
2026

October

Chowan Baptist Association

108 Berry St.

Hertford, NC 27944



Annual Meeting

October 20, 2026

Camp Cale

Registration Begins at 2 PM

A Look Back and A Leap Forward?

How many of you remember when George Outlaw was the Moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association? Or how about D.P. Brooks when he served as Director Of Missions? What about when the Association divided into two, making up the Chowan and West Chowan Associations?

Well, I'm tricking you a little as none of us were alive when George Outlaw served as Moderator. He was appointed as the very first Moderator when the Association was formed in May of 1806. This event took place at the Salem Meeting House on Newbiggin Creek (Not a misspelling there, but has since been changed to Newbegun Creek) in Pasquotank County.

There were eighteen churches represented from eight counties for the May 16-18, 1806 meetings. The Introductory sermon was given by Elder John Wall and his text was "Peace be unto you".

Now, I doubt that any of you remember D.P. Brooks as he served as our first Director of Missions from 1946 to 1947. However, I am aware of at least one person in our Association that remembers our third ever Director of Missions. G.M. Singletary served from 1952 to 1956 and his son has been and is still, currently an active member of Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City and his name is Max Singletary. [On a side note, Max's mother and G.M. Singletary's wife was my fifth-grade school teacher]

You also would not have been around when the association became two associations either as that took place in 1884.

From 1946 with our first D.O.M., until now we have had eleven men serve in either an interim or permanent position of Director of Missions (Associational Missionary and now Associational Mission Strategist).

They are as follows: D.P. Brooks, 1946-47; L.H. Dawson, 49-51; G.M. Singletary, 52-56; Don Pryer, 58-61; Robert Harrell, 62-65; Ralph W. Knight (Interim), 86-90; Lamar Eiland, 1990-2000, Jim Pollard, 02-06, Don English (Interim), 06-08; Rob Roberts, 08-14; and James Harrington, 2015-present.

Another little bit of trivia is that it was Ralph Knight who gave my name to Fellowship for pulpit supply in March of 1988. We certainly had no clue what would follow.

The information I just shared with you came mostly from our history page on our web-site.

If you did not catch it, CBA was founded in 1806 and that makes 2026 our 220th Anniversary

1806 - 2026

I hope to see many of you at our Association Training Day at Berea on Sunday, October 4th and at our annual meeting (at which time we will celebrate 65 years at Camp Cale) on Tuesday October 20th at Camp Cale at 2:30.

Blessings!

James Harrington, Associational Mission Strategist

Leadership Council Members

AMS

James Harrington, Fellowship
333-8887

Leadership Group

Section 1 Leader (Dare &

Currituck): Charles Rikard,
Providence, 936-234-1657

Moderator

Ethan Drum, Coinjock
828-514-6979

Section 2 Leader (Pasquotank

Camden):

Vice-Moderator

Jeff Russell,
Warwick, 340-3272

Cale Advisory

Becky McLawhorn, Eure
209-4912

Section 3 Leader (Perquimans

& Chowan): Jeff Russell,
Warwick, 340-3272

Administrative Group

Jason Wise, Berea
339-4044

Baptist on Mission

Section 4 Leader (Gates):

Church Planting & Revitalization

Wayne Proctor, Gatesville
Interim 312-9910

WMU

Nancy Scaff, Woodville
339-4328

Section 5 Leader (Tyrell, Hyde

& Washington):

General Fund Budgeted Amount: \$150,000

CBA Amount Given in August: \$8,892.94

General Fund Given to-Date \$82,891.25(55.26% given toward budget requirement of 66.64%)

Camp Cale Budgeted Amount: \$72,000

Camp Cale Given in August: \$8,785.63

Camp Cale Given To-Date \$48,467.61(67.32% given towards budget requirement of 66.64%)

(These figures are through the end of August)



CBA CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

Sunday, Oct 4, 2026

Berea Baptist Church, Elizabeth City



4:00 - 7:30 PM



**SNACK SUPPER
PROVIDED**

CONFERENCE OFFERINGS:

- Church Revitalization
- Pastor's Conference: "How to Stay"
- Long Term Strategy for your church
- Evangelistic Outreach
- Next Gens Ministry
- Managing Church Finances
- Preschool Ministry
- Deacon Training
- Becoming a Master Teacher
- Women's Missionary Union
- Discipleship for the Small Church
- Small Church Worship and Technology
- Missions Engagement
- Children's Ministry



For more information please call:
Dr. Jeff Russell (252) 340-3272

For our Red Box Ministry for women prisoners we will be collecting lotion in 8 to 11 oz. plastic bottles, No tubes and No pumps. I found the right size at Dollar General , Family Dollar and others said Dollar Tree also had these sizes. If you need me to meet you to pick up the bottles just let me know. If you take them to the Associational Office call first to make sure Annie will be there at the time you can go. 426-9621.

