

**Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc.**  
Lenoir, North Carolina



## April 2022 e-Caller

**Issue No. 148**

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### MOMENTS WITH YOUR MISSION STRATEGIST

**Rev. R. Dale Fisher**  
Mission Strategist

### When to Retire?

When should a person retire is a question on the minds of many people? There are several factors to consider when making this important decision, which include but are not limited to health, finances, years of service, effectiveness, and so on. The most important consideration is when does God want a person to retire from a position.

When I was a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, I was introduced to the Annuity Board (now GuideStone) of the Southern Baptist Convention. Representatives came from their headquarters in Dallas over to Fort Worth to share about their retirement plans with students who were near graduation. I was twenty-five years old at the time and retirement seemed so far away (but it doesn't now). Later that year, I was called as the Minister of Education for the Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville, which had a policy of providing retirement through the Annuity Board for their ministers. I am so glad the church got me started with the Annuity Board (now GuideStone) at that young age and that all of my other employers have continued to make contributions to my retirement plan. Please make sure that each of your pastors and church staff members are involved in some retirement plan.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as leader of the Caldwell Baptist Association for thirty-six years. The Lord called me into the gospel

### Contact Us

Caldwell Baptist Association  
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Lenoir, NC 28645  
Telephone: 828-758-4081  
Fax: 828-754-2884

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Website:

[www.caldwellbaptist.org](http://www.caldwellbaptist.org)

#### Emails:

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ministry in 1972 at the age of twenty while I was a student at Mars Hill College (now university). Next week, on April 4, 2022, I will reach the age of seventy. During these fifty years of ministry, God has given me the opportunity to serve as pastor or as a staff minister in several churches, and to lead two Baptist associations of churches (French Broad and Caldwell). He has given me the opportunity to serve in many volunteer positions in our state and national conventions, as well as in several local entities. My age and years of ministry are strong enough factors to indicate that it is time to retire. However, there is a deeper reason, I sense in my heart that it is time to turn over the leadership to someone else. I believe that God already has my successor ready to assume this position at His perfect time. The messengers approved a wonderful Executive Director Search Team to discern God's leadership concerning my successor, and I believe that they will present the person God has prepared for the position in the days ahead. Please earnestly pray for them as they work through this process.

So, the time for me to retire as Executive Director/Associational Mission Strategist for the Caldwell Baptist Association is April 30, 2022. However, this doesn't mean that I am retiring from ministry. Only when God calls me home to heaven will it be time for that to happen. Moving forward, there will be other capacities in which I will be able to serve our great God. So if you need a supply preacher or teacher, I would be happy for you to contact me.

- Dale, Mission Strategist (Soon to retire)

## **Retirement Reception Honoring Rev. Dale Fisher Saturday, April 23, 2022**



You are cordially invited to a reception honoring Rev. Dale Fisher upon his retirement from the Caldwell Baptist Association. This reception will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 2:00-4:00 PM at Mount Zion Baptist Church located at 1787 Cajah Mountain Road, Hudson, NC. Dale has served the Caldwell Baptist Association faithfully for 36 years and will be greatly missed. Cards expressing your appreciation for his service are encouraged.

## **Executive Director Search Team**

### **Executive Director Search Team Report**

The AMS Search Team appreciates your prayers as we continue the process of seeking for the person to serve as our next Associational Mission Strategist. We are currently in the time of waiting for resumes. We will continue in this phase of the search through April. We did not get to begin the advertisement as early as we had hoped, therefore it will be longer than we had planned.

The Team is continuing to meet and work on other parts of the search process while we are waiting for the resumes. We are seeking to have necessary plans in place and be ready when we are in future phases of the search process.

We are looking forward to working through the resumes. As you know, we want to be sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit! We believe the Lord will direct us as we are obedient to Him. The Team begins and ends each meeting with a season of prayer, asking the Lord to give us guidance and wisdom.

Our desire is to keep you informed so you will know where we are in the search and that you will be better informed as you pray. Thank you for keeping the Team as well as Caldwell Baptist Association in your prayers through this time!

May the Lord bless each member of the Caldwell Association and help us to follow Him! Thank God for a Family of Churches who care and want the Lord to be honored in all we do!

Stuart White,  
Executive Director Search Team Leader  
Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc.

### **The Caldwell Baptist Association is accepting resumes for an Executive Director/Associational Mission Strategist**

Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc., located in the Foothills of Western NC, is prayerfully seeking an Associational Mission Strategist that God is calling to lead the 72 churches in our association to fulfill the Great Commission. We are a healthy, Christ-centered association with a solid foundation and are involved at the county, state and national levels.

Responsibilities of this position include the ability to work with:

- Pastors
- Churches
- Associational and church leaders
- Organizations
- Management of the associational office and staff
- We would also like for the ideal candidate to strengthen relationships with our churches and provide missionary leadership.

