



 SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION

Book of Reports

2024

2024 South Carolina Baptist Convention Schedule

*First Baptist Columbia, Columbia, South Carolina
November 11-12*

**Session One - We Must Strengthen Cooperation
November 11, 2024 - Monday Evening**

- 5:50 PM **Worship**
FBC Columbia Choir & Orchestra
- 6:05 **Call to Order and Welcome from First Baptist Church of Columbia**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 6:07 **Organization of the Convention**
Mike McCormick, Registration Secretary
- 6:09 **Adoption of Order of Business**
Chris Spires, Convention Vice President
- 6:11 **Veterans Appreciation**
Greg L. Woodbury, Chaplain, Colonel USAF (ret.)
- 6:23 **SCBaptist Report Introduction**
Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer
- 6:28 **SCBaptist Shepherd Team Report**
Brian Saxon, Shepherd Team Leader
- 6:33 **SCBaptist Strong Team Report**
Steve Rohrlack, Strong Team Leader
- 6:38 **Baptist Foundation of South Carolina**
Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO
- 6:43 **Panel Discussion: Cooperation**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 6:55 **Introduce Shane & Shane**
Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO
- 6:56 **Worship**
Shane & Shane with FBC Columbia Choir & Orchestra and Collegiate Worship Studies Students
- 7:28 **President's Address**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 7:48 **Corporate Prayer and Worship**
Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer
- 8:15 **Benediction and Closing**
Wes Church, Convention President

Session Two - We Must Share Jesus
November 12, 2024 - Tuesday Morning

- 8:50 AM **Worship**
- 9:00 **Greetings from the Baptist E&M Convention of South Carolina**
Dr. Jamey Graham, President
- 9:05 **Greetings from the SBC President**
Clint Pressley, SBC Convention President
- 9:11 **Committee on Committees Report**
Clark McCrary, Committee Chair
- 9:16 **South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging Report**
Tom Turner, President and CEO
- 9:21 **Introduction of New Business**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 9:31 **Executive Director-Treasurer Report**
Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer
- 9:46 **Nomination Committee Report**
Mike McCormick, Committee Chair
- 9:56 **Election: 2025 Registration Secretary**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 10:03 **Baptist Courier Report**
Jeff Robinson, President and Editor
- 10:08 **Election: 2025 Vice President**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 10:14 **SCBaptist Share Team Report**
Chad Stillwell, Team Leader
- 10:19 **SCBaptist Serve Team Report**
Jon Jamison, Team Leader
- 10:24 **Resolutions Committee Report**
Doug Mize, Committee Chair
- 10:34 **Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries Report**
Danny Nicholson, President
- 10:39 **Election: 2025 President-Elect**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 10:46 **Executive Board Report**
Stephen Cannon, Executive Board Chair
- 11:01 **Panel Discussion: Evangelism**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 11:11 **Prayer**
Wes Church, Convention President

- 11:15 **Worship**
- 11:25 **Message**
JJ Washington, National Director of Personal Evangelism, NAMB
- 11:55 **Worship**
- 11:59 **Benediction and Closing**
Wes Church, Convention President

Session Three - We Must Send the Gospel
November 12, 2024 - Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:55 PM **Worship**
- 2:06 **Greetings from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**
Jeff Iorg, President and CEO
- 2:11 **Presentation of 2025 Officers**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 2:13 **Anderson University Report**
Evans Whitaker, President
- 2:18 **Bylaws Committee Report**
Joel Ainsworth, Committee Chair
- 2:33 **Charleston Southern University Report**
Keith Faulkner, President
- 2:38 **Previously Scheduled Business**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 2:53 **North Greenville University Report**
Gene Fant, President
- 2:58 **Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee Report**
Mark Krieger, Committee Chair
- 3:08 **Worship**
- 3:18 **SCBaptist Send Team Report**
Ken Owens, Team Leader
- 3:23 **SCBaptist Start Team Report**
Cliff Marshall, Team Leader
- 3:28 **History Committee Report**
Paul Noe, Committee Chair
- 3:38 **Woman's Missionary Union Report**
Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer
- 3:48 **Panel Discussion: Missions**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 3:58 **Prayer**
Wes Church, Convention President

- 4:02 **Worship**
- 4:12 **Message**
Bryant Wright, President, Send Relief
- 4:42 **Worship**
- 4:47 **Recognition of 2024 Officers**
Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer
- 4:57 **Introduction of 2025 Theme**
Chuck Sprouse, Convention President-Elect
- 5:02 **Adjourn**
Wes Church, Convention President
- 5:05 **Closing Prayer**
Chuck Sprouse, Convention President-Elect

Table of Contents

South Carolina Baptist Convention Leaders

Wes Church, President	6
Stephen Cannon, Executive Board Chair	7
Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer	8
2025 Ministry Plan Recommendations	11

Executive Board Ministry Reports

Bryan Holley, Chief Financial Officer	12
Top 25 Cooperative Program Giving Churches	14
Personnel Changes	17
Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer	18
Jon Jamison, Serve Team	20
Susan Peugh, Disaster Relief	21
Chad Stillwell, Share Team	22
Chad Stillwell, Collegiate Ministries	23
Melanie Ratcliffe, Women in Ministry and Ministers' Wives	24
Michael Pigg, African American Engagement	25
Ken Owens, Send Team	26
Charlie Swain, Palmetto Collective	27
Cliff Marshall, Start Team	28
Steve Rohrlack, Strong Team	29
Bryant Laird, SummerSalt	30
Kathy Miles, KidSalt	30
Matt Allen, Camp McCall	30
Brian Saxon, Shepherd Team	31
Scott Shields, Associational Relations	32
Alex Lyons, Creative Director	32
Bryant Sims, Chief Operations Officer	33

Convention Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee, Joel Ainsworth, Chair	34
Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, Mark Krieger, Chair	36
History Committee, Paul Noe, Chair	37
Nominations Committee, Mike McCormick, Chair	38
Committee on Committees, Clark McCrary, Chair	41

Ministry Partners

South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer	43
Baptist Foundation, Nathan McCarthy, President & CEO	45
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, Danny Nicholson, President	47
South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging, Tom Turner, President & CEO	49
Anderson University, Evans Whitaker, President	50
Charleston Southern University, B. Keith Faulkner, President	52
North Greenville University, Gene Fant, President	54
The Baptist Courier, Jeff Robinson, President	56

An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

*Wes Church, Convention President
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Columbia*

Dear South Carolina Baptists,

In 1821, messengers from churches representing three Associations in our state gathered on the corner of what is now Hampton and Sumter Streets in downtown Columbia to organize the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Here we are 203 years later, meeting on this same block to do the business of our Convention about 500 feet away from where our forebears gathered. This reality begs the question, “How much longer will we have to keep gathering as South Carolina Baptists?”

I’m reminded of the first followers of Jesus who heard the Lord call to them on the banks of the Galilee, “Come follow me.” I wonder if they ever considered how long they would have to follow Him. How far would they have to go to fulfill his Great Commission? How much would they have to sacrifice to see the Kingdom advance? How many would they have to tell the good news that Jesus has come?

Nearly two thousand years after that encounter in the Galilee, men and women of every background, experience, and age are still responding to the same invitation to follow Jesus. Our churches still have a commission to go and make disciples, and the church of Jesus Christ is not and should not slow down or let up. But for how long? How long will we have to follow, how far will we have to go, how much will we have to sacrifice, and how many will we have to tell? South Carolina Baptists, the answer is very simple, “Till all have heard.”

We must be faithful to run our leg of the race as pastors, lay leaders, and Christians to see God exalted and the lost reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is not the time to lean out of cooperation, to let up in our evangelistic fervor, or to leave the nations without a witness. ‘Till all have heard, South Carolina Baptists must strengthen cooperation, share Jesus, and send the Gospel.

That’s what I hope we focus on over the next couple of days in our annual meeting. Of course, we will do the important annual work of hearing reports, considering motions, electing leaders, and responding to resolutions. But at the heart of all these activities is the desire to organize and align our Convention’s business and finances so that our collective churches can be more effective at reaching the lost, discipling the saints, and evangelizing the nations. Thank you for participating in the 2024 Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and may God be glorified!

‘Till All Have Heard!

An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

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

I'm not sure there has ever been a time when I am more thankful to be a South Carolina Baptist than at this moment. The Lord has blessed our Convention in incredible ways through the calling and leadership of Dr. Tony Wolfe and the entire incredible SCBaptist staff that works tirelessly to equip pastors and churches to advance the Gospel. From thriving Ministry Partners that are equipping the next generation of Christian leaders and engaging in strategic life-changing ministries to the SCBaptist Strong, Serve, Share, Send, Start, and Shepherd Teams that are providing churches and pastors road maps to climb their next God-sized mountain, these certainly are exciting days! The joy and unity that the Executive Board has enjoyed this year leads me to say without question that we fully believe and are fully behind the vision that "Each Church Can, because Every Life Counts!"

Why has God been so good to bless South Carolina Baptists with such excellent leadership and unity? I truly believe that the Lord has blessed South Carolina in this way so that we might be a blessing. At a time and a season when the Lord is doing great things and working in mighty ways, I want to encourage all South Carolina Baptists that the time to throw our full support behind this work is now. Now is the time to pray like never before that the Lord would spark a revival in our great state. Now is the time for South Carolina Baptists to rise up as a model for other conventions to emulate. Now is the time for South Carolina Baptists to renew our commitment to support the Cooperative Program like never before. Now is the time to join the Lord in making an impact by reaching the lost in our state. The beloved spiritual giant Henry Blackaby once said, "We need to be looking for where God is at work, and then join him." We don't have to look far. The Lord is at work right here in our great Palmetto State, and right now is the moment we need to join him.

It is an honor and a joy to serve as a member of the SCBaptist Executive Board. I want to personally thank each board member for their commitment and faithful service. Your hard work makes a difference.

I look forward to seeing so many of you this week and 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

SCBaptists, to be your lead servant is an honor, a joy, and an immense responsibility. After 20 months as your ED-T, I believe what lies immediately before us is the greatest season of Great Commission advance SCBaptists have ever known. For me, 2023 and 2024 were years of taking inventory, building relationships, reducing organizational complexity, and charting a course forward. What I have found is that we have everything we need, we love one another, we are becoming operationally leaner, and we are ready for focused, forward movement. However, our future success is not without obstacle. The two greatest needs for that shared forward mission to become reality are a return to sacrificial Cooperative Program engagement and a healthy, persistent, forward togetherness. The SCBaptist Convention of 2030 will look very different from the SCBaptist Convention of 2025, either way. The details of our future reality, one way or the other, are up to us. How we handle these two dynamics today will shape our Convention's cooperation for the foreseeable future.

The Cooperative Program undergirds the entire ecosystem of SCBaptist life. Your Convention populates its CP budget for in-state ministry on only 31.67% of receipts, passing along 68.33% to state, national, and international partners in the Great Commission. We give sacrificially to God's Kingdom work through these partners because we believe their work is vital to the overall success of our shared vision and because the entire ecosystem of Baptist life is dependent upon the financial and operational health of a variety of ministry organizations. However, current CP trends in South Carolina are not encouraging. [1]

I sense a renewed commitment to our shared work through CP giving stirring among the churches. Seventy churches that did not give in 2023 have given in 2024, and 304 churches that gave in 2023 have increased 2024 CP giving by 20% or more. Hallelujah! However, the net result is a 1.1% loss in CP receipts compared to June 2023. [2]

I disclose this plainly because I want you to have an accurate picture of the delicateness of our cooperative work. I see a tide turning in our state. But if the CP is going to get the traction it needs to fund the Great Commission opportunities God has set before us in our generation, we need to put a flag in the sand right now, today.

