



# Carolina Connection

WINTER 2020

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Edited by Myra Phillips

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina

## ***A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Well, here we are in January of 2020, and from everything I have heard and read, the 2019 NCBSA conference at Fort Caswell was another good one! Of course, you will recall that I was absent, regretfully. And as thrilled as I was to be able to spend three weeks in California helping my son and his family as they welcomed a new baby, I cannot express just how disappointed I was to miss the conference. Especially after having spent the year planning and praying and seeing everything come together in the way we believe had God's fingerprints on it.

Beckett Joseph is now 3-months old (wearing 9-month-old clothes!) and is a happy, talkative baby. His sister has finally accepted him into her family and they are all doing well. They asked in a recent phone call if I could come for another visit to help as my daughter-in-law transitions back into work, right about the time my son is being sent to Bahrain. So, it looks as though I may be making another trip to the West Coast sometime in April and I am looking forward to seeing those grandchildren again. I am especially thankful for the ability to do so and even more thankful for frequent flyer miles!

This article won't be highlighting the conference, as I can't really do that. But I appreciate Angela Cockerham, your president-elect, for taking care of that. What I do want to do, and would be terribly remiss if I failed to do so, is publicly thank my dear friends and fellow officers who served alongside me last year. Not only for their creativity, expertise and valuable input through the planning process, but for their understanding and support as I struggled with wondering how I could do it all, and finally coming to the difficult conclusion that I would not be back from California in time. My final decision was made the very Friday before the conference and Myra, Rachel and Teresa all stepped in and did whatever necessary to fill in the many areas where I would be absent. Angela and many others also stepped in to help where needed and I was able to completely relax, knowing everything was being well-taken care of. And from many of your comments, they handled everything with efficiency and grace. Girls, I can't thank you enough and will always treasure our time serving together. You are truly very special blessings to me.

Thank you, also, to those of you who emailed supportive and kind comments before and during the conference. You'll never know how much it meant to me that you took the time to send your thoughts, and I so appreciated all the love and support I was shown. I am privileged and deeply thankful to be part of this wonderful organization, and even more so to be serving as your president for one more year. There should be no reason (Lord-willing!) that I miss our time together this November and look forward with great anticipation to seeing you all again and enjoying another wonderful conference. God bless each and every one of you in this New Year!



L.) Beckett  
R.) Son, Morgan,  
Lauren and Grands



Until we meet again,

**Karoline**



## **A LOOK BACK to CASWELL: by Angela Cockerham**

### ***Worship Sessions***

Caswell was a great time of spiritual renewal, relaxation and fellowship. It was wonderful spending time with fellow ministry assistants as we learned and laughed together.

Deborah Ross told us it was a “joy to uplift, rejuvenate, encourage, empower, inspire and strengthen women” and that is just what she did during our time at Caswell! During our first worship session “Who Do You Say I Am,” we learned that the secret ingredient to our faith is the revelation of who God is and that with revelation comes the keys to the kingdom.

During our second session, “The Secret Place of the Most High,” Deborah encouraged us to think like, act like, and talk like Jesus. She also taught us that until we purge bitterness, sinful habits, unforgiveness, worldly attitudes, and relinquish ALL control to God, we cannot abide in the secret place. As Deborah puts it, “We must walk in LOVE!”

In our final session, “God’s Love,” we learned about the names and character of God. Deborah helped us recognize that God is always working, and that His love protects us even in His wrath. God is Elohim who makes all things new and wants to heal us ... Body, Soul and Spirit.

### ***Breakout Sessions***

A variety of breakout sessions were offered during our conference providing helpful solutions for spiritual enrichment, professional development, and personal effectiveness. First Timers were encouraged to attend an orientation class led by Deborah Richardson.

