



Carolina Connection

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Edited by Myra Phillips

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; stuck down, but not destroyed ~ 2 Corinthians 4:6-9

One of the things I enjoy doing in January, along with buying a brand-new one, is looking back through my journal and reading and reflecting on the past year; its challenges and accomplishments, mountaintops and valleys. One of those mountaintops is always the NCBSA conference and the 2018 conference didn't disappoint. Though we certainly would have preferred better weather, I wholeheartedly agree with one secretary who said on her evaluation: "Despite the rainy, cold weather, it was sunny and warm with my fellow sister workers."

I have been a member of the NCBSA since 1997 and have been blessed by every conference, each one providing its own unique contribution to the season I was in. This having been my first conference as an officer, I understand more than ever just how much prayer and preparation is required for a conference that, not only equips administrative assistants for ministry, but brings glory to the God we serve. I am so grateful to say that the Spirit of God led your executive committee every step of the way. It was my pleasure and privilege to work with Teresa Dotson, Alicia Ashley and Rachel Sanders, and thank them so very much for their sweet friendship and giving hearts. From the very beginning, we shared the common goal of a conference that brought God glory and secretaries the administrative, spiritual and personal fulfillment we all desire when we come together.



I can say, without a doubt, that Dawn Smith Jordan was exactly who God wanted as our keynote speaker and worship leader this past year. He led us to her at the very beginning of the planning process and affirmed that very fact with her as she, in turn, prayed. She blessed us not only with her gifts of singing and speaking and humor, she was very honest and transparent with us, revealing a life filled with great heartache, disappointment and struggle. But her story encouraged us and reminded us that God works ALL things for our good and His glory, and that this journey we are all on is one that is designed to make us more like Christ.

Our general sessions began with the reminder that "Hope Has a Name." Dawn shared her life verse from Proverbs 3:5-6, exhorted us to "cease striving" (Psalm 46:10) and simply encouraged us to stop doing (sigh) and be "be-ers." That's a message I need to hear regularly!

During our second general session, she focused on forgiveness, reminding us that ultimately we must forgive because we are forgiven, and encouraging us to LET IT GO, because unforgiveness leads to unfruitfulness. And we are called to live fruitful lives. We finished up our third general session, with Dawn and the passage from Genesis 2:18 reminding us that we "cannot do life alone."

What huge blessings we received during the general sessions! We laughed and cried and worshipped together. But can I also say, what a great time we had playing icebreaker games on Monday (your evaluations said as much!) and at our banquet and movie on Tuesday? Overall, we hope you enjoyed your time at Caraway and pray that everyone who attended this conference received a special blessing and just what you needed when you took the time from your busy schedules to relax a bit. If you weren't able to attend in 2018, we hope and pray you will be able to this year as we anticipate another great conference, this one at Fort Caswell in Oak Island. We ask, also, that you pray for us as we seek God's guidance in the planning process and know that we pray for each of you as you serve your Lord right where He has you!

Blessings, **K**aroline Overby



We Hear You!

Thank you so much for taking time to complete the conference evaluation forms. We received lots of great feedback and will prayerfully consider every recommendation you made. Your encouraging words are deeply appreciated and your suggestions a crucial part of planning the next conference. It was evident by your comments that you were renewed spiritually and, despite a glitch or two, were pleased with our time together, overall.

Here are just a few of your comments:

- I am a first-timer! Everything was great and I hope to be back next year.
- This was my first time and I enjoyed it very much! I felt very welcomed and everyone was super nice and friendly.
- One of the best conferences ever! Dawn was awesome!
- Wonderful revival for my soul.
- Food was good, but not very hot.
- I enjoyed movie night!
- Maybe extend conference to 3 full or 3 ½ days in order to add more breakout sessions. Couldn't attend all that I really wanted to.

