



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH

ABCOTS AREA 3 ANNUAL MEETING

*“LIVING FOR CHRIST;
SERVING THE PRESENT AGE”*

2025

ACTS 13:32-42
SCRIPTURE

HOST CHURCH:

REV. DR. PRINCE RANEY RIVERS
SENIOR PASTOR
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
904 N. ROXBORO ST.
DURHAM, NC 27701

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

*HOLY COMMUNION ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH*

REV. DR. JAMES MITCHELL HARRISON
ABCOTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REV. DR. STEPHEN GREENE HOWARD
MODERATOR



55th Annual Area III Meeting
American Baptist Churches of the South

*"LIVING FOR CHRIST;
SERVING THE PRESENT AGE"*
ACTS 13:32-42

October 17-18, 2025

Host Church
Union Baptist Church
904 N. Roxboro St.
Durham, NC 27701
www.myucb.org



55th Annual Area III Meeting

American Baptist Churches of the South



Dr. Stephen Greene Howard,
Senior Minister

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 1095 Allen Rd
Greenville, NC 27834



Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto You!

"We must work the works of Him who sent us while it is yet day. "Yes, our world as we know is in turmoil. The ongoing war with Ukraine and Russia, the conflict in the Middle East between Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, Lebanon, and Iran; the social political drama that continues to unfold, and the National challenges we face as a nation.

In these difficult and challenging times, now more than ever, we must renew our desire and muster up the courage to do the will of the Father. Churches and individuals are emerging after this global pandemic with the command of the Master to do the work.

American Baptist, let us be reminded of our history of trials and triumphs won through Christ. May we lift our voices and shout aloud the message of the Kingdom.

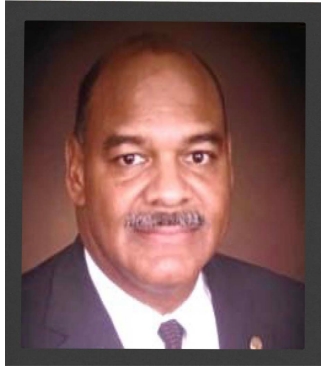
May the Head of The Great Christian Church guide and guard us all as we endeavor to Live for Christ; Serving the Present Age.

Because of Calvary,
Stephen Greene Howard
Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard
Moderator,
ABCOTS Area III



55th Annual Area III Meeting

American Baptist Churches of the South



Congratulations to ABCOTS, Area III, on the event of their Annual Gathering 2025. We are excited about being able to meet in person in the great city of Durham, NC. We continue to recognize that God does everything right and we are certain about God's faithfulness. It's always on our minds, and it influences our hearts of love towards you, finally, it reaches our lips to become shouts of proclamation and praise.

Thank you to the Reverend Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, Moderator, Area III, the Reverend Dr. Prince R. Rivers, Senior Pastor, Union Baptist Church, the Program Board Members, Area III, and the many volunteers and church members who are making this event open to us all. We are still listening for the silent voice of God in the context of this post-pandemic. It is always difficult to hear through the noise of fear, greed, selfish ambition, and self-worship. However, we do hear God's voice in the re-ordering of our worship formats; rearranging of our building uses; re-distributing of our ministry and mission priorities; and reclaiming our call to seek out and serve the least of these in the neighborhood. "Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. So don't hesitate to go public now."

Living for Christ; Serving the Present Age! (Acts 13:32-42)

Thank you for your steadfast faith in our God and your loyalty to our denomination as we continue serving and meeting the demands of the mission and ministry work before us.

In Christian Service, I remain,

James Mitchell Harrison, Executive Minister
ABCOTS



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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

On behalf of the Union Baptist Church family, it is my great joy and privilege to welcome you to the ABCOTS Area III Conference. We are honored to serve as the host congregation for this gathering of pastors, leaders, and members from across our area.

This convening provides us with a special opportunity to come together in fellowship, worship, and learning. As we share in prayer, teaching, and dialogue, it is our hope that each of us will be strengthened in faith and renewed in purpose for the work of ministry.

Union Baptist Church has a rich heritage of service to God and His people, and it is our prayer that you will feel at home here. May this time not only deepen our unity as brothers and sisters in Christ but also inspire us to return to our churches and communities with fresh vision and a greater commitment to the Kingdom of God.

We extend to you a heartfelt welcome. May the Spirit of the Lord guide and bless all that is said and done in these days together.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Prince Raney Rivers, Ph.D. Senior Pastor

Union Baptist Church, Durham

904 N. Roxboro Rd, Durham, NC 27701 | (919) 688-1304 | www.myubc.org | info@myubc.org



55th Annual Area III Meeting

American Baptist Churches of the South

Friday, October 17 – Saturday, October 18, 2025

“Living for Christ; Serving the Present Age”

Acts 13:32-42

SESSION PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, October 17, 2025

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM:	Continental Breakfast/Registration
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM:	Opening Session
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM:	ABCOTS Luncheon
2:10 PM – 3:30 PM:	Bible Study
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM:	Auxiliary Meetings
5:00 PM – 6:15 PM:	ABCOTS Dinner
6:30 PM:	Evening Worship

Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM:	Continental Breakfast/Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM:	Business Meeting
10:30 AM:	Morning Worship Closing Remarks and Benediction



