
2023

January

Chowan Baptist Association



January 17, 2023

Executive Committee Meeting

Details to Come

Something to Celebrate!

All my adult life, I have heard people talk about how a grandchild absolutely changes your life. Many have stated they never thought they could love someone as much as their own children and then a grandchild arrived. I remember not really being able to understand that.

They would speak of such joy and freedom and love. Wait, isn't that how you felt about your children, I would think. It is just different; we can't explain it.

Then in September I became a granddaddy. Someone must have slipped a membership card in my wallet, because my heart joined theirs. It is incredible.

How can a baby make such a difference in one's life? Well, they just do.

We have just celebrated Christmas, what an amazing time of the year. We just celebrated one little baby entering the world. Why is this so special? So important? So dramatic?

Because, a baby changes things, that's why!

And this Baby, well He certainly changed everything. The world would never be the same. How? What did this baby bring that could change the world? Honestly, the same thing any baby brings to his/her mama & daddy or grandmama & granddaddy.

That's right, look at the beginning of the second paragraph above. This baby, in a magnificent and eternal way, brought Joy, Freedom and Love!

My grandson did that for me in a wonderful emotional, mental and physical way. But the Baby in that manger did it for me in a Spiritual, Abundant and Eternal way!

It is amazing how hard Satan has tried to disrupt my family and church during the time we celebrated the Baby Jesus. In his pride he lost the opportunity to experience God's Joy, Freedom and Love and he wants desperately to keep us from those things as well.

But the Baby is victorious and in His Amazing Grace, makes all things abundantly available to us!

I press the button to send this article to be printed with a prayer for each of you who read it, that in this new year you will fully experience the Joy and the Freedom and the Love that the Baby Jesus offers for 2023 and all the years God grants you to come!

Happy New Year and God Bless!

James A. Harrington, Associational Mission Strategist

<u>AMS</u>	<u>Leadership Council Members Leadership Group</u>	<u>Section 1 Leader</u> (Dare & Currituck): Greg Clark
James Harrington, Fellowship 338-3317	Wayne Proctor, Eure 312-9910	
<u>Moderator</u>	<u>Spiritual Formations Group</u>	<u>Section 2 Leader</u> (Pasquotank Camden):
Chris Gravning, Macedonia 482-3059	Chris Lindsey	
<u>Vice-Moderator</u>	<u>Cale Advisory</u>	<u>Section 3 Leader</u> (Perquimans & Chowan): Kip Vinson
	Becky McLawhorn, Eure 209-4912	
<u>Administrative Group</u>	<u>Missions & Ministry</u>	<u>Section 4 Leader</u> (Gates): Cody Brinkley
Jason Wise, Berea 339-4044		
<u>Church Planting & Revitalization</u>	<u>Pastor/Church Relations</u>	<u>Section 5 Leader</u> (Tyrell, Hyde & Washington): Charlie Rice
<u>Evangelism & Outreach</u>	<u>WMU</u>	
	Nancy Scaff, Woodville 339-4328	

General Fund Budgeted Amount: \$140,000

CBA Amount Given in November: \$11,219.92

General Fund Given to-Date \$117,552.65(83.97% given toward budget requirement of 91.63%)

Camp Cale Budgeted Amount: \$67,000

Camp Cale Given in November: \$6,630.95

Camp Cale Given To-Date \$59,704.21(89.11% given towards budget requirement of 91.63%)

(These figures are through the end of November)



Senior Adult Luncheon

A Heart for the Community

Singing, Entertainment, Games & Giveaways

Menu: Soup, Sandwiches, Desserts

Menu subject to change

February 14, 2023

11:30am-1:00pm

\$7.00 per person

Call 252-264-2513 by February 7th

to reserve your spot

Reservation payments can be made at the door



377 Camp Cale Road, Hertford, NC 27944

WHAT TO DO NEXT . . .

Some months ago I listened to a podcast featuring Jeff Henderson. I appreciated what he said, and decided to purchase a book he recently released, What To Do Next. Most of us have been in the position where we've left one job to go to a new job. Our hope is for something better and more challenging and fulfilling. Sometimes change works out well, and sometimes it doesn't. In my life experience I've done many jobs, secular and church-related. In the past 40 years I've served four churches full-time. It's not a bad record. I've learned quite a bit, and hopefully did much more good than harm. But now I'm "at the age" where I need to consider my future once again, and the basic question is "Retire, or Not?" Or . . . , maybe there are other options for me.

For a moment I'd like to talk with you about the theme of "waiting." Honestly, I'm a rather impatient person. I avoid any drive-thru unless there is "no one" already in line. I hate talking to phone computers and being put on hold. So, to be patient when in a season of career assessment and change? Here are some tips that I believe make good sense (some are directly quoted from Jeff Henderson).

1. Wait actively. While you may not be able to make your future "happen" on your time schedule, you can prepare in positive ways. Waiting actively is when we combine wisdom, patience, and an intentional plan to leverage this season of life. Active waiting is more like a crock-pot than a microwave – it tastes better when it simmers. Also, praying is mandatory.
2. Live your life, not someone else's. Have you noticed how some people spend hours scrolling (or trolling) the photos, videos, and lives of others on social media? Why do people do that? Is it because other people have better lives, better families? Rarely. Focus on your life, and the life God has intended for you. *Don't let what you don't know rob you of what you can do. Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.*
3. Find mentors and network. Who do you know? If you're not sure, ask a trusted and wise friend, "Who do you know that I need to know?" Find people who can truthfully tell you your strengths and, ouch (!), weaknesses. Taking a written test can help, but people who know you best, and who are kind, will be more helpful.
4. Options. The better options you create, the better answers you'll find. When I reached the age of 60, I realized that I needed to focus on skill development rather than depending upon my existing resume. I decided to do whatever I could to prepare for my "next." I took intentional interim training. I've recently taken consulting training. I stay active in volunteering my time to help the Association. I've "upped" my generosity. I've listened to countless podcasts and webinars, covering a variety of subjects. I've worked on staying healthy. I spend time establishing priorities and boundaries. I invest time in helping other pastors and churches. Here's my point – I don't have a crystal ball for my future anymore than you do. Yet, I figure that if I keep myself relevant, and connected, my better options will surface and I'll be better able to figure tomorrow out.

Conclusion – I hope some of this helps. When you feel like you're in a rut, don't stay there. All of us can have a better future. It starts in your mind – be positive about you, and live to make life better for others.

Wayne Proctor, Leadership Development

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