

We are excited to see what God can do through our Mt. Zion Association Churches again this year. Thank you for loving the Lord, and supporting His children!

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**





*Melissa Harding, Speaker*



**WALKING WORTHY**  
FAITHFULNESS IN EVERY SEASON

**APRIL 18 2025 | 8:30AM-12PM**  
**\$10/ PERSON**

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION!**

WALKINGWORTHY2026.RSVPIFY.COM  
OR CALL 336.380.5859





Monday, February 9th  
10am with lunch to follow

Integrity Church  
2744 Maple Avenue\* Burlington, NC

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



**FOCUS ON MISSIONS**  
February 2026

We thank God for the rain, snow and sunshine.

Current events:

2025-2026 WMU Dues \$3 per member were due 1/1/2026. Please remit to Margaret Muegge (not the associational office). Follow up emails and letters were sent in late January to the WMU directors. Please remit!

Upcoming events:

WMU Focus Week & Heck Jones Offering: February 9 - 15, 2026  
Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Offering: March 1 - 8, 2026

WMU Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - Eastlawn Baptist Church - Burlington. More info next month.

Ongoing events:

We have a couple of positions open on our Mt. Zion WMU Council. If you would like to know more about our council and join our great group of ladies, please let Pat know.

**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. If you can help, please contact Cindy Atkins at 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. 20-45 attendees.

Pat Parks - Associational WMU Director  
(cell: 336-684-6255) email: [jwpaii@att.net](mailto:jwpaii@att.net)

## 2026 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Pastors Gatherings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
February 9<sup>th</sup> - Integrity Church

Disciple Making Conference - Hickory Grove BC, Charlotte

8am - 3pm February 24<sup>th</sup>

Adult SS and Small Group Training - Altamahaw Baptist Church

10:00am - 12:30pm February 28<sup>th</sup>

Baptist Children's Home Food Round Up

April 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> - Church Collection Dates  
May 7<sup>th</sup> - Drop off Deadline

Ministry Assistant Luncheon

Noon April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Senior Adult Banquet - Mt. Zion Baptist Church

6:30 - 8:30pm August 6<sup>th</sup>

MZBA ANNUAL MEETING

Minister's & Wives Christmas Banquet

6:00 December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Senior Adult Lunch and Learn events

11:00 am - 1:00pm

March 5<sup>th</sup>

NC Baptist Retirement Home, Stephanie

June 25<sup>th</sup>

NCBAM, Austin Decker

October 1<sup>st</sup>

Trip to Siloam Homes

*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.*

# Love is in the Air



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/>



Thursday,  
February 19th, 2026

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

*Piedmont Baptist Association  
2009 Sharpe Rd  
Greensboro, NC 27406-9478*

This is for: Financial administrators and others who manage a church's accounting process. Lunch will be provided, and registration is required.

What you can expect:

- Overview and updates on tax and financial matters
- Extended Q&A for current church matters
- Connect and network with other financial administrators

We will cover:

- NC Sales Tax Refunds
- Charitable contributions
- Various categories of charitable donations
- Policies and procedures

Register Here: <https://form.jotform.com/260113612862146>

Landmark Baptist Church

**CHURCH REVIVAL**

**Guest Speaker**  
**REV RICHARD HAWLEY**

**March 22 - 24**  
**6:30 PM**

**Special Singing Nightly**