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DETAILED SCHEDULE

Friday, October 17, 2025

8:30 AM: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION

9:30 AM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*

10:00 AM: **OPENING SESSION** (*Main Sanctuary*)
Presiding, Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, Moderator, ABCOTS Area III

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard

Hymn “I Am Thine, O Lord”

Scripture Acts 13:32-42
Rev. Major Kay
Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Prayer Rev. Major Kay

Welcome Rev. Dr. Prince Rivers, Senior Pastor
Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Greetings from
the Region Rev. Dr. James Harrison, *ABCOTS Executive Minister*

Introduction of
Speaker Deacon Linda Cooper-Suggs
ABCOTS Area III Secretary
Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church, Wilson, NC

Music Union Baptist Church

Message **Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens**
White Rock Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Invitation to
Christian
Discipleship Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, *Moderator*

Announcements Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard

Benediction Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard



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12:00 PM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*

12:30 PM: **ABCOTS LUNCHEON**

*Presiding, Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven, ABCOTS Area III Vice Moderator
Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA*

Occasion Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven

Blessing Deacon Sheila Edwards
Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC

Lunch is Served

Background Music Played (Streamed)

Introduction
of Speaker Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven

Message **Rev. Dr. Renée Bradford**
*President, Minister's Council, ABCOTS Area III
Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC*

Announcements Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven

2:00 PM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*

2:10 PM: **BIBLE STUDY** *(Main Sanctuary)*
"Living for Christ in a Fascist Age"
Acts Chapters 14 & 16

Greeting and
Prayer Rev. Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven, *Vice Moderator*
ABCOTS Area III

Introduction of
Teacher Rev. Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven, *Vice Moderator*
ABCOTS Area III

Bible Study **Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell**
Collective Liberation Church, Charlotte, NC

3:30 PM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*



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3:45 PM: AUXILIARY MEETINGS:

AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN
AMERICAN BAPTIST MINISTERS COUNCIL
AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN OF THE SOUTH
AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH

4:45 PM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*

5:00 PM: ABCOTS DINNER

Presiding - Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, Moderator

Welcome &

Blessing

Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard

Greetings

Deaconess Vivian Bazemore

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC

Dinner is Served

Background Music

Message

Rev. Dr. James M. Harrison, *ABCOTS Executive Minister*

Dismissal to

Evening Worship

Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard

6:45 PM: *SHORT INTERMISSION AND BREAK*

7:00 PM: EVENING WORSHIP

Music

Union Baptist Church

Call to Worship

Rev. Marvin Peterson

Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church, Wilson, NC

Opening Hymn

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

Prayer

Rev. Marvin Peterson



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Scripture	Rev. Charles Walton, Pastor Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Littleton, NC
Greetings	Rev. Charles Walton, <i>Pastor</i>
Congregational Hymn	Union Baptist Church <i>Durham, NC</i>
Offertory Appeal	Trustee M.C. Moore, ABCOTS Area III Treasurer <i>Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA</i>
Introduction of Preacher	Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard
Vocal Selection	Union Baptist Church <i>Durham, NC</i>
Message	Rev. Dr. H. L. Dickerson, Pastor <i>Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Durham, NC</i>
Invitation to Christian Discipleship	Rev. Dr. H.L. Dickerson
Announcements	Dr. Renée Bradford President, Minister's Council, ABCOTS, Area III
Benediction	Rev. Dr. H. L. Dickerson



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Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:30 AM: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION

9:00 AM: BUSINESS MEETING *(Main Sanctuary)*

Prayer & Welcome - Rev.Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, *Moderator*

Meeting & Program Board Minutes - Deacon Linda Cooper-Suggs, *Secretary*

Financial Update & Budget - *Trustee* M.C. Moore, *Treasurer*

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Area Meeting – Annual/Biannual

10:00 AM: SPECIAL GUESTS *(Main Sanctuary)*

10:30 AM: MORNING WORSHIP *(Main Sanctuary)*

Call to Worship Minister Amber Burgin-Brothers
Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Music “I Am Thine, O Lord”

Scripture Minister Arlene Lovelace
Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Prayer Rev. Dr. Kem Gilmore
Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Music Lovell A. Bradford, Minister of Magnification and Worship
Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Offertory Appeal Deacon Linda Cooper-Suggs, *Secretary*

Music Minister Lovell A. Bradford

Message **Rev. Charles Walton, Senior Pastor**
Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Littleton, NC

Holy Communion **Rev. Dr. Prince R. Rivers**
Union Baptist church, Durham, NC

Closing Remarks
& Benediction Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard



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American Baptist Churches of the South

Annual Session Theme Song

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

Verse 1:

*"I am Thine, O Lord,
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee." [Refrain]*

Verse 3:

*"O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer,
and with Thee my God, I commune
as friend with friend!" [Refrain]*

Verse 2:

*"Consecrate me now to
To Thy service Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine." [Refrain]*

Verse 4:

*There are depths of love
that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee." [Refrain]*

REFRAIN:

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious bleeding side."*

Annual Session Scriptures

Acts 13:32-42

And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. ³³ God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' ³⁴ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to ^[u]corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure ^[u]mercies of David.' ³⁵ Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' ³⁶ "For David, after he had served ^[k]his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and ^[u]saw corruption; ³⁷ but He whom God raised up ^[u]saw no corruption. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: ⁴¹ 'Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.' "

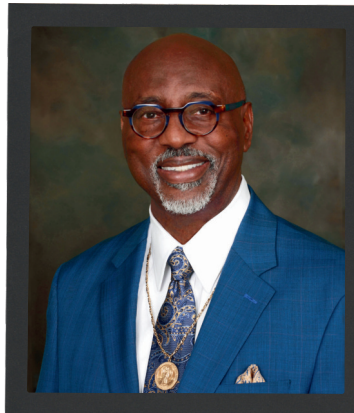
Blessing and Conflict at Antioch

⁴² ^[u]So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.