We are a South Carolina Baptist people on a global mission. By faith, we have made extraordinary commitments, and by faith, we must see them through. When we have raised our ballots and passed our budgets, we have made commitments to 3,700 missionaries around the world; 6,500 church planters and chaplains in North America; 20,000 seminary students on six U.S. campuses; 10,000 university students on three SCBaptist campuses; 22,000 college students who are being evangelized, discipled, and mobilized by SCBaptist BCM missionaries; churches in revitalization; pastors and ministers who need training, networking, resourcing, and encouragement; vulnerable children and families across our state; communities ravaged by disasters and crises of many kinds; and, most importantly, 4.3 million South Carolinians who do not show fruits of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. God has put us here, together, in this time to evangelize, disciple, train, and mobilize them.

The lost world lies restless and cold beneath the curse of sin, dying every day. Ours is a great task requiring great focus and great endurance. A thousand thorns tug at the fabric of our cooperation today. We are pricked politically, relationally, economically, and organizationally. But this is not a new phenomenon for twenty-first-century Baptists. It is the curse of the fallen world in which we labor for reward by the sweat of our brows (Gen 3:17-19). So, we're forced to ask, "Is the labor worth the effort?" If so, we must resolve to strengthen the fabric of cooperation both financially and relationally, knowing the thorns will continue to pull with relentless perpetuity and merciless aggravation.

But let us be diligent to count the cost (Luke 14:25-33). What

is the cost of our commitment? What will it cost us to co-labor in this global field of harvest, enduring a thousand scratches from head to toe as the thorns tear and the thistles pull? In short, cooperation in our generation will cost us everything, but it will cost us nothing.

Right now, our people—SCBaptists—possess everything necessary to see a Great Commission movement in the next 10 years that would surpass anything we have seen before. We have at our disposal all the riches of heaven (Eph. 1:3). But God, according to his great wisdom, has seen fit that those resources flow through the hearts and hands of his people. At the same time CP giving has gone down in South Carolina, annual undesignated giving from SCBaptists to their local churches has gone up. [3] In other words, SCBaptists are giving more to God's Kingdom work through their local churches, but those local churches are giving less to God's Kingdom work through the Cooperative Program. The reasons are legion: dissatisfaction with a particular Baptist entity, rising inflation, seasonal economic hardships, leadership transition, lack of CP education, etc. In the economy of the Western world, giving trends are a roller-coaster of crisis, emotion, relationship, and outside pressure. But in the economy of Christ's Kingdom, we operate from a different matrix altogether.

The biblical laws of economics in Christ's Kingdom guarantee great reward wherever there is great investment, but the same laws warn of little reward where there is little investment: "The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6). The economics of the kingdoms of men caution against lavish giving, preferring safe storage and self-gratification over sacrificial investment and self-denial. But we are citizens of Christ's Kingdom in which the One who owns it all has promised the exact opposite: "And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). [4]

We sow among thorns, and we reap among thorns. This is not abnormal in a world under the curse of sin. This is the work. This is the commitment. By the very nature of our voluntary organization, we maintain relationship and cooperation with Baptist churches with whom we do not completely agree.

It's not easy, but it's worth it. The task is too important to needlessly rend the fabric of cooperation. Consequently, the diversity of cooperating units makes the tapestry we weave more beautiful, a living testament to the many-colored wisdom of God (Eph. 3:8-10). Primary doctrinal tenets make us Christian (the Trinity, salvation in Christ alone, commitment to biblical inspiration and authority, etc.). Secondary doctrinal confessions make us Baptist (local church autonomy, credobaptized regenerate church membership, religious liberty for all, etc.). Tertiary doctrinal convictions make us diverse (Calvinistic or non-Calvinistic, musical expression in worship, church staffing structures, etc.). This is to the glory of God and to the beauty of the fabric of inter-congregational cooperation being woven and strengthened in our generation. Within our Baptist family, we must return to a tenacious togetherness that knows nothing of worldly ripping and tearing. We must again see the beauty of our diversity within primary and secondary doctrinal consensus while allowing—celebrating—a variety of tertiary expressions.

In 2025, in concurrence with the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program, your Convention staff is launching a full-scale Cooperative Program and evangelism reengagement strategy that will require the effective operation of every beam and every shuttle on our SCBaptist loom. We're taking huge risks because Christ is worthy, our commission is clear, our message is urgent, and our time is short. In November 2025, I hope to celebrate with you a strong and colorful tapestry beaming with renewed relational joy and sacrificial commitment: sacrificial CP engagement and a healthy, persistent togetherness resulting in cooperative evangelistic and missional advance that is worthy of our Christ, our King.

But this work is not mine. It's ours. Will you commit to giving it all you've got in 2025? Strengthen the bonds of cooperation both relationally and financially in your congregation and in your Association. Reengage in evangelism and discipleship strategies in your community. Let the world look upon the cooperation of SCBaptists in this generation and see a family of Baptist churches joyfully strengthening one another theologically while sacrificially blanketing the whole world with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is our time. This is our work. This is the vision. This is the way forward.

[1] Since 2009, we have lost 26% in CP giving. For the last six years, we have seen a reduction of CP at a rate of 1% per year. As I write this letter in July, 6-month YTD CP receipts are 1.1% below 2023 at this time, and 6% below the YTD budget.

[2] Net receipts relative to the number of churches which stopped giving, and from churches that reduced their giving by 20% or more, is greater than the cumulative increase in receipts from the more recently CP-reengaged churches. Additionally, between 300-400 churches on our records do not give anything through CP each year. This is the standard annual pattern of SCBaptist churches for the last decade.

[3] A 2019–2023 analysis of the top 50 giving churches [in dollar amount] shows an increase of 18.5% in total undesignated giving to the churches compared to a 5.5% increase in total CP giving from the churches. Additionally, average CP percentage has dropped from 7.4% to 6.5%, amounting to a net loss of about \$4 million over the last four years. At the same time, the top 200 giving churches [in dollar amount] contribute 62.2% of our total CP budget each year. What a blessing! Many other SCBaptist churches across the state faithfully give 15–20% of undesignated receipts through the CP each year, and their sacrificial Great Commission investments inspire the highest gratitude from missionaries, church planters, seminarians, and fellow Baptists all over the world.

[4] Your South Carolina Baptist Convention Executive Board currently is modeling sacrificial Kingdom investment through the recently adopted 10×10 Plan through which we are deploying \$10 million of uncommitted reserves into Great Commission advance over the next 10 years, within 7 areas of strategic priority. This is a huge step of faith, eliminating an organizational safety net without regret, committed to leveraging all Christ has entrusted us for Great Commission advance in our generation. We pray SCBaptists and SCBaptist churches will catch that same vision and give it all we've got to get the Gospel to our neighbors and the nations in our time. For more on the 10×10 Plan, visit www.scbaptist.org/10x10.

2025 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 funds on a monthly basis to the Executive Committee of the SBC in Nashville, Tennessee.

Recommendation 5:

That the 2025 Cooperative Program Ministry Plan be \$26,500,000.

2024 Budget, Audit, & Finance Committee

Talmadge Tobias, Chair - Grace, Sumter

Larry Baldwin - Hillcrest, Williamston

John Goudelock - Living Water, Longs

Donna Sieberhagen - Kittiwake, Lexington

Marc Quigley, Vice-Chair - Camden First, Camden

April Burgess - Earle's Grove, Westminster

Todd Johnson - The Master's, Whitmire

Tommy Meador - North Charleston

Caleb Riser - Shandon, Columbia

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, legal, and human resource matters of the Executive Board and Convention. We support and foster the 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.

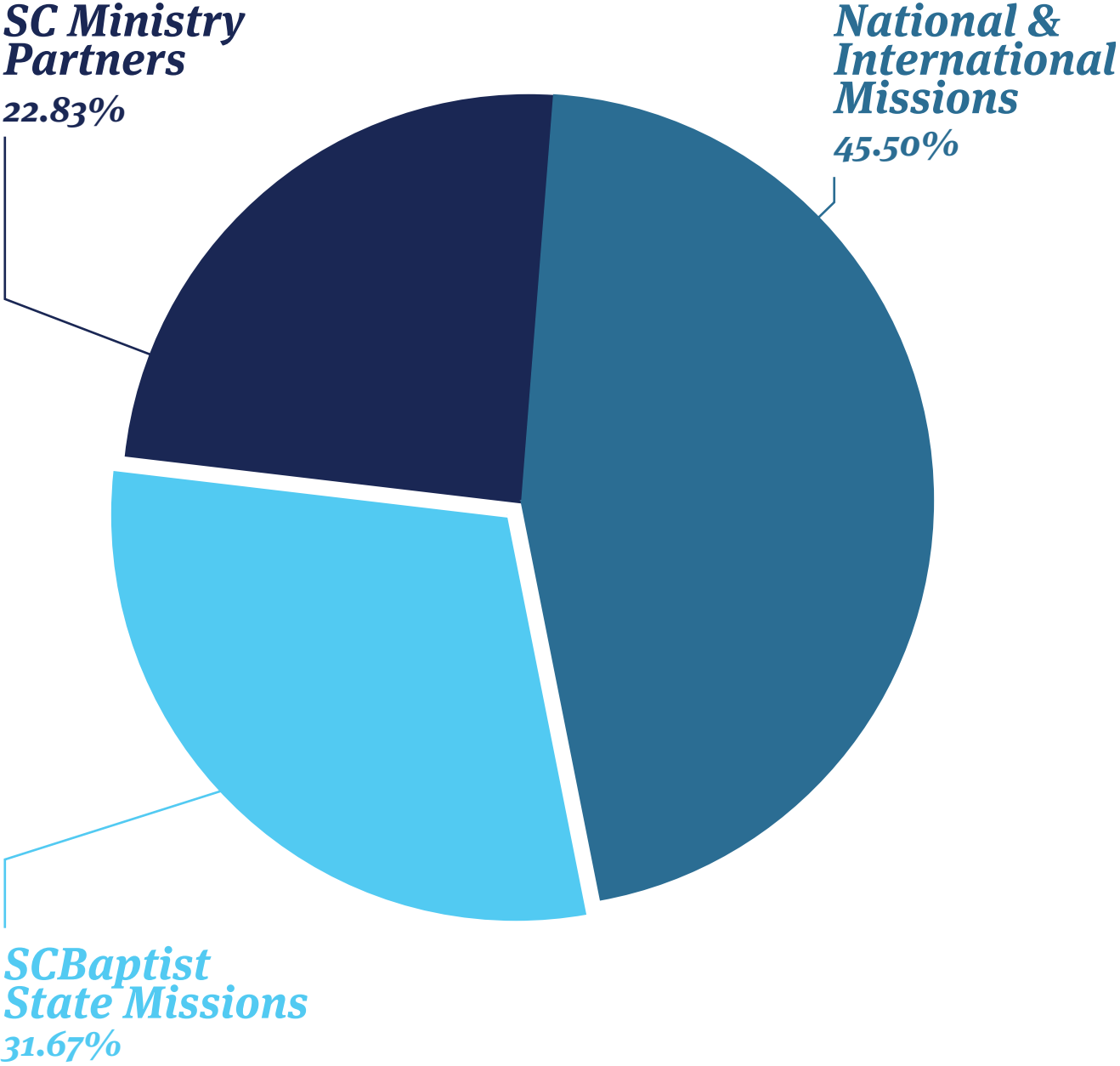
Ministry Highlights

- Obtained an unqualified audit for 2023
- Monitored Operating Budget for 2024
- Planned Operating Budget for 2025
- Converted to a new expense reporting system
- 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 2023, Cooperative Program (CP) receipts decreased by 2.7% or \$693,762 from 2022.
- The 2023 CP Budget was \$26,500,000 and receipts were \$25,184,670.
- In 2023, our office received \$41,288,021 from CP, mission offerings, and other designated offerings. This was a 2.3% or \$970,863 decrease from 2022.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom to be good stewards of all the resources God has given us.
- Pray that churches will see the value of the Cooperative Program and that we can accomplish more together.