Karoline Overby



**REGISTER NOW FOR OUR
2019 CONFERENCE "AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL"
NOVEMBER 4-6
NC BAPTIST ASSEMBLY @ CASWELL**



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, 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 NCBSA and mail to: **Rachel Sanders, c/o Bethlehem Baptist Church, 100 Half Moon Church Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546.** Your officers are already hard at work making plans for what we pray will be a very rewarding and inspiring conference!

***"We have this hope as [An Anchor for the Soul](#), firm and secure.
It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner,
Jesus, has entered on our behalf." Hebrews 6:19-20a NIV***

Myra Phillips

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Last November during our annual NCBSA conference at Caraway, we had the opportunity to choose from over 30 different breakout sessions which provided helpful solutions for professional development, personal effectiveness, spiritual enrichment and a bonus time. Each year, these sessions provide us with tons of information and offers us the opportunity to ask questions of the session leaders, share ideas of what we have experienced and learn what our peers have done in similar situations.

The 2018 ***Spiritual Enrichment*** sessions were led by Patsy Mills, Karen Scoggins, Rodney Stillwell and Joel Stephens. The ***Professional Development*** sessions were led this year by Marlene Houk, Davis Blount, Kay Tatum, Nancy Evans, Angela Cockerham, Joel Stephens and Jeanette Weyandt. ***Personal Effectiveness*** session leaders were Dr. Nick Gonzalez, Lai Salmonson, Jeanette Weyandt, Officer Gerald Daniel, Lauren Franks, Russell Schwab and Tonya Cone. Opportunities to meet with our State Convention's Compensation + Benefit Services representative, Davis Blount, were offered, as well as "Yoga Relief from Desk & Computer Work" by our very own, Karoline Overby during the Tuesday afternoon free time. We encourage our First-Timers to join us each year. If you know of new Ministry Assistants in your Association, or area, please encourage them to attend. Share information about the NCBSA or let your officers know who they are so that we can get them to the website info.

We thank you for your comments and suggestions 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 2019 conference! Already looking forward to seeing you in November at Caswell!

Teresa Almond





Our Mission Emphasis at our 2018 conference was The Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry (FJPM). This ministry provides Christian counsel to inmates, helps inmates prepare for a life outside of prison, ministers to inmates through worship, music and Bible studies and much more! Our gracious secretaries in attendance at this year's conference donated \$1000.00! Thank you to everyone who has helped make a difference in the lives of those who often times are forgotten or overlooked by society.

Here is more information on the FJPM (taken from their website):

With the help of volunteers and staff, the FJPM ministers to the inmate populations of the maximum security Forsyth County Detention Center in downtown Winston-Salem (population approx. 750), and the minimum security Forsyth Correctional Center in northern Winston-Salem (population approximately 250).

We are an inter-denominational ministry that thrives and survives on the efforts of our volunteers, and by the grants and private donations we receive from the public. In addition to ministering to inmates, one of our key goals is to provide a variety of skills that help inmates adjust to life after imprisonment. From teaching coping mechanisms and finding employment, to avoiding the behaviors that got them into trouble, we offer a wide range of services that help inmates survive in jail, and thrive outside of it.

If you would like to become a volunteer or find out other ways to help this ministry, please visit their website at www.forsythjpm.org.

Rachel Sanders

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 church administrative assistants to have the opportunity for professional development, emotional support, and spiritual motivation. She served as the first president of the association from 1982-1984. 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 began being distributed to the NCBSA and 5% to the Endowment Fund. \$217 was collected in her honor at the 2018 NCBSA conference. These proceeds will provide significant and lasting gifts for the benefit of our organization. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can send your contributions to "NC Baptist Foundation", earmarked for the Betty Walker Endowment Fund.

Rachel Sanders

2019 NCBSA Conference November 4-6 at 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 \$85): _____

Physical Needs: _____

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:

Rachel Sanders

c/o Bethlehem Baptist Church

100 Half Moon Church Rd.

Jacksonville, NC 28546

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!

2019 Executive Committee



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