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Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens

Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens serves as the 15th pastor of the historic White Rock Baptist Church, in Durham, North Carolina, and holds the distinction of being its second longest-serving pastor. His journey of faith and leadership began in January 1995 when he first preached at White Rock, culminating in his official installation in April of that same year. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Stephens' deep-rooted commitment to the Gospel ministry ignited in October 1982 at Pinn Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Prior to his significant tenure at White Rock, he shepherded the congregation at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

Rev. Stephens is not only a dedicated pastor but also an accomplished scholar. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Edward Waters University, graduating Magna Cum Laude; a Master of Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Seminary); and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His academic excellence is further underscored by being a Samuel Proctor-Charles Booth Fellow.

Throughout his ministry at White Rock, Dr. Stephens has demonstrated remarkable leadership and vision. His initiatives include:

- *Pioneering Events: He held the first women's conference, the first Prayer Retreat, and the first Young Adult Conference in the church's history, fostering inclusivity and engagement within the congregation.*
- *Community Outreach: Partnering with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Dr. Stephens has spearheaded efforts to provide free food to as many as 1,000 individuals monthly through the Global Missions Ministry, reflecting his commitment to community service.*
- *Renovation and Growth: Under Pastor Stephens' leadership, the church underwent a \$1.2 million renovation of the sanctuary, which notably included the installation of a historic 32-rank Moeller/Letourneau pipe organ, enhancing the worship experience.*
- *Establishment of Ministries: Dr. Stephens has been instrumental in creating a diverse array of Ministries, including the first Youth Liturgical Dance Group, a dynamic Prayer Ministry, a Grief Ministry, and a Mommie and Me Ministry. His establishment of the Agape Ministry aims to support Durham's incarcerated population, demonstrating a profound concern for marginalized communities.*
- *Educational and Technological Advancement: Pastor Stephens established the church's first computer lab and initiated classes, alongside creating a church website, which signifies a forward-thinking approach to ministry. He recently led a group to install state-of-the-art audiovisual, sound, and camera equipment that provides opportunities for worshipers who are visually challenged to have access to closed caption or American Sign Language services.*
- *Youth and Family Development: Stephens has adopted W.G. Pearson Elementary School, provided essential school supplies and tutoring services, alongside fostering youth engagement through monthly mission activities at the Ronald McDonald House.*
- *Academic Contributions: Serving as a Professor of Homiletics at Shaw University Divinity School, in Raleigh, North Carolina, for 17 years, Pastor Stephens has shaped the next generation of preachers, contributing significantly to theological education.*
- *Broader Impact: His preaching has resonated at various national conventions, including the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention. Notably, Dr. Stephens was invited to submit one of his sermons for inclusion in the Progressive National Baptist Convention's publication, *The Best of PNBC: Intergenerational Messages of Hope*, showcasing his influence beyond the local church. He has also served on multiple committees and boards, including Habitat for Humanity and the Triangle Community Foundation, further emphasizing his dedication to service and leadership.*

Rev. Stephens' commitment to holistic ministry is evident through the establishment of 57 ministries divided into seven clusters, each aimed at addressing the diverse needs of the congregation and the wider community. His strategic leadership has not only expanded White Rock's outreach but has also strengthened its legacy within the Baptist community.

In conclusion, Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens represents a dynamic blend of pastoral care, community engagement, and educational leadership. His unwavering dedication to the mission of the church and its members, coupled with his innovative spirit, has left an indelible mark on White Rock Baptist Church and the Greater Durham area. He is a leader who exemplifies faith in action, inspiring us all to serve with purpose and compassion.



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Dr. Renée L. Bradford

Dr. Renée L. Bradford, affectionately known as the Pastor of Peace, serves as President of the ABCOTS Area III Ministers Council and Minister of Administration at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is also a Digital Pastor, guiding leaders and congregations in faith-filled innovation and reconciliation.

Dr. Bradford holds a Ph.D. in Leadership and Change and a Master of Leadership and Change from Antioch University, and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches USA, her doctoral research focused on building digital support networks for justice-oriented activists.

As the founder of The Lemonade Stand online fellowship and a sought-after clarity coach, Dr. Bradford cultivates communities of reconciliation, resilience, and spiritual grounding through contemplative practice and digital ministry.

Her favorite scripture is Psalm 15, which grounds her commitment to walk uprightly and serve with integrity.

She is joyfully married to Lovell A. Bradford, and together they cherish their adult children — FaJhenée, Lovell (Skip), and Seth.

***“LIVING FOR CHRIST;
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ACTS 13:32-42***



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Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell (Collective Liberation, Charlotte, NC) is a former U.S. Army Officer with degrees from Campbell University (B.A.), Duke Divinity School (M.Div.) and Saint Paul School of Theology (D. Min.) He is a preacher, pastor, civil rights leader and public speaker who facilitates anti-racist spiritual formation courses for people racialized as White and for White dominant organizations.

