



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
BAPTIST CONVENTION**

# **2025 Book of Reports**



# 2025 South Carolina Baptist Convention Schedule

***Taylors First Baptist Church, Taylors, South Carolina  
November 10–11***

***Session One - Celebrate Our Shared Purpose  
November 10, 2025 - Monday Evening***

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 5:50 PM | <b><i>Worship</i></b><br><i>Taylors FBC Choir</i>  |
| 6:00    | <b><i>Call to Order</i></b><br><i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>  |
| 6:01    | <b><i>Welcome from Taylors First Baptist Church</i></b><br><i>Josh Powell, Lead Pastor</i>   |
| 6:03    | <b><i>Organization of the Convention</i></b><br><i>Randy Jackson, Registration Secretary</i>   |
| 6:05    | <b><i>Adoption of Order of Business</i></b><br><i>Mark Bishop, Convention Vice President</i>   |
| 6:07    | <b><i>Greetings from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee</i></b><br><i>Jonathan Howe, Vice President for Convention Administration</i> |
| 6:12    | <b><i>Baptist Foundation of South Carolina Report</i></b><br><i>Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO</i>   |
| 6:19    | <b><i>SCBaptist Advance Team Report: Panel with Team Leaders</i></b><br><i>Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer</i>                       |
| 6:44    | <b><i>Worship</i></b><br><i>Taylors FBC Choir</i>  |
| 6:49    | <b><i>President's Address</i></b><br><i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>  |
| 7:19    | <b><i>Corporate Prayer and Worship</i></b><br><i>Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer</i>  |
| 7:50    | <b><i>Benediction and Closing</i></b><br><i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>  |

**Session Two - Celebrate Pastors and Churches**  
**November 11, 2025 - Tuesday Morning**

8:50 AM	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
9:00	<b>Greetings from NAMB Send City Leaders</b>
9:03	<b>Veterans Appreciation</b> <i>Brandon Denning, Chap. (Maj.)</i>
9:07	<b>Greetings from the Baptist E&amp;M Convention of South Carolina</b> <i>Dr. Jamey Graham, President</i>
9:12	<b>Committee on Committees Report</b> <i>Zack Little, Committee Chair</i>
9:19	<b>South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging Report</b> <i>Tom Turner, President and CEO</i>
9:26	<b>Introduction of New Business</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
9:33	<b>Executive Director-Treasurer Report</b> <i>Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer</i>
9:48	<b>Bylaws Committee Report</b> <i>Chris Dewease, Committee Chair</i>
9:57	<b>Election: 2026 Registration Secretary</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
10:03	<b>Election: 2026 Vice President</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
10:07	<b>Resolutions Committee Report</b> <i>David Bennett, Committee Chair</i>
10:17	<b>Election: 2026 President-Elect</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
10:22	<b>Executive Board Report</b> <i>Stephen Cannon, Executive Board Chair</i>
11:06	<b>Prayer</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
11:10	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
11:20	<b>Message</b> <i>Mark Clifton, Executive Director of Replant/Revitalization/Rural, NAMB</i>
11:50	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
11:55	<b>Benediction and Closing</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>

**Session Three - Celebrate Partnerships**  
**November 11, 2025 - Tuesday Afternoon**

1:55 PM	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
2:06	<b>Greetings from IMB Missionaries</b>
2:11	<b>Greetings from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee</b> <i>Jeff Iorg, President and CEO</i>
2:16	<b>Presentation of 2026 Officers</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
2:18	<b>Anderson University Report</b> <i>Evans Whitaker, President</i>
2:25	<b>Nominations Committee Report</b> <i>Bart Kelley, Committee Chair</i>
2:35	<b>Charleston Southern University Report</b> <i>Keith Faulkner, President</i>
2:42	<b>Previously Scheduled Business</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
2:55	<b>North Greenville University Report</b> <i>Gene Fant, President</i>
3:02	<b>Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries Report</b> <i>Danny Nicholson, President</i>
3:09	<b>Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee Report</b> <i>Mark Krieger, Committee Chair</i>
3:17	<b>The Baptist Courier Report</b> <i>Jeff Robinson, President and Editor</i>
3:24	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
3:34	<b>History Committee Report</b> <i>Walter Johnson, Chair</i>
3:44	<b>Woman's Missionary Union Report</b> <i>Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer</i>
3:54	<b>Prayer</b> <i>Chuck Sprouse, Convention President</i>
4:00	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>
4:10	<b>Message</b> <i>Hance Dilbeck Jr., President and CEO, GuideStone</i>
4:40	<b>Worship</b> <i>Collegiate Worship Studies Students</i>

4:45      **Recognition of 2025 Officers**  
            *Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer*

4:55      **Introduction of 2026 Theme**  
            *Ryan Pack, Convention President-Elect*

5:00      **Adjourn**  
            *Chuck Sprouse, Convention President*

5:05      **Closing Prayer**  
            *Ryan Pack, Convention President-Elect*

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# An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

***Chuck Sprouse, Convention President***  
***Senior Pastor, Ninety Six First Baptist Church***

Dear South Carolina Baptists,

This year, it has been my honor to serve as your Convention President. If you had asked me as an eight-year-old boy participating in Royal Ambassador Field Day at Connie Maxwell or as a camper at Camp McCall if I would ever serve in this role, it would have seemed unlikely. Yet, it was unmistakable to me, even in my formative years, that we are better together. My roots and my heart are firmly planted in the mission and cooperation that exists among South Carolina Baptists. I hope that in some ways I have encouraged others to believe in the work that we have been called to accomplish together.

This year, I chose the theme “Celebrate” for our annual meeting. While we often address our shortcomings, it is also good to stop and celebrate the global good that God is accomplishing through South Carolina Baptists in our state, our nation, and the world. The South Carolina Baptist Convention family is a force for good, beginning in South Carolina and extending around the globe. God is at work both in the ministries that make the headlines and in the simple things that are often taken for granted that take place away from the spotlight. It is important to give God the glory when we see big events that lead to a large number of transformed lives. It is also important to celebrate each time the church comes together to proclaim the Scripture faithfully, access the throne of God through prayer, minister to the hurting, and present the Gospel to the perishing. I encourage each of us to look for all of the places where God is working and to celebrate what he is doing.

This year has been special as Southern Baptists are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. Since 1925, the Cooperative Program has allowed Southern Baptists to work together in ministry and mission at home and around the world. For 100 years, the Cooperative Program has taught Southern Baptists the power of cooperative giving and of working together as a whole. We cannot begin to imagine how many people are in heaven today because we partnered together! I urge South Carolina Baptists to make or continue to make the Cooperative Program a priority and the primary way that we give to fuel our shared mission financially. One of the beauties of the Cooperative Program is that each church can make a difference. The heart of the Cooperative Program is not measuring what individual churches give but celebrating what we give together.

I am thankful for the ministry of every church that is a part of the South Carolina Baptist Convention family. Every church is vital to our shared mission. God strategically locates every church for a purpose. We are not to determine our value by comparing ourselves with others. The Holy Spirit does not compare us; he unites us. God is doing remarkable things in our churches, and we should celebrate.



# An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

***Stephen Cannon, Executive Board Chair  
Senior Pastor, Millbrook Baptist Church***

There's never been a time in my life when I've been more excited about the work of the Lord through South Carolina Baptists than at this moment. As a member of the Executive Board, I've had a front row seat to see how the Lord has been so faithful in blessing our Convention through the excellent leadership of Dr. Tony Wolfe and the entire incredible SCBaptist staff who tirelessly serve to equip pastors and churches to advance the Gospel. I'm so thankful to be part of a Convention that, instead of needless arguing over secondary matters, is focused and united behind the central mission of advancing the cause of Christ through each church and every life!

The church I'm privileged to pastor is currently going through "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry and Richard Blackaby. The model of Jesus in John 5 is to look where God is already at work, and then to join him in that work. We are so blessed as South Carolina Baptists to be able to join God right now in a great work he is doing—reaching students, men, and women through ONE Night outreach events; starting new churches; ministering to college students all across our state through Baptist Collegiate Ministry and equipping college students for ministry; reaching youth and children for Christ through summer camps; supporting missionaries on the field both nationally and internationally; and encouraging pastors to remain on "the wall" with the Gospel.

South Carolina Baptists, in light of the Lord blessing us with both an excellent leadership team and a clear and compelling mission and vision, let's unite to support this great work more than ever. Let's pray more than ever! Let's share more than ever! Let's give more than ever! And, let's go more than ever! Let's seize this incredible opportunity the Lord has put before us in order to see South Carolina changed with the hope of the Gospel.

It has been an honor and a joy to serve as a member of the South Carolina Baptist Executive Board. I do want to take a moment and personally thank each member of the board for their commitment and faithful service. Your hard work makes a difference! I look forward to seeing so many of you this week and to seeing what all the Lord has in store for South Carolina Baptists in the days and years to come!

# Report of the Executive Director-Treasurer

***Tony Wolfe, SCBaptist***

For 204 years, Baptist churches in South Carolina have worked together to build and execute a local, statewide, national, and international strategy for Great Commission engagement. Today, we swim in that same stream of missional progress. As a Baptist people in the Palmetto State, we are blessed in every way. On the firm foundation of these undeserved blessings, we make it our unyielding business that salvation in Jesus Christ “may be known on earth . . . among all nations” (Psalm 67:2). Serving as the ED-T of this wonderful state convention has been, and continues to be, one of the greatest honors and joys of my life.

Over the past year, two qualities of SCBaptist cooperation have stood out to me above many: we are a sending state, and we are a leading state.

**South Carolina is a sending state.** This year, 39 new missionaries from South Carolina were appointed through our International Mission Board (IMB), bringing the total number of SCBaptist missionaries currently deployed through the IMB to 289. In the IMB’s 2025 mid-year Field Personnel Orientation (FPO), we had 10 in training, which was the first time in organizational memory that SCBaptists had double digits at a single FPO. By God’s grace, by the end of the calendar year, we expect to have 299 on the field. We are praying that early in 2026, we can celebrate exceeding the 300 mark.

Increasing the number of SCBaptist missionaries sent and sustained on the field has not come without intentional and strategic effort. In 2025, we also mobilized 817 college students on short-term mission through BCMGO, 51 Palmetto Collective students around the world with IMB partners, 76 SCBaptist pastors and church leaders on vision trips, and countless more from local churches and Baptist universities. Our Palmetto Collective (PC) has become the national model for state conventions for North American Mission Board and IMB pipelines. In its fourth term, as of today, 34 PC student graduates are serving full-time around the world as missionaries. Early PC graduates have now returned from the field, some having served as the first IMB Missionary Explorers with Project 3000. Still others have chosen to pursue post-graduate careers in unreached cities across the United States, plugging into Southern Baptist church plants as core team members, Sunday School teachers, and volunteer leaders. Working together with local churches and associations, our mission-sending pipeline begins early with Camp McCall, Camp La Vida, KidSalt, and SummerSalt camps and incorporates a legion of resources and mobilization opportunities along the way.

As part of our statewide missions strategy, we also help churches send called, capable, and trained church planters into strategic areas across our own state where God has called them to start new churches. The population of South Carolina grows by 90,000 people every year, and 80% of them are not engaged in weekly attendance within an evangelical church. While we work tirelessly to help existing churches revitalize, we must also continue to enlarge our church planting efforts to reach our growing population. Our church planting strategy is firmly rooted in local churches raising up and sending out planters and core teams; we assist these sending churches with planter readiness, contextual strategy, initial funding, tangible resourcing, and networked encouragement. This year, SCBaptists supported 42 active church plants and trained 36 churches to plant churches. Currently, we are working with a pipeline of 35 potential future planters who are under evaluation and initial training. Through the evangelistic and discipleship efforts of planters under funding, SCBaptist church plants saw 238 baptisms last year.

Church planters and missionaries sent by SCBaptists are the cream of the crop. They plant their lives in their mission fields with selfless service in their hands and Gospel witness on their tongues. Thanks to the Cooperative Program and Janie Chapman giving, and to the relentless perseverance of cooperating churches, more are being planted and sent every month.

**South Carolina is a leading state.** SCBaptists are part of the larger Southern Baptist family. There we find doctrinal agreement, relational strength, and missional synergy. It is no secret that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) currently is in a season of refining and reform, and SCBaptists are stepping up to the plate like we have in generations past. As one previous SCBaptist ED-T once wrote, “leadership is needed, and the arrow is pointing at us.”[1] SCBaptists do not wait for someone else to take up the mantle of national SBC leadership. We step into every opportunity with humility, speaking truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), serving dutifully as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23), and with a spirit of prayerful cooperation that expects God will be true to his promises by carrying to completion the good work he began in us centuries ago (Philippians 1:6).

At the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and on SBC committees throughout the year, SCBaptists leveraged influence at every level. From Pastors Conference presidents to entity and Executive Committee trustees, from platform speakers to Committee on Order of Business members, from floor mics to published works, from panelists to creatives, and from exhibition vendors to elected officers, SCBaptists are not shrinking from the opportunity to leverage our influence in a cooperative spirit so that the entirety of our SBC family might grow in relational strength, missional effectiveness, and organizational efficiency.

