



Carolina Connection

Spring 2020

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Edited by Myra Phillips

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A Note From the President

Happy Spring, ladies! I trust that you are doing well in these unprecedented times we find ourselves in. I'm sitting at my dining room table as I write this. My husband, who has now been asked to work from home, is beside me. We are both on our laptops; very unusual Monday morning, to say the least. And with everything going on in the world, we have reason to be fearful and discouraged. But I know exactly who is reading this article and I know you are confident of exactly Who holds this crazy world in the palm of His hand. Regardless, you may be having "one of those days" or just feeling a little bit anxious despite all that. Can I remind you of, and encourage you with, a simple truth? "God's answer for troubled times has always been the same: heaven has an occupied throne. Fear may fill our world, but it doesn't have to fill our hearts." (Max Lucado)

I am currently reading one of my favorite authors, Max Lucado, and his book, *Trade Your Cares for Calm*. If you haven't already read it, now is an opportune time. Following is just a brief excerpt based on Philippians 4:4-8. (This is also one of my favorite passages of scripture, one that I committed to memory many years ago.)

"Five verses with four admonitions that lead to one wonderful promise: the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds" (vs. 7)

Celebrate God's goodness. "Rejoice in the Lord always" (vs.4)

Ask God for help. "Let your requests be made known to God" (vs. 6)

Leave your concerns with him. "With thanksgiving..." (vs. 6)

Meditate on good things. "Think about the things that are good and worthy or praise" (vs. 8)

Celebrate. Ask. Leave. Meditate. C.A.L.M."



Wonderful advice, wouldn't you agree? One more thing, and it is my prayer that you will allow the Holy Spirit to remind you of this today: "to wait, biblically speaking, is not to assume the worst, worry, fret, make demands, or take control. Nor is inactivity. Waiting is a sustained effort to stay focused on God through prayer and belief. To wait is to 'rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. (Psalm 37:7)'"

Dear friends, we do not know what today or tomorrow hold, but we know who does, and we know who holds our hand!

Stay safe and God bless!

Karoline

And our Speaker for 2020 is...

One of the doors God closed last year was opened very early in our planning process this year, and as is always the case, God had His reasons and they are evident now. 2019 was not the right time, but 2020 is! She was a recommendation from your 2018 evaluations and she is as excited about being our keynote speaker as we are that she'll be joining us at Ridgecrest in November.



“This is me, **Joy Earle**. I have been sharing my life stories since I was a child. I consider laughter a life celebration, and offering that to an audience is a lifelong dream come true. I am a daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother “Gaga,” and friend. I am deeply invested in every area of my life, and should you ever be part of this circle of love, you will hear a story or two about yourself, so be careful. My facial expressions put me in a lot of trouble growing up in Kentucky. I was asked by a teacher, “Are your eyes loose in your head? They keep rolling!” Yes, the “Joy Earle eye roll” should have been patented long ago; it is a trademark if I ever had one. Those facial expressions now grace platforms across the country, and as of yet no one has asked if my eyes were not attached! The truth, my truth, is that life has given me my best stories; you can’t make this stuff up! I will never tire of finding the funny in every bit of it and sharing it with the world. We will meet in the near future to celebrate the funny together. You’re welcome!”

The executive committee is very grateful that God opened this door. We believe it is definitely the year to be reminded it is okay (and good!) to laugh. As we continue planning for the 2020 conference, we ask for continued prayers, specifically as we plan the breakout sessions, as some of those doors are closing. But we are confident God has a reason and we are praying He will lead us to exactly who He wants this year.

Know we pray for you all, and if you need us, don’t hesitate to reach out.

Blessings! *Karoline*

DENIM and Pearls

The great dilemma : Do I dress up for the “Banquet” or can I come casual?

Well, we are listening and empathize with your struggles! After all, we’re Sista’s here, right?

This year, your Executive Committee decided to take away some of your distress. For 2020, we are losing the “Banquet” name for our Tuesday evening meal gathering. Instead, we will be having a true Southern buffet with all the favorite foods and are calling it “Denim and Pearls”. We will be reminded of many ‘pearls’ of wisdom found in God’s word and about the durability of ‘denim’-an example of how God’s love endures, and how we are called to persevere in our love for God and others. We’ll highlight the blessings and challenges of persevering, like ‘denim’, while seeking God’s ‘pearls’ of wisdom which He promises to all those who ask Him. In keeping with that theme, we would like for you gals to show up in what else but Denim! Maybe just a Denim Jacket, or Denim Jeans, or a Denim Skirt, or Denim Shirt or Dress... you get the idea! But don’t forget a southern girls favorite accessory, PEARLS! You read it right! Wear Denim and Pearls and come prepared for an exciting and fun evening!

