



Volume 8, Issue 11
November 2023



The Encourager

The Joy Event

Finding Joy and Freedom in Christ



What an exciting night we had on October 16th at "The Joy Event"! We had a wonderful crowd of nearly 300 people, that came to hear evangelist Jonathan Lotz share his testimony, and finding Joy and Freedom in Christ through the various trials.

Jonathan shared how God helped him to overcome bullying, cancer, and severe covid. He established the link between these events, and how God can use our trials to help others who are facing something similar.

We were also blessed by the choir comprised of people from all over our Association. They were led by Dwight Epperson, Music Minister of Har-

vest Baptist in Burlington. With only 2 rehearsals, they came together for an awe inspiring time of worship and praise for the event. Many thanks to Dwight for his help with this event, and to the wonderful folks who gave their time and talents to be a part of the choir.



Thank you to Pastor Darrell Massey, and Glencoe Baptist who hosted the event, and all of the many volunteers who helped with seating, greeting, parking, and more!



Our "Coats for the City" coat drive was a great success! We had a total of 300 coats prepared for drop off!



We had a wonderful group of ladies who showed up, and sorted through the donated coats. They made short work of the task!



We want to thank the following churches for supporting this vital ministry: Antioch Baptist, Harvest Baptist, Integrity Community, Mt. Zion Baptist, and Triad Fellowship.

We are excited about how God will use this ministry in New York, to show His love through the warmth of a coat.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Annual Meeting

Koury Convention Center, Greensboro

**WE ARE ON
MISSION** *together*
NOV. 6-7, 2023

Register here: <https://ncbaptist.org/annual-meeting/>



Register here:
<https://ncbaptist.org/events/pastors-network-lunch/>



Nov. 6th at 9am

Register here:
<https://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw/events>

Associational Missionary Report

Coach Vince Lombardi is considered by many to be the greatest coach in American football history, and he is recognized as one of the greatest coaches and leaders in the history of all American sports.

"The will to win is not nearly so important as the will to prepare to win."
Coach Lombardi

Coach Lombardi knew the importance of training to do a task. If you want to run a marathon, you have to train to run a marathon.

It seems to me that one of a pastor's main jobs is equip others for the work of ministry. Would it follow that the job of every Christian is to be equipped for ministry? I think so! I believe the Mt Zion Baptist Association can be a great asset in helping pastors to equip the people that they are called to pastor.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. Eph 4: 1 & 12

I'm thankful for the training events, pastors' gatherings, and ministry events that have occurred this past year! We have worked with various churches in the area of Revitalization, and led pastor search committee or team trainings, while also providing informative statistics about their surrounding populations through Demographic Research reports. We have also provided small group leader training, A Freedom in Christ study, D life discipleship training, Pastor Cohort groups, and Pastor Round Table meetings. We have obtained informational and motivational speakers to equip and share other ministry ideas at our monthly Pastor's Lunches. We have participated in several ministry initiatives, such as the BCH Food Round Up, Coats for the City, building wheelchair ramps, and a VBS clinic. And we have hosted an Appreciation Dinner for our Ministers and wives, and several informational lunch and learn programs, and a senior adult banquet for our senior adults.

It is exciting that we as an association of churches, with the Baptist State Convention, and the North American Mission Board have assisted Glen Hope Baptist Church in establishing a Hispanic church planter this year!

I also want to say a big thank you to all that make the association a vital ministry! From our Senior Adult Lunch and Learn programs to governing the business of our Association, we thank our associational WMU ladies, our Administrative Leadership Team, and to everyone in our churches that work together for God's glory!

We appreciate Rev. Darrell Massey, and Glencoe Baptist Church for hosting our Annual Meeting, and The Joy Event this year!

Thank you!

Garry Gates

Associational Missionary

*Happy Thanksgiving
from our homes to yours!!*

*Garry Gates & Sandi King
Mt. Zion Association*

**The MZBA office will be
closed
Wednesday, Nov. 21st
& Thursday, Nov 22nd
in observance of the
Thanksgiving Holiday**

 **DISCIPLE MAKING
CONFERENCE**

**HICKORY GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

Hickory Grove Baptist Church
(Mallard Creek Campus)
Mallard Creek Road, Charlotte, NC

Register Here:

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/2024-disciple-making-conference/>

154th Meeting of the Mt. Zion Baptist Association

We were blessed to have 47 messengers present at our meeting on Monday, October 16th. The business of the Association was presented, and voted on for 2024.