In addition to the many ways SCBaptists serve at the SBC level, we also work closely with other state conventions and other states’ local associations in mission and ministry areas in which we feel God has given us a measure of success. Every month this past year, you could have found an SCBaptist leader training or consulting with convention and associational leaders in other states in pastor and wife encouragement, deacon ministry strategy, collegiate ministry, missions pipelines, missions mobilization, worship leadership, associational strategy, local church governance, convention structure, Baptist history and cooperation, ministry partner relations, and more. The SCBaptist influence extends well beyond the borders of our state, around the country, and all over the world, as vocational and volunteer church and mission leaders from our state help other Baptist churches and organizations become more strategic and more effective in their work. As Baptists in South Carolina, when it comes to leadership, we own an embarrassment of riches. So, from that overabundance, we take every opportunity to sharpen, strengthen, and bless our larger Baptist family.

Over the past 12 months, I have seen God work powerfully through our network of Baptist churches and church leaders in the Palmetto State. The year has been marked by calculated organizational efficiency and clear Gospel advancement. Even while excelling in their ministry and mission assignments, our staff has worked tirelessly this year to streamline organizational efficiency, reduce operating expenses, and promote Cooperative Program (CP) engagement. At this point, the status of CP giving remains static year after year. However, churches across the state—large congregations, small congregations, and everything between—are beginning to increase their CP commitments. Your SCBaptist staff has produced and released numerous resources in 2025 for CP education, promotion, and celebration, including monthly “Because You Give” digital promotion packs, three four-week video-driven CP curricula, and other updated and redesigned CP resources for use in cooperating churches. We are seeing a turning tide when it comes to CP giving in our state, and if the momentum holds, this tide should swell in the next three to five years.

Perhaps one of the most exciting successes this year in our statewide mission strategy has come in the area of Gospel saturation: 30,323 college students were engaged with the Gospel by our Baptist Collegiate Ministry missionaries, 5,798 students heard the Gospel at ONE Night evangelistic crusades, and thousands of church leaders and volunteers were trained in personal evangelism and discipleship strategies. As a testament to our increased cooperative evangelistic efforts, SCBaptist

churches reported 12,355 baptisms in 2024, the highest number of baptisms reported since 2016. Additionally, as part of our year-long Give+Go Initiative, we launched “The Jesus Change” this summer to saturate the social media and traditional media markets with simple stories highlighting the Gospel of Jesus Christ with built-in mechanisms and personnel for follow-up. Our goal was to reach 10% of the South Carolina population (530,000) with the Gospel this year through digital evangelism. As of today, “The Jesus Change” evangelistic videos have been viewed 605,499 times on social media, television, and streaming platforms. This is the work of the churches that give faithfully and sacrificially through the Cooperative Program.

In every way, the Lord has blessed SCBaptists this year. Yet still, the fields are white before us, and we pray that the Lord will send more workers into the harvest (Matthew 9:38). For the last 18 months, our leadership team has prayed and strategized to rise to the occasion of what we sincerely believe is one of the greatest threats to the continued advancement of the Gospel in our generation: the shortage of called, qualified, and capable pastors/elders. For this reason, at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Taylors, we are excited to announce “Generation Timothy”—a multiple-year strategy to assist churches in raising up, calling out, training, and sending pastors into pastorless churches. Our strategy is as robust as the need is great. Look for ways you and your church can get involved with “Generation Timothy” in the coming years.

I continue to be amazed at the many ways God is working in and through SCBaptists in our day. With the Psalmist we confess, “Lord my God, you have done many things—your wondrous works and your plans for us; none can compare with you. If I were to report and speak of them, they are more than can be told” (Psalm 40:5). This is the ongoing work and the intergenerational legacy of the SCBaptist Convention; in his kindness, God has done, is doing, and will do—among us and through us—more than can be told. May he be so pleased.

[1] B . Carlisle Driggers, *A Journey of Faith and Hope* (Columbia, SC: South Carolina Baptist Convention, 2001), 72.

# 2026 SCBaptist Ministry Plan Recommendations

## ***Recommendation 1***

That the Convention commend to the churches the Cooperative Program as the wisest, most effective, and most efficient plan of giving. The South Carolina Baptist Convention recommends that we continue to honor and affirm the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach and that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving.

## ***Recommendation 2***

That special offerings for the benevolent institutions be continued, where it is consistent with the financial policy of the local churches, as follows: 1) first Sunday in each month for Connie Maxwell Children's Home; 2) annually on Mother's Day for the South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging.

## ***Recommendation 3***

That the Executive Director-Treasurer report on a quarterly basis, cumulative gifts received from the churches and the allocation of the gifts as follows: 1) Total gifts to the South Carolina Baptist Convention Cooperative Program; 2) Janie Chapman Offering for state missions; 3) Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions; 4) Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions; 5) Designations for Southern Baptist Convention and South Carolina Baptist Convention ministries. All gifts will be processed in accordance with the instructions of the contributor without any deduction for expenses.

## ***Recommendation 4***

That the Executive Director-Treasurer forward all Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) funds on a monthly basis to the Executive Committee of the SBC in Nashville, Tennessee.

## ***Recommendation 5***

That the 2026 Cooperative Program Ministry Plan be \$26,000,000.

# SCBaptist Advance Ministries

***Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer***

SCBaptists believe **every life** counts and **each church** can advance. Our team of missionaries works hard to help each church advance the Great Commission together through mobilizing missionaries and developing leaders. We steward **moments** through conversation and conferences to identify the “mountain” God is moving in them to advance. Our team helps **map** a plan to get there by gathering and creating resources. Finally, we network leaders with leaders to provide encouragement and support as we climb the **mountain** together.

**Every Life.** We believe every life counts!

- Baptisms are the highest in nearly 10 years as SCBaptists baptized 12,355.
- Our camps are overflowing and increasing! Summersalt, Kidsalt, and Camp McCall had 7,383 campers, 258 saved, and 284 called to ministry.
- 5,798 students heard the Gospel and 492 were saved this year at ONE Night events.
- More college students are being engaged than ever before! Baptist Collegiate Ministries connected with 30,323 students last year and 322 were saved.
- More college students are being deployed! 817 college students serving on short-term missions through BCMGO and Palmetto Collective.
- Disaster Relief served 38,699 people in crisis.
- “The Jesus Change” website and social media campaigns reached 681,199 people who heard the Gospel through testimonies of life transformation from SCBaptists individuals.
- Over 45,000 views of our AI-assisted animated mission series, “When God Says Go: June Estes.”
- We launched a network of creative ministry leaders at the new APEX Conference.
- A total of 105 scholarships were awarded to students pursuing vocational ministry.

**Each Church.** We believe each church can advance!

- SCBaptist churches have sent 289 fully funded SCSent ones on the mission field with the International Mission Board.
- Our largest IMPACT conference to date equipped 1,233 pastors and church leaders.
- Funded church plants increased again! We currently have 42 funded church planters that have been assessed, trained, and supported.
- A Young Pastors Network was launched with 104 young pastors receiving monthly coaching.
- Through cohorts like NextSteps and RE, 323 pastors sharpened their leadership skills.
- More churches are voting to make significant changes to revitalize. We walked 28 churches through a process to vote to revitalize.
- A total of 34 Palmetto Collective graduates are now serving full time with the International Mission Board or the North American Mission Board.
- Our teams mobilized 278 mission volunteers from 98 churches to 8 cities.

# Key Statistics

*November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025*

## ***Shepherding Leaders***

- 323 pastors in leadership Cohorts (NextSteps and RE)
- 104 Young Pastors Network participants
- 28 churches have been through a revitalization process
- 146 pastors and wives at Restore Retreat

## ***Strengthening Churches***

- 7,385 campers (McCall, SummerSalt, KidSalt)
- 258 students saved at our camps
- 284 students called to ministry at our camps
- 246 staff leaders in leadership cohorts
- 337 churches assisted with church administration

## ***Serving Communities***

- 63,018 hours served through Disaster Relief
- 38,699 people served through Disaster Relief
- 654 schools (54% of SC schools) connected with a serving church
- 17,625 inmates received a Christmas prisoner packet

## ***Sharing Hope***

- 12,355 baptisms
- 30,323 college students engaged through Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- 5,798 students heard the Gospel at ONE Nights with 492 saved
- 912 women's ministry leaders engaged, including pastors' wives
- 681,199 people viewing a Jesus Change video on social media, TV, or streaming

## ***Sending Missionaries***

- 289 SCSent Ones serving through International Mission Board with 31 appointed this year
- 34 Palmetto Collective student graduates now serving full time with IMB and North American Mission Board
- 76 pastors and leaders participated in SCGo vision trips
- 817 college students mobilized on mission through BCMGO and Palmetto Collective

## ***Starting Churches***

- 42 funded church plants
- 238 baptisms from our church plants
- 36 existing churches trained to plant
- 35 future church planters in process

# each church every life

## *Our Vision*

We see a day where every life is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.

## *Our Mission*

We help each church advance the Great Commission together.

## *Our Values*

### **We believe in the potential of every life:**

therefore, we network all kinds of churches to ensure that every person is seen, heard, and given a chance to experience hope.

### **We believe in the strength of collaboration:**

therefore, we connect like-minded partners, share resources, and respect one another's perspectives.

### **We believe in the energy of innovation:**

therefore, we experiment with new methods that spark breakthrough and encourage churches to do the same.

### **We believe in the lever of leadership:**

therefore, we build intentional relationships with leaders of leaders to create movement.

## *Our Strategy*



### **Moment**

We create environments to steward moments when God calls leaders to move.



### **Map**

We help leaders develop plans to map out their journey.



### **Mountain**

We network leaders to climb their mountain by providing support in the climb and courage in the valley.



# Operations and Denominational Relations Team

## ***Bryant Sims, Chief Operations Officer***

It is a joy and privilege to serve South Carolina Baptists by assisting our Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr. Tony Wolfe, in the day-to-day ministry of the Convention. From coordinating with our Executive Board and committees to strengthening partnerships across our state and nation, our team is blessed to play a role in helping SCBaptists stay focused on advancing the Great Commission together.

This past year has been filled with opportunities to plan, prepare, and celebrate alongside you, the churches of South Carolina! One of our great honors has been supporting our Convention President, Chuck Sprouse, as he has faithfully led with the theme, “Celebrate!” Behind the scenes, our team has worked with our Convention committees to ensure their important tasks were accomplished in ways that reflect both excellence and faithfulness. Each committee chair and vice-chair has given themselves to this work with diligence, and the result is stronger churches and a stronger Convention pressing forward together in Gospel mission.

## **Equipping New Pastors**

One of the highlights of the year was our New Pastors’ Orientation, held in partnership with associational leaders from across the state and the Shepherd Team. New pastors were introduced to the vision, mission, and strategy of SCBaptist while also forming friendships and connections that will strengthen their ministries for years to come. It was a beautiful reminder that no one serves alone; we are truly better together!

## **Strengthening Our Support Systems**

This year has been a year of preparation as we take significant steps forward in technology, making it easier for us to serve churches with clarity and efficiency. The emergence of a more robust database will enable us to respond to churches more efficiently with more up-to-date information. We continue to be grateful for Chelsea Copeland, who is helping SCBaptist churches and ministries create safe spaces for discipleship and worship. Chelsea is equipping us to serve you better and ultimately to help more people meet Jesus.

## **Speaking Up for the Gospel**

Through the faithful work of our SCBaptist Public Policy Advisor, Dr. Tony Beam, we navigated a challenging year at the Statehouse. We continue to be aligned with past Convention resolutions. As we face many problematic issues in 2026, we must be united in heart and purpose as we engage in protecting human flourishing in the Palmetto State. Be on the lookout to see how your church can play an active role in this arena in the coming year.

## **Building for Kingdom Impact**

Behind the scenes, our Building Services Team, Information Services Team, and Operations Committee are working every day to steward the resources God has entrusted to us. In maintaining our facilities at 190 Stoneridge Drive, Camp McCall, and Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) centers across the state, this team is making Gospel ministry possible. Whether it’s new chairs in a BCM building, accurate reports for a local church, or safe workspaces for our staff, every detail contributes to the advancement of the Kingdom.

In every meeting planned, every building repaired, every statistic gathered, and every relationship nurtured—our Operations and Denominational Relations Team exists to serve you, the churches of South Carolina. Together, we celebrate what God has done, and we press forward joyfully, celebrating all that the Lord has done!

# Financial and Accounting Office

***Bryan Holley, Chief Financial Officer***

As Chief Financial Officer, I assist the Executive Director-Treasurer in the operation of the Convention, Executive Board, and Convention staff. Our office is responsible for all financial and legal matters of the Executive Board and Convention. We support and foster ministries of SCBaptist through financial expertise with integrity and accountability that inspires a culture of excellence to strengthen the bond of trust and confidence in the value of cooperative work.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

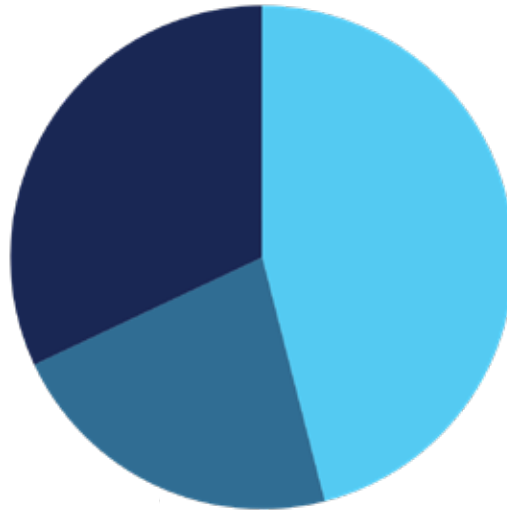
- Obtained an unqualified audit for 2024
- Monitored Operating Budget for 2025
- Planned Operating Budget for 2026
- Filed all government reporting requirements and tax returns in a timely manner
- Served as a resource for the Convention and its churches regarding financial matters
- During 2024, Cooperative Program (CP) receipts increased 0.5% or \$126,909 from 2023
- The 2024 CP Budget was \$26,500,000 and receipts were \$25,311,579
- In 2024 our office received \$42,703,754 from CP, mission offerings, and other designated offerings. This was 3.4% or \$1,415,733 increase from 2023.