2025 Cooperative Program Investment*



*The total projected giving of SCBaptist churches for Cooperative Program, investment income, special offerings, designated gifts, and fees is \$46.6 million.

Top 25 Cooperative Program Giving Churches

Based on Total Dollars

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Church, City</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Average Worship Attendance</i>
1	Taylors First, Taylors	530,607	1,199
2	Spartanburg First, Spartanburg	350,039	1,723
3	Summerville, Summerville	342,709	1,103
4	Simpsonville First/Upstate Church, Simpsonville	305,000	3,101
5	Lancaster Second, Lancaster	280,839	901
6	Columbia First, Columbia	278,414	1,500
7	Riverland Hills, Irmo	277,980	1,512
8	Brushy Creek, Taylors	245,000	1,014
9	Rocky Creek, Greenville	233,050	701
10	Concord, Anderson	230,469	900
11	Shandon, Columbia	229,167	1,300
12	Mt. Airy, Easley	226,105	650
13	Edwards Road, Greenville	201,676	363
14	Northside, Lexington	194,221	1,262
15	North Side, Greenwood	192,011	475
16	Fort Mill First, Fort Mill	190,448	788
17	Holly Springs, Inman	186,671	230
18	First Baptist, Rock Hill	186,667	820
19	Gaffney First, Gaffney	185,000	349
20	Church at The Mill, Moore	160,000	4,012
21	Ebenezer, Florence	155,089	350
22	Sumter First, Sumter	141,631	339
23	Newberry First, Newberry	137,159	296
24	Georgetown First, Georgetown	135,725	350
25	Highland Park, Hanahan	132,297	233

Top 25 Cooperative Program Giving Churches

Based on Percent of Undesignated Receipts Reported by the Church

Rank	Church, City	Percent	CP Amount	Undesignated Receipts	Average Worship Attendance
1	Hulon, Batesburg	24.2	40,221	166,093	95
2	State Line, Gaffney	24.0	43,559	181,831	136
3	First Bethany, McCormick	23.1	19,893	86,000	65
4	Holly Springs, Inman	20.7	186,671	899,646	230
5	Mt View, Six Mile	18.9	56,426	298,552	100
6	North Cheraw, Cheraw	18.8	4,384	23,270	30
7	Cross Roads, Seneca	17.1	13,782	80,369	40
7	Center, Hemingway	17.1	36,271	212,060	100
7	Shiloh, Aiken	17.1	58,652	343,016	175
8	Lake Wateree, Ridgeway	15.9	49,862	312,924	110
9	Newberry First, Newberry	15.8	137,159	867,562	296
10	Cedar Rock, Easley	15.2	16,558	108,715	75
10	Highland Park, Hanahan	15.2	132,297	871,522	233
11	Sardis, Saluda	14.7	18,591	126,125	35
11	Mt Airy, Easley	14.7	226,105	1,535,359	650
12	Holly Springs, Westminster	14.6	15,733	107,595	50
13	Campobello First, Campobello	14.1	36,141	255,895	120
14	Loris First, Loris	14.0	42,169	301,415	120
15	Ebenezer, Trenton	13.9	10,806	77,516	36
16	Six Mile, Six Mile	13.7	21,957	160,273	54
16	State Street, Cayce	13.7	76,301	557,168	115
16	Draytonville, Gaffney	13.7	61,102	446,183	138
16	Pine Grove, Beech Island	13.7	5,936	43,415	19
17	Trinity, Lugoff	13.2	58,104	438,885	120
17	Southside, Gaffney	13.2	48,201	365,020	120
18	Harmony, Edgemoor	12.9	40,928	317,379	265
18	Oolenoy, Pickens	12.9	19,966	155,099	110
19	Earle's Grove, Westminster	12.7	54,324	429,180	98
20	Travelers Rest First, Travelers Rest	12.6	21,198	168,000	90
21	Broad River, Blacksburg	12.5	41,019	327,518	145
21	Hopewell, Chesterfield	12.5	21,941	175,440	107
22	Mount Ebal, Batesburg	12.4	33,041	265,605	104
22	East Clemson, Clemson	12.4	9,541	76,966	25
23	Seneca, Seneca	12.2	114,688	940,616	163
24	Catawba, Rock Hill	12.1	100,104	825,592	235
25	Tabernacle, Union	11.8	35,750	303,747	118

Top 25 Cooperative Program Giving Churches

Based on Average Worship Attendees Reported by the Church for 2023

Rank	Church, City	Per Capita	Amount	Average Worship Attendance
1	Westminster, Westminster	176	31,737	81
2	Orrs, Chester	154	18,337	40
3	Pine Ridge First, Hartsville	140	7,791	21
4	Holly Springs, Westminster	130	15,733	50
5	Lake Wateree, Ridgeway	127	49,862	110
6	Rehoboth, Plum Branch	109	8,214	20
7	Crooked Run, Winnsboro	108	14,996	25
8	Seneca, Seneca	107	114,688	163
9	Sauldam, Ravenel	96	23,528	60
9	Motlow Creek, Campobello	96	8,060	52
10	Hartsville First, Hartsville	94	45,241	94
10	Mosaic Church, Anderson	94	6,434	50
11	Holly Springs, Inman	89	186,671	230
12	Mount Tabor, Georgetown	85	8,557	26
13	Mount Ebal, Batesburg	83	33,041	104
14	State Street, Cayce	68	76,301	115
15	North Side, Greenwood	65	192,011	475
15	Hillcrest, North Charleston	65	23,675	55
16	Slabtown, Easley	63	11,535	40
16	Hulon, Batesburg	63	40,221	95
17	Blackville First, Blackville	61	13,157	24
18	Sycamore, Sycamore	58	1,100	19
18	Six Mile, Six Mile	58	21,957	54
19	Edwards Road, Greenville	57	201,676	363
20	Willow Creek, Florence	56	1,232	22
20	Jonesville, Jonesville	56	34,782	95
20	Maple, Conway	56	19,942	80
21	Buffalo, Buffalo	55	25,679	88
22	Redemption Church, Lugoff	54	10,104	186
22	Sardis, Saluda	54	18,591	35
23	Salem, Saluda	53	12,505	39
23	Cross Roads, Easley	53	39,548	101
24	Southside, Greer	52	8,311	35
25	Levels, Aiken	51	16,064	40
25	Good Hope, Aiken	51	7,555	15
25	Hemingway First, Hemingway	51	22,604	80

Personnel Changes

October 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

New Staff

Field Service Staff:

- Alex Smith, PT Collegiate Ministries, Jan. 3, 2024
- Benjamin Hutson, PT Church Strategies, Jan. 25, 2024
- Brian Saxon, Shepherd Team, May 16, 2024
- Kevin Martin, Technology Services, June 1, 2024
- Michelle Ard, Collegiate Ministries, Oct. 16, 2024

Manager/Technical/Other:

- Hannah Coleman, Creative Services, Sept. 16, 2024

Support Staff:

- Avery Burchfield, Generations, Feb. 16, 2024
- Rachel Green, Collegiate Ministries, April 1, 2024
- Olivia Caddell, Preschool & Children, June 16, 2024
- Miles Raven, PT African American Engagement, July 30, 2024
- Fayth Butler, PT Start Team, Aug. 16, 2024

Resignations/Separations

Field Service Staff:

- Jonathan Bruce, PT Creative Services, March 8, 2024
- Nick Ritenour, PT Creative Services, April 15, 2024
- Josh Bradley, Start Team, April 30, 2024
- Isabella McElveen, Creative Services, June 15, 2024

Support Staff:

- Mellette Teague, Strong Team, Jan. 22, 2024
- Rebekah Timmerman, Collegiate Ministries, Feb. 26, 2024
- Sarah Johnson, PT Start Team, April 23, 2024
- Patricia Whaley, PT Accounting, June 18, 2024

Retirements

- Ron Morgan, Technology Services, Dec. 31, 2023
- Susan Loflin, Accounting, May 31, 2024
- Sue Harmon, Disaster Relief, Oct. 31, 2024

Reassignments

- Bobby Howard, Generations to Discipleship & Special Needs, May 1, 2024
- Bryant Laird, Generations to Students, May 1, 2024
- Kathy Miles, Generations to Preschool & Children, May 1, 2024
- Avery Burchfield, Generations to Strong Team, June 1, 2024
- Anna Gardner, PT Creative Services to FT Creative Services, Sept. 1, 2024
- Aimee Allison, FT Share Team to PT Evangelism, Sept. 16, 2024
- Kacie Woods, Relational Evangelism to Share Team, Oct. 1, 2024

SCBaptist Advance Ministries

Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer

Our South Carolina Baptist Convention team exists to help each church advance the Great Commission together. We do this through stewarding MOMENTS with church leaders when God moves them towards Great Commission advance. Our team helps churches MAP a plan to get there by gathering and creating resources. Finally, we network leaders with leaders to climb the MOUNTAIN together by providing encouragement and support. We believe that this Great Commission toward EVERY LIFE is larger than any one of us, but possible when EACH CHURCH cooperates together.

Every Life.

We believe EVERY LIFE counts!

- Baptisms are up by 31%! SCBaptists baptized 10,433 individuals to see a reduction in lostness in SC.
- Over half of SC's public schools have an SCBaptist church serving them.
- Over 1,100 women in ministry and ministers' wives have been equipped and encouraged.
- Our camps are overflowing! SummerSalt, KidSalt, and Camp McCall had 7,016 campers, 252 students saved, and 185 students called to ministry.
- At eight ONE Night events this year, 4,806 students heard the Gospel, with 418 making decisions for salvation.
- Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) engaged 20,094 students, resulting in 223 salvations.
- A total of 726 BCM students were sent out on mission.
- SCBaptist families have adopted or are finalizing the adoption of ten children from foster care.

Each Church.

We believe EACH CHURCH can advance!

- SCBaptist-funded church plants increased by 61% since 2020, with 34 new church plants assessed, trained, and mobilized representing the diversity of the state.
- Pastors from 319 churches enhanced their leadership skills through cohorts such as NextStep and RE.
- Eighteen churches were equipped and made significant organizational changes for revitalization.
- Sixty-seven Palmetto Collective college students have graduated and been deployed globally, with 54 currently in the program preparing to become future missionaries.
- Our SCBaptist team mobilized 278 mission volunteers from 98 churches to eight cities.

South Carolina is growing, and individuals who are not affiliated with any religion are the fastest-growing group. Diversity continues to increase. Trust is declining nationally among organizations and pastors. SCBaptists are positioned to be a missional force that builds trust through serving others and bringing life through sharing the love of Jesus. Our SCBaptist team has helped churches intentionally plant churches in rapidly growing areas, send missionaries around the world, create strategies to connect with every life in our neighborhoods and schools, and be a blessing to our communities. We are dedicated to launching missionaries and equipping leaders to share Jesus until every life is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.

Our Mission

Helping 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 to strengthen ongoing movement.

Our Strategy



Moment

We help leaders develop plans to “map” out their journey.

What do you need to get there?

