



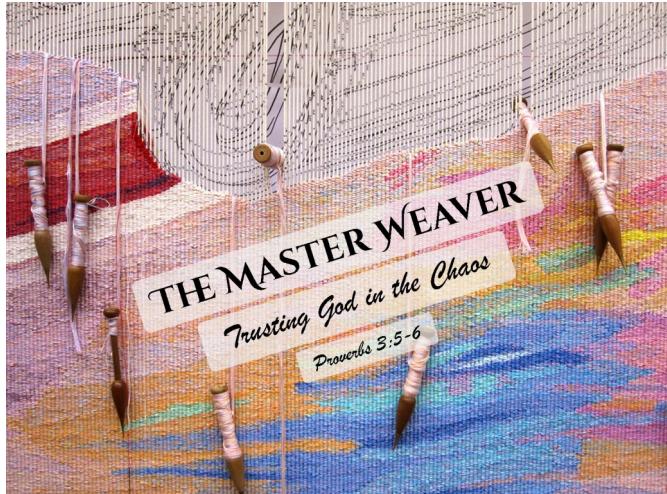
Carolina Connection

Spring 2021

Volume 37, Issue 1

Edited by Nicole Mosley

A quarterly publication connecting Baptist Secretaries across North Carolina



REGISTER NOW FOR OUR 2021 CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 1-3 RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER

The fee is \$225.00 per person and includes membership and conference fee, double occupancy room, and all meals.

Private rooms will be an additional \$109.00. Commuters will pay \$160.00 which includes membership, conference fee, and six meals (Monday dinner; Tuesday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Wednesday breakfast and lunch).

We hope you will plan to attend! You might consider asking your church or association to help in funding your time away

for this conference. Payments can be made in installments, and \$50.00 will hold your reservation.

Make checks payable to NCBSA and mail to:

Janette Harris, c/o Burkemont Baptist Church, 4668 Burkemont Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.

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

RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER



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

DENIM and Pearls

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

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

This year, your Executive Committee decided to take away some of your distress. For 2021, we are losing the “Banquet” name for our Tuesday evening meal gathering. Instead, we will be having a true Southern

buffet with all the favorite foods and are calling it “Denim and Pearls”. We will be reminded of many ‘pearls’ of wisdom found in God’s word and about the durability of ‘denim’-an example of how God’s love endures, and how we are called to persevere in our love for God and others. We’ll highlight the blessings and challenges of persevering, like ‘denim’, while seeking God’s ‘pearls’ of wisdom which He promises to all those who ask Him. In keeping with that theme, we would like for you gals to show up in what else but

Denim! Maybe just a Denim Jacket, or Denim Jeans, or a Denim Skirt, or Denim Shirt or Dress...

you get the idea! But don’t forget a southern girls favorite accessory, PEARLS!

You read it right! Wear Denim and Pearls and come prepared for an exciting and fun evening!

Mission Emphasis

Our mission emphasis this year is Black Mountain Home *for Children, Youth and Families*, a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Black Mountain, North Carolina.

The Home’s mission is to glorify God by caring for children and families. They do this by seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit; seeing each child as a child of God who deserves to feel love, strength, and peace; and by bringing God’s healing to these children.

Black Mountain Home serves children from birth through college graduation who have been abused, abandoned, orphaned or neglected. Most of these children have been removed from their homes by the court system because it is unsafe or unhealthy for them. Some stay for a short time, while others spend a considerable part of their growing up years at the Home. Last year Black Mountain Home served 150 children from 17 counties in Western North Carolina.



We will be receiving an offering at the conference as well as collecting the following items: diapers (varying sizes) and toiletries (shampoos, lotions, stick deodorant, toothpaste, etc.).

Please pray for this ministry and let God direct what you can do to support our Mission Emphasis collection for **Black Mountain Home *for Children, Youth and Families***.



Many thanks to Mary Bentley, Gayle Gestrich, and Krissy Harvell for agreeing to serve as this year’s Nominating Committee. Please join us as we prayerfully consider prospective First Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Begin praying now as to how you will respond if it is your time to serve the NCBSA.





Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

So, what does this verse *really* mean? What does it look like to trust in the Lord with *all* your heart? I mean, I say I trust in the Lord, but do I really? And how do I know if I am doing more than just saying so? I mean, trusting in the Lord is very important for me as a believer. Jesus even said in John 14: 1-3, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.” I want to do that!

I’ve been thinking about this verse quite a lot this last year...well, if I’m being completely transparent, I’ve been thinking about this verse quite a lot for over five years now, but we

won’t get into all that. Suffice it to say, a lot has gone on in my personal life the past five years. Anyway, back to what I was saying.