*Dr. Boswell has served as the pastor of three progressive congregations throughout his twenty-year ministry career and is the former Senior Minister of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Boswell is the creator and founder of Confronting Whiteness, a community of people striving to become anti-racist in their spheres of power and influence. He is active interfaith community leader, and the author of two books: *For the Facing of this Hour: Preaching that resists White Christian Nationalism* (2022) and *Confronting Whiteness: A Spiritual Journey of Reflection, Conversation and Transformation* (2022).*

In 2021, at the age of forty, Dr. Boswell was awarded the city of Charlotte's prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Medallion, which is the highest honor given to a person who promotes racial equality, social justice and community service. Most notably, he is the proud father of his 15-year-old daughter, Lucy Joy Boswell.

**"LIVING FOR CHRIST;
SERVING THE PRESENT AGE"
ACTS 13:32-42**



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Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Dickerson

Pastor Dickerson is an authentic and dynamic example of a faith leader who is fully committed to serving God and His people. His leadership style transcends the ordinary, blending humility, boldness, and a deep commitment to the Gospel. Known for sermons that are both biblically sound and remarkably relevant, Pastor Dickerson brings the Word of God to life and strengthens the faith of those he serves. At the heart of his ministry is a passion to help both seekers and believers experience the power of faith in everyday life.

An internationally respected minister, Pastor Dickerson shares the redeeming message of Jesus Christ across cultural and denominational lines while remaining deeply invested in his local Raleigh-Durham community. He actively partners with the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors, the Lott Carey Pastoral Excellence Program, and the Durham Ministerial Alliance to further the work of the Kingdom.

*Pastor Dickerson holds a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Richmond Seminary, a Master of Arts in Theology from Jacksonville Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Theology. He is also the author of *Dare to Dream: Trusting God With the Details — A Story of the Life of Joseph*, a powerful testament to God's faithfulness in every season of life.*

Through his life, leadership, and love for people, Pastor Dickerson continues to inspire believers to deepen their faith, embrace their purpose, and walk boldly into God's promises.

***"LIVING FOR CHRIST;
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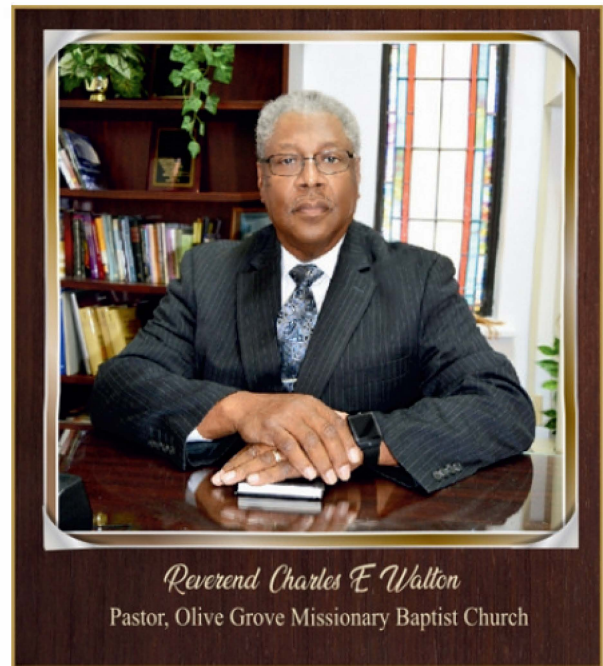
Rev. Charles E. Walton

Pastor ~ Preacher ~ Servant

Reverend Charles E. Walton preached his initial sermon in November 1988 at New Bethel Baptist Church in Warrenton, North Carolina. In 1990, he was elected to serve as the church's Assistant Pastor. During his time at New Bethel, Rev. Walton was also called to preach at Macon Second Baptist Church, where he faithfully delivered the message every fourth Sunday. In December 2000, while continuing to provide pastoral leadership at Macon Second, Rev. Walton was invited to become the pastor of Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Littleton, NC. He recently celebrated an extraordinary milestone—38 years of pastoral ministry, reflecting his steadfast dedication to preaching, teaching, and spiritual guidance. Rev. Walton's ministry has been marked by impactful leadership and faithful service:

- Honored as a "Trailblazer" by the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association
- Pastor of Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church for 38 years
- Former Moderator of the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association

His legacy continues to be one of vision, humility, and unwavering service to God and community.



Reverend Charles E. Walton, born July 18, 1948, is the eldest of the five children of the late Rev. Dr. Clyde B. Walton and the late Creather J. Walton of Garner, North Carolina.