Map

We create environments to steward “moments” when missionaries are called to be deployed and leaders desire to lead differently.

Where is God inviting you to advance?

Mountain

We connect them with like-minded leaders to climb the “mountain” together and encourage them in the valley.

Who will provide support in the climb and courage in the valley?

Serve Team

Jon Jamison, Team Leader

We help churches see their communities clearly through training, coaching, and resourcing. We offer support as they launch healthy ministries within those communities. Our churches have a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate the hope of Jesus as they build meaningful relationships across our state through Disaster Relief responses, addressing hunger or poverty issues, caring for vulnerable children through foster care, and serving teachers and students through Heart4Schools.

First Baptist Church North Augusta has been serving Clearwater Elementary School since 2015. They began by asking the principal about school needs and providing 10 backpacks of food for students each weekend. As they have continued to ask, "How can we help?", their service and relationships have grown exponentially. They now provide one-on-one help with students, support and encourage teachers, help with school events, and provide 100% of school supplies for every child in the school. The school recently dedicated its yearbook to FBC North Augusta because of the consistent love and support shown. In their words, FBC "adopted our school to spread the love of Jesus in the community." This is just one example of SCBaptists making a difference. Over 50% of the 1,217 public schools in our state have SCBaptist churches serving and investing in the lives of students, families, and staff. Let's continue to pray for the day when every school is partnered with an SCBaptist congregation.

Ministry Highlights

- Thirty SCBaptist churches received grants from the South Carolina Hunger Relief Offering that helped them serve hunger needs in their local communities. These churches provided meals for 80,365 individuals and saw 70 people make professions of faith.
- Three grants have been given to SCBaptist families who have adopted children out of Foster Care, and five additional grants are awaiting the finalization of their adoptions. Across the state, 82 children remain available for adoption out of foster care.
- SCBaptist churches provided 24,357 prisoner packets in 2023. A group of 163 volunteers gathered to process 17,500 packets, which were distributed by chaplains the following day.

Disaster Relief

Susan Peugh, Director

South Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief 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 provide an opportunity for Kingdom impact.

Columbia Metro Association's chainsaw unit based at North Trenholm Baptist Church responded to the call for help after the fourth tornado in a month had Oklahoma DR stretched thin. On their first day of work in Claremore, OK, the North Trenholm unit served at the home of an elderly resident with a hired caregiver. The caregiver said that amid the storm, he realized that he didn't know where he would go if he died in the tornado. A DR team member shared the Gospel, and the caregiver gave his life to Christ on the spot. Disasters create moments for committed volunteers to serve in hard places and share the hope of the Gospel.

Ministry Highlights

- DR volunteers made over 800 spiritual contacts with disaster survivors.
- Ninety-one DR units responded to storms in South Carolina and across the country.
- Over 500 trained volunteers served survivors last year.

Hurricane Helene Response Highlights

Hurricane Helene made landfall on Thursday, September 26, in northwestern Florida as a Category 4 storm. As it continued along its path and into the Carolinas, it caused widespread destruction, power outages, and loss of life. South Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief responded to the devastation, partnering with Associations and churches across the state to bring help, hope, and healing to those impacted by the storm. As of October 23, 2024, South Carolina Disaster Relief provided the following as a response to Hurricane Helene:

- Ministry Contacts: 3,754
- Gospel Presentations: 279
- Professions of Faith: 19
- Volunteer Days: 5,884
- Meals Prepared: 40,506
- Recovery Jobs: 1,086

Share Team

Chad Stillwell, Team Leader

The SCBaptist Share Team helps churches take the very first steps in making disciples by equipping and inspiring church leaders to pray for, meet, and verbally share the Gospel with people far from God. We rally churches to work together to conduct evangelistic events and campaigns to saturate our state with the good news of salvation.

A key focus of the Share Team is evangelism to the next generation. This year, SCBaptist churches hosted eight ONE Night events across the state. ONE Night is a large evangelism event for middle and high schoolers. At a ONE Night event in Spartanburg, we saw 45 local Baptist churches in the area cooperate to host an event where 1,200 students from the Upstate heard the Gospel. Over 200 students made decisions to follow Christ that night. This event is one picture of the power of Christ and the beauty of God's work in and through cooperating SCBaptist churches partnering together to advance the Gospel. As a result of these events, we have seen many next-generation baptisms and new disciples for Christ who are taking the Gospel into their local schools.

Ministry Highlights

- Churches reported 10,433 baptisms, which is a 31% increase over 2023.
- The Share Team partnered with 149 SCBaptist churches to host eight regional students evangelistic ONE Night events. In total, 4,806 students attended across these eight events and 418 students made decisions to follow Christ. These events took place in Georgetown, Moore, Laurens, North Myrtle Beach, Simpsonville, Rock Hill, and Gaffney.
- DiscipleSC is an initiative to equip SCBaptist pastors and ministry leaders to be evangelistic disciple makers in their churches. This year, 103 pastors and ministry leaders were equipped from 54 churches.

Collegiate Ministry

Chad Stillwell, Share Team Leader

Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) is a missionary effort of SCBaptist churches to send missionaries onto the college campuses of SC to reach the almost 250,000 college and university students of our state with the Gospel. BCM Directors work to reach and disciple college students by verbally sharing the Gospel on our campuses, developing student leaders to be missionaries to their campus, connecting students with local SCBaptist churches, and mobilizing students to serve and live on mission.

An unbelieving international student from Germany studying at Francis Marion University was invited to a BCM meeting on his campus at the Baptist Student Center. The student attended BCM on an evangelism training night to prepare believing students for an upcoming evangelism event on their campus called God Belongs On My Campus. As the international student took part in the meeting, he was trained on how to share the Gospel, which he had not heard before. BCM students were intentional to share with him that night, and he started asking many questions. The following week during the God Belongs On My Campus evangelism event hosted by BCM, this German international student accepted Christ and became a follower of Jesus.

Ministry Highlights

BCMs reported significant increases in evangelism, attendance, and missionary service for the 2023-2024 academic year.

- This year, BCM ministries engaged 20,094 students, a 40% increase.
- There were 1,078 BCM students involved in personal evangelism, a 37% increase.
- Students making professions of faith through BCM totaled 223, a 24% increase.
- There was a 31% increase in BCM students serving on mission in SC, North America, and internationally.
- Across the state, 493 students served in leadership, a 72% increase.
- In BCM's 77th year of sending student summer missionaries, 726 BCM students served on mission. Fifty-five students served with BCMGO in France, Great Britain, Thailand, North Africa, Colorado, California, Vermont, Utah, Washington, D.C., Louisiana, and South Carolina.

Women in Ministry and Ministers' Wives

Melanie Ratcliffe, Director of Relational Evangelism

Women in Ministry and Ministers' Wives in South Carolina are important to SCBaptists. Our team provides support, encouragement, and quality leadership development for women to make disciples where they live, work, and play. We do this by helping SCBaptist women in ministry create a culture of evangelism in their churches through conferences, retreats, mission trips, and cohorts, where we facilitate the conversation and build a lasting community.

In April, Millbrook Baptist Church sent a team of 14 leaders to Los Angeles, California, to support and encourage church planters' wives in California. This partnership was created by the pastor's wife, Julie Cannon, who went on mission with the Convention to LA the year before. She caught the vision and shared it with her church. The church fully funded 50 church planters' wives to attend the retreat and used the three-day retreat to bless, encourage, and foster relationships among the ladies from California. They plan to return next year and open more spots for women in California who need encouragement and rest.

Ministry Highlights

- We have invested in 1,104 women in ministry and ministers' wives through meetings, cohorts, mission trips, conferences, and retreats.
- We offer mission opportunities for ministers' wives to support North American Mission Board church planters' wives in partnering cities. Over the past year, we took 24 women to New York, San Diego, and Pennsylvania.
- Associational partnerships help provide ongoing support for ministers' wives. Over the past year, we have partnered with 11 Associations to host collaborative think tanks, cohorts, and events for ministers' wives, resulting in continued encouragement and support in their areas.
- At our Women's Leadership Conference, we connected with over 80 young leaders. From this group, we invited 20 to attend a two-day retreat for collaboration, networking, and leadership development. These ladies will enter the pipeline for future leadership.

African American Engagement

Michael Pigg, Director

In the pursuit of making every life count, SCBaptist is positioning itself to reach the beautiful diversity of our state. We are encouraging, equipping, and networking with SCBaptist churches and universities to address any deficiencies in reaching and discipling African Americans in our communities. Through the strength of collaboration, this increasing community will be impacted with the hope of the Gospel, and new leaders will be called out to advance the Great Commission.

The moment Ron Henderson took the pulpit at Mount Nebo Baptist Church, he had confirmation that this was his new home. "Before his arrival, Mount Nebo had often served as a temporary stop for pastors on their way to someplace else," Henderson said. Ron participated in a mission trip to Lusaka, Zambia, sharing the Gospel in villages and classrooms. Upon his return to Mt. Nebo, Ron led the church with new energy and direction. Mt. Nebo is celebrating growing monthly numbers of baptisms and membership renewals. Individuals who battled addictions are being transformed and delivered by the Gospel. Mt. Nebo's leaders are going back to the areas of life they were delivered from and ministering to those still trapped in darkness.

Ministry Highlights

- In partnership with Lifeway, an equipping event for church leadership gathered 28 African American pastors at the SCBaptist building in Columbia. They walked away with new ministry plans for their churches to advance the Gospel.
- Clamp Divinity School at Anderson University is launching preaching cohorts for young pastors in pursuit of excellence in preaching.
- Pray for the churches that have demonstrated a desire to reach those different from their majority population to be a church for all people. These churches are breaking historical boundaries in advancing the causes of Christ.
- 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 and a sound investment.

Send Team

Ken Owens, Team Leader

The Send Team seeks to help churches advance the Great Commission together by mobilizing workers to reach people with the Gospel locally and globally until all have heard. Whether it's across the globe, where almost half the world's population is unreached with the Gospel, or in South Carolina, where the foreign-born population has risen by 449% in thirty years, SCBaptists are called to fulfill the Acts 1:8 vision by making disciples in their local community, state, nation, and world.

Mt. Airy Baptist Church in Easley is sending mission workers to share the good news of Jesus. Locally, they serve local schools through teacher support and a ministry with special needs children. Mission volunteers also serve with a local homeless ministry. In South Carolina, they have sent volunteers to help CenterPoint church in Charleston with an outreach soccer camp and to support Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries with themed activity days. Nationally, they are a mission partner with Christ Church in Boston, and they are working to plant a church in southern Utah. Internationally, Mt. Airy engages unreached people groups in Panama and Thailand. They are dedicated to being an Acts 1:8 church.

Ministry Highlights

- Leaders from 98 SCBaptist churches and 278 mission volunteers served on SCGo vision and mission trips. Locations included Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Puerto Rico, Utah, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Thailand.
- The FINISH Initiative helped churches and Associations make strategic missional connections with Slavic, Indian, Pakistani, Arabic, Portuguese, Filipino, and Vietnamese people groups across South Carolina.
- A 52-week prayer initiative was launched to help churches pray for specific SC-sent missionaries throughout the year. Each week, a different missionary sent from SC was highlighted for prayer and support.
- Mission leaders from 135 churches, totaling 291 individuals, were equipped in mission-sending strategies through Send collaboratives, cohorts, multi-ethnic trainings, and the Outside the Walls Conference.

Palmetto Collective

Charlie Swain, Next Generation Mobilization Strategist

The next generation is on the move! Across our state, middle school, high school, and college students are gaining a heart for the nations and being mobilized across our country and around the world to finish the Great Commission. There are more opportunities than ever before for students to make a profound and lasting impact across the street and around the world.