I will be unable to go do snacks for the Military Wives Retreat/ Mom Camp, we can still help by sending money to support WMU NC or sending it to me and I send one check from our association. The mailing address is PO Box 4249, Cary, NC 27519-4249. If you send it to me my address is 628 Old US 17, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

Blessings,
Nancy Scaff
252-339-4328 call or text
ncmom78@hotmail.com

A PASTOR TO THE COMMUNITY by Wayne Proctor, Church Planting & Revitalization

During the first few weeks as pastor of Eure Baptist, I began to visit the homebound. The reality was that some of those I visited were not technically members of our church, although it had become the church they attended in their later years of life. But while not official members, they were valuable and loved members of the community. It did not take me long to realize that when you pastor in a rural community, you become “a” pastor to the community; in fact, every pastor is a pastor to the community. While doing funerals with one or two or three other pastors was not something I had experienced before, it was almost normal in Gates County. Long-tenured pastors like Billy Presley, Wayne Gardner, and Gene Asbell were so well known and loved that they often officiated at funerals or weddings for non-members.

There are many ways to be a pastor to the community. You participate with the local civic clubs. You are present at athletic events. You are known to county commissioners and the sheriff's office and other county officials. You meet them at the local restaurants and other places of business. You attend prayer gatherings and help lead them. You support the schools and the students. You probably become friends with the cashiers at the Dollar General and Duck Thru. You are a pastor to the community.

The community extension, however, goes far beyond the pastor. Yes, pastors connect with other pastors, but churches connect with other churches, and by working together, the community gets served and blessed. Serving the community may not be in the pastor's job description, but it should be. In the Great Commission, we are told to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. Our community is the Jerusalem. It is the beginning point for ministry and missions. And here is the extra blessing. It is rewarding and fun. Engage with your community, pastors.

Staff

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Chowan Baptist Association Office

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Camp Cale

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65 Years of Camp Cale

Sometimes the question gets asked, "Where does the time go?"

The answer is simply; into the hands of God, and that is where Camp Cale has been for 65 years. Established in 1961 as a ministry of the Chowan Baptist Association, Cale has seen its share of triumphs and challenges but the end results are shared through our mission statement: ***"To share Christ, develop faith, and build community."*** The vision of Cale is to ***"be a premiere camp and conference center on the East Coast."*** As such we have seen growth and experienced times that we have endured.

The growth of Cale is intentional and has at its purpose to be a place where people can have ***"Experiences 4 Life"***. This simple tag line gets quickly to the heart of who we are and supports our mission statement. We pursue this mission through relationship evangelism, using the unique experiences of camp life to find teachable moments to share the love of Christ. Our approach is rooted in traditional theology, with a focus on teaching the foundational truths of the Bible. In this way campers and guests will have "Experiences 4 Life" that will change their lives for eternity.

What is next for Cale? We are excited about the direction that Cale is going. Our growth and development falls in line with the initial mandate of those early visionaries that saw a need for camp and conferencing. Our current project is a new dining facility. With each new building we have had to update and come under regulations and codes required to run this type of facility. Our plans are guided by being good stewards of what the Lord has blessed us with, through those who have a heart for this ministry. We strive for the best, so that we can give our best in service to the Lord.

Here is to another 65 years of growth, stability and most importantly service to the Kingdom of God here on this earth. As the years continue to go by, may we never miss the opportunity to share the love of Christ and change hearts one camper/guest at a time.