We would like to thank our moderator, Rev. Bob Stephenson for presiding over the meeting. We would also like to thank Pastor Darrell Massey, and Glencoe Baptist Church for hosting our annual meeting.

The 154th annual, and annual reports from our mission partners, can be viewed on our website by clicking below.

<https://www.mtzionassociation.com/2020-annual-mtg-links>



FOCUS ON MISSIONS November 2023

The Psalms give us the key to living victoriously during the dark periods of life. Recalling God's faithfulness and control over everything that touches us gives us strength to walk with God even when we feel like giving up in despair. Our feelings and circumstances have not changed God. He is perfectly capable of sustaining us if we will only let Him. We simply need to choose to *delight* in and *diligently consider* God's precepts (His principles and character) despite how we feel. Choosing to delight in God might not be easy. It might even involve hard work. But only God can revive and save our soul from spiritual lethargy. Psalm 119:89-95.

Upcoming

Appalachian Backpack Ministry – Bring your filled backpacks to First Baptist Church Burlington on Saturday, November 4th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Last year NC Baptists provided 20,275 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, Monday, November 6th, 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church Mebane in the sanctuary. Come and hear about the miracles God provided to a missionary couple who were in the mission field for 19 years!

Ongoing

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, take to Association office. Contact Pat Parks to let her know you can help - jwpil@att.net.

Ralph Scott Residents, 3rd Thurs. monthly - Holly Hill Baptist Church, 2818 Edgewood Av, Burlington, 6:00 pm for about an hour. Refreshments are provided by Association churches. 20-40 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.

Oak Creek Retirement Community, 1st Thursday & 3rd Monday, 343 Baldwin Road, Burlington, 3:00 pm, volunteers arrive at 2:15 pm to set up. No refreshments. 20 attendees.

Monday,
November 13th
11:30am

PASTOR'S
LUNCH
GATHERING

The Cutting Board on Ramada Road
Burlington

2023 Mount Zion Association Calendar

Pastors Gathering – The Cutting Board, Ramada Road in Burlington

November 13th at 11:30am

Senior Adult Lunch and Learn – 11:00 am – 1:00pm

November 2nd Riverside Baptist Church, 1568 E. Harden St, Graham
"The Language of Love" - How can God use Yours?
Garry Gates, AMS - Mt. Zion Association

Please Note. The dates and times of the 2023 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.

Other Events with NC Baptists

Nov 6th-7th NC Baptist Annual Meeting Koury Conv. Center,
Greensboro, NC

For more information on these events and more, visit: <https://ncbaptist.org/events/>

2023 Annual Church Profile

Packets were mailed out to all churches on August 8th, containing all physical forms needed for filing the 2023 ACP.

**DEADLINE TO ENTER YOUR CHURCH DATA
ONLINE IS NOVEMBER 15TH.**

The links for the forms below, and instructions, will also be available at www.mtzionassociation.com on the Links Page, beginning September 1, 2023.

You may submit your form online at
<http://nc.sbcworkspace.com>

or you may utilize the digital form by using the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/231786044876164>

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



Garry Gates
Associational Missions Strategist

Sandi King
Ministry & Finance Assistant

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/>



Senior Adult Lunch and Learn
11:00 am – 1:00pm

November 2nd

“The Language of Love”:- How can God use Yours?

Garry Gates, AMS
Mt. Zion Baptist Association

Riverside Baptist Church
1568 E. Harden Street, Graham

Last day to sign up is October 30th!



Local D-Life Training
Opportunities in our area!
Sign up today, and start
Living the D-Life!

11
NOV

D-Life Boot Camp | First Baptist Church, Asheboro, NC

📅 Saturday, November 11, 2023

🕒 9:00am-1:00pm

📍 First Baptist Church, Asheboro, North Carolina

📋 D-Life Trainers: Bill & Rondie Wilks
For More Info: 336-629-9191 (FBC Office)

To Register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPoop8vfQRW08maTetMffdyfwZN9gg21GYXe90mXjLt_9Eq/viewform

12
NOV

D-Life Boot Camp | Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC

📅 Sunday, November 12, 2023

🕒 4:00pm-7:30pm

📍 Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

📋 D-Life Trainers: Bill & Rondie Wilks
For more Info: 336-288-3824 (LBC Office)

To Register:

<https://app.easytithes.com/App/Form/e5bdc807-61c9-4bff-aed5-031777ba55e3>