A Legacy of Service

Reverend Walton honorably served in the United States Air Force for four years, including two years stationed in Upper Heyford, England. Following his military service, he dedicated nearly four decades to social work in Warren and Wake counties, ultimately retiring as a supervisor with the Warren County Department of Social Services. Throughout his life, Rev. Walton has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to faith, service, and leadership. He is a proud alumnus of Shaw University and the Shaw University Divinity School. Deeply involved in his community and denominational work, he is:

- A devoted member of the Missionary Baptist Association
- Co-founder of Loaves and Fishes Ministry, Warren County
- A member of the Olive Grove School Board
- A member of the General Board of the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina
- Chairman of the Finance and Elections Committee of the General Baptist State Convention
- A newly appointed Board Member of the Vance County Men's Shelter

Rev. Walton is also a proud brother of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., having been initiated through the Iota Chapter at Shaw University. He is currently serving his second term as President of the Gamma Kappa Sigma Alumni Chapter, which serves the North Central region of North Carolina. Under his leadership, the chapter was honored as the 2023–2024 North Carolina Alumni Chapter of the Year, and Rev. Walton himself was recognized as a Sigma Icon by the NC State Board. His exemplary service has also led to his nomination for Alumni Brother of the Year for the fraternity's Southeastern Region.

One of Pastor Walton's most meaningful challenges and accomplishments came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he faithfully pastored both Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Macon Second Baptist Church. Through innovative weekly online worship services and spiritual leadership, he successfully united the two congregations into one loving church family.



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The History of ABCOTS

The late Reverend J. C. Herrin, Program Associate with the American Baptist Home Mission Society was named as the Associate General Secretary for Work in the South from 1959-1971. Sometime during that period he wrote, "our distinctive role in the South (as American Baptist) may well be to encourage and expand an integrated Christian fellowship." Rev. Herrin pioneered ABC relationships with the Baptist churches, black and white, in the South that wished to develop a more inclusive witness across the divisive barrier of race.

The churches involved also wished to expand their role in the support of higher education as it is carried out through American Baptist related black colleges in the South. Further, these churches were committed to working with the National Council of Churches, the Southern Inter-agency Council, and the Fellowship of Southern Churches. Other persons who pioneered in the development of American Baptist relationships in the South, as "Executive Ministers for Work in the South" were Dr. Paul Stagg, in Valley Forge, 1969-1971 and Rev. Henry Marion Steele, in Atlanta, 1969-1971.

An anonymous grant of \$10,000 made in the late 1950's made it possible to study the feasibility of forming an organization of American Baptist Churches in the South. A special committee consisting of twenty-five pastors and laypersons from churches in the South was formed. This committee put together a program and an agenda for an organizational meeting of the American Baptist Churches of the South.

The organizational meeting was held from April 10 through 12, 1970 in the Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, hosted by Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, the late Dr. Leon C. Riddick and the late Dr. E. Eugene Owens, Myers Park. The late Reverend Dr. Kelly Miller Smith was the keynote preacher. The proposal coming out of the organizational meeting was ratified by both the first formal meeting of the American Baptist churches of the South (ABCOTS) and the General Board of the American Baptist Churches, USA meeting in November and December, respectively.

The late Dr. E. B. Hicks, who had a long and distinguished career with National Ministries, ABC, was called as the first Executive Minister of the new Region, its first Annual Session, was held March 19-20, 1971, in Richmond Virginia. The session was held in the Fifth Street Baptist Church of that city. Dr. Hicks' work began on July 1, 1971, with the offices being located in Atlanta, GA.

111 churches made up the first official listing of ABCOTS. The late Dr. J. B. Henderson, pastor of the Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia, became the Region's first president. From that beginning, a constant attempt has been made to maintain an office staff and elect officers that are racially inclusive and are composed of men and women across a broad age range.

The budget of the American Baptist Churches of the South has grown from \$55,000 to almost half a million dollars. The number of cooperating churches has grown from 111 to 257. Churches in ABCOTS are giving close to half of the dollars being given to the Union Mission Program by ABC congregations.

The late Dr. E. B. Hicks served as the Region's Executive Minister through 1976, at which time he retired. Dr. James E. Peters, who came to the office from work with the Fund of Renewal, succeeded Dr. Hicks. Dr. Peters resigned to return to pastoral ministry.

In January 1979, Dr. Walter L. Parrish, II left the pastorate of the St. John Baptist Church of Columbia, Maryland to become the third Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the South.

August 1, 2015, the fourth Executive Minister assumed duties as the Executive Director of The American Baptist of The South, Dr. James M. Harrison. Dr. Harrison is pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, VA.



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ABCOTS Area III Executive Committee & Program Board

Moderator	Dr. Stephen Greene Howard 1095 Allen Road Greenville, NC 27834 service@abcotsarea3.org
Vice Moderator	Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven vanbroek@denison.edu
Secretary	Deacon Linda Cooper-Suggs service@abcotsarea3.org
Treasurer	Trustee M.C. Moore treasurer@abcotsarea3.org
President Minister's Council	Dr. Renee' Bradford ministerscouncil@abcotsarea3.org
Chaplain	Deacon Earle Clowney edclowney@bellsouth.net
Nominating Chair	Dr. Charles Hawk, Jr. hawkcharles@att.net
Past Moderator	Rev. Lolita Hickman revlolita2@gmail.com
Executive Minister	Dr. James M. Harrison 7008 Security Blvd., Suite 120 Baltimore, MD 21244-2568 jmharrison@abcots.org