The ideal candidate must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree (affiliated SBC seminary or college) and a minimum of at least 5 years of pastoral ministry experience. If God is leading you, please submit your resume, along with a statement of your personal testimony and your picture to Caldwell Baptist Association, PO Box 1555, Lenoir, NC 28645 Attn: AMS Search Committee or send to the email address below by April 30, 2022.

[caldwellamssearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:caldwellamssearchcommittee@gmail.com)



**The Caldwell Baptist Center will be closed  
April 15, 2022 in observance of Good Friday.**

## **Media Library Book Fair Monday, April 4, 2022**



Church librarians are invited to Leap of Faith Book Store in Lenoir for a Book Fair on Monday, April 4 at 6:00 PM. The Caldwell Baptist Association will provide each librarian with a gift card to be applied to a purchase and Leap of Faith will provide refreshments. Come and stock up your church libraries and enjoy the refreshments and the fellowship.

## **Senior Adult Lunch & Learn Tuesday, April 5, 2022**



After a two year absence due to COVID, the monthly Senior Adult Lunch & Learns will start again on Tuesday, April 5 at 11:15 AM at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant in Lenoir. This will be a Dutch-treat luncheon and Bible study for all interested senior adults. Rev. Dale Fisher, Associational Mission Strategist, will lead the Bible study. Please register by Friday, April 1 by calling 758-4081 or email [Darlene](mailto:Darlene).

## **Ministers Conference Wednesday, April 6, 2022**



The next Ministers Conference will be held on April 6 at 10:00 AM at the Caldwell Baptist Center. The program will be *The Congregation's Shepherd* led by Rev. Dale Fisher, Associational Mission Strategist. A Dutch-treat lunch will be enjoyed by all interested persons at a nearby restaurant following the conference.

## **Dinner Meeting for Pastors and Deacons Thursday, April 7, 2022**



This dinner meeting for pastors and deacons will be at AJ's Steak House in Lenoir on Thursday, April 7, at 6:00 PM. This is for all pastors and deacons in member churches of the Caldwell Baptist Association. The cost is \$5.00 per person payable to the Caldwell Baptist Association at the dinner. Exact cash would be appreciated and no credit or debit cards will be accepted. The program will be "Deacons Serving in Pastoral Ministries, led by Rev. Dale Fisher. Reservations are needed no later than Monday, April 4th. Each pastor or deacon chair is asked to call the Baptist Center (758-4081) or send an [email](#) with the number planning to attend from their church. When you arrive at AJ's go to the back dining room. Do not go through the serving line. Plates will be available in the back dining room and the group will go together to the buffet.

## **Retired Ministers & Wives Luncheon**

### **Tuesday, April 12, 2022**



Retired ministers and wives are invited to AJ's Steak House on Tuesday, April 12 at 11:30 a.m. Participants will enjoy a devotion led by Dr. Steve Parker, Interim Pastor at Miller Hill Baptist Church, and a meal compliments of the Caldwell Baptist Association. Please make your reservation by calling 758-4081 or [email](#) no later than Friday, April 8. When you arrive at the restaurant, please go to the back dining room. Do not go through the serving line. Plates will be available in the back dining room and the group will go together to the buffet.

## **WMU Meeting and Banquet**

### **Tuesday, April 12, 2022**



The 107th annual WMU Meeting and the 24th annual Banquet will be held at the Life Center of the First Baptist Church of Hudson on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 PM. Guest speakers will include NCWMU President, Deborah Taylor and her daughter Cassie Taylor. Robin's Nest Children's Advocacy Center in Lenoir will be our Mission Spotlight with Angie Gragg sharing information about the center. If possible bring something for the center from the following list: stationary, individually wrapped snacks, small toys about the size of Happy Meal toys, juice boxes and small bottles of water. Rev. Dale Fisher will be addressing WMU for the final time before his retirement. We will also have special music, a photo slideshow and take an offering for the Ruth Keller Craig Scholarship Fund.

The meal will be catered by Richter Scale Catering at the cost of \$10.00 per person. The menu will be lasagna, spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, desserts, tea and water. Please register by providing the name of your church, how many will be attending, and \$10.00 per person by Thursday, April 7 at 4:00 PM. Checks should be made payable and sent with the registration to the Caldwell Baptist Association, PO

Box 1555, Lenoir, NC 28645. Payment will not be received at the door.

## **Church Secretaries' Luncheon**

### **Thursday, April 21, 2022**



Church secretaries are invited to AJ's Steak House on Thursday, April 21 at 12:00 PM. Secretaries will be honored with a small gift and a meal. After two years of COVID, it will be good to see one another again. Please RSVP by Monday, April 18 by [email](#) or call 758-4081. When you arrive at the restaurant, please go to the back room. Do not go through the serving line. Plates will be available in the back room and we will go together as a group to the buffet.