# 2026 Cooperative Program Investment

**SCBaptist  
State Missions**  
**32.17%**

**National & International  
Missions**  
**45.50%**

**SCBaptist  
Ministry Partners**  
**22.33%**



<b>Our State</b>	<b>\$14,170,000</b>	<b>54.50%</b>
South Carolina Baptist Convention-Executive Board	\$8,364,200	32.17
Anderson University	1,349,400	5.19
Charleston Southern University	1,253,200	4.82
North Greenville University	1,066,000	4.10
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	832,000	3.20
South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging	821,600	3.16
Woman's Missionary Union	325,000	1.25
Baptist Courier	158,600	0.61
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	0	0.00
<b>Our Nation</b>	<b>\$5,288,400</b>	<b>20.34%</b>
North American Mission Board	\$2,428,400	9.34
Theological Seminaries	2,337,400	8.99
Executive Committee & SBC Operating	319,800	1.23
Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee	176,800	0.68
Historical Library & Archives	26,000	0.10
<b>Our World</b>	<b>\$6,541,600</b>	<b>25.16%</b>
International Mission Board	\$5,371,600	20.66
(20.66% plus additional 4.5% direct from SCBaptist)	1,170,000	4.50
<b>Grand Total*</b>	<b>\$26,000,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*The total projected giving of SCBaptist churches for Cooperative Program, investment income, special offerings, designated gifts, and fees is \$48.2 million.

# Top 25 Giving Churches

*Based on Total CP Dollars Received in 2024*

Rank	Church, City	CP	Avg. Worship Attendance
1	Taylors First, Taylors	\$427,453	1,394
2	Lancaster Second, Lancaster	375,402	957
3	Summerville, Summerville	371,477	1,228
4	Simpsonville First/Upstate Church, Simpsonville	305,000	4,066
5	Columbia First, Columbia	284,000	1,500
6	Brushy Creek, Taylors	279,000	1,185
7	Riverland Hills, Irmo	277,980	1,649
8	Rocky Creek, Greenville	252,000	909
9	Shandon, Columbia	250,000	1,674
10	Spartanburg First, Spartanburg	250,000	1,543
11	Mt Airy, Easley	244,779	675
12	Concord, Anderson	235,026	817
13	Edwards Road, Greenville	212,613	352
14	First Baptist, Rock Hill	200,333	900
15	Northside, Lexington	191,146	1,277
16	Holly Springs, Inman	189,270	280
17	North Side, Greenwood	185,809	450
18	Fort Mill First, Fort Mill	182,331	798
19	Church at The Mill, Moore	159,999	4,400
20	Ebenezer, Florence	154,935	360
21	Highland Park, Hanahan	150,946	235
22	Pickens First, Pickens	146,372	420
23	Sweetwater, North Augusta	145,045	377
24	East Pickens, Pickens	138,193	687
25	Georgetown First, Georgetown	134,265	350

# Top 25 Giving Churches

*Based on Total Giving to All Causes in 2024*

Rank	Church, City	CP	Designated*	Lottie Moon	Annie Armstrong	Janie Chapman	Total	Avg. Worship Attendance
1	Taylors First, Taylors	\$427,453	\$1,120	\$330,960	\$56,750	\$28,224	\$844,507	1,394
2	Riverland Hills, Irmo	277,980	-	200,519	96,921	96,116	671,536	1,649
3	Rock Springs, Easley	1,001	569,014	58,223	25,711	5,730	659,679	2,000
4	Lancaster Second, Lancaster	375,402	7,500	212,386	43,502	6,200	644,990	957
5	Columbia First, Columbia	284,000	400	256,316	64,223	36,318	641,257	1,500
6	Brushy Creek, Taylors	279,000	2,000	252,890	68,598	-	602,488	1,185
7	Living Water, Longs	132,432	-	209,876	104,938	104,938	552,184	615
8	Spartanburg First, Spartanburg	250,000	-	224,921	26,532	14,465	515,918	1,543
9	Summerville, Summerville	371,477	-	67,567	19,774	4,747	463,565	1,228
10	Mt Airy, Easley	244,779	-	119,420	34,003	8,000	406,202	675
11	Simpsonville First/Upstate Church	305,000	1,319	40,600	27,195	14,384	388,498	4,066
12	Concord, Anderson	235,026	5,332	83,133	54,363	100	377,954	817
13	Shandon, Columbia	250,000	15,231	46,983	16,659	10,926	339,799	1,674
14	First Baptist, Rock Hill	200,333	-	85,000	30,000	5,000	320,333	900
15	Edwards Road, Greenville	212,613	4,457	71,453	23,357	5,592	317,472	352
16	Fort Mill First, Fort Mill	182,331	11,435	56,197	29,978	8,935	288,876	798
17	Rocky Creek, Greenville	252,000	-	-	-	12,420	264,420	909
18	North Side, Greenwood	185,809	-	52,838	11,345	9,979	259,971	450
19	Holly Springs, Inman	189,270	-	37,870	23,496	7,193	257,829	280
20	Northside, Lexington	191,146	4,257	54,831	4,532	210	254,976	1,277
21	Pickens First, Pickens	146,372	-	78,412	9,741	-	234,525	420
22	Utica, Seneca	132,655	-	89,067	8,163	3,780	233,665	347
23	Sweetwater, North Augusta	145,045	1,545	40,650	21,037	18,686	226,963	377
24	Camden First, Camden	102,973	-	60,547	31,270	29,440	224,230	454
25	Highland Park, Hanahan	150,946	300	14,398	12,535	11,529	189,708	235

\*Designated includes Cooperative Gifts, Disaster Relief, Hunger Relief, and Other Entities.

# Top 25 Giving Churches

*Based on Percent of Undesignated Receipts Reported by the Church for 2024*

Rank	Church, City	Percent	CP	Undesignated Receipts	Avg. Worship Attendance
1	Philippi, Johnston	% 25.9	\$70,998	\$274,575	120
2	First Bethany, McCormick	21.1	18,560	88,000	65
3	Holly Springs, Inman	19.0	189,270	997,790	280
4	Iglesia Refugio, Taylors	16.7	200	1,200	45
5	Shiloh, Aiken	16.6	55,881	335,780	80
6	Couchton, Aiken	16.6	14,277	86,246	75
7	West End, Greenville	16.4	35,259	215,376	99
8	Steadman, Leesville	15.7	18,725	119,500	70
9	Hopewell, Chesterfield	15.5	28,331	182,853	109
10	Mt Airy, Easley	15.4	244,779	1,585,477	675
10	East Clemson, Clemson	15.4	17,271	112,370	25
10	Hulon, Batesburg	15.4	29,288	190,630	71
11	Seneca, Seneca	15.2	122,138	801,548	152
12	Nixville, Estill	15.1	34,426	227,302	90
12	Newberry First, Newberry	15.1	129,383	854,692	322
12	Highland Park, Hanahan	15.1	150,946	1,001,101	235
12	Sardis, Saluda	15.1	19,588	130,054	35
13	Harmony, Edgemoor	14.9	45,321	303,363	243
13	Ebenezer, Trenton	14.9	12,260	82,284	38
14	Calvary, Moncks Corner	14.6	44,654	305,310	111
15	Bush River, Newberry	14.4	22,456	155,712	58
16	Lake Wateree, Ridgeway	14.1	38,379	272,821	120
17	New Heights, Columbia	14.0	30,903	221,392	125
18	Red Hill, Edgefield	13.7	15,921	115,875	45
18	Hillcrest, Williamston	13.7	37,302	272,951	158
19	Southside, Gaffney	13.4	48,167	359,257	160
20	Holly Springs, Westminster	13.2	13,706	103,516	50
21	Cross Roads, Seneca	13.0	11,748	90,460	60
22	Georges Creek, Olar	12.8	12,368	96,794	23
23	Doctor's Creek, Walterboro	12.6	44,936	356,127	52
23	Pleasant Hill, Springfield	12.6	25,185	200,154	60
24	Draytonville, Gaffney	12.5	59,526	475,119	154
25	Washington, Pelzer	12.4	101,255	813,589	305

# Top 25 Giving Churches

*Based on Average Worship Attendance Reported by the Church for 2024*

Rank	Church, City	Per Capita	CP	Avg. Worship Attendance
1	Mt View, Six Mile	\$888	\$79,958	90
2	Doctor's Creek, Walterboro	864	44,936	52
3	Seneca, Seneca	804	122,138	152
4	Crooked Run, Winnsboro	716	14,323	20
5	East Clemson, Clemson	691	17,271	25
6	Holly Springs, Inman	676	189,270	280
7	Highland Park, Hanahan	642	150,946	235
8	Elko, Williston	634	38,035	60
9	Blackville First, Blackville	626	16,279	26
10	Edwards Road, Greenville	604	212,613	352
11	Philippi, Johnston	592	70,998	120
12	Goucher, Gaffney	588	32,364	55
13	State Street, Cayce	574	69,967	122
14	Sardis, Saluda	560	19,588	35
15	Georges Creek, Olar	538	12,368	23
16	Trinity, Lugoff/LifeSpring	512	38,426	75
17	Hillcrest, North Charleston	501	22,551	45
18	Calvary, Florence	499	102,395	205
19	Northgate, Greenville	496	42,619	86
20	Okatee, Ridgeland	493	51,718	105
21	Rehoboth, Plum Branch	492	9,841	20
22	Orrs, Chester	477	19,086	40
23	Earle's Grove, Westminster	466	48,044	103
24	Levels, Aiken	461	18,442	40
25	Catawba, Rock Hill	457	105,596	231

# Personnel Changes

*November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025*

## *New Staff*

### **Manager/Technical/Other:**

- Grayson Smith (PT), Creative Services, March 31, 2025
- Jacob Comer, Disaster Relief, June 16, 2025
- Jarrian Wilson (PT), Start Team, September 22, 2025
- Don Mowry, Chief Financial Officer, October 1, 2025

### **Support Staff:**

- Hailey Leverette, Shepherd Team, December 1, 2024
- Emma Christie, Accounting, June 18, 2025
- Mara Osmanski, Send Team, August 25, 2025

## *Resignations/Separations*

### **Field Service Staff:**

- Morgan Allen (PT), Collegiate Ministries, July 25, 2025

### **Manager/Technical/Other:**

- Rachael Zimmer, Accounting, March 31, 2025

### **Support Staff:**

- Olivia Caddell, Preschool & Children, September 15, 2025

## *Retirements*

- Bryan Holley, Chief Financial Officer, October 31, 2025

## *Reassignments*

- Lauren Smith, FT Shepherd Team to PT Shepherd Team, February 1, 2025
- Samantha Kilgore, FT Send Team to PT Send Team, May 16, 2025



# Serve Team

***Jon Jamison, Team Leader***

We help churches understand their communities. Through training, coaching, and resourcing, we walk alongside them as they launch ministries that meet real needs. These efforts may include responding to disasters, addressing hunger, poverty, and incarceration, supporting children in foster care, or serving teachers and students through Heart4Schools. Churches across our state have a tremendous opportunity to share the hope of Jesus by building meaningful relationships in their communities.

Harmony Baptist Church in Edgemoor is making a strong impact at Lewisville Elementary. Their FCA program reaches 70 to 100 students each week and at a recent sports camp, 177 kids attended and two accepted Christ! Their Worship on Wednesday or “WOW Nights” at a local park continue to grow, connecting the church with families and students. Harmony discovered there was a need for students to have more books, but many couldn’t afford them. In response, the church hosted a Literacy Picnic for families and donated 740 books! Their steady presence is creating opportunities for ministry, and lives are being changed. God has opened incredible doors at this school! Thankfully, this is a familiar scene among SCBaptists across our state.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- Currently, 54% of South Carolina’s schools are being served by SCBaptist congregations—655 schools in total. Churches build relationships and care for teachers and students through Reading Buddies or mentoring, Backpack Buddies (weekend food for students), Teacher Support, and specific requests from administration.
- Through the generous efforts of SCBaptists, 17,625 inmates received a Christmas packet.
- This year, 11 SCBaptist families received Adoption Grants, welcoming 12 children out of the foster care system. There are 256 children in foster care that have had parental rights terminated and are eligible for adoption.
- A new chaplain network is being implemented to serve and encourage SCBaptists who serve as chaplains in various capacities across the state.
- The Columbia Serve Tour, in partnership with Send Relief, Lexington Baptist Association, Columbia Metro Association, and the South Carolina Baptist Convention, had over 800 volunteers from 80 churches and 14 states. Volunteers served new international teachers in need of furniture and necessities, assisted residents in need of home repair, conducted evangelism outreach in neighborhoods and apartment complexes, and helped with fall kickoff events for college students.