55th Annual Area III Meeting

American Baptist Churches of the South

Area III Moderators

1975	Rev. Dr. William V. Guy
1976 – 1979	Rev. O.T. Tomes
1980 – 1981	Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.
1982	Rev. Richard Chorley
1983 – 1986	Mrs. Barbara Burroughs
1987	Rev. Carl Rolle
1988-1990	Rev. Zack Alexander
1991 – 1993	Rev. Eddie L. Long
1995	Rev. Dr. Latta R. Tomas
1996 – 1998	Dr. Charles N. Hawk, Jr.
1999 – 2001	Mr. C. Bruce Bailey
2001 – 2003	Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Hammond, Jr.
2003 – 2005	Mrs. Nola Southerland
205 – 2007	Mr. Lewis Tiggler
2007-2009	Rev. Dr. Lacey S. Alford
2009 – 2011	Dr. Charles N. Hawk, Jr.
2012 – 2013	Dr. Cleopatrick Lacy
2014 – 2015	Deacon Joseph Hood
2016 – 2017	Deacon Andrew Ladd
2018 – 2019	Dr. Hillary Gaston, Sr.
2019 – 2022	Rev. Lolita Hickman
2023 – Present	Dr. Stephen Greene Howard



55th Annual Area III Meeting

American Baptist Churches of the South

Area III State Representation



Churches By Area

Triangle Area	Charlotte Vicinity	Asheville	Greensboro & Winston-Salem	Georgia & Columbia, SC	Atlanta Vicinity
Durham	Charlotte	Mt. Zion- Asheville	Greensboro	Georgia	Atlanta
Compassion Ministries	First-West	New Mt. Olive- Asheville	College Park	Tabernacle- Augusta	Ebenezer
First Calvary	Friendship	Morning Star- Hickory	Faith Step	Universal Ministries- Augusta	Friendship
First Chronicles	Garden of Prayer		Genesis	Moses Miss'y- Augusta	Georgia Avenue
Greater St. Paul	Mt. Carmel		Winston-Salem	First African- Columbus	Lindsay Street
Mt. Gilead	Myers Park		Emanuel	Fourth Street- Columbus	Mt. Calvary
Mt. Vernon	St. Luke		First	Conners Temple- Savannah	Providence Miss'y
Orange Grove	St. Paul		First Waightown	Mt. Zion- Savannah	Salem
Union	Temple Chapel		Knollwood	Columbia	Wheat Street
Watts	Wedgewood		Mt. Pleasant	First Calvary – Columbia, SC	Oakhurst- Decatur
White Rock	First-Concord			Second Calvary – Columbia, SC	Eighth Street- Griffin
Raleigh	Olive Grove- Littleton				Mt. Zion- Griffin
Christian Faith	First- Oxford				Trinity African- Mableton
First	New Son Spindale				
Martin Street					
Pullen					
Chapel Hill					
Barbee's Chapel					
First					
Olin T. Binkley					
Lewis Chapel- Fayetteville					
Cornerstone- Greenville					
Ebenezer – Rocky Mount					
St. James – Rocky Mount					
God's Vision- Louisburg					
Jackson Chapel- Wilson					



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American Baptist Churches of the South

Area III Churches

1. Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock
Rev. John Vaughn, Executive Pastor
Ebenezer Baptist Church
101 Jackson Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
www.historicebenezer.org
(404) 688-7300 – Church
(404) 201-0345 – Cell
info@ebenezerchurch.us
execassist@ebenezerchurch.us
2. Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Friendship Baptist Church 80 Walnut
Street, S.W. Atlanta, GA 30314
<http://fbcatlanta.org/>
(404) 688-0206 – Church
(404) 688-1111 – Fax
fbcatlanta@comcast.net
Helena.harper@fbcatlanta.org
3. Rev. Chad Hale
Georgia Avenue Baptist Church
645 Grant Street, SE
Atlanta, GA 30312-3146
(404) 688-0871 – Church
chadhale@bellsouth.net
4. Rev. Dr. Anthony A.W. Motley
Lindsay Street Baptist Church
550 Lindsay Street N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30314
(Location: 881 North Ave., NW)
www.lindsaystreetbaptistchurch.org
(404) 688-8959 – Church
lindsaychurch@bellsouth.net
5. Rev. James Alexander
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
17 Fairburn Road, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331-4002
www.atlmtcalvary.org
(404) 696-1039 – Church
(404) 696-1206 – Fax
information@atlmtcalvary.org
6. Rev. Dr. Jasper W. Williams, Jr.
Salem Baptist Church
2283 Baker Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318-6220
www.salembiblechurch.org
(404) 792-0303 – Church
7. Rev. Dr. William J. Smith
Wheat Street Baptist Church
18 William Holmes Borders Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30312-1508
(Location: 359 Auburn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30312)
www.wearewheatstreet.org
(404) 659-4328 – Church



