

The Encourager

Volume 11, Issue 4
April 2026

Until the whole World hears. Matthew 24:14

Happy Easter! Sunday, April 5th

*Wishing you a glorious Resurrection Sunday
as you celebrate the risen Savior.*

*At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father. Phil 2: 10-11*



April 20, 2026

**Hopewell Baptist Church (Victory Campus)
8900 Concord Hwy
Monroe, N.C. | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Kids Ministry Summit is a 1-day conference to refresh, equip and inspire leaders shaping the next generation for Christ. Through powerful worship, practical workshops and a time to be filled in the Word with meaningful connections, you'll gain tools to strengthen your ministry and encourage your team.

Whether you serve in a large church or a small setting, this conference will leave you renewed, challenged and ready for greater kingdom impact. The theme is "Anchored in Truth: Standing Firm in Biblical Teaching in a Shifting Culture," based on Hebrews 6:19. Hear from author and kids ministry leader Sam Luce.

<https://brushfire.com/ncbaptist/events/620646/register>



**BAPTIST CHILDRENS HOME FOOD ROUND UP
GIFT CARD COLLECTION**

**April 1st - April 30th - Church Collection Dates
May 7th - Drop off Deadline AT MZBA OFFICE**

Again this year, the Mt. Zion Association office will only be accepting **food gift cards** for the Baptist Children's Home Food Round Up. **BCH suggest these stores for gift cards:**

Wal-Mart, Lowes Foods, Sam's Club, and Food Lion

If you wish to donate food, you will need to make arrangements for your church to deliver them directly to the Baptist Children's Home office in Thomasville, as we will not be taking them from our office. You can reach the BCH at 336-474-1200. To see a the list of items needed, go to

<https://www.bchfamily.org/food-round-up>



Engaging Exposition is Southeastern Seminary's annual preaching conference designed to equip local church pastors to preach and lead biblically. This two-day event will include practical breakout sessions, free resources, and opportunities to network with like-minded pastors, as well as main sessions led by H.B. Charles, Jr., Scott Pace, and Hershael York. The theme for 2026 is "Leading from the Pulpit." Join us in September!

Register by July 31, 2026 to lock in the early-bird ticket price: \$40 for students and \$50 for general admission and group rate (five or more tickets required)
 rk. The theme for 2026 is "Leading from the Pulpit." Join us in September!

<https://www.sebts.edu/event/engaging-exposition-preaching-conference/>



April 27-28, 2026
Seven Marks Church
3500 Springs Forest Road
Raleigh, N.C.

Youth Pastor Summit is a two-day conference that brings together student pastors, educators and volunteers to foster collaboration, community and soul-care. It is a direct response to the growing need for people to pour into this generation. If you serve in student ministry, this is for you.

Join us in Raleigh N.C. for powerful worship, engaging main-stage sessions, relevant leadership labs and free resources. This year, we're honored to host YPS Raleigh N.C. in partnership with Lifeway Students and celebrate over 26 years of serving next-gen leaders, student ministry teams and educators.

<https://slulead.com/yps/register/>



Tuesday, April 14th
Baptist State Convention of NC,
205 Convention Dr, Cary, NC 27511

New pastors or pastors new to North Carolina are invited!. Explore the resources available to you and the various ways N.C. Baptists can serve you and your churches.

- 9 a.m. - Check-In & Light Breakfast/Coffee
- 9:15 a.m. - Who We Are (Todd Unzicker)
- 9:45 a.m. - Ministry Director Presentations
- 11:15 a.m. - Q&A/Group Discussion
- Noon - Lunch
- 1 p.m. - Building Tour

Register here!<https://form.jotform.com/260113884277157>



Monday, April 13th
10-11:30am with lunch to follow

Riverside Baptist Church
1568 E. Harden Street, Graham

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

Thank you God for Spring!

Current events:

Thank you churches. All 2025-2026 dues have been collected.

Past events:

We held our Annual WMU Celebration Tuesday March 17, 2026, at Eastlawn Baptist Church. We had 35 people in attendance. Thank you, Cindy Atkins, Judy Greeson, Carolyn Willett, and the ladies of the church for hosting this event.

Upcoming 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 me 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. 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. 20-45 attendees.

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

2026 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Pastors Gatherings

2nd Monday of each month
April 13th - Riverside Baptist Church

Baptist Children's Home Food Round Up - Gift Cards Only

April 1st - 30th - Church Collection Dates
May 7th - Drop off Deadline

Ministry Assistant Luncheon

Noon April 23rd

Senior Adult Banquet - Mt. Zion Baptist Church

6:30 – 8:30pm August 6th

MZBA ANNUAL MEETING

6:30 August 6th - Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Minister's & Wives Christmas Banquet

6:00 December 3rd

Senior Adult Lunch and Learn events

11:00 am – 1:00pm

June 18th

NCBAM, Matthew Martin
"What's it all About?" - AI for Aging Adults

**Please Note date change
for this event**

October 1st

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.

North American Mission Board & the Baptist State Convention



- 9 a.m. – Registration
(Coffee and snacks available)
- 10 a.m. – Session 1
- 11 a.m. – Spanish Breakout
- Noon – Lunch (provided)
- 1 p.m. – Session 2
- 2 p.m. – Session 3
- 3 p.m. – Prayer & Call to Action;
Swag & Send-off

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

Two Cities Church * 1001 N. Patterson Ave. * Winston-Salem, NC 27101

REGISTER NOW FOR THIS FREE ONE DAY EVENT!

Whether you're a pastor, church leader, planter or a faithful Jesus follower, you'll be:

- Encouraged for the mission
- Equipped with tools to deepen your devotion
- Challenged to think about multiplication
- Prepared to engage your city with the gospel

Join us at Send Network One Day and step into God's mission to expand His kingdom.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/006acc98-0d84-4307-9576-6192adc0307f/register?environment=P2>

Register Here:

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/>

Mt. Zion Baptist Association 2026 Annual Meeting

August 6th

6:30pm

In conjunction with the Senior Adult Banquet,
we will have the 157th Annual Meeting of the Mt. Zion Association.

The meeting will be at the very beginning of the event,
and will consist of voting on the budget for 2027. There will be seating available for those
that only wish to attend the annual meeting, and there will be no cost to those just attend-
ing the meeting. You may exit as soon as the meeting is concluded.

Location

**MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH * 3572 W. GREENSBORO-CHAPEL HILL
ROAD * LIBERTY, NC**