# Disaster Relief

***Susan Peugh, Director***

South Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief (SCDR) strives to bring help, hope, and healing after a crisis. Disasters create opportunities for committed volunteers to serve in hard places to provide emotional and spiritual care, debris removal, hot meals, showers, laundry services, and more. Disasters change lives, and together, we can make a Kingdom impact.

Hurricane Helene struck South Carolina in late September 2024 and caused widespread devastation across the state. Excessive winds caused downed trees and power outages for over 1.5 million residents of South Carolina. SCDR teams from local churches were mobilized immediately to begin the hard task of clean up and mass feeding. DR teams, in collaboration with SCBaptist Associations, provided over 85,000 service hours in local communities resulting in more than \$2.9 million in contribution to South Carolina. Hurricane Helene created countless opportunities for committed SCDR volunteers to serve in hard places to share the hope of the Gospel with 5,601 individuals.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- SCDR volunteers shared the Gospel 459 times with 23 people making a profession of faith. Pray for the spiritual growth of these new believers.
- A total of 736 volunteers were trained to respond to disasters. Pray for those who have answered the call to serve in Disaster Relief efforts. Ask the Lord to bless them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to effectively serve those in need.
- Over 225 SCBaptist churches were represented by SCDR volunteers. Pray for more churches to respond to the increasing need for disaster volunteers.
- Volunteers served 63,018 hours through Disaster Relief.
- Disaster Relief served 38,699 people.

# Share Team

## ***Chad Stillwell, Team Leader***

The SCBaptist Share Team helps churches take the very first steps in making disciples by equipping and inspiring leaders to pray faithfully for the lost, intentionally meet people where they are, and clearly and verbally share the Gospel with those far from God. We rally and unite churches to work together in partnership, conducting evangelistic events, outreach initiatives, and statewide campaigns designed to saturate South Carolina with the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

Madison was invited to a ONE Night student event by her friends. At the conclusion of the service that night, she repented of her sins and placed her faith and trust in Jesus Christ. She began to rapidly grow as a Christian, and it caught the attention of her father, Dan. Dan was searching. He wanted to be a better father and to have hope. Dan started attending church with his daughter, and last fall, he accepted Christ and was baptized. Dan shared his story of how Jesus changed his life on a video for “The Jesus Change,” a campaign that shares powerful testimonies of life change, for hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians to see. God used a student’s outreach event to save a daughter and a daughter to save her dad. This is the power of the Gospel and churches working together to get the Gospel to all South Carolinians.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- Churches reported 12,355 baptisms. This is an 18% increase over 2023.
- Share Team partnered with 272 SCBaptist churches to host 10 regional student evangelistic ONE Night events. In total, 5,798 people attended with 492 students making decisions to follow Christ. These events took place in Aiken, Gaffney, Columbia, Camden, Laurens, Rock Hill, Conway, Cheraw, Batesburg-Leesville, and Lancaster.
- Our team helped 912 women’s ministry leaders and pastors’ wives this year through small groups, coaching, equipping events, and the ministers’ wives retreat.
- “The Jesus Change” evangelistic videos reached 681,199 South Carolinians through broadcast television, streaming platforms, or social media.

# Baptist Collegiate Ministry

***Chad Stillwell, Share Team Leader***

Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) is a missionary effort of SCBaptist churches to reach the 250,000 college students in our state with the Gospel. BCM Directors serve as missionaries to our colleges and universities to share Christ on campuses, disciple students as leaders and missionaries, connect them with local churches, and mobilize them to serve on mission across South Carolina, our nation, and the world. Through BCM, SCBaptist churches are raising up the next generation of disciple makers.

John was far from God when he came to a BCM meeting hesitant about church, carrying past hurts from church, and living a lifestyle of partying. He was invited by BCM Director, Peter Hyatt, into a summer book study focused on learning about God. John was a seeker, asking the deepest questions and being honest with his struggles and doubts about God. By fall, he was faithfully attending BCM and meeting weekly with a leader. Over time, God changed his heart—he gave up drinking, unhealthy relationships, and started a relationship with Christ. John said, “This must be the Holy Spirit, because I’ve never had a desire to follow God before.” BCM provided the community and discipleship that helped him move from doubt to new life in Christ.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

BCMs reported significant increases in evangelism, attendance, and missionary service for the 2024–2025 academic year including:

- Our teams engaged 30,323 college students on campuses across South Carolina. This is a 50% increase over the previous year.
- Small groups disciplined 1,420 students.
- In total, 322 people made professions of faith through BCM.
- BCMs across the state saw 324 students serve in student leadership.
- This year, 768 BCM students served on mission, including students and leaders serving this summer through BCMGO in partnership with IMB and NAMB in France, Great Britain, Madagascar, Thailand, North Africa, California, Vermont, Utah, Washington, D.C., Louisiana, and South Carolina.

# African American Engagement

***Michael Pigg, Director***

SCBaptist is committed to seeing every life saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel, including the 26.5% of South Carolinians who are African American. We are encouraging, equipping, and networking with SCBaptist churches and universities to address any deficiencies in reaching and discipling African Americans in our communities across the state. Through the strength of collaboration, an increasingly lost ethnic community will be impacted by God's people who believe in the sufficiency of Scripture to advance the Great Commission.

Pastor Alex Sands and Kingdom Life Church expanded its commitment to global and domestic outreach by sending three mission teams. Two teams traveled to the Send Relief Center in Clarkston, Georgia, engaging refugee communities and supporting Gospel-centered initiatives. A third team provided medical services and shared the Gospel in Mombasa, Kenya. The experience had a profound impact on participants, who expressed a heightened sense of Gospel urgency. Personal testimonies were shared with the congregation which inspired a new wave of global engagement. As a direct result, Kingdom Life hosted a children's choir from Uganda for a month, strengthening its commitment to international ministry and extending God's love beyond their local community.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- An equipping event at The Cove, hosted by NAMB, brought together 36 SCBaptist African American pastors to encourage couples to continue in their calling to lead God's church.
- Clamp Divinity School at Anderson University is reaching African American pastors through preaching cohorts of young pastors in pursuit of excellence in preaching.
- We have an increase of majority-culture churches who are actively reaching the people under their geographical influence with the Gospel and seeking to disciple all people.
- African American pastors are participating in Give+Go Initiatives and breaking historical barriers.
- SCBaptists are actively engaging African American young adults in our university communities to address the increasing void of young leaders who will become ministers and missionaries. We are collaborating with trained leaders to ensure a strong biblical foundation.

# Send Team

***Ken Owens, Team Leader***

The Send Team equips and mobilizes churches to go to the nations and their neighborhoods to make disciples with an Acts 1:8 vision. Worldwide, 3.2 billion people remain unreached and 290 million remain unengaged with the Gospel. More than 300,000 foreign-born people now call South Carolina home—many of whom have never heard the good news of Jesus. The Send Team helps churches step into this mission locally and globally so that every life is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel here, there, and everywhere.

Rocky Creek Baptist Church in Greenville is passionate about making disciples of all nations. Through mission partnerships in places like Clarkston, Georgia, New York City, Panama, and Angola, Rocky Creek is sending workers around the world to share the Gospel. They are also committed to reaching the nations in their local community, leading a Spanish ministry and hosting an Indian church. Rocky Creek invests in the next generation of missionary leaders, too. In May, they commissioned 22 college students to share Jesus as summer missionaries in South Carolina and around the world. Over the last few years, Rocky Creek has sent out several Journeymen as well as the very first International Mission Board (IMB) Project 3000 Missionary Explorer to help advance the Gospel among unengaged peoples.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- Today, 289 SC Sent Ones are serving full-time through the IMB, with 31 appointed this year. SC Sent Ones serve in every IMB affinity across the world. Literally, the sun never sets on a SCBaptist witness to the nations.
- The Palmetto Collective equipped and deployed 51 college students. Since its launch, 97 students have graduated from the program, with 36 of them now serving full time through the IMB and North American Mission Board.
- SCGo vision trips engaged 76 SCBaptist pastors and leaders from 42 churches, with locations including California, France, Italy, Japan, Maine, Maryland, Mexico, New York, Panama, Spain, Turkey, Uganda, and Vermont.
- More than 1,000 volunteers rallied to help Camp McCall recover after Hurricane Helene to make possible its 66th summer of ministry to men and boys. This summer, 2,458 campers attended, resulting in 303 recorded decisions for Christ—including 61 salvations, 180 rededications, and 62 commitments to ministry.

# Start Team

## ***Cliff Marshall, Team Leader***

South Carolina is experiencing historic growth. The need for starting new Kingdom-minded churches has never been greater. SCBaptists believe that churches plant churches, and we assist SCBaptist churches to pray for and partner with new churches. Church planting teams are sent out to start new churches, especially in the underreached areas of our state. Our coastal region—especially Myrtle Beach, Hardeeville, Moncks Corner, Bluffton, and Charleston—has the lowest church-to-population ratio. Planting new SCBaptist churches is truly a cooperative effort, and each church can be a part of that mission.

TJ Terrell was a young, African American pastor with little knowledge of what cooperative Baptist work was about. In 2023, he connected with the SCBaptist Start Team and began learning the value and strength of Baptist cooperation. He sensed God calling him to plant a church in Greer, so he began the church planter assessment and training process. In 2024, TJ began a Janie Chapman funded church planting residency with Riverside Baptist in Greer. Pastor Chris Jackson led TJ through the residency process with the help of the Start Team, while also using the opportunity to help his church see the value of planting churches. On August 10, 2025, ReFuel Church launched public worship services as the first African American SCBaptist church in the area.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- SCBaptists are funding 42 church plants.
- Our church plants reported 238 baptisms this past year—twice the baptism-to-worship attendance ratio of the average SBC church.
- Over 50% of new SCBaptist churches are ethnically diverse. African American and Hispanic congregations make up the largest percentage of these new churches, but that number also includes other international groups such as Chinese, Vietnamese, and Ukrainian.
- Currently, there are 35 potential church planters in the SCBaptist church planter pathway.
- This year, 36 existing churches were equipped to plant churches.

# Shepherd Team

***Brian Saxon, Team Leader***

The Shepherd Team's mission is to develop pastors and churches that follow the Great Commandment and advance the Great Commission. Our goal is to build relationships that promote a deep love for God and for our neighbors. We achieve this by supporting churches in revitalization, leadership and health, helping pastors develop their leadership skills, providing encouragement for their wellness, and investing in young men who are answering God's call to ministry.

The Restore Retreat for pastors and wives is a time of encouragement and renewal. For Mark and Katherine Sanders from First Baptist Gilbert, the retreat offered meaningful rest. "It's a great time getting away and slowing down," said Mark. Katherine added, "It's nice to be reminded that other people are in the same boat you are." Julie McGill from Springdale Baptist in West Columbia said, "We come every year. It's a great time to be renewed and encouraged as a couple." This weekend allowed pastors to focus on their relationship with the Lord and their spouse.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- In total, 253 pastors participated in leadership Cohorts like NextSteps and RE.
- A Young Pastors Network was launched with 104 monthly participants.
- This year, 28 churches have been through a revitalization process.
- Our Restore Retreat gave 146 pastors and their wives a chance to find rest and renewal to fuel their ministry.
- Three regional preaching conferences and labs drew 147 pastors.



# Strong Team

***Steve Rohrlack, Team Leader***

The Church Strengthening & Discipleship Team, also known as the “Strong” Team, is tasked with enriching and amplifying many of the ongoing ministries of the local church. This allows the team to continually assist church staff and volunteer ministry coordinators. Our goal is to help church staff develop professionally or help volunteer leaders develop their ministry expertise. Strong churches enjoy spiritual vitality in their leadership as well as focus in their ministries.

Three things to know about Tye. The first is Tye struggles with Down syndrome. The second is Tye is part of the South Carolina foster care system. Number three is that the highlight of Tye's year is SummerSalt. He loves camp. While Tye was at camp this year, his foster parents learned that all hurdles had been cleared, and the adoption could proceed. The only challenge was that the adoption was scheduled for the very next day. Tye very much wanted to be adopted, but he also wanted to remain at camp. So, the following day, Tye joined his sister and student minister in the camp's program office. For a few moments, the program office became a court room as Tye, his sister, and parents listened in as the judge made the adoption official.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- Over 7,383 campers attended one of our three camps: SummerSalt, KidSalt, and Camp McCall.
- At our summer camps, 258 students made decisions for salvation, and 284 expressed a call to ministry.
- Leadership cohorts trained and equipped 246 leaders.
- In total, 337 churches received church administration assistance.
- The Worship and Music Office led 12 regional cohorts serving 131 leaders who meet regularly for ministry development.
- The Onward Conference served 700 worship leaders for a one-day conference.
- The Discipleship and Special Needs Office held consultations with 32 churches regarding special needs ministries.
- Our team helped 76 leaders, representing 46 churches, establish individual discipleship strategies for their congregations.
- KidSalt campers packed 1,800 “Go Bags” for Fort Jackson Boot camp graduates.

