



BEAVERDAM
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

Golden Triangle News

VOLUME XLVIII

APRIL 2026

NUMBER IV



WMU Spring Meeting

April 13 at 6:00 pm

Holly Springs Baptist Church

11001 Long Creek Hwy, Westminster

Speakers:

State WMU Representative: Libby Neil

Missionary Guest: David Boyter

Refreshments provided following the meeting.



Interim Shepherd Training

April 23 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, with lunch provided

Church at the Well

10111 Clemson Blvd, Seneca

Interim Shepherd training is a one-day, in-person primer to equip pastors to shepherd and lead during the interim season of a congregation. Building on a Biblical framework, we will focus on clarity of the current reality for many SC Baptist churches, identity and roles for leaders and members, mission of the church, and resourcing for the interim period of ministry. Interim Shepherd Training is created to equip anyone who is currently serving as an interim pastor or seeking to begin an interim/transitional pastor ministry in the near future.

Register by April 20 to bbaemily@bellsouth.net or 864-882-7070.



From the Associational Mission Strategist (AMS),

There is something very alarming taking place all across the Southern Baptist Convention – we’re experiencing a shortage of pastors. I read an article recently that addressed the issue of the “Graying of the American Pastorate” where the author said that “One of the greatest problems facing practically every mission field is finding qualified young men who will respond to the call of the ministry.”

I shared the following information recently at a Monday morning pastors devotion:

The Average Age of a Pastor:

1960’s - 30 years old (most were in their 20’s 30’s & 40’s)
1970’s - 40 years old
1980’s - 44 years old
1990’s - 44 years old
2000’s - 50 years old
2010’s - 55 years old
2020’s - 57 years old

“Dr. Tom Rainer says that the average age of a pastor today is 58 years old. Pastors 40 years old and younger make up only 15% of the total number of Pastors today. Statistics tell us that the average age of a Pastor in America goes UP every year pointing out the glaring issue of the lack of younger men entering into vocational ministry today.” In recent years the percentage of church leaders 65 and older has nearly tripled, meaning there are now way more pastors in the oldest age bracket than there are pastors younger than 40.

From studies that have been done – specifically among younger men as to what has led us to this point, the results were quite interesting: One of the major reasons they expressed as to the decline in younger people embracing the call to ministry had to do with finances. Their opinion was not from a materialistic standpoint or that often times ministry tends to pay modest wages, but the problem had to do with the cost of the education needed to prepare for ministry was the issue. They concluded that: “A generation ago, a young man could arrive at Bible college or enroll in seminary with nothing but change in his pocket, but with hard work and thrift he could still graduate debt free. Those days are gone. Tuition for some Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries is four or five times what it was thirty years ago. Without scholarships or benefactors, many young ministerial students graduate with student loan debt that leaves them incapable of accepting a call from a church that offers only limited compensation.”

A second reason for this predicament, according to Barna Research, is that a majority of current pastors say even finding future leaders—much less mentoring them—is a challenge. Two out of three current pastors believe identifying suitable candidates is becoming more difficult (69%). The findings of these studies conclude that the aging of pastors represents a substantial crisis for our churches, in fact, there are now more full-time senior pastors who are over the age 65 than under the age of 40.

It is urgent that we determine how to best motivate, mobilize, resource, and deploy more younger pastors.

We’re facing a disturbing crisis in our churches. The Beaverdam Baptist Association presently has eleven churches without a pastor. We are facing with certainty the prospect of a massive leadership shortage in the coming decades, the decades that will directly impact our children and grandchildren!

In light of the challenge that lays before us we have to ask ourselves “How do we proceed?” What can we do to address this pending crisis?

1. Churches have to become more involved in recognizing, encouraging, and discipling those whom God may be calling.
2. Churches should consider establishing a pastoral residency program (I’d love to talk with any church or pastor about what this looks like).
3. Older ministers should consider mentorship opportunities with those who might be considering ministry.
4. Associations should consider establishing ministry endowments that would provide financial assistance to those from within the association that are attending college or seminary in order to prepare for ministry.

Impacting Oconee & Beyond,

David

Beaverdam Baptist Association Interim Shepherd Training

Thursday, April 23, 2026

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

Church at the Well – 10111 Clemson Blvd, Seneca
(Formerly Parkway Baptist Church)

Interim Shepherd training is a one-day, in-person primer to equip pastors to shepherd and lead during the interim season of a congregation. Building on a Biblical framework, we will focus on clarity of the current reality for many SC Baptist churches, identity and roles for leaders and members, mission of the church, and resourcing for the interim period of ministry. Interim Shepherd Training is created to equip anyone who is currently serving as an interim pastor or seeking to begin an interim/transitional pastor ministry in the near future.

There is no cost for this training. To register please contact Emily at bbaemily@bellsouth.net or (864) 882-7070. **We ask that you register by April 20, 2026.**

