



Carolina Connection

WINTER 2016

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Edited by April Van Dyke

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina

Wow! What a great time of fellowship, relaxing, worship times together, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. His Holy Spirit was so prevalent during our conference. I don't know about you but everywhere I turned I could see that the Holy Spirit had already been there working making things ready for all of us to be blessed. We did have a hiccup with the projection system, but God got the glory in that too. We all continued to worship Him in the midst of the audio/video difficulties. Renea Henderson did a wonderful job of leading us in a time of worship through music. Everyone was in awe and enjoyed Bryant West and his piano playing talent as well as his singing ability.



Wendy Peters was such a blessing. She poured her heart out to us that week. Many of you commented on how much you enjoyed her teaching. At our first session, Wendy talked about our heart condition. Do we serve out of duty or out of love? The heart matters.

Next, she talked about prayer. We are to pray for our pastors, and to pray without ceasing. They have a burden and we need to understand that. They are burdened for others to be rooted, built up and strengthened in Christian truth. Ephesians 6:19 says *"And pray in the Spirit, on all occasions. With all kinds of prayers and all kinds of requests, with this in mind, be alert, always keep praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me. So that I will fearlessly make known, the mystery of the Gospel"*. She also challenged us to write down 1,000 things we are thankful for. After about 300 we will begin to look around for more.

In the last session Wendy talked about being thankful. We are to practice being faithful and thankful. In Ephesians 5:19-20 it says to *"Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord always giving THANKS to God the Father for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ"*.

2016 Executive Committee



Nancy Evans
President

sandycreekassn@windstream.net
919-776-9423

April Van Dyke
Second Vice President

april@elizabethchurch.org
704-482-6339



Teresa Dotson
President Elect

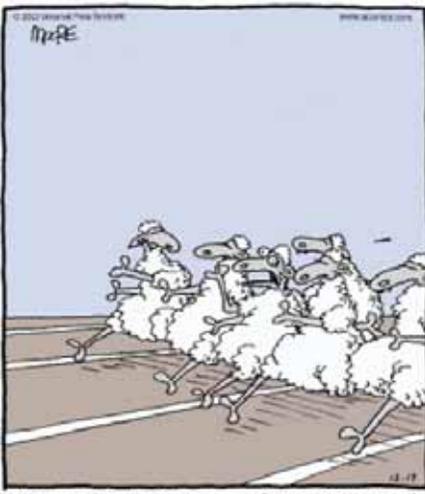
tdotson5@frontier.com
919-489-3396

Gail Thompson
Secretary/Treasurer

gthompson@westcabarruschurch.com
704-455-2590



A word from your NCBSA President:



"Hey, quit bunching up! ... Geez, we can't all be followers. Someone's got to take the lead!"

God has so blessed me to be a part of your Executive Committee. I am one that would rather work behind the scene, but God had a different plan for me. When you are approached this year by the nominating committee please don't say no right off the top... PRAY...and let God have His way, then if He says no, it is ok to say no. It is hard work,

but worth the efforts. Remember, if God calls you to it – He has already equipped you for the task at hand. He will never leave you nor forsake you. His timing is perfect. We will be praying for you and your decision. ~Nancy

Thanks to everyone that filled out their evaluation sheets.

Your officers are in the process of reading each one and will consider each comment for our future conference. We want what God has already planned out for each lady that will be attending the November 7-9, 2016 conference. Below you will see a few of your comments that were most enjoyed this past conference.

- ⇒ Meeting new secretaries & making new acquaintances was great but the Spiritual aspect was over the top. Answers & suggestions about handling the everyday secretary life was great-good speaker.
- ⇒ Taking more time this year to meet and fellowship with others. Beautiful ladies!
- ⇒ Getting together with like-minded women who understand my situation & love the Lord as well as having someone to ask advice.
- ⇒ Getting to know other ladies that you can share in the same experiences and that realize God cares about church secretaries.
- ⇒ To be honest being away from home / work responsibilities, so that I could spend time on myself learning how to be a better person / Christian / office manager.
- ⇒ Friendship with friends; a few days away from work to just breathe & relax, always look forward to breakout sessions.
- ⇒ Felt the "Spirit of the Lord" in the quiet / enjoyed being myself & enjoying being with old friends & new.
- ⇒ I enjoyed all. Breakout was great. So was the speaker, Renea & piano player.
- ⇒ Fellowship with other ladies & quiet time away from the hustle & bustle. The food was fabulous.
- ⇒ I came here alone, but I was never lonely! Without exception, every lady treated me as if we were already friends. They welcomed me to dine with, sit with & even shop with them - like Real Christians Do!
- ⇒ The breakout sessions were wonderful and Wendy was an absolute joy.
- ⇒ This year's schedule was very good.
- ⇒ Very well done – good balance.
- ⇒ I think it flows smoothly, helps on different levels, and builds networking.

THANK YOU Thank You Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve you one more year as your secretary/treasurer. I would also like to especially thank you for allowing me to share my handsome son with you on Veterans Day. Many of you commented on the display and I truly appreciate you taking the time to acknowledge it. Your kind words meant a lot to me.

You were very generous with the offering for Operation North State for troops currently serving. You gave \$828.00 for this very worthy cause. You also gave \$131.00 to the Betty Walker Endowment Fund. As you know, these funds help off-set the costs of the conferences as they honor our founder. You also paid \$387.00 for merchandise and plants; these funds will help your officers as they begin plans for next year's conference. Looking forward to seeing each of you at Caswell next year, Drema Hill

Thank You Thank You Thank You



Each year I look forward to our conference and especially the breakout sessions which provide us with the opportunity to gain Spiritual Enrichment, to sharpen our Professional Development and to enhance our Personal Effectiveness. These sessions always provide us with a wealth of helpful information plus they enable us to exchange ideas and to encourage our sisters in Christ.