So much of what has taken place this past year, I simply don’t understand. I mean I get that God’s ways are not my ways, but why in the world would He possibly allow the “chaos” of a pandemic or extreme political and social unrest? Why would He allow (or maybe even *cause*, if we’re honest with ourselves and admit out loud we question these things) what seems to be a world completely out of control? And even as I ask Him these things in my times with Him, I sometimes almost hear Him say to me, just as He did to Job: “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?” (Job 38:1) But other times, thankfully, I believe He is the God who sees me and knows my heart and doesn’t get upset with my questions.

As I’ve shared in previous newsletter articles, Proverbs 3:5-6 are some of my favorite verses in Scripture. When I say them to myself in the midst of situations that are causing me some anxiety, they have the power to calm me and get me back on track... *most* of the time.

But then there are those *other* times...when I am going through a difficult situation or allowing myself to wonder about tomorrow and what it might bring. When, in my humanness, I cannot understand what God could possibly be doing. Or when I have prayed and prayed and all I seem to hear from God is silence? Yet, it is especially in these times I do know trusting God is so very important, but doing so is much easier said than done...for me anyway.

If memory serves, I believe I’ve also shared that I struggle with control issues, feeling I must do things on my own and fix whatever I perceive needs to be fixed for life to “get back to normal.” (Thankfully, I seem to struggle less with this than I used to, so I hope that means I’m finally learning.) Nevertheless, it is during those times when I tend to focus so much energy on finding the way myself, my mind gets confused and my faith waivers. I fret and get myself all worked up; I don’t sleep well and I get testy and short-tempered (just ask my husband). Then, in the way only the God who loves me can, He will have to remind me through His still small voice that I am not in control. It’s not about me. His ways are higher and He has a plan I will likely never understand. He reminds me to trust Him; to stop trying to figure it out; to let go and stop stressing. And that it’s not my job. Oh, I may have something to do, but I must trust and have faith that God will not only show me the direction to go, but He will help me through it. Because He is faithful and has done so many, many times before! Then, I breathe and humbly ask Him to forgive me for how quickly I forget; to forgive my stubbornness and lack of trust; and, to take the situation and give me the strength to *NOT* pick it back up tomorrow. And, do you know what? Of course you do! Because we are all His daughters and we are much alike, I’m guessing. When we acknowledge Him for who He is and remember who we are, He loves us and is faithful to forgive us; He picks us up, sets us back on our feet and directs us to the path we are to take. Praise God, He is so, so good!!!

Father God, thank you so much for your grace and mercy! Thank you for loving us so much. You tell us in your Word that you will never leave us or forsake us and we thank you for that promise. Help us to trust you more, to let go of what we don’t understand, acknowledge that you alone are God and fully capable of taking care of every detail of our lives. You are trustworthy and when we surrender to you, you will, indeed, direct our every path. Amen.

Karoline



I am so excited to serve as your President Elect this year. Thank you for your confidence in me. Growing up in a small community in the rural mountains of Caldwell County, I never would have guessed that God would lead me here. The NCBSA has a special place in my heart and I have grown to love you all so much. Every year that I attended conferences I was uplifted and encouraged.

I have been retired now for almost 4 years and am going through a lot of changes in my life. I am grateful that even in our mature years, God still wants to use us.

I ask that you pray for me and the other officers that we would seek God in this service and be able to encourage and uplift you all. It is such a blessing to be serving with Karoline, Janette and Nicole.

I look forward to seeing all of you in November at Ridgecrest! Be sure to get your registrations in and invite other secretaries to attend also. After missing our time together last year, we are praying that this will be a great time to be together; reacquaint, renew, refresh, relax and most of all worship God together!

Cathy Hawkins

Hi, all! I can hardly believe it is May! Amidst all the seeming “chaos,” or maybe mundaneness, of the past several months, time has continued to move on and God has continued to be faithful. We can see this in the “faithful rising and setting of the sun; the rising of the moon and stars that never leave their posts. We call this the making of a day, but God calls them a persistent renewing of His faithfulness. To behold the steadfast faithfulness of God day by day is to witness His unchanging nature, His relentless orchestration of time and space, and His care over the earth’s daily rotation on its axis and each circling of the sun.” (Excerpt taken from ‘Beholding and Becoming: The Art of Everyday Worship’ by Ruth Chou Simons, a book I was gifted and highly recommend.)

I must first apologize for the silence over these past months, but rest assured the silence hasn’t meant inactivity. Even though much has been happening in the lives of your officers, planning for our conference in November has continued, albeit in ways it hasn’t in the past because of the year everything was put on pause. Your officers are excited as things have progressed amidst a few changes in breakout session speakers. We are putting final touches on those and will publish that information in the summer newsletter, so unfortunately some of the sessions last published will not be offered. But, I promise, the ones that are will be equally helpful and enjoyable.

