



Carolina Connection

WINTER 2017

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Edited by Alicia Ashley

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina



“Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.” ~1 Peter 3:4 (ESV)

I don’t know about you, but for me the NCBSA Conference always comes at exactly the right time...just when I need a break from the daily routine to spend some quality time with my Lord and my sisters in Christ. And this year’s conference was all that and more! What an awesome time of worship, fellowship, and learning together. And what better place to be than at the beach to just sit and reflect on God’s goodness and enjoy His beautiful world. We were especially blessed the last morning with one of the most beautiful sunrises that I have ever seen. *“Thank you,*

Lord for the beauty of Your creation!”

We were so blessed to have Beth Greer as our keynote speaker and were encouraged by her dynamic yet sincere teaching of God’s Word. We were reminded that we are all very precious in God’s sight and that we can reflect and adorn the body of Christ by how we act or react to what happens in our lives each day. In the first session, Beth shared about the encounter that Jesus had with the woman at the well. And just like her, Jesus knows everything about us yet loves us anyway. Our sins are forgiven: past, present, and future. It was also such a joy to have Melody Griffin as our Worship Leader. We were touched as she shared her testimony and her music.

I hope each of you received a blessing from our time spent together. From our first planning meeting together as an Executive Committee, we began praying for God’s will to be done and for the conference to go according to His plans. And almost immediately, we saw God at work every step of the way as we chose the scripture, theme, speaker, worship leader, breakout leaders, etc. And we prayed diligently for each of you that God would allow those who needed to receive His message from this conference to be able to attend. It is such a blessing to see God’s plan unfold. I know that many of you were praying with us and we want to thank you for all your prayers and encouraging words. It takes many faithful servants in order for an event like this to be successful, and I want to say a special thank you to everyone who helped in any way. I especially would like to thank the other members of last year’s Executive Team (Nancy Evans, April Van Dyke, and Gail Thompson) for all your hard work and dedication.

Please continue to pray for your officers this year as we are seeking God’s direction for the 2017 conference. Remember, we are here for you if you need anything.

Teresa Dotson

2017 Executive Committee



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YOU SPEAK ... WE LISTEN

Thank you for taking the time to complete the conference evaluation forms. We look forward to your feedback as this is an important part of our planning for future conferences. Please know that we have read and reviewed each and every comment and will do our very best to make the 2017 conference even better. As you probably already know, depending on the location of the conference, some things are out of our control. But we try our best to do everything possible to make sure you have a pleasant and memorable experience. It was obvious from the many positive responses that you enjoyed Beth

and Melody. Below are just a few other comments received:

- ◇ Loved Beth and Melody
- ◇ Love the way the schedule was on the back of the nametag and notebook!
- ◇ Very well organized! Great Christian spirit! Fabulous scenery!!
- ◇ Coffee/drink bar was awesome!
- ◇ Chrismon class was great
- ◇ Computer classes are always helpful
- ◇ Beth's teaching was timely and to the point
- ◇ Enjoyed time together worshipping God!



Heavenly Humor

Kevin was not an ideal child. He managed to get into mischief frequently, and was always trailed by his younger brother, Ken. Finally at her wits end, his mother took him to see their Pastor. He decided to try to focus Kevin's mind on higher things.

"Kevin," he asked with great seriousness, "where is God?"

Kevin's eyes widened and he gave no reply.

The Pastor tried again, this time in a sterner voice. "Kevin! Where is God?"

Again, Kevin remained silent and was beginning to look quite frightened.

For the third time, the pastor asked the question. "Kevin! WHERE IS GOD?"

Kevin then bolted out of the Pastor's office, ran all the way home, and burst into his brother's room in a panic.

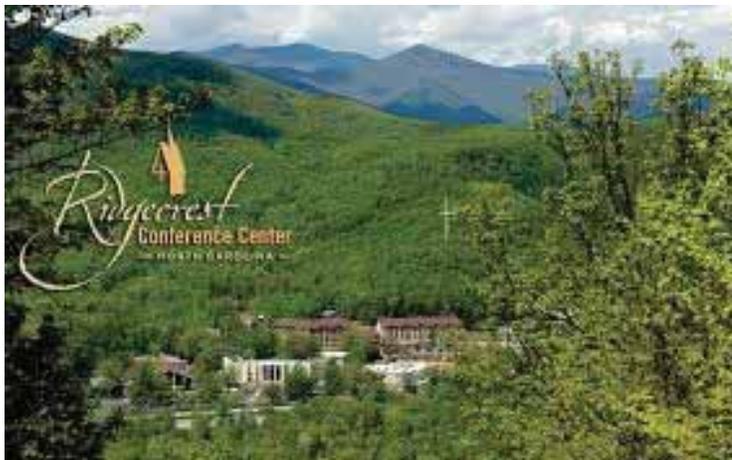
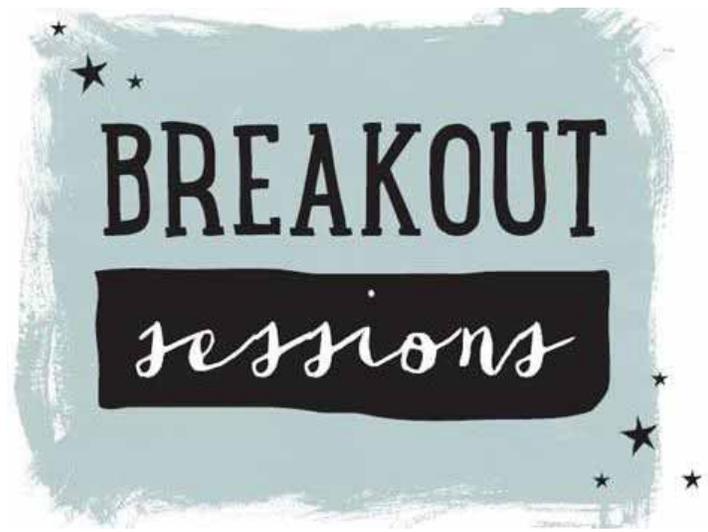
"Ken!" he panted breathlessly, "we're really in trouble now! The preacher can't find God and he thinks we had something to do with it!"