Jacob Sims is a graduate of Coastal Carolina and a Baptist Collegiate Ministries alumnus. In his time at Coastal and his training through the Palmetto Collective, Jacob gained a heart for the unreached and unengaged peoples of the Asia-Pacific Rim. When he heard about the International Mission Board's new initiative called Project 3000, he was ready to go. This project is the front line of modern mission work. With a backpack and a satellite phone, Jacob scales the mountains in one of the hardest parts of the world to find people who have never heard the name of Jesus. His job is to find, research, and relay info back to the IMB while sharing the Gospel with those who have never heard, and he's not alone. Four other SC natives are serving with Project 3000 in locations around the world. Our state is the tip of the spear on mission.

Ministry Highlights

- In five years, 67 students have graduated from the Palmetto Collective. This fall, 25 new students were added to bring our current cohort to 54 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- As of October 2024, 14 students have been deployed as Journeymen with the IMB. Three former Palmetto Collective students are currently on the field as Project 3000 Explorers. Two more have been commissioned as Journeymen with the North American Mission Board in New York and Clarkston, GA. Four of the first Palmetto Collective Journeymen sent out in 2021 and 2022 have returned. All four are in seminary for a return to the field, representing a 100% retention rate.
- In December, 97 high school students attended Summit to become mission leaders in their student ministry. They were equipped with missions and evangelism skills and commissioned to train their friends back home.
- During SummerSalt, 102 student pastors participated in "Thrive," a training focused on missional leadership.

Start Team

Cliff Marshall, Team Leader

Starting new churches has proven to be an effective way of saturating communities with the message of the Gospel from the earliest days of the church in the New Testament. The Start Team believes that churches plant churches, and we assist SCBaptist churches to advance the Great Commission by praying for and partnering with new churches and by sending out missionaries to plant new churches across our state. The need for new churches is immense, and each SCBaptist church can participate.

In January, Kingdom Church launched public worship services in the growing Nexton community of Summerville. Kingdom was started by missionaries sent out from Restoration Community Church in Hanahan. When Adam Spurlock started Restoration in 2013, his hope was to send out teams to plant new churches in the Charleston area. Joe Douglas served at Restoration as associate pastor when Adam began mentoring him to plant a new church. During this time, Joe was assessed and trained for church planting by the SCBaptist Start Team. In 2023, Joe was sent out with two other staff members, a staff intern, and more than 25 members to plant Kingdom Church. As of August, Kingdom Church has expanded to two worship services and baptized over 25 new believers.

Ministry Highlights

- Of the 34 new churches that have received monthly funding in 2024, nine of them are ethnically diverse. Seven congregations are multi-ethnic, three are African American, five are Hispanic, two are Chinese, one is Brazilian, and one is Vietnamese. Funding is made possible by the Janie Chapman State Missions Offering.
- SCBaptist churches that received monthly funding in 2023 baptized people at twice the rate of an average Southern Baptist Convention church. A total of 151 new believers were baptized by those churches.
- We have seen increased engagement in church planting in our fastest-growing and most underreached areas of SC in Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Bluffton, Beaufort, and Hilton Head.

Strong Team

Steve Rohrlack, Team Leader

The Strong Team exists to help church staff and leadership to grow stronger in fulfilling the call to advance the Great Commission. We whole-heartedly believe every church can advance. We are energized by connecting with pastors, staff, and volunteer leaders with the goal of developing Great Commission ministers and ministries with purpose.

SummerSalt and KidSalt are two of the summer camps sponsored by the SCBaptist Convention. Diana Cruz, a summer intern on 2024 camp staff, noticed a young man struggling with the Bible study materials provided to each camper. Realizing English was not the student's native language, she spent what little time off she had each evening translating the studies into Spanish. Her extra effort transformed a very quiet student into an active participant in all of the camp activities. What Diana meant to be a help for one student became a go-to resource for several others attending the five weeks of camp this summer. Diana's home church is Fairview Baptist Church, Greer, and their investment in Diana is now having a statewide impact.

Ministry Highlights

- The Worship & Music Office facilitated five regional summer internship opportunities for college-aged students discerning a call to ministry.
- Over 200 students attended the "Call to Ministry" breakout offered at SummerSalt.
- KidSalt campers packed 1,300 bags to assist children experiencing homelessness in South Carolina during the "Get Salty" missions event.
- SummerSalt and KidSalt experienced record attendance in 2024 with 4,645 campers attending the two camps hosted at Charleston Southern University.
- Over 180 student and children's ministry leaders attended the THRIVE ministry training offered during SummerSalt and KidSalt.
- The Worship & Music Office partnered with SummerSalt, providing worship leadership training during all weeks of camp. Over 500 students attended the training during the five weeks of camp.

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 who join together to serve as summer staff. The summer of 2024 was a wonderful success, with a record-breaking attendance of 3,509 campers. The growth and success of SummerSalt would not be possible without the partnership of Charleston Southern University and their unwavering support.

Ministry Highlights

- Attendance: 3,509
- Number of Salvations: 124
- Number Repenting of Sin: 228
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 149
- Other Decisions: 73

KIDSALT

Kathy Miles, Preschool & Children's Ministry Director

Kidsalt is a Gospel-centered camp experience for children in grades 1-5. We had a record attendance this year with 1,136 campers. All attendees were blessed to be part of the "Get Salty" mission experience. This summer, over 1,300 bags were packed, providing assistance for children experiencing homelessness in South Carolina. This mission experience was made possible through the generous giving of SCBaptist churches to the Janie Chapman Missions Offering.

Ministry Highlights

- Attendance: 1,136
- Number of Salvations: 85
- Number Repenting of Sin: 139
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 8
- Other Decisions: 4

CAMP MCCALL

Matt Allen, Director

Camp McCall celebrated its 65th year of ministry to help churches advance the Gospel together in three areas of emphasis: summer camps, retreat hosting, and missions mobilization. This year, we hosted 10 camps with 2,371 campers, recording 217 decisions for Christ. In the spring and fall, we hosted 33 retreats with 1,851 participants. In addition, Camp McCall provided personal retreats for 18 SCBaptist pastors and ministers. Twenty-eight staff were sent on 12 short-term mission trips, both domestic and international, and two former staffers were commissioned as International Mission Board Journeyman.

Ministry Highlights

- Attendance: 2,371
- Number of Salvations: 43
- Number Repenting of Sin: 146
- Number Expressing a Call to Ministry: 28

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 our neighbors. We achieve this by supporting churches in revitalization and growth, helping pastors develop their leadership skills, providing encouragement for their wellness, and investing in young men who are answering God's call.

Associational Mission Strategist Kevin Litchfield for the Santee Baptist Association shared that more than half of their pastors have gathered monthly for over two years for what they have identified as one of the highlights of their month. They are engaged in the NextStep process, which addresses personal and professional barriers and fosters a strong sense of community. They have found a camaraderie among peers that has assured them they are not alone in their struggles. They have found hope, encouragement, and accountability among trusted peers. Litchfield said, "Investing in our pastors demonstrates an understanding that they are doing the hard work so that every life will be saturated and transformed by the Gospel. The NextStep process helps them do their job better."

Ministry Highlights

- Fifteen RE Cohorts are equipping 89 pastors to lead their churches toward hopeful futures.
- Strategies for renewing mission through revitalization and reSTARTing have been affirmed by 18 churches.
- New pastor residencies are being launched in revitalization contexts to support struggling churches.
- The number of church fostering partnerships, where churches assist others while maintaining autonomy, continues to grow.
- A total of 83 interim or transitional pastors have been trained to guide churches through periods of transition.
- Two Associations are offering NextStep Small Groups specifically for bi-vocational pastors.
- Ten percent of ministry leaders in South Carolina engage in NextStep Small Groups or one-on-one coaching.
- More than twenty NextStep Small Groups will be available in 2025.

Office of Associational Relations

Scott Shields, Director

The Office of Associational Liaison exists to create a Kingdom movement among our 42 Associations cooperating together in impacting our state and beyond. We are one family, and our close partnership and collaboration with Associations is at the core of our togetherness. Through the financial partnership to our Associations, we are seeing more partnerships among the SCBaptist Executive Board advance ministries to engage missional partnerships through vision tours, church planting and revitalization residencies, community engagements including Heart4Schools partnerships, engagement of collegiate students, pastor and pastors' wives retreats, and pastors served through healthy leadership development.

Through a partnership with the York Baptist Association (YBA) of churches and International Mission Board partners in Turkey, the Lord has brought Pastor Philip and his family with a call and passion to reach Middle Eastern Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In partnership with YBA and Janie Chapman Offering, we are already seeing relationships forming for Gospel presentations and the first steps of a new church plant through the leadership of Pastor Philip, the local churches, and the SCBaptist Start Team. We also celebrate that five Middle Eastern people prayed to receive Christ and are being disciplined, and five local churches have been trained in engaging Muslims.

Ministry Highlights

- We held a retreat for Associational Mission Strategists (AMS) and their wives in Flat Rock, NC, with Dr. Tate Cockrell with the focus "Marriage that Lasts a Lifetime." We are grateful to come alongside and support our Associational leaders.
- AMS leaders were equipped at two Summits, which reached 75% of our Associational leaders in evangelism strategy and encouraged collaboration with other SCBaptist ministries.
- We helped AMS leaders attend the North American Mission Board's Replant Lab in Atlanta, which provided training in church replanting, focusing on guiding struggling churches toward renewed health.

Creative Team

Alex Lyons, Director

In 2024, the Creative Team focused on the growth of our digital marketing reach and footprint through storytelling and resourcing. We onboarded our Creative Marketing Designer and a Creative Editor to ensure that all marketing, narrative, and written content are consistent with the vision and voice of SCBaptist. In addition to these staffing efforts, we have taken significant steps toward simplifying our visual identity. We also launched four Creative Cohorts this year led by our Creative Engineer, Ronnie Richardson, to provide support, collaboration opportunities, and resources to help creative leaders.

All numbers listed below are taken from data collected between October 1, 2023 to October 1, 2024. Percentage increases/decreases are from metrics in the 2023 Book of Reports.

Social

- Instagram Reach: 140,548 (+162.8% from 53,477)
- Facebook Reach: 360,953 (+46.72% from 246,014)

Email

- Open rate: 44% (-21.4% from 56%)
- Click rate: 2.7% (-43.75% from 4.8%)

Advance Stories

- Published: 80 (+1.27% increase from 79)

Web

- Users: 171,000 (+59.2% from 76,000)
- Page Views: 1,700,000 (+558.9% from 258,000)

Operations and Denominational Relations Team

Bryant Sims, Chief Operations Officer

It's an honor to assist our Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr. Tony Wolfe, with the day-to-day operations of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Executive Board, and the convention committees, as well as the ongoing work of relationship building with our ministry partners both locally and nationally.

It has been a joy to assist our Convention President, Wes Church, to fulfill his vision to see South Carolina Baptists continued faithfulness to the Gospel "Until All Have Heard." This preparation includes meeting with your convention committees to ensure that their work is accomplished in a timely and orderly manner according to the bylaws this Convention has set forth to guide their work. Each committee chair and vice-chair has been diligent in their important tasks that will ultimately help to keep us faithful to the mission to which Christ has called us.

One of the highlights from the past year was a New Pastors Orientation event held in partnership with Associational leaders from across the state. These pastors learned about the vision, mission, and strategy of SCBaptists and built relationships that will serve them well while transitioning to new positions.