We do, however, have one small problem. And it is one I hope someone reading this can help with. It would seem that, after the 2019 conference at Caswell, the gavel (and accompanying mouse!) are missing. If you will recall, I had to make an unplanned visit to California for the birth of grandbaby number 4. Everyone was so very supportive and helpful in making the conference a success in my absence; and, as is always the case, many of you chipped in to help with the clean-up process afterwards. Because that is sometimes a little chaotic in itself, not everything gets exactly where it was at the beginning, but is usually located when things have settled down. Unfortunately, that isn’t the case with the gavel and Mr. Mouse. So, all this to say, to those of you who were so gracious to stay after and help with the pack-up, if you have any recollection of where these might have gotten placed, or have a suggestion as to where else we might look, we would greatly appreciate it. All of the suggestions thus far have proven futile and I thought I might reach out in this way. BTW, I did contact Caswell to see if it may have been left behind, but they haven’t seen it, nor is it in their lost and found.

So, before we buy another or perhaps borrow one for the business session, this is my last attempt at locating them. Thank you for your help and we really hope to hear from (one of) you soon!



HAVE YOU SEEN THESE TWO???

How will we have a conference
without these guys?





Registration & First Timers

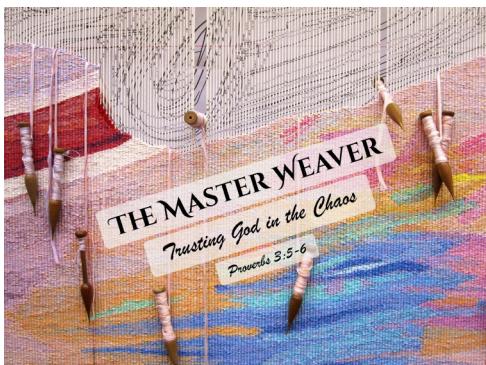
A BIG thank you to those who have already sent in your registration and for those who allowed your deposits/payments from last year's canceled conference to be applied to this year's upcoming NCBSA Conference. I am looking forward to the November 1st – 3rd, 2021 conference, and believe that it will be a special time as we have the opportunity to gather again with our sisters in Christ. Rooms at Ridgecrest have been updated and will provide a very comfortable and memorable experience. Early registration is encouraged, and a \$50 deposit will secure your spot. The balance may be paid periodically, with final payment due by September 30. If you are unable to attend this year's conference, we encourage you to continue your membership with the NCBSA. Just remember to send in your annual membership dues of only \$30. This helps with the administrative costs of the NCBSA. As a reminder, only active members qualify to serve as future officers.

Whether you are a secretary, treasurer, office manager, ministry assistant or volunteer, this is a great time to be a part of the NCBSA. Come to Ridgecrest and enjoy God's beauty! If you have been before you know that the NCBSA Conference is a way to make new friends as well as reconnect with old ones, be encouraged, learn how to better minister to others, etc. That's why it is so important to invite a First Timer to attend this year. Each First Timer will be assigned a mentor who will help her find her room, show her around the area, and be on hand to answer any questions she may have. In order to make each First Timer feel special and welcome, we need several current members to prayerfully consider saying "yes" to being a mentor.

Your officers have been working diligently and are super excited about this year's conference. Please be in prayer for us as we strive to make this conference an experience of spiritual, professional and personal enrichment along with lots of fun and fellowship for all.

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

Janette Harris



**Join us on Facebook at
NCBaptist
Secretaries**



ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com

2021 Executive Committee



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Secretary/Treasurer
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2021 NCBSA Conference November 1-3 at Ridgecrest

Name: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Mailing Address (work): _____

City, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Position: _____

E-Mail Address: (Required): _____

Association: _____

Room mate(s): _____

NEED Private Room (Enclose additional \$109): _____

Physical Needs: _____

Food Allergies: _____

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

PRIVATE ROOM - additional \$109 (If you do not have a roommate in mind and do not want a private room, a roommate can be assigned to you.)

COMMUTERS: \$160.00 (includes membership and conference fee, Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Wednesday breakfast and lunch).

We encourage you to register early!

A \$50.00 deposit, along with the completed registration form, reserves your spot.

Amount enclosed: _____

Installments are acceptable.

Final payment due September 30.

Make checks payable to NCBSA & Mail to:

Janette Harris

c/o Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd.

Morganton, NC 28655

Refunds for Cancellations

(excludes \$30 membership fee)

Before July 31: 100% refund

August 1–September 30: 60% refund

After September 30: No refunds

Is this your first time attending a NCBSA Conference? _____

How many years have you attended? _____

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

This is being delivered via email to reduce our budget cost. It is also available on our website, www.ncbaptistsecretaries.net. If you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please forward this to them. Also, contact Nicole Mosley at ncbaptistsecretaries@gmail.com with their name and email and she will get them added to our mailings. Many Thanks!