Experiencing life together,
Matt

Matt Thomas, D.Min

Camp Cale: Executive Director

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(252)264-2513

When I was a youngster, my Daddy had a couple of coffee cans (yeah, real metal cans that once held a full pound of coffee. That's the way it was back in the day!) filled with a wide variety of screws, nuts, bolts, and washers. Small, simple home or auto repairs rarely required a trip to the local hardware store, because what my Daddy needed was typically in one of those cans. Think of this week's Thursday Thoughts on Leadership to be akin to a coffee can filled with a variety of small pieces. Some, I've written about more extensively in the past; others maybe not. Yet, recent conversations have had them all top of mind.

The leader is always responsible. If the people we lead aren't catching the vision we are pursuing, it's tempting to complain about their ignorance, resistance, or some nebulous circumstance that hinders it. I've complained about all those and more when those I was responsible for leading weren't following. Yet it was a painful period of erosion in the eight to ten months after our Kick-Off Celebration of the church we planted in Arizona that one of the members of our leadership team helped me realize that so many in our young and fragile church weren't following because I had failed to communicate the vision, its value, or share it in a way they could grasp. It wasn't someone else's fault. It was my responsibility.

Consistency is key to credibility. When we planted Crosspointe, the Church at Tartesso, rain or other unforeseen circumstances occasionally interfered with plans for ministry events. We were tempted to cancel the movie night, Easter Egg Hunt, or whatever event was announced. However, I knew that if we ever canceled something, some people would automatically doubt whether any future event we planned would happen. One year, we had to shift an Easter Egg Hunt indoors at the last minute. The previous Fall, we had to move our Friday Night Movie in the Park from the location we typically used to another park because seasonal overseeding and the accompanying irrigation made the ground soggy. Yet, we never canceled something we announced. We sometimes had to make last-minute adjustments, but if we announced it, we did it. That consistency was key to steadily building participation and earning credibility among our neighbors so we could be trusted and heard.

Recognizing and responding to needs is more effective than trying to get people to do something we want. So many events churches host are expressions of things they like to do. They then invite others to those events and expect those who are invited to like them too. When we started hosting Friday Night Movies in the Park, we did so in response to a need we saw among the families in our community. It wasn't a mere copy-cat idea to replicate what another church had done. Recognizing and responding to our neighbors' needs naturally drew them toward us.

Spaghetti on the wall makes a mess. During the 16 years I've served in ministry roles assisting churches rather than leading a local church, I've lost count of how many times churches have tried anything they heard someone else did. It's the proverbial throwing spaghetti at the wall to see what might stick. Unless an idea or initiative flows from a specific strategy, the spaghetti on the wall just makes a mess. Even ideas that seem to "work" can become an end in themselves, often unrelated to the church's mission or vision. That's why many churches get very busy doing things but don't seem to make any headway toward their stated mission. In many cases, these efforts detract from, rather than fulfill, the mission.

Leadership is more about responsibility than rights. In our earliest days of planting in Arizona, many of my pastor friends back here in NC would muse about how great it would be to lead a church free from constant reminders of history, tradition, and sometimes toxic culture developed over decades. "Yes, there is a lot of freedom, but I'm constantly reminded of the weight of the responsibility," was my typical reply. Just a few weeks after our launch, one of the original core group members challenged my vision for the church, saying, "Your vision for Crosspointe and my vision for Crosspointe are different!" My response? "I don't doubt that, but I am the one who is responsible for it." Rather than tout my "right" to lead the new church in a particular direction, I reminded him and myself that my role was one of responsibility. I've since learned to be cautious of leaders who see their role as fundamentally about their right to wield authority, rather than the responsibility for the direction, decisions, and resulting outcomes.

Leaders wither in isolation. Although I sometimes joke about being a wallflower, I've never been

introverted. Consequently, I naturally resist isolation. However, even if one tends to recharge by withdrawing, the dangers of isolation are no less real. In fact, they may be more devastating. Recognizing the effects may become obvious only when they are extreme. Even if it requires discipline and effort, leaders need to benefit from those who can listen, encourage, challenge, and even correct us. What about you? What leadership principles have developed over your years (or maybe just months) of leading others? If you're unsure what they are, think about the nuts and bolts that show up consistently in your decision-making and conversations. How can you define those succinctly? Who can help you think through a handful of bedrock principles that shape your philosophy and practice of leadership? How can you begin to invest and instill those in others?