REGISTER NOW FOR OUR 2020 CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2-4 RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER

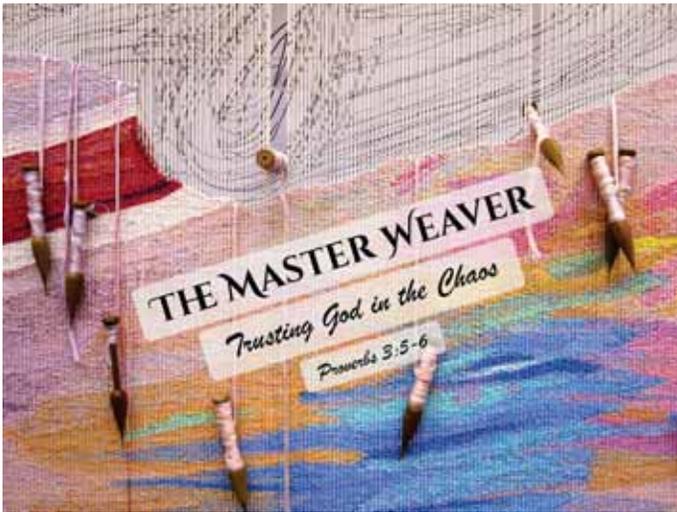
The fee is \$225.00 per person and includes membership and conference fee, double occupancy room, and all meals. Private rooms will be an additional \$109.00. Commuters will pay \$160.00 which includes membership, conference fee, and six meals (Monday dinner; Tuesday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Wednesday breakfast and lunch).

Those of you who have attended at Ridgecrest before will be pleasantly surprised by all the new renovations to our rooms! We were recently graced with a tour, and were blown away with what had been done. It was one of those HGTV makeover WOWS! All rooms are light and bright with all new appointments; light fixtures and décor. Every room has it's own Keurig Coffee maker, so you can bring your K-cups and be set any time! In addition, hair dryers and refrigerators are standard in every room!

We hope you will plan to attend! You might consider asking your church or association to help in funding your time away for this conference. Payments can be made in installments, and \$50.00 will hold your reservation.

Make checks payable to NCBSA and mail to: **Janette Harris, c/o Burkemont Baptist Church,
4668 Burkemont Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.**

Your officers are hard at work making plans for what we pray will be a very rewarding and inspiring conference .



RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER NORTH CAROLINA



2020 Executive Committee



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REGISTER NOW

Registration & First Timers

A BIG thank you to those who have already sent in your registration and deposit for our upcoming NCBSA Conference. As with past conferences, November 2nd – 4th, 2020 will be a

time to remember. Rooms at Ridgecrest have been updated and will provide a very comfortable and memorable experience. Early registration is encouraged, and a \$50 deposit will hold your spot. The balance may be paid periodically, with final payment due by September 30. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, you can still be a member of the NCBSA. Just remember to send in your annual membership dues of only \$30. This helps with the administrative costs of the NCBSA. As a reminder, only active members qualify to serve as future officers.

Whether you are a secretary, treasurer, office manager, ministry assistant or volunteer, this is a great time to be a part of the NCBSA. Come to Ridgecrest and enjoy God's beauty! If you have been before you know that the NCBSA Conference is a way to make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how to better minister to others, etc. That's why it is so important to 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. In order to make each First Timer feel special and welcome, we need several current members to prayerfully consider saying "yes" to being a mentor.

Your officers have been working diligently and are super excited about this year's conference. Already we have seen God's mighty hand at work! We have prayerfully considered each and every evaluation sheet and are implementing changes as needed for the conference. Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all.

Don't forget to send in your registration and invite a First Timer!

Janette



THANKS!

Many thanks to Teresa Almond, Becky Johnson and Lori Matthews for agreeing to serve as this year's Nominating Committee. Please join us as we prayerfully consider prospective First and Second Vice Presidents. Begin praying now as to how you will respond if it is your time to serve the NCBSA.

2020 NCBSA Conference November 2-4 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 \$109): _____

Physical Needs: _____

Food Allergies: _____

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

PRIVATE ROOM - additional \$109 (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:

Janette Harris

c/o Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd.

Morganton, NC 28655

Refunds for Cancellations

(excludes \$30 membership fee)

Before July 31: 100% refund

August 1–September 30: 60% refund

After September 30: No refunds

Is this your first time attending a NCBSA Conference? _____

How many years have you attended? _____

Would you serve as a mentor to a First Timer? _____

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 Myra Phillips at ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings. Many Thanks!