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8. Rev. Dr. Charles Goodman, Jr.
Tabernacle Baptist Church
1223 Laney-Walker Boulevard
Augusta, GA 30901-2770
www.tbcaugusta.org
(706) 724-1230 – Church
9. Rev. Roderick B. Green
First African Baptist Church
P.O. Box 1214
Columbus, GA 31902-1214
(706) 323-3367 – Church
(706) 888-0050 – Cell
10. Rev. J.H. Flakes, III
Fourth Street Baptist Church
222 5th Street
Columbus, GA 31901
(Mailing: P.O. Box 1591, Columbus, GA 31902)
www.churcdirectory.tv
(706) 324-2055 – Church
(706) 324-1178 – Fax
11. Rev. Ceu P. Lian
Georgia Chin Baptist Church
2135 Shamrock Dr.
Decatur, GA 30032
(678) 973-3770 – Church
gachinpastors@outlook.com
ceuaap@gmail.com
12. Rev. Melanie Vaughn-Colwell
Oakhurst Baptist Church
222 East Lake Drive
Decatur, GA 30030-3595
www.oakhurstbaptist.org
(404) 378-3677 – Church
info@oakhurstbaptist.org
13. Rev. Antoine Lucas
Eighth Street Baptist Church
P.O. Box 950
Griffin, GA 30224-0950
www.esbcgriffin.org
(770) 228-1545 – Church
14. Rev. Dr. Cleopatrik Lacy
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
321 E. Taylor Street
Griffin, GA 30223-2426br
www.mtziongriffin.org
(770) 228-0310 – Church
Drcleo30223@yahoo.com
15. Rev. Dr. Portia Wills Lee
Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church
592 Veterans Memorial Highway, SW
Mableton, GA 30126-3322
(770) 941-4131 – Church
www.trinitytbc.org



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American Baptist Churches of the South

16. Rev. Terrance L. Burrell, Sr.
Connor's Temple Baptist Church
509 W. Gwinnett Street
Savannah, GA 31415-5444
www.connorstemplebaptistchurch.org
(912) 232-8291 – Church
Chur795@bellsouth.net
17. Rev. Gregory Ellis
Trinity Baptist Church
902 W 36th Street
Savannah, GA 31415
www.trinitybaptistsavannah.org
(912) 661-0847 – Church
contact@trinitybaptistsavannah.org
18. New Mt. Olive Baptist Church
2 Herman Street
Asheville, NC 28801-4657
(828) 253-0749 – Church
19. Bishop Gene Hatley
Barbee's Chapel Baptist Harvest Word
P.O. Box 9384
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
www.harvestwordministry.com
(919) 967-4586 – Church
(919) 932-1010 – Business
20. Htee Moo Karen Baptist Church
208 Lizzie Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 246-5714 – Church
21. Rev. Dr. Marcus McFaul
Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church
1712 Willow Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2945
www.binkleychurch.org
(919) 942-4964 – Church
(919) 360-5266 – Cell
marcus@binkleychurch.org
22. Rev. John Harris, D.Min.
Baptist Worship Center Charlotte
422 State Street #4
Charlotte, NC 28208
thebaptistworshipcentercharlotte@gmail.com
(704) 629-8470 – Church
(484) 489-0091 – Cell
therevjohnharris@gmail.com
23. Rev. Dr. Ricky A. Woods
First Baptist Church – West
1801 Oaklawn Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28216
www.fbcwest.org
(704) 372-1075 – Church
(704) 372-2309 – Fax
rwoods@fbcwest.org
24. Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
3400 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216-3737
www.friendshipcharlotte.org
(704) 392-0392 – Church
(704) 391-5800 – Fax
cpretty@friendshipcharlotte.org



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American Baptist Churches of the South

25. Rev. Dr. Casey Kimbrough
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
7237 Tuckaseegee Road
Charlotte, NC 28214
www.mcbaptist.org
(704) 394-3525 – Church
caseykimbrough@gmail.com
26. Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell
Myers Park Baptist Church
1900 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207-2582
www.mpbconline.org
(704) 334-7232 – Church
27. Rev. Thomas R. Farrow, Jr.
Reeder Memorial Baptist Church
3725 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216
www.reederministries.org
(704) 398-2914 – Church
(704) 375-8397 – Fax
28. Rev. Dr. Robert C. Scott
St. Paul Baptist Church
1401 North Allen Street
Charlotte, NC 28205-2897
www.stpaulbaptist.church
(704) 334-5309 – Church
29. Rev. Daron K. Mills
Temple Chapel Baptist Church
900 September Lane
Charlotte, NC 28208
(704) 393-2618 – Church
(803) 385-7231 – Cell
30. Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Ayers
Wedgewood Church
4800 Wedgewood Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210-2909
www.wedgewoodchurch.com
(704) 523-6108 – Church
31. Rev. Herb Rhedrick
First Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. 1322
Concord, NC 28026
www.fmbc-concord.org
(704) 786-6017 – Church
32. Rev. Marc Antoine Lavarin
First Calvary Baptist Church
1311 Morehead Avenue
Durham, NC 27707-1253
www.firstcalvary.org
(919) 489-4184 – Church
(919) 489-3565 – Fax



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American Baptist Churches of the South

33. Revs. William & Pebbles Lucas
First Chronicles Community Church
1306 Lincoln Street
Durham, NC 27701-4422
(919) 682-8880 – Church
Wlucas6@nc.rr.com
34. Rev. Dr. William Hazel Height
Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1102 Juniper Street
Durham, NC 27701-3541
(919) 294-6020 – Church
35. Rev. David Mitchell
Mount Gilead Baptist Church
P.O. Box 11877
Durham, NC 27703-0123
(919) 688-6052 – Church
(919) 682-7665 – Fax
www.mtgbc.org
36. Rev. Dr. Jerome Washington
Mount Vernon Baptist Church
1007 S. Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27707-1833
(919) 688-1823 – Church
(919) 688-0163 – Fax
www.mvbcdurham.org
37. Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Dickerson
Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church
505 East End Avenue
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 596-8088 – Church
www.ogmbc.org
admin@ogmbc.org
38. Rev. Prince R. Rivers
Union Baptist Church
904 N. Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701-2458
(919) 688-1304 – Church
(919) 688-1389 – Fax
www.myubc.org
eedwards@myubc.org
39. Rev. Dr. Reginald Van Stephens
White Rock Baptist Church
3400 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707-4017
(919) 688-8136 – Church
www.whiterockbaptistchurch.org
40. Rev. Alvin Harmon
First Baptist Church – Enfield
577 East Franklin St.
Enfield, NC 27823
(252) 445-2292 – Church
(252) 314-4303 – Cell
(Mailing: P.O. Box 605 Enfield, NC 27823-0605)
www.firstbaptistenfield.org



