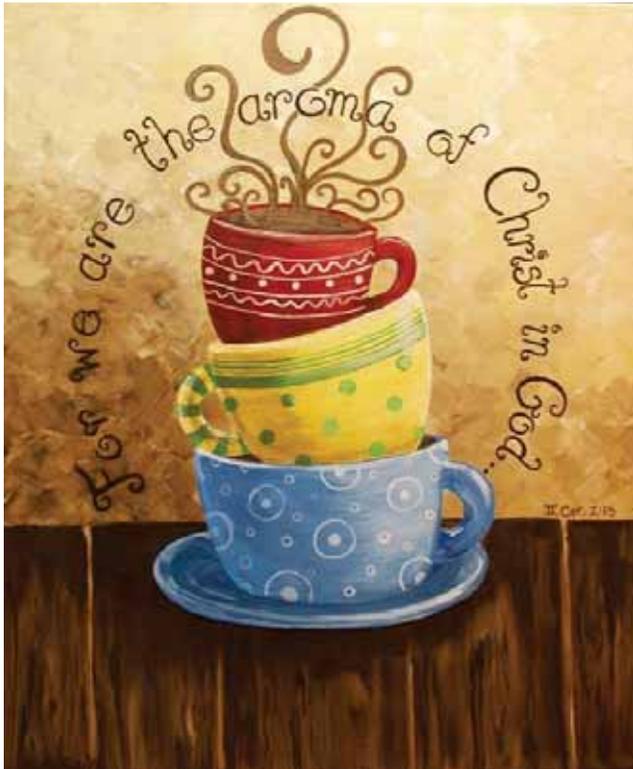




# Carolina Connection

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina



## *"THE AROMA OF CHRIST"*

*For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.*

*~2 Corinthians 2:15 (NIV)*

When you think about your five senses, which once brings back memories the most clearly? For me, it is the sense of smell. The smell of coffee in the morning reminds me of my dad. Every morning he had the coffee brewing before anyone was awake. Just a hint of cherry scent and my mind immediately goes to my grandpa's house where for many years he smoked a pipe of cherry tobacco. A certain perfume reminds me of my precious mother, and the smell of chicken frying and biscuits baking takes me to my grandmother's house on Sunday afternoons after church. These pleasing aromas bring precious memories

to my mind as those family members are all now with our Lord. But did you know that as Christians, we are called to be the pleasing aroma of Christ? Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were the aroma of Christ. I love the second part of that Bible verse because it serves as a reminder that ***we are the aroma of Christ, not only to those who are saved, but also to those who are perishing.*** Wow! That really makes me stop and think. What kind of aroma am I to a non-believer when I'm waiting in line at the checkout register, or when a waiter gets my order wrong, or when I am rear-ended in a car that I just bought two weeks before? I believe God expects us to be a "pleasing" aroma and to show the love of Christ to everyone at all times. It's our prayer that you will be able to attend this year's conference where together we will learn how to become a more "pleasing aroma of Christ."

After much prayer by your Executive Committee, God answered and has sent Gwen Smith to be this year's keynote speaker and worship leader. I have followed Gwen for a couple of years now on Facebook and through her blog and have done online Bible Studies with her. I have been blessed beyond measure by her sweet, humble spirit in teaching God's word and by her amazing singing voice. I know you will be too.

*Teresa Dotson*



Gwen Smith is one of the three co-founders of "Girlfriends in God," a conference and devotional ministry with more than 800,000 subscribers from across the world. Gwen is the author of several books including *I Want it All* (David C. Cook Publishing) and *Broken into Beautiful* (Harvest House Publishing). Gwen speaks, leads worship, and performs concerts for thousands of people annually at Christian women's events and churches. Over the years, she has shared the ministry platform with Stormie Omartian, Ruth Graham, Lysa TerKeurst, Angela Thomas, Craig Groeschel, Carol Kent, Sharon Jaynes, Lois Evans, Dr. Tony Evans, Mandisa, Liz Curtis Higgs, Jeff Foxworthy, Mary Southerland, Hayley DiMarco, Greg and Erin Smally, Babbie Mason and many more.

She has written and co-produced 6 CDs and 2 EPs (worship and Christian contemporary songs) and served as a staff songwriter and worship artist for

Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing from 2008-2011. She has written freelance for LifeWay and Lillenas Publishing, and is now writing for Grace Girl Music, in collaboration with Sunday Best Music out of Nashville, Tennessee. Gwen has shared her testimony, stories and songs on such TV shows as Life Today with James and Betty Robison, The 700 Club, The Harvest Show, The Good Life, The HomeKeepers Show and Atlanta Live.

Gwen is married to Brad and they have three children. They live in Charlotte where she serves as a worship leader at Life Fellowship Church. For more information about Gwen, check out her website at [www.gwensmith.net](http://www.gwensmith.net) and make plans to be with us in November. You'll be glad you did!



### *Registration & First Timers*

Thank you to those who have already sent in your registration and deposit for the NCBSA Conference. November 13-15, 2017 will be a time to remember. If you have not registered yet, early registration is still open! \$50.00 will hold your spot and the balance may be paid periodically with final payment due by September 30. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, please remember to still send in your annual membership dues of only \$30. This helps with the administrative costs of the NCBSA. Only active members qualify to serve as future officers.