Another highlight has been the addition of a new IT Director, Kevin Martin. Kevin's presence on our team is already making a significant impact on our ability to help each church. He is bringing us in line with modern technological innovations that make it easier for us to respond and track the progress of SCBaptists as we work together to advance. We have also contracted Chelsea Copeland to work in an advisory role to help SCBaptist churches and ministries ensure that they are making the best effort possible to provide safe spaces for ministry to happen in our state.

SCBaptist Public Policy Advisor, Tony Beam, had an extremely fruitful year advocating for SCBaptists at the statehouse. Multiple pieces of legislation spoken to by past resolutions

have been signed into law and are working now to protect children, family values, and religious liberty. There is still much work to do, but we celebrate what has already been accomplished in this regard.

In addition to providing direct oversight in these areas, I have the privilege of providing guidance to our Building Services Team, Information Services Team, and the Operations Committee of the Executive Board. Together we are working hard to maintain and improve the facilities here at 190 Stoneridge Drive, Camp McCall, and our Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) facilities around the state. Jeff Dial does an incredible job leading our Building Services Team. We believe that this work is foundational to the ministry that's happening around the state. Whether it is providing new chairs for a BCM building, providing statistical analysis for a church, or providing a safe work environment for Convention staff, the people that make up these teams work together for the advancement of the Gospel.

Bylaws Committee

Joel Ainsworth, Chair

Chris Dewease, 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

Committee Recommendation

Regarding the motion from the 2023 Annual Meeting stating, "The SCBC amend 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.

We make a motion that the current President-elect 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.

Information

The Bylaws Committee reviewed, studied, and discussed the resolution process challenged at the 2023 Annual Meeting. This committee affirms the decision of the chair and parliamentarians that our bylaws clearly state that the "Resolutions Committee shall report the title, name of presenter, and disposition of every resolution received." Our bylaws also state that the Resolutions Committee is responsible for recommending to the Convention any resolutions it may deem wise.

Joel Ainsworth
Jeremy Creech
Chris Dewease
Brian Henderson

Bobby James
Benji Ladd
Greg Somers
Ben Winn

Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee

Mark Krieger, Chair

Daniel McGaha, Vice-Chair

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 State House.

The SC Legislature moved slowly during the 2024 session, but on the last day, two significant bills to protect children were passed. The Do No Harm Bill protects minors from being subjected to puberty blockers, cross-hormone treatments, and transgender surgery. The Child Online Safety Act requires online pornography providers to verify their material is not being viewed by minors. Annual meeting messengers supported both bills through resolutions. Four bills we opposed failed to pass: Medical Marijuana, Sunday Alcohol Sales, Home Delivery of Alcohol, and Parimutuel Gambling on horse racing. All four bills will have to start over in the 2025 session. Thank you to everyone who prayed, came to the Statehouse, or reached out to your legislator. Your involvement makes a difference!

An annual highlight is the announcement of the three committee awards. The E. A. McDowell Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies Christian action in the public arena—politics, government, or community action. Additionally, the committee recognizes one church in our Convention that demonstrates a similar commitment to social and moral concerns by conferring the Impact Your World award. The Public Service Award recognizes a public official who has gone above and beyond in representing Christian ideals through their role in the public square.

The 2024 recipients are:

E. A. McDowell Award

Tim and Jody Cross, Refugee Settlement

Impact Your World Award

Reconcile Community Church, Will Broadus, Pastor

Public Service Award

Representative Mike Burns, Enoree Baptist Church

Members of the committee are grateful for the opportunity to serve South Carolina Baptists and look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in the future.

Eddie Hill

Alex Sands

Daniel McGaha

Brandon Blair

Rod Elliott

Linda Hite

Mark Krieger

Jeremy Ussery

History Committee

Paul Noe, Chair

Joey Farrington, Vice-Chair

The South Carolina Baptist Convention was founded in 1821. It has an exciting and interesting history that influences South Carolina Baptists today. The History Committee has been entrusted with the task of promoting and preserving the history of the state convention, Associations, and churches. Three new members joined our committee this year: Joey Farrington, Brad Ramey, and Becky Slayton.

Anna Wilson-Stillwell, Historian and Archivist for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, is an invaluable resource for the History Committee and South Carolina Baptists. Anna received approximately fifty requests for assistance within the last year for research and historical services. She also met with local archivists including Dr. Nathan Saunders, Director for the South Caroliniana Library, and Dr. Eric Emerson, South Carolina State Archivist, to share important information concerning South Carolina Baptists Archives.

Our Convention has acquired a large collection of South Carolina Baptist church minutes and church histories. Some of the materials date back to the 1800s. We are fortunate to have obtained these materials for posterity's sake.

A historical event recently took place on October 24th at the Convention Building in Columbia with the opening of a time capsule. The time capsule was originally placed behind the dedication plaque of the building on November 29, 1994. Some of the items contained in the sealed box included a letter from Carlisle Driggers, former Executive Director-Treasurer; a program from the groundbreaking ceremony for the Baptist Building, Administrative Items, Empowering Kingdom Growth Material, and a copy of the 125th-anniversary issue of the Baptist Courier. Those in attendance included Convention staff, Convention staff retirees, members of the History Committee, and special guests.

We are grateful and blessed to serve South Carolina Baptists on this very important committee. History is "HIS" story.

Paul Noe

Joey Farrington

Greg Nix

Walter Johnson

Brad Ramey

Becky Slayton

Nominations Committee

Mike McCormick, Chair

Bart Kelley, 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 2024 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).

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, 2025.

Adrian Allen	Danny Garrett	Ken Lewis
Jon Bell	Drew Gunter	Mike McCormick
Zeke Benjamin	Michael How	Johnny McDaniel
Mark Bishop	Greg Hyler	Woody Oliver
Kirk Carlisle	Randy Jackson	Ryan Steed
Terry Corder	Tim Keagy	Dwayne West
Rob Cox	Bart Kelley	JD Wilson
Jeremy Dean	Rett Kendall	

SCBaptist Convention Executive Board Nominees

Region	Nominee Name Church, Association	Term Expires
1	Don Cox Concord, Saluda	12/31/2028
2	*Joy Emery Rocky Creek, Greenville	12/31/2028
3	James Williams Kings Grove, Pickens-Twelve Mile	12/31/2028
4	Gary Rogers Campobello First, North Spartan	12/31/2028
5	*Eden Richardson First Baptist of Rock Hill, York	12/31/2028
7	*Erv Mack Shandon, Columbia Metro	12/31/2028

8	*Daniel Alexander Barnwell First, Barnwell-Bamberg	12/31/2028
8	Mike McCormick Berlin, Edisto	12/31/2028
10	Braxton Edwards Walterboro First, Colleton	12/31/2028
5 (At-Large)	Jeff Bedwell Fort Mill First, York	12/31/2028

Ministry Partner Trustee Nominees

Ministry Partner	Nominee Name Church, Association	Term Expires
Anderson University	*Roger Cox Loris First, Waccamaw	12/31/2029
	Benjamin Littlejohn Apalache, Three Rivers	12/31/2029
	*Shawn McGee Iva First, Saluda	12/31/2029
	*Kip Miller Rocky Creek, Greenville	12/31/2029
	Robert Winburn Ekron, Kentucky	12/31/2029
The Baptist Courier	Michael Madaris Kelleytown, Welsh Neck	12/31/2029
	*Caleb Mitchell Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2029
	#*Cassie Patillo State Line, Broad River	12/31/2028
	Donald Thomas Abner Creek, Three Rivers	12/31/2029
Baptist Foundation	*Shannon Bohanan Sweetwater, Aiken	12/31/2029
	Toby Frost South Main, Lakelands	12/31/2029
	*Mark Partin Alice Drive, Santee	12/31/2029
Charleston Southern University	Seth Buckley Philadelphia, Spartanburg Network	12/31/2029
	*James Davis Salisbury First, North Carolina	12/31/2029

#Filling an unexpired term

*Laity

	*Linda Fick Hilton Head First, Savannah River	12/31/2029
	Randy Harling Summerville First, Screven	12/31/2029
	*Judy Hetz Summit Church, Charleston	12/31/2029
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	#*Chuck Attaway Rock Springs, Piedmont	12/31/2028
	*Susan Frost South Main, Lakelands	12/31/2029
	Doug Kauffmann Connie Maxwell, Lakelands	12/31/2029
	Paul Noe Sweetwater, Aiken	12/31/2029
	#*Louanne Stewart Calvary, Florence	12/31/2027
	Stan Sullivan Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2029
	*Roger Troutman Utica, Beaverdam	12/31/2029
North Greenville University	Travis Agnew Rocky Creek, Greenville	12/31/2029
	Paul Alsup Dogwood Church, Georgia	12/31/2029
	*Kevin Hefner Biltmore, North Carolina	12/31/2029
	*Laura Messer Tigerville, Three Rivers	12/31/2029
	*James Oates Rehoboth, Georgia	12/31/2029
SCBMA	*Jon Fisher Edwards Road, Greenville	12/31/2029
	Travis McNeal Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2029
	*Martin Moore South Main, Lakelands	12/31/2029

#Filling an unexpired term

*Laity

Committee on Committees

Clark McCrary, 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 varies, but all terms begin on January 1, 2025.

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

Miriam Beacham	Dwight Easler	Zack Little
Walter Belton	Rod Elliott	Clark McCrary
Jason Burley	RaShan Frost	Ruth McWhite
Tim Coker	Ian Geimer	Jim Oliver
Jamie Duncan	John Goudelock	Cindy Sanders

SCBaptist Convention Committee Nominees

Committee	Nominee Name Church, Association	Term Expires
Bylaws	Sean Giovannetti Boiling Springs, Spartanburg	12/31/2027
	Ben Harr Willow Swamp, Orangeburg-Calhoun	12/31/2027
	*Pam Kirkland Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2027
	#Chris Sullivan Abbeville First, Lakelands	12/31/2026
History	Michael Bryant Northwood, Charleston	12/31/2027
	Brad Ramey White Plains, Palmetto	12/31/2027
Christian Life & Public Affairs	Logan Catoe Northwood, Charleston	12/31/2027
	Josh Walls Living Water, Waccamaw	12/31/2027
	*Kristin Parker East Cooper, Charleston	12/31/2027
Enrollment & Credentials	*Gerald Caskey Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2025
	*Donna Davies Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2025

	*Gail Davis Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2025
	Cory Horton Brushy Creek, Greenville	12/31/2025
	Keith Shorter Mt. Airy, Piedmont	12/31/2025
	*Tim Tyler Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2025
Nominations	#Patrick Clark Pelham First, Three Rivers Region 3	12/31/2026
	Blake Jenkins Spring Valley, Columbia Metro Region 7	12/31/2027
	*Joseph Walker Newberry First, Reedy River Region 7	12/31/2027
	*Susan Burgess North Augusta First, Aiken Region 8	12/31/2027
	*Amy Bryant Northwood, Charleston Region 10	12/31/2027
Resolutions	*Cathy Blalock Charleston First, Charleston	12/31/2027
	Jeff Rankin Clearview, Three Rivers	12/31/2027

#Filling an unexpired term

*Laity

South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union

Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer

Serving as your South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director-Treasurer for almost two years has been a joy and honor. Thinking about the task God has entrusted to us excites me. As we focus on what is ahead, we know that our cooperative efforts with churches and our Convention will help us accomplish what God has in store.

Missions Mandate:

As we continue to focus on making Jesus known throughout South Carolina and the world, we will also focus on making disciples who live on mission. This mandate holds believers of Jesus accountable to the command Jesus speaks about in the Great Commission.