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American Baptist Churches of the South

41. Rev. Christoppher Daavon Stackhouse, Sr.
Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
5422 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304-3063
www.lewischapel.org
(910) 424-2344 – Church
(910) 424-0549 – Fax
(704) 281-2772 – Cell
Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr., Pastor Emeritus
42. Rev. Dr. Michael S. Usey
College Park Baptist Church
1601 Walker Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27403
www.collegeparkchurch.com
(336) 273-1779 – Church
43. Rev. Dr. Verenander Lloyd Hughes
Genesis Baptist Church
2812 E. Bessemer Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27405-7417
www.genesisbaptistchurch.org
(336) 379-1133 – Church
44. Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Howard
Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church
1095 Allen Road
Greenville, NC 27834-8594
www.cmbchurch.com
(252) 752-4156 – Church
pastor@mycmbcnc.org
45. Rev. David E. Roberts, II
Morning Star First Baptist Church
126 4th Avenue, SW
Hickory, NC 28602-2911
www.msfbcofhickory.org
(828) 327-2067 – Church
revroberts@embarqmail.com
46. Rev. Cornelius Moore
First Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 602
Kenansville, NC 28349
(910) 296-0684 – Church
(252) 266-8210 – Cell
47. Rev. Charles E. Walton
Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 809
Littleton, NC 27850-0809
www.olivegrovembc.org
(919) 586-4517 – Church
revcewalton@gmail.com
cewalton@nc.rr.com
48. Rev. Lacy L. Joyner
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 583
Oxford, NC 27565-0583
(919) 693-3669 – Church
49. Rev. Kerry Hawkins
New Freedom Baptist Church
P.O. Box 278
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 477-5892 – Church
khawkvx@aol.com



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American Baptist Churches of the South

50. Rev. Keith A. Darlington
Christian Faith Baptist Church
P.O. Box 28181
Raleigh, NC 27611-8181
www.christianfaithbaptist.org
(919) 833-5834 – Church
(919) 833-7180 – Fax
51. Rev. Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr.
First Baptist Church
101 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27611-7771
www.raleighfirstbaptist.org
(919) 832-1649 – Church
52. Rev. Dr. Shawn J. Singleton
Martin Street Baptist Church
1001 E. Martin Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1641
www.martinstreetbaptist.com
(919) 833-9756 – Church
53. Rev. Donald Brown
New Zion Baptist Church
P.O. Box 405
Spindale, NC 28160-0405
(828) 286-4511 – Church
54. Jackson Chapel First Baptist
Church 571 East Nash Street
Wilson, NC 27893-5100
(252) 243-4496 – Church
Drcw1906@gmail.com
jacksonchapel.wilson@gmail.com
55. Emmanuel Baptist Church
1075 Shalimar Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27107-1546
www.emmanuelbaptistws.com
(336) 788-7023 – Church
(336) 650-1825 – Fax
56. Rev. Glenn Pettiford – Assistant Pastor
First Baptist Church
700 N. Highland Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-4207
www.fbcwinston.org
(336) 722-5605 – Church
(336) 722-6266 – Fax
revpford@fbcwinston.org
fbcacctmgr@gmail.com
kssmith@fbcwinston.org
57. Rev. Dennis W. Bishop
First Waughtown Baptist Church
838 Moravia Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27107-3319
(336) 784-7386 – Church
Dennis_bishop@bellsouth.net
58. Rev. Dr. Robert B. Setzer, Jr.
Knollwood Baptist Church
330 Knollwood Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
www.knollwood.org
(336) 725-1343 – Church



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American Baptist Churches of the South

59. Rev. Sherwood T. Davis, Sr.
Mt. Pleasant Baptist
Church 495 NW Crawford
Place
Winston-Salem, NC 27105-5868
(336) 725-9623 – Church
(336) 655-8109 – Cell
60. Rev. Samuel K. Lewis
First Calvary Baptist Church
1401 Pine Street
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 256-3670 – Church
(803) 256-3013 – Fax
61. Rev. Dr. Carl Wells
Second Calvary Baptist Church
1110 Mason Road
Columbia, SC 29203
www.secondcalvarybaptist.org
(803) 714-9668 – Church
scalvary@bellsouth.net

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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH

AREA

ANNUAL MEETING

3

*"LIVING FOR CHRIST;
SERVING THE PRESENT AGE"*
ACTS 13:32-42



CORNERSTONE
Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene Howard, Senior Minister

WWW.MYCMBCNC.ORG

1095 Allen Rd, Greenville, NC 27834

PHONE: (252) 752-4156 • FAX: (252) 752-4405