# Camps

## ***SummerSalt***

***Bryant Laird, Student Ministries Director***

SummerSalt is a Christ-centered summer camp for middle and high school students. A consistent part of the camp's growth is the amazing group of college students that join together to serve on summer staff. The summer of 2025 saw increases in attendance and decisions from recent years. Over 700 students were trained to share their faith. The growth and success of SummerSalt would not be possible without the partnership of Charleston Southern University and their unwavering support.

- Attendance: 3,769
- Number of Salvations: 126
- Number Repenting of Sin: 306
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 211
- Other Decisions: 59

## ***KidSalt***

***Kathy Miles, Preschool & Children's Ministry Director***

KidSalt is a Gospel-centered camp experience for children in first through fifth grade. It had another year of record attendance with 1,156 campers. Children packed 1,800 "Go Bags" for Fort Jackson Boot camp graduates. This mission experience was made possible through the generous giving of SCBaptist Churches to the Janie Chapman Missions Offering.

- Attendance: 1,156
- Number of Salvations: 71
- Number Repenting of Sin: 53
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 9
- Other Decisions: 3

## ***Camp McCall***

***Matt Allen, Director***

Camp McCall celebrated its 66th year of ministry. We help churches advance the Gospel together in three areas of emphasis: summer camp, hosting retreats, and missions mobilization. This year we hosted 2,458 campers, recording 303 decisions for Christ. Over 1,000 people volunteered to restore Camp McCall to working condition after tornadoes ripped through the grounds during Hurricane Helene. Registration and all decisions increased from the previous year.

- Attendance: 2,458
- Number of Salvations: 61
- Number Repenting of Sin: 180
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 62

# Office of Associational Relations

***Scott Shields, Director***

The Office of Associational Liaison exists to create a Kingdom movement among our 42 associations cooperating to impact our state and beyond. We are one family, and our close partnership and collaboration with associations is at the core of our togetherness. Through financial support of our associations, SCBaptist ministries are working together more closely to advance the mission—engaging in pastor vision tours, healthy church planting, and revitalization.

The Janie Chapman Offering assisted two associations intentionally investing in the next generation of leaders within the local church. The Charleston Baptist Association created a pipeline where residents are shaped within their own church or ministry context, while also bringing together the residents to build relationships and grow in leadership development. Mission mobilization, discipleship, shepherding, and serving are key elements driving them toward the multiplication of their gifts, talents, and calling. York Baptist Association started the Intentional Equipping Network, where church leaders can get undergraduate-level training to best serve the local church. Key topics like systematic theology, pastoral leadership, and other related topics are covered during this training.

## ***Ministry Highlights***

- The Associational Mission Strategists (AMS) and Wives Retreat in Hilton Head, SC, featured Dr. Rick Fisher and focused on spiritual renewal. Dr. Tony Wolfe also introduced the Give+Go Initiative, celebrating Cooperative Program giving and mission impact.
- AMS leaders were equipped at two summits which focused on our associational leaders in collaboration environments. Todd Robertson, AMS at the Louisville Regional Baptist Association, led a session on the “Core Essentials of the Local Association,” and the SCBaptist Team provided resources supporting the 2026 emphasis, “Generation Timothy,” focusing on raising up the next generation of pastors.
- Our team resourced and assisted six associations that went through AMS leadership transitions in 2025.

# Bylaws Committee

*Chris Dewease, Chair*

*Benji Ladd, Vice-Chair*

The Bylaws Committee presents amendments to the Bylaws, Part I, as a first reading in 2024. A vote to incorporate these amendments will be taken at the annual meeting in 2025. The changes update the term 'affiliated' to 'in friendly cooperation' in places it was overlooked in earlier updates. These changes are found in Part 1, Article VI. Proposed changes are indicated in **bold font** and ~~strikethroughs~~.

## ***B. Membership***

1. The membership of the Executive Board shall include two (2) members from each of twelve (12) geographic regions as determined by the Bylaws Committee (Bylaws Part II, Article III, Section F, Item 2) with ~~at least one (1) of the two (2) members in each region coming from a church with fewer than 200 in worship attendance and four (4)~~ **six (6)** at-large members selected by the Nominations Committee. Only one (1) person from a church **affiliated in friendly cooperation** with the Convention may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. No region shall have more than three (3) members. ~~Members may come from unassigned churches within a given region and not participating in an association but affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention within that region.~~ At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for at least one (1) year of a church in the area of the region from which the person is elected. The Convention President is a voting member of the Executive Board completing a ~~twenty-nine (29)~~ **thirty-one (31)** member Board. Membership of the Executive Board shall also include the following non-voting ex officio members: Convention officers; **and** the state president of the Woman's Missionary Union; ~~and the state president of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries~~. No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall serve simultaneously on a board of trustees of a South Carolina Baptist Convention-sponsored institution.
2. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Executive Board, who also serves as Treasurer of the Convention, shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Executive Board, and aid by furnishing information, printed material, and needed guidance for the work of the Executive Board.
3. ~~The elected members of the Executive Board shall be divided into two (2) groupings: one (1) grouping shall be comprised of ordained ministers and laity church employees, and one (1) group comprised of others. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. The Board will include, within the two (2) groupings this grouping, persons with business expertise, women, and ethnically diverse people to provide a capable and inclusive membership. The second grouping shall be comprised of members from churches in friendly cooperation with the Convention with an average worship attendance of 199 or fewer or 200 or more. No more than sixty (60) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. Only one (1) person from an affiliated a church in friendly cooperation may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for a least one (1) year of a church in the region from which the person is elected.~~
  3. **All members shall come from churches that are in friendly cooperation with the Convention. The elected members of the Executive Board shall be divided into two (2) groups.**
    - a. **The first group shall be divided between ordained ministers and laity. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either category.**
    - b. **The second group shall be divided between members from churches in friendly cooperation with the Convention that have an average worship attendance of less than 200 and an average worship attendance of 200 or more. Average worship attendance is based on the annual church profile report from the previous year at the time of election. No more than sixty (60) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either category.**
    - c. **The Board should reflect the diversity that exists within our convention of cooperating churches.**

4. The term of office of elected members of the Executive Board shall be four (4) years. Terms commence on January 1 following election by the messengers. Members of the Board shall not succeed themselves, except in the case of the Convention President serving one (1) year or a member who has first been elected to fill ~~less than~~ one-half (1/2) **or less than one-half (1/2)** of an unexpired term. The terms of approximately one-fourth (1/4) of the membership of the Board shall expire annually. One (1) year shall elapse before a member may be returned to the Executive Board or be elected to any other board of the Convention.
5. No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall have any official connection with any of the institutions of the Convention, nor shall the member be an employee of the Convention or an institution of the Convention.
6. Any member of the Executive Board who moves church membership to another region in the state shall remain on the Board until the Convention fills that vacancy. Any member of the Board who becomes a member of a church in another state shall thereby terminate membership on the Board. Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Convention's nominating and election process. The Board may temporarily fill the vacancy pending the Convention's election.

*Bylaws Part I last amended November 14, 2023*

### ***Historical Information and Update***

Regarding the motion from the 2023 Annual Meeting stating, "The SCBC amends the bylaws to allow churches to qualify for Messengers through other means than the traditional Cooperative Program giving," this committee wants to ensure that a decision like this is given the weight of study that it deserves.

The Bylaws Committee made a motion that Chuck Sprouse, 2025 Convention President, appoint a study committee to explore the complex issue of how the Convention receives gifts and seat messengers to report back to the Bylaws Committee.

The Bylaws Study Group prayed, studied, and considered many possible situations that might transpire should the bylaws be amended regarding the Cooperative Program giving. We appreciate their work and agree with their recommendation that it is in the best interest of the Convention to maintain the current bylaw requirements that churches must evidence cooperation through monetary gifts to the Cooperative Program to seat messengers at SCBaptist Convention annual meetings. The Study Group report is printed on the following page.

Chris Dewease  
Brian Henderson  
Benji Ladd  
Bobby James  
Greg Somers

Chris Sullivan  
Sean Giovannetti  
Ben Harr  
Pam Kirkland

# Recommendations to the Bylaws Committee

## *Seating Messengers with Gifts to the Cooperative Program*

After thorough prayer, study, and consideration, the 2025 Bylaws Study Group respectfully submits the following recommendation regarding the qualification of churches to seat messengers at the SCBaptist annual meeting.

### ***Factors Considered***

#### **Historical Context and Definition**

- The Cooperative Program (CP) was established in 1925 as Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving, enabling churches to pool undesignated receipts to support state and national missions and ministries. The CP is explicitly defined and should not be redefined at the state level.

#### **Distinction Between Giving Streams**

- The study group discussed and agreed that every contribution made through the CP supports Great Commission ministries. However, not all gifts labeled as "Great Commission Giving" are given through the CP. The Cooperative Program is the unified giving plan that Southern Baptists use to fund their shared mission. In South Carolina, "Cooperative Gifts" are designated contributions and not part of the CP's unified system. Allowing messenger seating based on other types of giving—outside of the Cooperative Program—would weaken the unique and unified approach that the CP provides.

#### **Differences in Messenger Seating**

- Significant differences exist between how the Southern Baptist Convention and the South Carolina Baptist Convention seat messengers. The SCBaptist Convention determines messenger status based strictly on financial support through the CP, as currently required in the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

#### **Potential Implications of Change**

Changing messenger qualifications to include other giving streams could:

- Allow churches that do not support the CP to have input into its budget, effectively diminishing the incentive for unified, systematic giving.
- Open the door to unforeseen situations that could inadvertently weaken the SCBaptist Convention's missions funding, efficiency, and unity.
- Risk returning to a method of unsystematic and inefficient giving that history has shown to be expensive and counterproductive to the Convention's mission.

#### **Value and Efficiency of the Cooperative Program**

- CP remains one of the most comprehensive and efficient channels to fund Southern Baptist mission work—a system envied by other denominations and foundational to a century of missional effectiveness.

## ***Recommendation***

The Study Group firmly believes it is in the Convention's best interest to maintain the current bylaw requirements—that churches must evidence cooperation through monetary gifts to the Cooperative Program to seat messengers. The group recommends that the Bylaws Committee:

- Publicize how messengers are currently seated in South Carolina.
- Highlight the unique and vital role of the Cooperative Program in supporting missions.
- Reaffirm that the Cooperative Program should remain the primary and required channel of support for seating messengers at the annual meeting.

In conclusion, while all forms of Great Commission giving are deeply valued and essential to Baptist missions, only consistent CP giving provides the unified system needed to sustain the Convention's work and ensure fairness in governance. The Study Group recommends no change to the current bylaws regarding messenger qualification.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mark Bishop**, Study Group Chair

Landrum First, Landrum

**John Alexander**

First Bethany, McCormick

**Terry Corder**

Mt. Pisgah, Jefferson

**Chris Dewease**

Taylors First, Taylors

**John Goudelock**

Living Water, Longs

**Chuck Sprouse**

Ninety Six First, Ninety Six

# Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee

*Mark Krieger, Chair*

*Rod Elliott, Vice-Chair*

When citizens stand up and speak out about issues, lawmakers listen. Thanks to the response from many South Carolina Baptists and others who spoke up, primary gambling legislation failed to pass the House in 2025. Gambling will be a challenging issue in 2026.

We joined a press conference on April 29 that brought close to 80 pastors from several denominations to the State House to oppose all forms of gambling and to call for the advancement of legislation to protect life beginning at conception. South Carolina Baptists joined with Palmetto Family Alliance, Faith Wins America, the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, and The Swamp Fox Initiative to send a joint letter opposing gambling to all members of the South Carolina Legislature.

The Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, along with Tony Beam, public policy advisor, keeps pastors and leaders informed about key pieces of legislation and activity associated with the South Carolina Statehouse through Action Alerts and the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee Newsletter. In his advisory position, Beam works with committee members to draft pertinent resolution proposals that assist him in presenting the Baptist point of view at the Statehouse.

Other highlights from the 2025 legislative year include:

- The Education Scholarship Trust Fund passed, and the governor signed it into law. It isn't a perfect law, but it represents a significant step toward real school choice for South Carolinians.
- The legislature did not pass a major pro-life bill this year. There are several bills that the legislature may take up in 2026. Watch for legislative updates for details beginning in January.
- Two bills were passed and signed into law, which make it easier for law enforcement to pursue AI-generated child sexual abuse material and AI sexual exploitation.

In 2026, we will advocate for parental rights legislation, pro-life legislation, laws eliminating DEI in schools and government entities, laws protecting minors from being exposed to sexually explicit material online, and other legislation that aligns with God's Word, SCBaptist resolutions, and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. We will focus on responsible work and financial stewardship. We will draw attention to the fact that gambling exploits and preys upon the desperation of those who can least afford it. This will be a David and Goliath issue for us.

As the group talked about the annual committee awards, it was decided to rename the Public Servant Award to the Joe Mack Public Service Award. The 2025 award recipients are:

- **E.A. McDowell Award:** Danny Nicholson, President of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries (CMCM), for community action to expand the ministries, educate Baptists about the vision and mission of CMCM, and engage more supporters.
- **Impact Your World Award:** Spring Valley Baptist Church, Columbia, for continuing engagement with international teachers in Columbia.
- **Joe Mack Public Service Award:** Joe Mack, Columbia First Baptist, for elevating the SCBaptist presence and recognition among elected officials for 11 years. He successfully led the battle against video poker, advanced pro-life legislation, and defended children, parental rights, and churches during his tenure.