The breakout sessions this year at Caraway were very well received and helped us to be "Rooted in God's Love." As I read over the evaluations, it's difficult to determine which ones were the MOST helpful because all of us are in different stages of our life, our spiritual walk and in our profession. There was something for everyone. Patsy Mills welcomed 15 "First Timers" to the NCBSA. "Spiritual Enrichment" sessions were led by Kenny Lamm, Martha McDowell, Patsy Mills, David Moore, Wendy Peters and Rodney Stillwell. We had several "Professional Development" sessions which were led by Judy Autry, Davis Blount, Brenda Boyles, Kenny Lamm, Lai Salmonson, Phil Stone and Kay Tatum. We were taught ways that we can be more "Personally Effective" by Sandy Gregory, Merrie Johnson, Martha McDowell, Robert Simons and Jeanette Weyandt. Additional opportunities were provided to meet with our Guidestone representative, Davis Blount and also with Dr. Sandy Gregory from the NC Baptist Aging Ministry.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions. They are extremely helpful. As always, we welcome your input throughout the year. Please continue to pray for your officers as we are already hard at work planning for the next meeting. May God abundantly bless each of you in 2016. ~Teresa



As you already know by now, the 2016 Conference for the NC Baptist Secretaries Association will be at Ft. Caswell, Oak Island, NC on November 7-9. We have a number of ministry assistants who have been faithful in coming from the eastern part of the state to Caraway and Ridgecrest for years. Several of you have commented on your evaluation forms that we should put Fort Caswell in the rotation. It is important to your officers to try to keep the costs of our conferences down and NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell definitely offered the most economical deal. We have reserved plenty of space for every one and hope you will all make the effort to join us at Fort Caswell. We have The

Smith Conference Center booked. We also have the Oleander (5) rooms and the Palmeto (5) rooms on bottom floor reserved for all beyond what the Conference will hold. We want to try and keep everyone on a bottom floor so they won't have to climb stairs. Of course, the first ones to register will be placed in the Smith Center, so it is to your benefit to get your deposit in early. If you have a roommate you want to room with they will also need to get their registration in early. The fee will be \$220.00 per person and includes membership and conference fee, (double occupancy) room, and meals. Private rooms will be an additional \$70.00, and they will be assigned to either Oleander or Palmeto. Commuters will pay \$160.00 which includes membership and conference fee, 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 at the Beach!!!



~Gail

Betty F. Walker Endowment Fund

NC Baptist Secretaries Association was founded by Betty Walker 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 1982-84. 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 and 5% to the Endowment Fund. \$131 was collected in her honor at the 2015 NCBSA conference. These proceeds will provide significant and lasting gifts for the benefit of our organization. If you want to contribute to this fund, you can forward your contributions to "The Baptist State Convention" and earmark it for the Betty Walker Endowment Fund.



Our mission emphasis at the 2015 conference was Operation North State. ONS utilizes North Carolina's people, places, products and pride to provide numerous military support services programs as a show of support and appreciation to the men and women who are currently serving in all branches of the armed forces as well as providing support programs for the veterans-in-need that call North Carolina home. One of ONS' premier projects is their NCCARES Christmas Box Project—the state's #1 NC themed Christmas care package. At our conference we collected Lance food products—peanuts, peanut bars, etc. And our offering went to ONS to help

offset their postage cost for shipping the boxes. I am happy to report that the NCBSA collected a large box filled with Lance peanuts and peanut bars and also \$828.00!! Way to go ladies! I received this message from Terry Snyder, founder of ONS, once he received our donations: "Thanks so much to the North Carolina Baptist Secretaries Association for hosting the collection Party! The items you collected during your recent conference will be a great addition to the NCCARES Christmas Boxes. We received a most generous cash donation of \$828 and every dime will go to t-shirt printing and postage!"

I also found this update on the ONS Facebook page from January 7, 2016:

"Happy, Happy, Happy Financial News! We just wrapped up the accounting for the 2015 NCCARES Christmas Box Project. The project completely funded itself without needing any funds from our General Funds Account. We packed 1500 boxes at \$210,000 retail and received the names of deployed troops to send 1250 of the boxes. The remaining items were taken to veterans-in-need in nursing homes and facilities throughout the state. THANK YOU SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS.... This completes our sixth NCCARES Christmas Box Project - and collectively, we are making a difference!"



If you want to find out more about what you or your church can do to continue to support ONS, please go to their website www.operationnorthstate.com. Or if you know of a soldier that will be away from NC during the holidays you can recommend a recipient on their website also. ~April

2016 NCBSA Conference November 7-9 at Ft. Caswell

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 \$70): _____

Physical Needs: _____

Food Allergies: _____

This is my first time attending a NCBSA Conference: Y N

Would you be willing to serve as a mentor to a First Timer?
Y N

TOTAL COST: \$220.00 (includes membership and conference fee, room at conference center, and meals).

Private room - additional \$70

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)

Make checks payable to NCBSA. Mail to:

Gail Thompson

c/o West Cabarrus Church

7655 Bruton Smith Blvd.

Concord, NC 28027

\$30 Membership - Nonrefundable



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 April Van Dyke at ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com with their name and email and April 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.