This year will be a great time for secretaries, treasurers, office managers, ministry assistants and volunteers to be a part of the NCBSA. Come to Ridgecrest and enjoy God's beauty, make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how better to minister to others, etc. Please invite a First Timer to attend this year. Each First-Timer will be assigned a mentor who will help her find her room, show her around the area, and be on hand to answer any questions she may have. The mentor will make her feel special and welcome. Therefore, we need many current members to prayerfully consider saying "yes" to being a mentor.



Your officers have been working diligently and are so excited how it is all coming together. We analyzed your evaluation sheets and are implementing as many breakout suggestions as possible during the conference. Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional, and personal enrichment with lots of fun and fellowship for all.

Come and bring a First Timer with you!

*Gail Thompson*

We are excited to be back in the beautiful mountains for our conference at Ridgecrest this year! All of our rooms, breakout sessions and general sessions will be in Mountain Laurel, which is handicap friendly. All meals (except the banquet) will be in the Rhododendron Dining Hall. There are a couple of ways to get down to the dining hall for those with limited mobility. You can go across the breezeway into Johnson Spring and take the elevator, or shuttle buses/vans will be making routes to transport people to and from the dining hall. Shuttles will begin running 15 minutes before meals begin and continue until 15 minutes after the meals are finished. Our banquet on Tuesday night will be in the Johnson Spring building, which is accessible from Mountain Laurel by a breezeway.

## **MOUNTAIN LAUREL**



We will be at the Mountain Laurel building (East & West) for the majority of our time at Ridgecrest. This building is located at the very top of the hill. While there are stairways to and from other parts of the campus, handicap friendly alternate routes are also available. Mountain Laurel features beautifully appointed rooms (with mini-fridges, hair dryers and irons/ironing boards), free Wi-Fi (new & improved bandwidth for additional speeds), and a Fitness Room which can be accessed by anyone who has a Mountain Laurel room key.



## **OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**



Clouds Coffee Shop has had a makeover since our last trip to Ridgecrest. They offer specialty coffees as well as some simple food items such as salads & sandwiches (selection may be limited). There are also some comfortable seating areas if you want to just hang out and chat. A new feature since our last time at

Ridgecrest is the Roots Gift Shop. This shop sells Ridgecrest merchandise as well as a selection of jewelry, pottery and other items by local craftsmen. There is no longer a permanent LifeWay store at Ridgecrest, but we will have a pop-up store during our conference.



*Alicia Ashley*

## **2017 Nominating Committee**

**Judy Greer (Chairperson)**

**Mary Bentley**

**Karen Fox**



We will be doing our own Photo Directory for our conference

this year. If you would like to be included, you can submit a photo with your registration or email it to [ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com](mailto:ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com). Due to copyright restrictions we cannot accept any professional photos for this project.

# Mission Emphasis



The missions emphasis for this year's conference will be on one of the greatest ministries we have in our Baptist State Convention—the NC Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Ministry. Known

throughout the southeast and beyond, this ministry's purpose is to relieve human suffering caused by disasters by providing hot meals, debris removal, child care and family assistance, among many other things. The NCBM Disaster Relief Ministry provides ways for Christians to minister to people who are hurting by helping them to rebuild their lives and their homes. The ministry provides organization, equipment, and strategy for volunteers committed to serve. They also work alongside other disaster relief organizations to relieve the suffering—American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, NC Emergency Management, and a variety of other groups.

Virtually 100% of NCBM Disaster Relief is funded by donations. We hope you will prayerfully consider giving a donation to this organization when you attend the 2017 NCBSA conference this fall.



This year at Ridgecrest, we will be able to enjoy some entertainment at our banquet on Tuesday night. As several of you have requested, we are planning to have

another talent show, with our secretaries displaying their "talent" through song, comedy, dance, skits, etc. Anyone can participate, but please let us know before you come to the conference!

Also this year, we would like to have a Secretaries' Choir like we had many years ago. The choir would meet to practice once or twice during the conference and then sing two songs at the talent show. No sign-up is necessary to sing in the choir—just show up at the rehearsal! More details will follow in our next newsletter!



*Deborah Richardson*

## 2017 Executive Committee



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## 2017 NCBSA Conference November 13-15 at Ridgecrest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (work): \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: (Required): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Room mate(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NEED Private Room (Enclose additional \$85): \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time attending a NCBSA Conference? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you serve as a mentor to a First Timer? \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COST: \$225.00** (includes membership and conference fee, room at conference center, and meals).

**PRIVATE ROOM - additional \$85** (If you do not have a roommate in mind and do not want a private room, a roommate can be assigned to you.)

**COMMUTERS: \$160.00** (includes membership and conference fee, Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Wednesday breakfast and lunch).

**We encourage you to register early!**

A \$50.00 deposit, along with the completed registration form, reserves your spot.

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Installments are acceptable.**

**Final payment due September 30.**

**Make checks payable to NCBSA.**

**Mail to:**

**Gail Thompson**

**c/o West Cabarrus Church**

**7655 Bruton Smith Blvd.**

**Concord, NC 28027**

**Refunds for Cancellations**

*(excludes \$30 membership fee)*

**Before July 31: 100% refund**

**August 1–September 30: 60% refund**

**After September 30: No refunds**



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