# History Committee

*Walter Johnson, Chair*  
*Joey Farrington, Vice-Chair*

In December 1821, nine delegates representing three Baptist associations—led by influential figures such as Richard Furman and William Bullein Johnson—formed the General Baptist Convention of South Carolina, which later became known as the South Carolina Baptist Convention. As the first state Baptist convention established in the South, it set forth its mission from the beginning: to advance both foreign and domestic missions, promote the education of ministers, and foster cooperation among churches.

The History Committee is entrusted with promoting and preserving the history of the state convention, its associations, and member churches—each of which, by God’s blessing, has grown into what it is today.

In 2025, under the leadership of Convention Archivist Anna Wilson-Stillwell, more than 60 historical research requests were fulfilled. Requests came from associations, churches, community members, and Convention staff, spanning topics from historical statistics to guidance on preserving church records and documents.

On January 8, 2025, Convention staff gathered at the 190 Stoneridge building to place items into the South Carolina Baptist time capsule. The collection included photographs, artifacts, and documents reflecting God’s work among South Carolina Baptists over the past year. This new capsule follows the original, which was sealed in 1994 when the building was constructed and later opened during a celebration with Convention staff and retirees on October 24, 2005. The newly sealed capsule is scheduled to be opened in 2055.

The Convention received several donations to the archives this year. One donation included over 100 photographs and a few decorative dishes from the School of Nursing at the South Carolina Baptist Hospital during the 1950’s–1960’s.

The History Committee members are blessed by the honor to serve South Carolina Baptists in this important ministry.

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Walter Johnson  | Greg Nix      |
| Joey Farrington | Brad Ramey    |
| Michael Bryant  | Becky Slayton |

# Nominations Committee

***Bart Kelley, Chair***  
***Mark Bishop, Vice-Chair***

Each year, the Nominations Committee of the SCBaptist Convention is comprised of two members from each of the 12 geographic regions. The work of this team is invaluable for the process of ascertaining knowledgeable people to conduct the work of the Convention and our Ministry Partners. We are grateful for each committee member who serves, and we appreciate the time they have invested in identifying these candidates for election to the 2026 boards.

Executive Board members serve four-year terms unless they are fulfilling an unexpired term. The number of members on the Executive Board has been in transition as the 2021 Bylaws amendments allowed natural attrition to bring the size down to 29 members (including the Convention President as a voting member of the Board). Although the total number of members has been corrected, this report uses unexpired terms to achieve a balanced rotation. This slate of candidates includes these corrected terms.

Trustees serve five-year terms unless they are fulfilling an unexpired term. Ministry Partner trustee candidates are listed on a ballot you received at registration. They are elected separately from the Executive Board nominees. All terms will begin on January 1, 2026.

Adrian Allen	Jeromy Dean	Ken Lewis
Zeke Benjamin	Danny Garrett	Johnny McDaniel
Mark Bishop	Drew Gunter	Woody Oliver
Amy Bryant	Michael How	Ryan Steed
Kirk Carlisle	Greg Hyler	Joseph Walker
Patrick Clark	Blake Jenkins	Dwayne West
Terry Corder	Tim Keagy	
Rob Cox	Bart Kelley	

**SCBaptist Convention Executive Board Nominees**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Nominee Name Church, Association</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
2	#Will Bray Simpsonville First, Greenville (AT-LARGE)	2026
2	#Chad Moore Cedar Grove, Palmetto	2026
3	#Jeremy Thompson Taylors First, Three Rivers	2026
4	Ty Childers Fairview, North Spartan (AT-LARGE)	2029
4	#Mike Harder Spartanburg First, Spartanburg County	2027
6	*Randy Day First Mt. Moriah, Lakelands	2029
6	#Kevin Hinton West Creek, Ridge	2027
7	##*Chris Kennington Great Falls Second, Chester	2026
7	#Ed Stewart New Creation, Columbia Metro (AT-LARGE)	2027
9	*Wayne Chapman Central, Welsh Neck	2029
9	Tommy Sunderland Camden First, Kershaw	2029
10	#Geoff Lawson Grace Bible Church of the Lowcountry	2026
11	*Shelley Simpson Crosspoint, Santee	2029

#Filling an unexpired term

\*Laity

**Ministry Partner Trustee Nominees**

<b>Ministry Partner</b>	<b>Nominee Name Church, Association</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Anderson University	*Gary Bailey Chestnut Ridge, Laurens	2030
	*Mary Anne Bunton Williamston First, Palmetto	2030
	*Nakia Davis Iva First, Saluda	2030
	*Danny Walker Graceview, Saluda	2030
	*Alex Lewis Riverland Hills, Lexington	2030
Charleston Southern University	*Kevin Chafin Summit, Charleston	2030
	David Sons North Augusta First, Aiken	2030
	*Gloria Thiem Summerville, Screven	2030
	*Talmadge Tobias Grace, Santee	2030
	*Stacy Wiggins Northwood, Charleston	2030
North Greenville University	*Ashley Barnes St. Johns, Barnwell-Bamberg	2030
	Will Beacham Locust Hill, Three Rivers	2030
	##*Mandie Boyd Edwards Road, Greenville	2027
	##*Lee Cappell Riverland Hills, Lexington	2029
	*Lee Dillard Spartanburg First, Spartanburg County	2030
	Josh Morton Simpsonville First, Greenville	2030
	*Shana Sands Kingdom Life, Greenville	2030
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	Jamie Arnette Dillon First, Pee Dee	2030
	*Frank Boulineau N Myrtle Beach First, Waccamaw	2030
	*Jenny Johansson Lake Murray, Lexington	2030

	#*Dena Lucy Fort Mill First, York	2027
	*Walt Peterson South Main, Lakelands	2030
	Philip Turner Shandon, Columbia Metro	2030
	#*Dan Walters Connie Maxwell, Lakelands	2026
Baptist Foundation	*Nathan Catoe Hagood Avenue, Barnwell-Bamberg	2030
	*Brian Craven Columbia First, Columbia Metro	2030
	*David Moss Calvary, Florence	2030
SCBMA	*Ira Bedenbaugh Chestnut Ridge, Laurens	2030
	*Melissa Browne Northside, Lexington	2030
	Robert Grant Lexington, Lexington	2030
Baptist Courier	#*Kathy Hall Camden First, Kershaw	2029
	Jacob Helsley Columbia First, Columbia Metro	2030
	Walter Johnson Berea First, Greenville	2030
	Josh Phillips Honea Path First, Saluda	2030
	#Donald Thomas Abner Creek, Three Rivers	2029

#Filling an unexpired term

\*Laity

# Committee on Committees Report

***Zack Little, Chair***

***Ruth McWhite, Vice-Chair***

The Committee on Committees is selected by the outgoing president from the previous year. This group is comprised of members from churches of all sizes across the state, as stated in our bylaws. The Committee on Committees accepts nominations to fill vacancies on Standing Committees of the Convention. The length of service on Standing Committees varies, but all terms begin on January 1, 2026.

We appreciate the time each member devoted to enlisting capable candidates who expressed interest in the committee for which they agreed to serve.

Tripp Atkinson

Brady Henderson

Wilds Powell

Cathy Blalock

Zack Little

Eden Richardson

Lebron Crisp

Ruth McWhite

Brandon Sandifer

David Cox

Chuck Miller

Jacob Helsley

Will Oswald

Jarrian Wilson

Arnaldo Silva

## ***SCBaptist Convention Committee Nominees***

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Nominee Name, Church, Association</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Bylaws	Joseph Daniel Gateway, Columbia Metro	2028
	Dalton Fowler Hopewell, Saluda	2028
	Blair Smith Irmo First, Lexington	2028
Christian Life & Public Affairs	Hunter Baker Christ Fellowship Cherrydale, Greenville	2028
	*Erin Cofield Central, York	2028
	RaShan Frost Centerpoint at Remount, Charleston	2028
	#*Jonah Sims Poplar Springs, Spartanburg County	2027
Enrollment & Credentials	Michael Hodge Locust Hill, Three Rivers	2026
	Rudy Gray Mount Moriah, Piedmont	2026
	*Kate Green Riverland Hills, Lexington	2026
	*Theresa Holland Riverland Hills, Lexington	2026
	*Robin Syfert Riverland Hills, Lexington	2026

	Wes Church Columbia First, Columbia Metro	2026
History	Dylan Baxter Church at The Mill, Spartanburg County	2028
	Justin Howard North Trenholm, Columbia Metro	2028
Resolutions	Nathan Finn Taylors First, Three Rivers	2028
	Ken Frederick Blackville First, Barnwell-Bamberg	2028
Nominations	Jason Dorriety Neals Creek, Saluda, Region 1	2028
	Scott Gillespie Five Forks, Greenville, Region 2	2028
	Al Phillips Brushy Creek, Greenville, Region 2	2028
	Scott Allen Rock Springs, Piedmont, Region 3	2028
	Ron Henderson Mt. Nebo, Spartanburg County, Region 4	2028
	#Mark Hazle Gaffney First, Broad River, Region 5	2026
	Jonathan Deal Red Bank and Pine Pleasant, Ridge, Region 6	2028
	Clint Bartlett Levels, Aiken, Region 8	2028
	#Josh Moss Millbrook, Aiken, Region 8	2027
	*James Cook Camden First, Kershaw, Region 9	2028
	#*Stacy Emory Crowfield, Charleston, Region 10	2027
	#Jonathan Denton The Church at LifePark, Charleston, Region 10	2026
	*Brenda Stevens Bethlehem, Carolina, Region 12	2028

#Filling an unexpired term

\*Laity

# 2026 Committee on Committees

According to the SCBaptist Bylaws, Part II, Article II, the Committee on Committees is appointed each year by the current Convention president. This committee is comprised of members from all sizes of churches based on worship attendance. The bylaws require at least one new work church that has been in existence between one and five years. There are fifteen members on the Committee on Committees.

The duty of this committee is to nominate candidates at the annual meeting to serve on Convention Standing Committees beginning the following year. They meet twice per year.

Chuck Sprouse, Convention President, prayerfully considered each person to serve on the 2026 Committee on Committees.

## **Worship Attendance of 500 or more (at least 1)**

- Brandon Blair, Langston, Waccamaw
- Taylor Wolfe, Rocky Creek, Greenville

## **Worship Attendance of 200–499 (at least 3)**

- Jeremy Beauford, College Street, Beaverdam
- Michael How, Ninety Six First, Lakelands
- Daniel McGaha, Rice Memorial, Lakelands
- Doug Mize, Greer First, Three Rivers
- Jeff Wright, Red Bank, Lexington

## **Worship Attendance of 1–199 (at least 3)**

- John Alexander, First Bethany, Edgefield
- Chet Andrews, State Street, Lexington
- Ben Harr, Willow Swamp, Orangeburg-Calhoun
- Mike McCormick, Berlin, Edisto
- Johnny McDaniel, Greenwood, Florence
- Walter Pym, Warrentonville First, Aiken
- Chris Sullivan, Abbeville First, Lakelands

## **New Work in Existence 1–5 Years (at least 1)**

- Ashby Pruitt, Iron City Church, Broad River



# North Greenville University

**Gene Fant, President**

**Motto:** “Christ makes the difference!”

**Mission:** Equipping transformational leaders for church & society

**Core Values:** Christ-Centered, Biblically Faithful, Academically Excellent, Mission-Focused

In the academic year 2024–2025, the university moved forward in its mission with confidence and renewed energy, welcoming the largest new student class in several years and launching significant new programs, most notably the Master of Arts in Biological Sciences. A strong sense of purpose and optimism fills our work and provides us ongoing reminders of God’s providential leading as we cultivate our Christ-first community, working with all of our might, “as unto the Lord.” (Colossians 3:23-24).

The university continues its commitment to Kingdom work, with an opening Gospel emphasis (Ignite, featuring Dr. Travis Agnew), a global missions conference (with dozens of former missionaries, sending agencies, and opportunities to explore calling), a biblical worldview week emphasis (exploring contemporary issues from a biblical lens), and a read-through-the-Bible event that underscores the centrality of the scriptures to our community. This summer saw hundreds of decisions for Christ (including calls to Christian service) as we hosted Fuge camps on campus, along with a number of students who pursued missions and ministry across the country.

As we live out our mission and our core values, we work around a set of markers that were laid out last year, “The 4 C’s,” which include Community, Calling, Courage, and Compassion. We seek to foster a strong, multilayered Community where students intersect with others who will position them for flourishing in all aspects. We believe that God has prepared a Calling for all in our community, a Calling that includes all realms of life, not merely those that are vocational. We believe that when Calling is discerned in the context of Community, personal Courage will be discovered and operationalized, as we follow God’s leading wherever it may go. We believe that godly Courage overflows into Compassion, as we take the heart and mind of Christ into our churches, neighborhoods, and families and transform them for the glory of God.