We carry out the WMU mandate by focusing on four vital missional characteristics:

- Learn about Missions
- Pray for Missions
- Support Missions
- Do Missions and Tell People about Jesus

Missions Discipleship:

During the January 2024 WMU state director's retreat in Birmingham, there was excitement and synergy regarding the efforts to create an increased culture of discipleship. A resource written by Ron and Marsha Harvell, *50 Steps with Jesus: Learning to Walk Daily with the Lord*, will serve as a springboard for a more significant nationwide effort to make disciples.

This resource teaches what it means to be a Christian—the basics of having a prayer life, studying the Bible, and understanding faith terms and practices. After completing the study, each new believer will be charged to take what they have learned, turn to the leader pages, and become a disciple-maker.

Missions Cooperation:

Over \$1,998,000 was given to the Janie Chapman Offering for state missions, missions education, and Kingdom advance in South Carolina 2023!

For the twenty-sixth 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.

Every year, the Janie Chapman Offering helps South Carolina Baptists reach their lost neighbors, plant churches, send missionaries, serve communities in crisis, develop healthier churches, and much more. Your generous contributions to the Janie Chapman Offering for state missions make a significant difference by supplying ministry funds to our South Carolina Baptist Convention ministry teams. Thank you for your invaluable support and dedication to our mission.

Missions Camping:

Over 300 churches from nine states sent 1,269 participants to Camp La Vida in the summer of 2024. Fifty-seven students decided to follow Christ, and 11 were called to a life of mission service.

Missions Calling:

At Camp La Vida, both returnees and newcomers find a unique sense of security and safety among their Christian peers, missionaries, and staff. This environment allows them to share without embarrassment or awkwardness and wrestle through biblical truths and spiritual decisions together, fostering a strong sense of community and shared mission.

One of these students was EC. She has been coming to camp for several years now. After a mission track, she heard a challenge from the International Mission Board missionary: "God can use you in unique ways right where you are!" At Camp La Vida, E's faith and the Lord's leading toward Deaf ministry were confirmed. In the meantime, E is hoping to begin an Acteens group (missions discipleship to teen girls) at her church and invite some of her friends so that they can grow in their faith together.

Missions Sending:

Because South Carolina is a missions-sending state, we offer mission trip opportunities to students from all churches. By sending students on mission trips, more churches will be encouraged to become goers and senders. In the summer of 2024, our student consultant, Lauren Morris, led a team of students to Eastern Europe, where they shared the Gospel and engaged in local missions.

Missions Leadership:

South Carolina WMU has partnered with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for women in our state to earn a GO Certificate in Women's Missions Leadership. For six weeks, women will participate in a weekly virtual cohort meeting to discuss topics related to Christian leadership. Those who complete the cohort will then be encouraged to register for the SEBTS GO Certificate in Women's Missions Leadership and complete Courses such as Christian Theology, Great Commission Studies, and Bible Exposition for Ministry to Women.

Baptist Foundation of South Carolina

Nathan McCarthy, President & CEO

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you. John 14:26 (CSB)

Listening to the Holy Spirit, our Counselor, has been the focus of the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina (BFSC) staff and trustees this year. Our ministry has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years. We thank God for this growth, as it has provided new opportunities for us to serve churches and people. At the same time, we want to avoid the temptation to concentrate more on our success than on God's calling. Therefore, our prayer has been that we will allow the Holy Spirit to lead as we navigate growth and prepare for the future.

Our ministry's purpose is to serve churches by providing financial and giving services to help God's people fund the Great Commission. We believe that God's commission is fulfilled through His church, and our aim is to serve His church through a Kingdom mindset. We focus on three major areas of service:

Ministry Investments:

By providing solid and competitive investment products with Kingdom focus, we aim to grow funds for churches and ministries while investing in businesses that honor God and help people. Our investment funds are simple to understand, with an emphasis on growth while minimizing risk. We teach our clients that investing is strategic, and we challenge them to prayerfully consider how the Lord would have them use the resources He has provided. Solid investment strategies are based on vision and purpose and not on emotion. God's money is given by God's people for Kingdom purposes.

Church Lending and Capital Fundraising:

Seed Financial Services Inc. (SFS), our subsidiary lending organization, has been helping churches with financing needs for building and renovation projects since 2022. SFS also offers fixed-rate investment options for churches and individuals who want to invest in church growth. SFS is, first and foremost, a ministry arm of BFSC. Our primary goal through SFS is to help churches ensure they are in a healthy financial position to manage a building program that is within their ability to pay down debt as expediently as possible.

We also serve churches that are undergoing building projects through capital campaign services. A well-structured campaign strategy provides a plan for teaching and communicating biblically sound principles for raising funds for the future vision of the church. Scriptural fundraising focuses on God's ownership and man's faithfulness.

Generosity and Legacy Ministries:

Generosity and legacy planning services provide a road map for developing a vision for future giving. Through legacy ministry, the church today is challenged to impact the church of tomorrow. As part of this service, BFSC provides personal legacy planning services for any SCBaptist who wants to leave a gift to any Southern Baptist cause. Through prayerful estate planning, men and women have experienced the joy of giving from Heaven, providing future generations the opportunity to experience the love of Christ through their giving.

Major accomplishments since our last report:

- Continued to realize exceptional performance (higher long-term returns with less risk) from the Kingdom Fund, our investment fund for long-term growth. 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 \$14 million in loans for SCBaptist churches since the inception of Seed Financial Services, Inc. (SFS).
- Accepted investments in Certificates of Growth (COGs) offered through SFS from 86 individuals and ministries. These individuals and churches are investing in church growth as these funds are used to support church loans.
- Distributed over \$4.4 million to primarily Baptist ministries through endowment and investment income in our fiscal year ending 12/31/2023. Since its inception, BFSC has distributed almost \$100 million to Kingdom ministries—from churches in South Carolina to ministries and missions projects around the world.
- Continued to tithe our own ministry resources to provide grants to help fund evangelistic projects. In 2023, grants totaling \$98,627 were awarded. Since 2002, endowed gifts and the BFSC tithe have resulted in almost \$1,380,000 in ministry grants to churches and ministries.
- Continued to assist small churches and other ministries with online giving platforms, including custom pages. In 2023, BFSC processed over 4900 online transactions totaling almost \$1.2 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 2023, 36 families began or completed their estate planning through these services. To date, almost 366 families have completed estate plans with anticipated future gifts of over \$83 million for primarily Baptist ministries.
- Continued to operate with NO Cooperative Program financial assistance, a decision implemented in 2016 so that other ministries could benefit from CP assistance. We are thankful for our CP assistance in the past, and we are thankful that we can operate without CP funds today!
- Gave over \$313,000 to the Cooperative Program through annual endowed disbursements in 2023.
- Distributed to ministries a return of \$10.33 for every Cooperative Program dollar we have received since our inception.

As of July 31, 2024, the Foundation manages over \$191.5 million in assets for the benefit of churches, associations, and Baptist institutions across our state, nation, and world.

As we look towards the future of our ministry, we are ever mindful that God owns all things. As we make immediate and long-term decisions, may we keep our focus on him, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. May we humbly serve his church, may we inspire God's people to be faithful stewards, and may we bring honor and glory to him as he guides us toward future service opportunities.

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries

Danny Nicholson, President

"When our deepest desire is not the things of God, or a favor from God, but God Himself, we cross a threshold." -Max Lucado

As we move boldly through the fourth year of our ten-year plan, "A Decade of Dreams," it is apparent that we are now "Crossing the Threshold." This doorway to the future leads us into deeper waters and new territory filled with challenges, dreams, and great expectations. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, God has once again fulfilled his promise to do something new in our midst and to give greater hope and healing to children and families.

As we cross the threshold, we successfully completed the leadership phase of our "For the Dreams of Children Campaign," reflecting an overwhelming response that reached beyond our initial campaign goal and will be announced at our public phase campaign kickoff set for November 15, 2024. This very special evening will feature an original movie created with cinematic imagery spotlighting our history, present, and future.

The mantelpiece of the campaign, The Healing Center, was named the McCall Center in February with a 2.6 million gift from Roy McCall. Additionally, a one-million-dollar gift was announced in August from Doug and Sally Kauffmann to name the Howard and Suzanne Kauffmann Auditorium as a vital part of the McCall Center. While support is being garnered to build this facility, we continue the development of the inner workings of the center alongside trauma experts from around the country.

Besides these exciting developments, we continue to make progress on reimagining Maxwell Farms by presenting The Third Annual Corn Maze and Concert featuring Benjamin William Hastings, while continuing to patiently work towards acquiring land for our new campus in Charleston. We are also excited to construct new entrance signs for the Greenwood campus, honor Steve and Renee Shiflet's 40 years of service by enhancing Maxwell Gardens Cemetery, and dedicate the newly renovated Dunbarton VIP/ Visitor's Center in the near future. The completion of these strategic priorities in future years will help us fulfill our vision to become a national leader in healing and ministry for vulnerable children and families.

Additionally, progress is being made toward other various Decade of Dreams goals and objectives.

- Our residential care served 191 children and families.
- Foster care continues to grow and flourish with 51 homes licensed serving 98 children.
- The continued development of the statewide Thrive conference and the hiring of a new foster care specialist in Charleston extends our reach and scope for recruitment in this vital area of ministry.
- Family care continues to explode, serving 15 families which consisted of 15 single parents and their 25 children.
- Crisis care has served 15 children and families and the higher education/independent living program served 12 youth this year.

As a part of our 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 \$671,296 representing 521 gifts.
- Besides financial support, Connie Maxwell has welcomed 888 volunteers who have completed 10,849 hours of volunteer activities.
- In addition to volunteers visiting our campus, we have reached out to more than 20 churches across SC to provide trauma

training and will continue to grow these educational activities as part of our vision to minister to others in a deeper, more profound way.

- Our biggest event of the year, Connie Maxwell Christmas, was more successful than ever before, approaching nearly 20,000 visitors coming to campus.

As we continue to move into the future, we invite each South Carolina Baptist to cross the threshold with our Connie Maxwell family and continue your fervent prayers and generous support as we minister to children and families in Jesus' name.

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 SCBaptist, 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.

Anderson University

Evans Whitaker, President

For God and humanity, Anderson University 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.

Allow me to share two brief stories about students as evidence of why SC Baptists support Anderson University.

Earlier this year, one of our students, Jane, experienced a series of health challenges that, in isolation, would not have been all that life-threatening, especially for a young adult. Unfortunately, Jane also had a preexisting health condition that exacerbated her medical state. After being admitted to the hospital, her outlook became increasingly precarious and uncertain; her parents traveled to Anderson to be by her side. I am happy to share that the Great Physician provided healing to Jane through the care of the excellent health professionals at AnMed Medical Center. During her time in the hospital, at the point when her prognosis was most bleak, the Anderson University community came together in prayer and support of Jane and her family. This Christ-centered, family approach was seen in many ways, including how Jane's small group gathered in the hospital parking lot to pray under her window and the constant visits and demonstrations of support from Anderson University staff and faculty. Praise the Lord for Jane's recovery!

Isaiah is an Anderson University graduate, class of 2024. While at AU, Isaiah served as an Alpha Leader, helping first-year students acclimate to university life. He is a Palmetto Boys State alumnus and participated in clubs and internships relevant to his academic and professional interests. At the age of 13, Isaiah discovered his purpose in life after suffering a brain injury. He underwent brain surgery, long hospital stays, and countless hours of physical therapy. He is confident of God's provision and guidance in his life and has sought ever since to push himself and to help others. Isaiah's favorite verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ, He gives me strength." Isaiah's recovery, perseverance, and kindness were encouragement and inspiration to his Anderson University community. When he walked across the commencement stage in May, he held with pride and humility his diploma in one hand and the President's Award in the other. The award is given to the graduate who best exemplifies a balance between campus leadership, citizenship, scholastic accomplishment, Christian commitment, and concern for fellow students. Praise God for the work in and through Isaiah's life!