The spiritual enrichment breakouts were led by Rev. Robert Leonard, Dr. Joel Stephens, Martha Jolly and Phyllis Foy. We were encouraged to develop a prayer life by Rev. Leonard and to learn to recognize the prayer languages of people we work and interact with on a daily basis. Dr. Stephens shared with us insights on “What Your Pastor Wishes You Knew,” and in his breakout “Hurting People Hurt People”, he taught us that we can’t “fix” those hurting people, but that by understanding them, we can shield our heart against bitterness. Martha Jolly taught us all about the meaning of Chrismon Ornaments, and Phyllis Foy helped us recognize that we can have hope and be content no matter what season of life we are in.

The professional development classes were led by Rev. Josh Scruggs, Davis Blount, Rev. Daniel Flynn, Lai Salmonson, Russell Schwab, Kay Tatum, and Dr. Joel Stephens. Technical classes were offered on Apps, CANVA.com, Google Drive, and Open Source. We were taught about contributions, policies and procedures, compensation and benefits during the Accounting classes. We also learned how to say “NO” in the workplace, as well as steps we can take to make our church safe.

The personal effectiveness classes were led by Jan Marshburn, Carly Murphy, Sam & Tina Albright, Dr. Lara Pons and Dr. Charles Rhodes. Jan Marshburn shared with us about Samaritan Ministries and taught us some creative Bible journaling ideas. Drs. Pons and Rhodes taught classes on women’s health & fitness. Carly Murphy shared about the oils of the bible, and the Albrights taught us tips and maneuvers to take if we are personally attacked.

During our free time we enjoyed “Shopping for a Cause” and a Scavenger Hunt, had opportunities to meet with our State Convention Compensation & Benefits coordinator, and of course, those lovely pictures that we all had taken.

***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

# Thank you

We so appreciate your taking the time to complete the conference evaluation forms at the conclusion of our 2019 conference. Having missed it, I was especially excited to read your remarks when I returned home. Thirty-two of you shared lots of great feedback that we will take very seriously and prayerfully consider as we plan the next conference. Every recommendation made and encouraging word shared is deeply appreciated.

Here are a few of your comments:

- Thank you, executive board, for the wonderful job y'all did this year! Satan has been defeated again by your faithfulness to God's plan for this conference.
- My first conference and definitely not my last. Everything was great!
- As a first-timer, I very much appreciated the orientation presented by Deborah Richardson and the assigning of a mentor – and I was doubly-blessed by Alicia and Angela. What I would suggest for future conferences is to have more “veterans” make it a point to say “hello” to the newbies.
- Liked the anchor theme; it was nice to see how it was included in everything, even crafts. The chapel and banquet decorations were very pretty; well done.
- Fellowship is a necessity and it was wonderful! The speaker and singer are obviously who God ordained to be here! I feel renewed by the combination of each experience! I LOVED the speaker's notes (in our notebook)!
- Many break-out sessions are too basic; maybe offer intro and advanced sessions. I was hoping to learn more advanced tips.
- Everything came together so beautifully. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit working (for me) more so than at any other conference.
- This was one of the best! The officers on site worked sooooo hard day and night. A very special touch of caring, meeting our needs and going over and above in every way.
- Ornament exchange for door prizes?

As to the question concerning rotating conference locations, the vast majority of you preferred to leave things as they are, rotating among all three. Several had no preference and one person wanted to go to Caraway every year, while another likes Caraway the least of all. So, this executive committee is praying for God's guidance in this matter, as well as for His leading in the planning of this year's conference. We ask that you join us in daily prayer for our organization and every decision made. It is our desire to serve you and serve Him in the way that brings utmost glory to our Lord and King!

*Karoline Overby*



## REGISTER NOW FOR OUR 2020 CONFERENCE

**“THE MASTER WEAVER; TRUSTING GOD IN THE CHAOS”**

**PROVERBS 3: 5 & 6**

**“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;  
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATHS”**

**NOVEMBER 2-4**

**RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER**

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 \$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). You can make installments if you so desire, and \$50.00 will hold your reservation.