This year was one of preparation, as we concluded the largest capital project to-date in the Fant administration (the expansion and renovation of the Donnan Administration Building to include the College of Business & Entrepreneurship in the Plaster Center for Free Enterprise.) We have now completed the resurfacing or updating of all athletic playing surfaces and the revitalization of the campus quad in Tigerville. We launched a new food service partnership, Trailblazer Hospitality, which will enhance the residential experience. At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees, the university revealed its next strategic plan, NGU2030: Building for the Future. This plan—the second of this administration—focuses on protecting and sustaining our Christ-first mission and is available for review on the university’s website (<https://www.ngu.edu/about/ngu-2030/>). This new plan, along with an updated Campus Enhancement Plan, will provide the foundation for an upcoming major capital campaign. To date, the university has remediated nearly \$30 million in deferred maintenance while continuing to hold no long-term interest-bearing debt and maintaining tuition / fee schedule that is among the lowest in the region for private universities (we are roughly half the cost of Furman and Wofford!). We continue to be certified / members in both Excellence in Giving (<https://excellenceingiving.com>) and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (<https://www.ecfa.org>). NGU is one of the only universities in the nation with both certifications, which evaluate our financial operations and commitment to transparency in philanthropy.

North Greenville University values the support, accountability, and prayers of the Convention and look forward to being partners in God’s redemptive work in our state, our nation, and our world!

# Anderson University

***Evans Whitaker, President***

For God and humanity, Anderson University (AU) seeks to be an innovative, entrepreneurial, premier comprehensive university where liberal arts, professional studies, and graduate studies thrive within an uplifting, welcoming, and distinctively Christian community of diverse faculty, staff, and students dedicated to intellectually rigorous learning, a caring and hospitable campus culture, and personal transformation.

## **Student Testimonies**

Allow me to share some brief stories as evidence to why SCBaptists' support of Anderson University is a critical investment that spreads the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Aiden is a senior preparing for full-time ministry upon graduation. Early in his life, his family answered God's call to serve overseas through the International Missions Board (IMB) and since returning stateside, have supported and served the local church. Obeying God's call to serve, with the support and example of his parents, and equipped with his Anderson University education, Aiden plans to work with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to reach locals with the hope of the Gospel. Eventually he desires to go overseas as his parents did, where he will live out a life on mission in the most spiritually dark areas of the world. Aiden is an active member of Baptist Collegiate Ministries and is an intern in a local church. In addition to previously serving on the summer staff at Camp McCall, he spent a summer participating in GenSend LA, a NAMB initiative designed for students to live intentionally in community while sharing the Gospel in a new city.

Jane is also senior student who experienced a devastating health challenge earlier in her university journey. Her condition required her to leave school for one semester, and study online for another semester, while receiving treatment for her condition. Through prayer and the Lord's healing hand, the wisdom of her medical team, the support of her family and university family, Jane has returned to campus. She has resumed her active university life on campus, including her service as a leader of Baptist Collegiate Ministries. Jane's own powerful story of healing, and the support she offers to fellow students in their own walk with the Lord is an incredible encouragement.

Anderson University was blessed to support several missions and ministry projects this past year. In May, a missions team went to London to support an Anderson University alumnus serving as an IMB Journeyman. In June, students and faculty led a medical missions trip to Peru to share the Gospel and serve people in desperate need of medical care. Students and faculty in the College of Health Professions and School of Nursing served hundreds of children in local communities by using teddy bears to teach healthcare, hygiene, and dental practices. Students and staff have led several relief trips to Western North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene to serve, clean, and build. Students on campus regularly serve with local nonprofits, churches and designated projects.

There will be no end to the impact, in this life and for all eternity, that will be made by the lives and testimonies of Aiden and Jane, the countless examples of service, and the thousands of other AU students whom SCBaptists support.

## Highlights 2025

- This fall we welcomed more than 920 new students to the Anderson University family.
- Anderson University's total enrollment is nearly 4,700 students.
- Anderson University continues to be recognized as one of the best universities by nationwide rankings and publications. Its latest distinctions include:
  - Among the “Best Colleges” in the South (The Princeton Review, 2025-2026)
  - U.S. News & World Report, 2025 ranks Anderson University:
    - #31 Best College among regional universities;
    - #14 Best College for Veterans among regional universities;
    - #6 Best Undergraduate Teaching Program among regional universities;
    - #1 in SC for Online Master in Business Programs;
    - #2 in South Carolina for Online Bachelor's degree programs;
    - #2 in South Carolina for Online Master's in Nursing programs;
    - #3 in South Carolina for Online Master's in Education programs
  - Niche.com rankings include:
    - #2 Best College Campus in South Carolina;
    - #3 Private University in South Carolina;
    - #3 Education program in South Carolina;
    - #3 Business program in South Carolina
  - Chronicle on Higher Education Great College to Work for the 6th straight year.
- Last year, Samuel who is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science was named a Fulbright Scholar. Anderson University now also has seven Fulbright Faculty Scholars. The prestigious program is our nation's flagship international educational exchange program and is a great honor both to the awardee and their institution.
- Clayton King Ministries, a principal evangelistic partner at AU, celebrated 30 years of Kingdom impact this year. During their Crossroads summer camp on Anderson's campus, more than 1,200 high school and junior high students made professions of faith or shared a call to pursue ministry in their lives, and more than \$32,000 was raised for missions. Clayton King is a principal evangelistic partner, along with our many ministerial graduates and our Convention.

# Charleston Southern University

***B. Keith Faulkner, President***

Charleston Southern University (CSU) treasures the important Gospel partnership we share with the churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (Philippians 1:5). Our vision statement articulates our role in this partnership: To be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading, and serving. As we challenge students to deepen their Christian faith and explore God's purpose for their lives, we are challenging students with a biblical worldview, encouraging them to follow Christ's example by serving others (Matthew 20:28), and sending them on mission (Matthew 28:19-20). Please pray for CSU as we seek to do the Lord's work for his glory. Pray that our students, faculty, and staff will have a heart of compassion and a desire to serve others selflessly while seeking to share the message of Christ's love and salvation with others in North America and around the world.

## **Campus Ministries**

- We praise and rejoice with the Campus Ministry team that 39 CSU students received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during formal campus ministries events this year.
- CSU set the national collegiate record for the number of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes packed in a single season for the sixth straight year, packing 13,670 shoeboxes in 2024. The goal for 2025 is 14,000.
- At Elevate, our weekly Thursday night campus worship, we had a high attendance of 453 students and averaged 295 students during the academic year. The women's discipleship ministry served 110 females in one-on-one discipleship relationships.
- We praise the Lord for the 79 students who served on summer missions teams: 21 students served internationally, and 58 served in the U.S. through organizations, camps, and local church engagement. Two faculty and one staff member traveled to the Dominican Republic for the sixth annual medical mission trip, where they cared for hundreds of patients.

## **SummerSalt/KidSalt**

- CSU is pleased to partner with SCBaptist, including hosting SummerSalt and KidSalt. This summer, 4,645 students attended, and we praise the Lord for the 574 spiritual decisions made. Seven CSU students served as counselors.
- Ten CSU upperclassmen served at Student Leadership University in Orlando, and 303 enrolled CSU students attended SLU 101.

## **Aeronautics Program**

- CSU's aeronautics is the only collegiate program in South Carolina. The professional pilot major has seen a year-over-year growth rate of 33%. In order to accommodate this growth, CSU purchased Chucktown Flight Training, LLC, in the spring, which is based out of the Summerville Airport.

## **Academics**

- CSU received accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) on July 17, 2025, for the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.
- The Nielsen College of Business launched a one-year MBA this fall.
- The College of Nursing students have a first-time pass rate for first two quarters of 2025 of 97.26%.
- The EdD program expanded partnerships through local school districts. These new district specific cohorts will be launched over the next six months and expect to enroll more than 50 new doctoral students.
- U.S. News & World Report lists CSU in its Best Colleges Regional Universities South, Best Colleges for Veterans, Best

Colleges in Nursing, Best Online Bachelor's Programs, and Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans (the top-ranked program in South Carolina). CSU's national recognition also includes recognition as a Silver Status Military Friendly School and a Purple Heart University.

### **Athletics**

- Michael Calhoun won the Big South Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He is the first-ever male winner in CSU history in the award's 30-year history.
- CSU Athletics placed second in the Big South's Sasser Cup competition (best all-around Athletics program) for the second consecutive year. CSU athletes finished the year with a department-wide 3.37 GPA.

### **Horton School of Music and Performing Arts**

- Two CSU students captured national titles at the National Association of Teachers of Singing finals at Temple University in Philadelphia in late June. Luke Baur and Stephanie Colon, Horton School of Music and Performing Arts vocalists, won at the state and regional levels to advance to the national competition.

### **Development**

- We are grateful for our faithful donors. CSU's overall giving increased by 13%.
- The university completed a comprehensive Economic Impact Study that underscores CSU's significance as a major economic and workforce development driver in the region.

### **Capital Projects**

- The university underwent several capital renovation projects over the summer including giving a facelift to the Dining Hall, which has been officially named "The Caf," Buc Stop Grill, Hunter Center, Student Center, Aeronautics and Engineering building buildout, Buc Dome Concessions, installation of a new soccer grandstand, Quad Landscape Refresh, and broke ground on a new dorm to be completed in the summer of 2026.

# Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries

*Danny Nicholson, President*

"Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end; submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. **Keep back nothing.** Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead."

Long ago, I committed these final sentences to memory from C.S. Lewis' masterpiece, "Mere Christianity." It seemed appropriate as Connie Maxwell completes the fifth year (halfway point) of the "Decade of Dreams" strategic plan and turns the corner towards successfully finishing the "For the Dreams of Children" Campaign that we should have a suitable battle cry—an enthusiastic conviction that can be shared in words as encouragement amongst our family. **Keep Nothing Back** fits the bill!! What follows is a parade of updates outlining the progress we have made in the past year as we prepare for the homestretch of our campaign.

- On November 15, 2024, Connie Maxwell held "For the Dreams of Children" Campaign Gala to celebrate and announce surpassing our initial goal of \$10 million by raising over \$20 million! We were blessed to have Ruth Graham as our host, Jerry Ann and Larry Faulkenberry and Mike and Suzie Kocak major gift announcements, and our featured "For the Dreams of Children" film series spotlighted throughout the evening.
- Because of our current momentum, the Board of Trustees voted to raise the campaign goal and further strengthen our desire to reach excellence. The three priorities of the campaign: Healing Center, reimagining Maxwell Farms, and a new campus in Charleston are all in the development process with architects and engineers as we seek to raise financial support to complete them in the future.
- Alongside the development and fundraising efforts for the Healing Center, we have been blessed to hire nationally recognized leadership positions that are working together as the "Dream Team" to plan strategy, train staff, and bring into being a brand-new culture of healing that will operate inside the Healing Center. We hired Michelle Maikoetter (national trauma expert, Amarillo, Texas), Dr. Michelle Geiser (Doctorate in Traumatology from Liberty University, Hendersonville, North Carolina), and Angelina Mojica (childcare leader from Dallas, Texas). From an Expert Senior Consultant to Vice President for Services and Programs and Associate Vice President for Campus Services, each of these leaders respectively will work to bring Connie Maxwell to an unprecedented level of excellence in Christ-centered, trauma-informed care. These new hires have ushered in the beginning of a whole new organizational structure and department alignment.
- Besides these exciting developments with the Healing Center, we continue to make progress on reimagining Maxwell farms by presenting the 4th Annual Corn Maze and Concert featuring Mac Powell, lead singer from Third Day, on September 27. A more fully developed Master Plan has been developed, and the first steps for infrastructure, an amphitheater, and the livestock arena are being discussed. We also continue to patiently work towards acquiring a promising piece of land for our new campus in Charleston.
- Additionally, progress is being made towards other various "Decade of Dreams" goals and objectives. Our Residential Care served 164 children and families. Foster Care continues to grow and flourish with 55 homes licensed, serving 90 children. Family Care continues to expand, serving 14 families which consist of 14 single parents and their 25 children. Crisis Care has served 16 children and families, and the Higher Education/Independent Living program served 13 youth this year.
- As a part of "Decade of Dreams" a growing sense of momentum continues to strengthen our annual giving and volunteer service levels. Once again this year, our "Giving Tuesday" secured \$764,299 representing 449 gifts. Besides financial support, Connie Maxwell welcomed 667 volunteers who served in various ways.

- With great excitement, we hired Mike Blackwood to join our Church Engagement efforts. Mike is a friend to South Carolina Baptists and has already touched base with hundreds of churches and pastors on behalf of Connie Maxwell across the state and beyond. Mike will enhance our relationship with churches and continue our focused mission “to become a national leader in healing and ministry for vulnerable children and families.”
- Once again, for over 20 years, we invited churches and families from across the state to Connie Maxwell Christmas. Nearly 20,000 visitors came to campus to worship Christ with church services, music, nativity scene, hot chocolate, and horse and carriage rides.
- Connie Maxwell’s Senior Vice President, Jay Boyd and the Communications/Marketing Department won an “Emmy Award” for the film series, “For the Dreams of Children.” This award underlines how God is using our stories of redemption for his glory. This highest level of media recognition carries our banner of compassion and love for children and Jesus across the nation and positions our ministry ahead of many corporations and organizations much larger and with a wider scope. Praise be to God!
- Last, it touched our hearts to see Gabby and Gabe baptized at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church. Of course, this is the fruit of all our efforts and the reason we exist.

As we continue to move into the future, we invite each South Carolina Baptist to join us in “**Keeping Nothing Back**” and surrendering our lives, even more deeply, to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in serving and healing children and families in South Carolina and across this nation.