Church Contributions

	Feb 26	Jan-Feb 26
Beaverdam	125.10	352.10
Belmont	0.00	0.00
Bethel	539.23	1,027.03
Bethlehem	0.00	0.00
Calvary	67.04	152.88
Chauga	56.11	56.11
Cheohee	200.00	400.00
Christ Fellowship	0.00	0.00
Clearmont	422.98	789.34
College Street	0.00	0.00
Coneross	0.00	0.00
Corinth	0.00	900.00
Cross Hill Fellowship	3,000.00	3,000.00
Cross Roads – Seneca	0.00	248.36
Cross Roads – Westminster	100.00	200.00
Damascus	0.00	0.00
Earle's Grove	4,460.47	5,642.75
Ebenezer	570.58	1,561.96
Faith	0.00	276.00
Fants Grove	328.09	328.09
Golden Corner	0.00	0.00
Grace	0.00	854.49
Heart Land	83.00	169.00
Hepsibah	780.34	1,560.68
Holly Springs	225.63	781.20
Hopewell	295.31	723.06
Iglesia Bautista Bethel	0.00	0.00
La Roca Oconee	50.00	50.00
Little River	0.00	0.00
Long Creek	166.00	332.00
Lydia	0.00	484.44
Maranatha	122.84	201.42
Monte Vista	25.00	50.00
Mountain Rest	0.00	525.66
Mountain View	100.00	200.00
Mt. Freedom	2,500.00	2,500.00
Mt. Pleasant	0.00	833.32
Mt. Tabor	403.04	730.80
New Hope	573.00	1,405.00
Old Liberty	350.40	350.40
Open Door	250.00	500.00
Pleasant Grove	193.00	445.92
Pleasant Hill	100.00	200.00
Pleasant Ridge	500.00	1,000.00
Poplar Springs	0.00	0.00
Puerta Abierta	0.00	0.00
Reedy Fork	468.78	1,122.21
Retreat	0.00	0.00
Return	865.71	1,786.18
Rock Hill	0.00	0.00
Rocky Knoll	0.00	0.00
Salem	5,000.00	5,000.00
Scenic Heights	0.00	3,600.00
Seneca	736.63	2,060.63
Shiloh	0.00	0.00
Snow Creek	1,382.96	1,382.96
Souls Harbor	230.00	460.00
South Union	324.44	654.80
Toxaway	0.00	0.00
Utica	1,415.30	4,820.64
Walhalla	300.00	600.00
Welcome	182.00	559.00
West Union	0.00	0.00
Westminster	500.00	1,000.00
Westminster First	200.00	400.00
Wolf Stake	0.00	0.00
Total	28,192.98	52,278.43

Church News

Staff Needs:

Coneross Baptist Church, in Westminster, SC, is prayerfully seeking a dedicated, Bible believing leader to join us as our bi-vocational pastor, guiding our congregation in spiritual growth and community outreach. Interested candidates should contact Beaverdam Baptist Association by calling 864-882-7070.

Return Baptist Church is looking for a part-time, children's minister to oversee and further develop the growing children's ministry of the church. For more information, please contact Bobby Holcombe at 864-247-8462.

South Union Baptist Church, Westminster, SC is prayerfully seeking a pastor to lead our church. We are a rural Christ-centered church committed to Biblical teaching and preaching of the gospel and serving our community with love. We desire a pastor who has a heart for pastoral care and outreach. If you feel called by the Lord to serve within our church, we invite you to submit a resume to Joan Short, Pastor Search Committee, joanshort1954@gmail.com.



The association extends Christian sympathy to Mandy Morey and family, on the passing of her mother, Linda Gail Floyd.

Church Furniture Available

New Hope Baptist Church has several furniture items available to offer churches within our association. Items must be picked up by Saturday, April 18th. Other arrangements may be possible if you cannot pick up items by the 18th. Churches must provide their own transportation for picking up the items. New Hope will help load items if needed.

Please contact Joey Hawkins at 864-973-1454 if you would be interested in obtaining the items and to schedule a pick up time.

Items: end table, communion table, pulpit, pews, wooden table, large bulletin board, large storage piece with counter top

Operation Christmas Child Celebration

Foothills Area (Oconee and Pickens)



April 17 at 6:30 PM

Utica Baptist Church

Anyone who participates in OCC or is interested in learning more about the ministry is invited to attend.

For more information and registration, contact: occfoothills@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

2026 BBA Annual Associational Meeting
 Sunday, October 25, 2026
 Return Baptist Church
 Pre-Session Music 5:45
 Call To Order 6:00

Beaverdam Baptist Association



David Shirley, Associational Missions Strategist

bbadavid@bellsouth.net

Emily Anderson, Admin Ministry Coordinator

bbaemily@bellsouth.net

Custodian: Jackie Spearman

Office Hours: 9-5, Monday-Thursday

864-882-7070

Golden Triangle News, USPS 383-610

Publication Office, Seneca, SC 29678

Published Monthly By

BEAVERDAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
215 North Townville Street, Seneca, SC 29678-3227

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT SENECA, SC 29678

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Golden Triangle News,
215 North Townville Street, Seneca, SC 29678-3227

April



- 5 – Easter Sunday
- 6 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BBA, 9:00 AM
- 13 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BBA, 9:00 AM
- 13 – WMU Spring Meeting, Holly Springs, 6:00 PM
- 20 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BBA, 9:00 AM
- 21 – Next Steps, BBA, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- 23 – Interim Shepherd Training, Church at the Well, 9:00 AM
- 27 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BBA, 9:00 AM

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 7 – Steve Black, Scenic Heights
- 7 – Tony Grant, retired
- 14 – John McKnight, Hepsibah
- 18 – John Sorrells, Rocky Knoll
- 18 – Gerald Towe, Ebenezer
- 21 – Tim Rogers, College Street
- 25 – Randy Koon, retired
- 26 – Cale Downard, Utica
- 26 – Chris Moss, Cross Hill Fellowship

Staff Anniversaries:

- 13 – Stacey Griffis, Beaverdam, 2014
- 29 – Scott Bendenbaugh, Mt. Tabor, 2007

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 2 – Perry & Michelle Gardner, Hepsibah
- 5 – Steve & Beth Roberts, retired
- 6 – Jeremy & Holly Beauford, College Street
- 24 – Tim & Staci Tate, Corinth
- 25 – Ken & Nancy Hood, Pleasant Hill
- 30 – Kline & Tonya Matthews, Cross Roads, Seneca

APRIL 5

EASTER