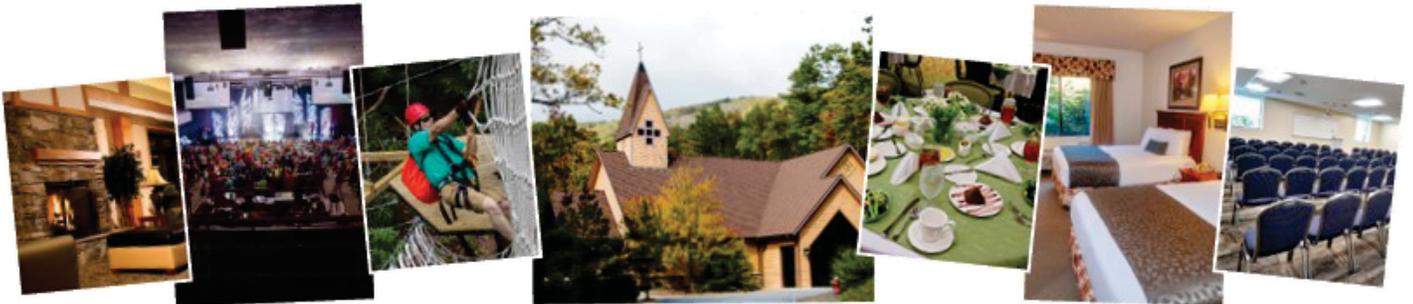
Make checks payable to NCBSA and mail to: **Janette Harris, c/o Burkemont Baptist Church, 4668 Burkemont Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.** Your officers are already hard at work making plans for what we pray will be a very rewarding and inspiring conference .

*Myra*

# RIDGECREST

## CONFERENCE CENTER

NORTH CAROLINA



### 2020 Executive Committee



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## *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. At the 2019 NCBSA conference, \$133 was collected in her honor. 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.

Janette



Our mission emphasis at the 2019 conference was NC Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Ministry. Virtually 100% of NCBM Disaster Relief is funded by donations. Thanks to the generosity of our secretaries we were able to contribute \$831 to this great ministry! If you were not able to give during our conference, but would like to, you can send donations to: NCBM, P. O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107, designated for Disaster Relief or simply visit their website: <http://baptistsonmission.org/missions/by-type/disaster-relief>.

### **The following information was taken from their website and tells about NCBM's Disaster Relief Ministry**

"The purpose of NCBM's Disaster Relief Ministry is to relieve human suffering caused by disasters by providing, among other things: hot meals, debris removal, child care and family assistance. We work with various disaster organizations in order to achieve this goal: American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, NC Emergency Management, and a variety of groups.

The goal of NCBM Disaster Relief Ministry is to provide ways for Christians to minister to people who are hurting due to disasters. We seek to provide organization, equipment, and strategy for committed volunteers to help affected individuals/families rebuild their lives and homes. Some of the ways we respond are through; Administration, Assessment, Chaplaincy, Communications, Childcare, International Search and Rescue, Laundry, Logistics, Mass feeding, Recovery (debris removal), Rebuild. Shower, Water, etc.

The motivation behind NC Baptist Disaster Relief efforts can be summed up by looking at biblical accounts of Jesus teaching and healing, such as: His feeding the multitudes, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and urging us to serve others in a variety of ways. (Matt 14:19-21, Luke 10, Matt 25:32-46, Matt 5:14-16, Ephesians 2:10, James 2:15-16). Preparation is the best form of disaster response. All members of the NCBM Disaster Relief Team have been through our training. You don't have to be trained to participate in some portions of our response, however, we highly recommend that you become a part of the team. Our preference, of course, is that everyone go through a training in order to understand the guidelines for response: policies, procedures, safety, etc. NCBM disaster relief training is available to all believers who have a passion to serve others. Disaster response is a unique mission experience because of the sudden nature of the event, difficult conditions, and high expectations from other relief organizations and survivors. We hope you desire to serve God in this type of ministry and that you fulfill that desire through NCBM disaster relief."

Janette

**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](http://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](mailto:ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com) with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings. Many Thanks!*