# Baptist Foundation of South Carolina

**Nathan McCarthy, President & CEO**

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6 ESV*

The year 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina (BFSC) serving South Carolina Baptist Convention churches, associations, ministries, and people. Born out of the prayerful vision of the SCBaptist Executive Board, the BFSC has grown over these years as a valued resource for churches and ministries through financial and generosity services. We are deeply grateful for God's faithfulness and give him all the praise!

Our work began in 1950 with a \$10,000 endowment from SCBaptist, an investment that continues to support the Cooperative Program (CP) to this day. Over the decades, that initial \$10,000 has grown to \$4.5 million in value through wise investment and additional contributions. This initial endowment has also distributed more than \$5 million back to the CP since 1990.

While our services have expanded and adapted over the years, our mission remains the same, with today's work focused on:

## **Ministry Investments**

We provide competitive, Kingdom-focused investment products that help churches and ministries grow funds while supporting businesses that honor God and serve people. Our funds are simple, growth-oriented, and designed to minimize risk. We encourage clients to view investing as a strategic, prayerful use of God's resources guided by vision and purpose rather than emotion. God's money, given by God's people, is always intentional!

## **Church Lending and Capital Fundraising**

Since 2022, our subsidiary, Seed Financial Services Inc. (SFS), has helped churches finance building and renovation projects. SFS also offers fixed-rate investment options for churches and individuals who want to invest in church growth. As a ministry arm of BFSC, SFS's goal is to help churches remain financially healthy and manage building programs with debt that can be repaid wisely and quickly.

We also serve churches with building projects by providing capital campaign services. A strong campaign strategy helps teach and communicate biblical principles for funding the church's future vision while focusing on God's ownership and our faithfulness.

## **Generosity and Legacy Ministries**

We help churches and individuals develop a vision for future giving through planned giving services, to include charitable trusts, gift annuities, and donor advised funds. BFSC offers personal estate planning to any SCBaptist who wishes to leave a gift to a Southern Baptist cause. Through prayerful legacy planning, believers can impact future generations and experience the joy of giving from Heaven.

Major accomplishments since our last report:

- Distributed almost \$5.1 million to primarily Baptist ministries through endowment and investment income in our fiscal year ending 12/31/2024. This is our largest single annual ministry distribution in our 75-year history. Since inception, BFSC has distributed almost \$105 million to Kingdom ministries—from churches and ministries in South Carolina and around the world.
- Gave \$327,000 to the Cooperative Program through annual endowed disbursements in 2024.
- Continued to operate with NO Cooperative Program (CP) financial assistance, a decision implemented in 2016 so that



other ministries could benefit from CP assistance. We are grateful for our past CP assistance and we are equally grateful that we can operate without CP funds today!

- Distributed to ministries a return of \$10.86 for every CP dollar we have received since our inception.
- Continued to tithe our own ministry resources to provide grants to help fund evangelistic projects. In 2024, grants totaling \$101,750 were awarded to SCBaptist churches, associations, and other evangelistic ministries for projects focused on Kingdom growth. Since 2002, endowed gifts and the BFSC tithe have resulted in almost \$1,480,000 in ministry grants.
- Our trustee scholarship provides funding for students in or preparing for ministry vocations at our SCBaptist universities. Since inception in 2011, our trustees have given a total of \$181,763 in scholarships. In addition, BFSC manages several SCBaptist scholarship funds as well as scholarship funds for churches, growing their investments while also providing scholarship administration.
- Continued to assist small churches and other ministries with online giving platforms, including custom pages. In 2024, BFSC processed 5,360 online transactions totaling almost \$1.34 million in contributions to SCBaptist churches and ministries.
- Provided customized estate planning for families or individuals who desire to leave a portion of their estates to Kingdom ministries. In 2024, 45 families began or completed their estate planning through these services. To date, 388 families have completed estate plans with anticipated future gifts of over \$86 million for primarily Baptist ministries.
- Continued to realize exceptional performance (competitive long-term returns with less risk) from investment funds. Not only does BFSC screen out investments such as alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, abortion, and pornography, but we actively seek to invest in high quality, competitive investments that support Kingdom initiatives and human flourishing.
- Processed over \$20 million in loans for SCBaptist churches since the inception of Seed Financial Services, Inc. (SFS).
- Accepted 221 investments in Certificates of Growth (COGs) from individuals and ministries. These individuals and churches are investing in church growth as these funds are used to support church loans.
- As of August 31, 2025, the Foundation manages over \$201 million in assets for the benefit of churches, associations, and Baptist institutions across our state, nation, and world.

We give God all the glory for what he has done through our ministry. Our prayer is that we will continue to serve his church with humility, inspire his people toward faithful stewardship, and bring honor to his name as he leads us into future opportunities for service. To him be the praise!

# South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging

*Tom Turner, President & CEO*

As a ministry partner of SCBaptist, South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging (SCBMA) is dedicated to helping South Carolina seniors live abundantly. That is evident as you stroll around the pastoral setting at Bethea Retirement Community or meander over the rolling hills at Martha Franks Retirement Community. Our residents come to our communities to live and to serve. Whether it's exercising in the pool at Bethea, walking the paths at Martha Franks, leading devotionals, visiting with friends, volunteering in the community, housing members of the Florence Flamingos baseball team, or manning the Billy Graham Call Center, our residents are staying active and serving others.

This past year has been challenging yet invigorating. Higher prices for basic services like food, water, electricity, and supplies, coupled with shortages nationwide in the healthcare workforce, have caused us to be very creative in the ways we minister to our seniors every day. God, though, was faithful.

SCBMA's leadership and trustees continue to marvel at how timely God brought financial resources in past years. Because of those gifts and the ongoing support of our residents, their families, and SCBaptists, I am pleased to share several recent accomplishments:

- Bethea Retirement Community's state-of-the-art nursing and rehabilitation facility has consistently maintained a 90% or above occupancy, thereby continuing to provide needed healthcare services to Pee Dee residents.
- Our Helping Seniors Thrive Giving Society has raised over \$1,000,000 in donations and pledges and added 73 members to the Society over the last eight years. Faithful supporters of this campaign enable us to continue to provide financial assistance to those who need it for residential living expenses each month.
- Our Mother's Day Offering campaign raised \$110,457 with 87 new churches or individuals participating. This scholarship provides financial assistance for pastors, missionaries, and their spouses who live in our communities.

Our trustees recognize that there will be many issues to manage in the years ahead—a growing senior population, maintaining a capable and caring workforce, and assuring our communities are prepared to meet the challenges of a competitive and ever-evolving retirement community industry. Our faith and confidence remain in the Lord as we continue to provide services for seniors with compassionate care in the name of Jesus Christ so all we serve may thrive.

We ask for your prayers as we continue to meet the healthcare needs of the people in the Pee Dee, continue to reach people for the Lord by reorganizing our Martha Franks Billy Graham Call Center in Laurens, and address the needs of seniors and their families throughout South Carolina.

We continue to be appreciative of the ways SCBaptist supports the ministry of SCBMA.

# The Baptist Courier

***Jeff Robinson, President***

It's been an extremely busy year here at 100 Manly Street with lots of good things emerging from our ministries.

First, at this writing the September edition of The Baptist Courier magazine recently hit the streets, and I am quite proud of the theme, mix of articles, and overall design. Our theme for the month is "Can We Trust the Bible?" to which we answer, of course, a resounding "Yes!" The latest magazine features articles showing why we can trust the Bible by an array of excellent writers. We deal with issues such as how we got the Bible and why we have sound reasons to trust that it is the very Word of the living God. This edition also includes the standard news, columns, and features that spotlight what the Lord is doing among South Carolina Baptists. This edition is typical of a new approach to the magazine in place for the past two years which seeks to make it into a resource that encourages healthy churches, healthy church members, and healthy pastors.

On the publishing front, we are moving forward with significant speed on numerous volumes. This summer, we released five new books through our 1821 line and will publish several more this fall, including my new book on the doctrine of perseverance of the saints, *Kept by God*, due on Reformation Day, October 31. This book is the first in a series of at least seven volumes of theology written for laypeople. CP 1821 also has another series underway of biographies of famous Baptists.

This series will arrive gradually over the next few years leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Conservative Resurgence in the SBC in 2030. It will include volumes on numerous well-known Baptists such as John Broadus and James Petigru Boyce, E. V. Hill, Adrian Rogers, and numerous others. Our books have been featured at numerous conferences and at several SBC annual meetings this past summer. That part of the Courier's ministry is growing far more quickly than I had ever imagined. We will have a noticeably larger presence in November at the annual meeting in Taylors.

Our podcast, *Courier Conversations*, is slowly growing in popularity. We recently published the 50th episode and have 5,000 total downloads. These aren't huge numbers, but they are up significantly over the past year. We have also upgraded our technology a bit so that we are able to bring guests onto the podcast from anywhere in the world there's internet access and a laptop or iPhone. This will greatly expand what we're able to cover on the podcast.

Our staff continues to grow as well. With the recent retirement of circulation manager Carolyn Rainey after many years of faithful and excellent service, we have added Sindy Tucker to our staff in Carolyn's position. Sindy brings a ton of experience in the business world and strong expertise to her position. We also recently added Christian Bowers as a part-time executive assistant to the president and staff. Christian is a recent graduate of North Greenville University and brings numerous skills that will make him much more than a mere assistant. He's already helping me with research for books, articles, and the podcast as well as organizing my schedule and has even helped us with editing articles for publication and with technical aspects of the podcast. Being a baseball fan, I love utility players that can plug into numerous positions, and we are blessed with staff members who are able to move around and work in various roles.

By God's grace, we close 2025 and enter 2026 in a position of significant strength with many exciting things on the horizon.

# Woman's Missionary Union

*Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer*

Serving as your South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Executive Director-Treasurer for almost three years has been a joy and honor. Thinking about the task God has entrusted to us excites me.

## **Missions Discipleship**

Woman's Missionary Union learned many years ago that our churches will drift from their mission if there is not a plan to help every church member discover and pursue their role in the Great Commission. Believers must be discipled in both doctrine and missions, which is why we have been working since 1888 to ensure Southern Baptists prioritize the Great Commission, moving it from the margins to the forefront.

To help Southern Baptists prioritize the Great Commission, WMU is committed to creating resources for missions discipleship. Our missions curriculum for preschoolers, children, students, and adults is designed to help churches:

- Learn about missions,
- Pray for missions,
- Support missions,
- Do missions and tell people about Jesus.

When churches learn about what our North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries are doing to make disciples, they are better equipped to pray for missions. The more churches pray for missions, the more inclined their hearts will be to support missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions. And, finally, the more churches learn, pray, and support missions, the better equipped each member will be to answer God's call to do missions and tell people about Jesus.

## **Missions Cooperation**

Over \$2 million was given to the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions in 2024! South Carolina Baptists gave \$2,130,993—the largest Janie Chapman Offering ever. We broke the \$2 million mark for the first time, setting a new record that is 6.6% higher than 2023.

For the twenty-seventh year in a row, SC WMU sent a check for over a million dollars to the South Carolina Baptist Convention to support the Convention initiatives of Serve, Share, Send, Start, Shepherd, and Strengthen, and associational ministries.

The Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions was started as, and continues to be, the driving force for missions throughout our state. Almost 2,000 churches cooperate with the South Carolina Baptist Convention in missions giving, discipleship, and support.

## **Missions Sending**

Because South Carolina is a missions-sending state, we offer mission trip opportunities to students from all churches. This summer, our student consultant, Lauren Morris, led a team of students to Latvia for a trip in partnership with International Mission Board missionaries. Students were trained in how to share the Gospel effectively and then had opportunities to put that into practice. Our students were able to share their testimonies and the Gospel with teenagers and adults all over the city and saw several people come to faith in Jesus Christ. What they learned on this mission trip is already being implemented in their day-to-day lives back here in South Carolina. By sending students on mission trips, more churches will be encouraged to become goers and senders.

## **Missions Leadership**

In January and February 2025, eight women from across South Carolina met virtually every week for six weeks for a women's leadership cohort. These women serve in various areas in their churches, including missions, women's ministry, and children's ministry. They read "Women Leading Well" by Dr. Emily Dean and met for discussion about various topics, including Biblical foundations for leadership, calling, and spiritual gifts, and personal spiritual disciplines.

Upon the completion of the six-week cohort, two participants went on to complete a certificate in Women's Missions Leadership through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. This certificate is a joint effort between South Carolina WMU and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. To encourage further equipping for female leaders, participants who complete the SC WMU Leadership Cohort are eligible to receive a scholarship to help offset the cost of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary certificate.

## **Missions Calling**

Last summer at Camp La Vida, Bailey befriended Brooke, a first-time camper who stayed after her cousin left early. Bailey's kindness and support helped Brooke enjoy camp, and they stayed in touch throughout the year. This summer, both girls returned, and the experience deepened Bailey's passion for missions. Inspired by her time at camp, Bailey is now exploring how she can serve Christ through a future career in engineering, possibly at the Naval Academy. Bailey asked her mother, who is a former Camp La Vida camper and staffer, how she could do missions through engineering. Her mother assured her that, indeed, God will use her in any career she chooses, especially one that showcases the handiwork of God. Through experiences at Camp La Vida, Bailey has realized that she is on mission for Jesus Christ with her non-Christian friends and looks forward to doing missions in whatever career path God leads her.







This SCBaptist resource is made possible through the Cooperative Program giving of South Carolina Baptist churches.

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