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 Jane, Isaiah, and the thousands of other AU students that SCBaptists support.

2024 Highlights

- This fall, we welcomed more than 950 new students to the Anderson University family.
- Anderson University's total enrollment now exceeds 4,500 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 Southeastern" universities (The Princeton Review, 2023)
- U.S. News & World Report, 2024 ranks Anderson University:
 - #8 Most Innovative among all Regional universities;
 - #2 in South Carolina for Online Graduate Nursing programs;
 - #2 in SC for Online Master of Business Programs

- Niche.com rankings include:
 - #2 Private university in South Carolina
 - #1 Music program in South Carolina
 - #2 Education program in South Carolina
 - #3 Business program in South Carolina
- Chronicle on Higher Education Great College to Work for the 5th straight year.
- This Spring, a sixth member of the Anderson University faculty was named a Fulbright Scholar. The prestigious program is the United States' flagship international educational exchange program and is an incredible honor to both the awardee and their institution.
- In August, the athletic facilities that directly host football games were formally dedicated ahead of the inaugural season that started on Saturday, September 7.
- Over the last several years, Anderson University has made significant investments to increase our residential capacity. We now have approximately 2,100 students on campus.
- Clayton King is a principal evangelistic partner, along with our many ministerial graduates and our Convention. During Clayton King Ministry's Crossroad Summer camps, 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.
- The College of Engineering building recently underwent a major renovation to host six labs and classrooms, numerous collaboration and study spaces, and faculty offices. The building is more than 40,000 square feet, with room to accommodate the growth of this popular program.

Prayer Requests

- Please join us in continuing to pray for our students and God's will for their lives.
- Pray that AU's campus ministries will be strong instruments for worshiping, evangelizing, equipping, and serving.
- Pray for the mission and health of faithful Christian institutions like Anderson University as we face increased cultural and social pressure against our Christ-centered values and practice. Pray that religious freedom will be respected and upheld.
- Please pray for our campus as we continue our ambitious capital projects campaign.
- Pray as we develop our new five-year strategic plan over the next few months.

Charleston Southern University

B. Keith Faulkner, President

Charleston Southern University 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 also for the Lord to bring revival in and beyond our campus.

2024 Highlights

- We praise and rejoice with the Campus Ministry team that 27 CSU students received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during formal campus ministry events this year.
- Charleston Southern University is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Founded in 1964 to give students in the lower part of the state the opportunity to Christian education, CSU is the only Christian university in the Lowcountry.
- CSU set the national collegiate record for the number of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes packed in a single season for the fifth straight year, packing 13,601 shoe boxes in 2023.
- At Elevate, our weekly Thursday night campus worship, we had a high attendance of 430 students and averaged 242 students during the academic year. The women's discipleship ministry served 87 females in one-on-one discipleship relationships.
- We praise the Lord for the 87 students who served on summer missions teams: 13 students served internationally, and 74 served in the U.S. through organizations, camps, and local church engagement.
- CSU is pleased to partner with SCBaptist including hosting SummerSalt and KidSalt. This summer, 3,509 students attended, and we praise the Lord for the 574 spiritual decisions made. Seven CSU students served as staffers.
- Ten CSU upperclassmen served at Student Leadership University in Orlando, and 239 enrolled CSU students attended SLU 101.
- We are excited for the continued growth of our aeronautics program, the only collegiate program in South Carolina. CSU Aeronautics continues to excel in preparing professional pilots for their required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) written examinations. The FAA requires all Part 141 flight schools to maintain an 80% first-time pass rate to maintain certification. CSU maintains an impressive student first-time pass rate of 95.91%.
- 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 is also recognized as a Gold Status Military Friendly School.
- CSU softball pitcher, Annah Junge, was voted the 2023-24 Big South Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Several teams were honored for academic excellence: Women's Tennis earned ITA All-Academic distinction for the third consecutive year; Women's Volleyball was an AVCA Team Academic Award winner, and Baseball earned an ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year.
- CSU Athletics placed second in the Big South's Sasser Cup competition (best all-around Athletics program). CSU athletes finished the year with a department-wide GPA of 3.25.
- An agreement with our textbook provider, Slingshot, is supplying students in every 200-400 level Christian Studies course with a personal copy of Logos Bible Software (including a 250-book personal ministry library) and their Christian Studies textbooks. Logos for Life secures a mobile ministry library for graduates from the College of Christian Studies of more than 300 books, along with the most powerful biblical and theological research software available, that goes with each student

when they graduate.

- Global Charleston, launched in March of 2024, is the realization of a long-held regional desire to welcome the global community well. Charleston Southern, alongside One Region founding organizations, created Global Charleston to provide information that international residents and businesses need to thrive. As the One Region Lead Agent for Global Fluency, CSU is honored to work with our regional partners to create a globally connected region welcoming multinational businesses and international residents and visitors.
- The first Doctor of Physical Therapy class will graduate in December. The third cohort of 48 students began classes in May.
- Ten CSU choral students advanced to the 2024 Southern Regional Performance Competition sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). Five of them won recognition at the NATS Regionals in March, and three advanced to the national round in June. Luke Baur won second place in the nation for his vocal performance. Luke is a sophomore music and worship leadership student.
- We are grateful for our faithful donors. CSU exceeded the \$7.5 million five-year goal for student scholarships for the Limitless campaign two-and-a-half years ahead of schedule.

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 2023-2024 academic year, the University harvested the fruit of a number of years’ worth of significant work. Building on last year’s emphasis on “Celebrate,” the University moved forward to a future-oriented series of emphases that look ahead to the coming decades with joy and a persistent sense of optimism. The University seeks to “serve the LORD with gladness [and] come before him with joyful songs, acknowledg[ing] that the LORD is God. He made us, and we are his—his people, the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100: 2-3).

We emphasize four C’s that radiate out from our emphasis on being Christ-centered and biblically faithful: Community, Calling, Courage, and Compassion. We are a community that seeks to cultivate human flourishing as we build up relationships that uplift one another, connecting us in God-honoring ways. In community, we emphasize and discern a sense of calling, that God loves us and has a plan for our lives—not just our careers—that is aligned with his purposes and redemptive plan for the world. Knowing that we have a community standing behind us and a calling that comes from above us, we claim unique courage to step into a time that requires us to take hard stances relative to culture, to sometimes go to hard places in order to serve the Kingdom and to be firm in the face of criticism or even ridicule as we remain strong in the Lord. And with this courage, we likewise understand that because God has loved us first (1 John 4:19), we must live with compassion toward our fellow persons, redeeming the time by being agents of redemption and reconciliation in a culture that longs for the hope of the Gospel even as it fights against the exclusive claims of Christ. In these things, NGU seeks to be distinctive as an institution that focuses on not just academic preparation but life cultivation.

This year saw the first major capital project concluded in over a decade, the total renovation of the most central building on campus, formerly known as the Donnan Administrative Building. As administrative functions have changed over the decades, the building—originally opened in 1956—was emptied and became a prime option for new space for the thriving College of Business & Entrepreneurship. A four-year project costing more than \$10 million, the building was dedicated in the spring of 2024, with the Robert W. Plaster Center for Free Enterprise now hosting the business unit, the beautiful M. C. Donnan Commons and Plaza (including the fully restored historic mural by Joe Cox) providing central gathering space, and the Donald E. Ward Administrative Suite now hosting the senior leadership team, as well as the Kenneth and Carol Ells President’s Suite, and the Brashier Family President’s Office. The building combines cutting-edge technology with historic touches that connect the past with the future as the University transforms the main quadrangle with updated landscaping and Instagram-worthy vistas.

NGU also updated its athletic mascot to the Trailblazers; the University has changed its mascot about every twenty years and sought to provide one that was completely trademarkable and upgraded with digital support. The new image combines three strands of the NGU’s history: its location near the intersection of the Tougaloo Trail—the footpath employed by Native

Americans for centuries that roughly follows SC Highway 11—and the Swamp Rabbit Trail—the former rail line that has become one of South Carolina’s most significant tourist draws, along with “The Way,” the New Testament term for Christianity (hodos) in the Book of Acts (9: 1-2). The image of the Trailblazer is a red fox, a local animal known for its cunning and agility (and one nearly unique among college mascots).

The University continues its commitment to Kingdom work, with an opening Gospel emphasis, a global missions conference, a biblical worldview week emphasis, 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.

Even with the major aforementioned capital project, the NGU continues to hold no long-term interest-bearing debt and 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 (excellenceingiving.com) and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (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 looks forward to being partners in God’s redemptive work in our state, our nation, and our world!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for us to be able to live out the 4 C’s as we seek to cultivate genuine relationships that encourage one another in their intellectual and spiritual formation.
- Pray that God will protect us against the forces that are hostile to the Gospel, both in our larger culture and in the spiritual realms that surround our work.
- Pray that our faculty and staff will be God-honoring mentors and disciple-makers who can discern God’s calling for each of our students.
- Pray for our students to discover the personal confidence that the Gospel can bring to those who seek to exalt the name of Christ.
- Pray that God will allow us to continue to be an irenic place where our surrounding communities see our love for him and for our fellow persons lived out in our hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

The Baptist Courier

Jeff Robinson, President

New editor Jeff Robinson initiated a four-pronged vision for The Baptist Courier this year that encompasses four key tasks: Inform and Instruct, Edify and Glorify. He and The Courier staff have embarked on a slightly new direction for The Courier that he believes will help the ministry remain vital in the years ahead. Here are some of the recent accomplishments:

- **A major redesign of the monthly magazine.** Keeping up the appearance of the magazine is important in making it appealing to all kinds of readers. The Courier underwent its first facelift in several years at the outset of 2024.
- **A redirecting of Courier Publishing.** The Baptist Courier will continue to serve pastors and other authors around South Carolina through its Palmetto line by providing an avenue for new or lesser-known authors to teach God's Word and tell their stories through inspiring and edifying books. However, a new 1821 line of books debuted at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention with works by SCBaptist Executive Director-Treasurer Tony Wolfe, seminary professors Phil Newton and Rich Shadden, and Nate Akin with the Pillar Church Planting Network. Alluding to the beginning of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the 1821 line will produce biblically sound, theologically robust books related to Scripture, theology, church history, ministry, and Christian living written by established authors from our state and beyond.
- **A new Courier Publishing website and an overhaul of The Baptist Courier's website.** Our goal is to eventually publish several articles per day at least five days a week with news and features from around our state and beyond. We want The Courier's website to be the central resource for SCBaptist news. The new websites will feature videos on news and video interviews along with author interviews and stories about new books from Courier Publishing.
- **A thematic approach to the monthly magazine.** Since The Baptist Courier publishes its magazine once a month, we want to make it a trusted resource and give it a longer shelf life for pastors and laypeople alike. The magazine will still include news and features as before, but some months will also explore important topics with several articles. For example, recent issues have focused on Christian Civility, The Privilege of Prayer, and The Gospel for All of Life.
- **Courier Tours relaunch.** After a brief hiatus this year, we hope to resume our tours to Amish country, the Ark Encounter, the Bible Museum, and other places of Christian interest.
- **Continuing to record monthly episodes of Courier Conversations, The Courier's podcast.** Three Rivers Baptist Association leader Travis Kerns recently joined the podcast as cohost.

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



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