Last fall at our NCBSA Conference, we had five hours of breakout sessions. For the sessions, we had the opportunity to choose classes to help in *Professional Development*, in *Personal Effectiveness*, and to be encouraged and enlightened in *Spiritual Enrichment* classes. As always, these sessions provided us with much information and offered us the opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas with those attending.

Our breakout sessions at Caswell were well received, and many of you expressed on your conference evaluations how helpful they were to you. Angela Cockerham met with our 25 first-timers to the NCBSA before the conference began. The *Spiritual Enrichment* sessions were led by Chris Schofield, Marty Dupree, Jeffrey Stutts, Beth Greer, Melodie Griffin, and Martha Jolly. We offered several *Professional Development* classes led by Lai Salmonson, Judy Autry, Marlene Houk, Kay Tatum, Davis Blount, Russell Schwab, and Eric Davidson. And our classes on *Personal Effectiveness* were led by Dr. Molly Smyser, Lieutenant Lewis, and Russell Schwab. There were also additional opportunities to meet with our Guidestone representative, David Blount, in one-on-one consultations. Unfortunately, Martha McDowell and Mary Ellen Bowman were unable to come and lead their classes on *Personal Effectiveness*.

We thank you for your comments and suggestions you made on the evaluations. They are extremely helpful in planning for our next conference. As always, we welcome and encourage your input throughout the year. Please continue to pray for the NCBSA officers, as we have already started planning for our 2017 conference!

Deborah Richardson



***Get registered now for the 2017
Conference at Ridgecrest Conference
Center!
November 13-15***

The fee will be \$225.00 per person and includes membership and conference fee, double occupancy room, and all meals. Private rooms will be an additional \$85.00. Commuters will pay \$160.00 which includes membership and conference fee, and six meals (Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Wednesday breakfast and lunch). You can make installments if you so desire, and \$50.00 will hold your reservation. Make checks payable to the NCBSA and mail to: Gail Thompson, c/o West Cabarrus Church, 7655 Bruton Smith Blvd, Concord, NC 28027. Your officers are already hard at work making plans for what we pray will be a very rewarding and inspiring conference. See you on the mountain!

Alicia Ashley



Our mission emphasis at the 2016 conference was the Betty F. Walker Endowment Fund. Betty Walker founded the NC Baptist Secretaries Association in 1982. Betty Walker was the former administrative assistant at First Baptist Church of Burlington. She understood the struggles and blessings we face each day at our jobs, because she experienced them too. Her dream was for the church's administrative assistants to have opportunities for professional development, emotional support, and spiritual motivation. She served as the first president of the association from 1982 to 1984. Betty also served on the planning committee that led to the formation of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries and served as the second president of that organization. She was a teacher and trainer for Baptist administrative assistants for many years.

Today, we honor Betty's vision with the Betty F. Walker Endowment Fund which was established November 1997. Once the fund reached the goal of \$5,000, 95% of the interest is distributed to the NCBSA.

\$693 was collected for this fund at our 2016 NCBSA conference. These proceeds will provide significant and lasting gifts for the benefit of our organization. If you want to make additional contributions to this fund, you may send your gifts to the Baptist State Convention and earmark it for the Betty Walker Endowment Fund.

Gail Thompson



As we plan for the 2017 conference, the Executive Committee covets your prayers. Only with God's help and guidance can we make this conference successful. I would like to call upon all of you to partner with us in prayer this year leading up to the conference. So how can you pray for us? Here are a few things that we can all pray about together this quarter.



- ◇ Pray for God's leading in the selection of breakout sessions and leaders.
- ◇ Pray for a productive meeting at Ridgecrest Conference Center.
- ◇ Pray for our sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we make decisions concerning the upcoming conference.

How can we pray for you? If you have any special prayer requests or concerns, please let us know so we can join with you in prayer.

Alicia Ashley

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



This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website, www.ncbaptistsecretaries.net. If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Alicia Ashley at ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings. Many Thanks!



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We are here for you!!

Remember if you need to contact any of the officers, our phone numbers and emails are listed on the first page. Feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, prayer requests, or ideas.