## **BCH Food/Supply Roundup**

### **Sunday, April 24, 2022**



It is time to start collecting for the annual Baptist Children's Homes Food and Supply Roundup. You may drop off your items one day only on Sunday, April 24, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the garage behind the Caldwell Baptist Center at 208 NuWay Circle, Lenoir. Click [here](#) for a list of needed items.

## **Spring Associational Gathering**

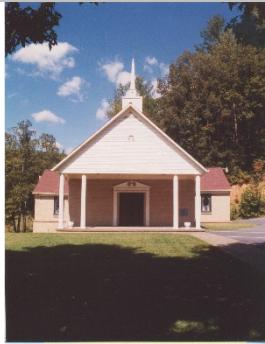
### **Thursday, April 28, 2022**



Messengers to the Caldwell Baptist Association will meet at Union Grove Baptist Church on April 28 at 6:30 PM for a catered meal, program, and special presentation. This will be Rev. Dale Fisher's final Associational Gathering as Associational Mission Strategist for the Caldwell Baptist Association and messengers are encouraged to bring a card of appreciation to present to him.

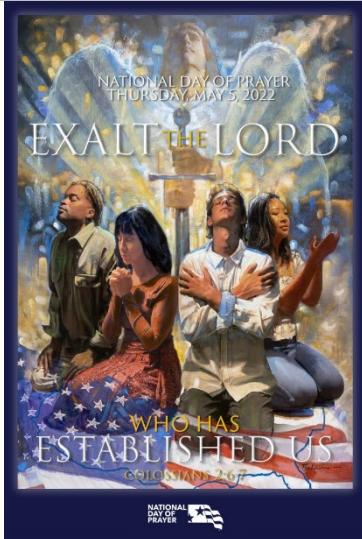
## **Ministers Evening Fellowship**

## Monday, May 2, 2022



This fellowship is for all interested ministers, including pastors, staff ministers, and retired ministers. It will be held at Mulberry Baptist Church, 4024 Kirby Mountain Rd, Lenoir on Monday, May 2 at 6:30 PM. It includes a time of fellowship with a complimentary meal and program. Please register by calling the Baptist Center at 758-4081 or send an [email](#) by Thursday, April 28.

## National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5, 2022



The 71st Annual National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 5 from 12:00-12:30 PM. The theme is "Exalt the Lord Who has Established Us" taken from Colossians 2:6-7. Please follow current CDC guidelines in regards to masks and social distancing. These prayer services will take place at the following four locations.

- Lenoir Downtown Plaza with the rain location First Baptist Church Lenoir sanctuary
- Gamewell Town Hall the gazebo area with the rain location in the council chambers
- First Baptist Church Hudson at the picnic shelter with the rain location in the sanctuary
- First Baptist Church Granite Falls front yard area with the rain location in the fellowship building

## Harvest Seeds Ministry



The Caldwell Baptist Center continues to be a collection site for used literature for Harvest Seeds Ministry. Please bring your gently used literature to the back of the Baptist Center during the hours of 8:30am-12:30pm and 1:30-4:30pm Monday-Friday. Press the button beside the glass door to alert the staff that you have arrived. When you are gathering materials to donate and packing your boxes, please pack to make sure that the outside covers are flat and not curled, or missing on your materials. If your books are dusty please wipe them off. Do not send any materials that have mold or mildew on them because they have to be thrown away. Literature must be delivered in boxes with lids for easy packing. If the box has flaps, please make sure the flaps are not folded into the box. The boxes must be brought ready for shipment with no exposed literature.

## Caldwell Baptist Association Financial Report March 2022

Click on the button below to see the Financial Report

**Financial Report**

## Church News

**Attention VBS Directors:** There is a church in the association that has a lot of Vacation Bible School craft materials that they would like to give away to a church. If interested please call the Baptist Center at 758-4081.

Lakeview Baptist Church invites youth and college career groups to join them in a Sunday Funday Meet and Greet on April 3. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at Lakeview at 12:30 for pizza and then everyone will go to Bo's in Lenoir for bowling. The price is \$20 per lane (8 per lane) and \$2.50 per person for shoes. Will conclude around 3:30 PM. If interested please RSVP to Nancy Hawkins by email [hawkinsfive@bellsouth.net](mailto:hawkinsfive@bellsouth.net) or text 828-292-2910 by March 20th.

Several churches are working on a combined Youth Praise and Worship Night to be held on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 PM at Hudson First Baptist Church. Dan Kiefer at Concord Baptist Church extends an invitation to all youth to attend.

Clover Baptist Church, 100 Pinewood, Granite Falls extends an invitation to attend the following events.

- "Second Generation" quartet will be in concert at the church on Sunday, April 10 at 11:00 AM. A free will love offering will be received.
- An Easter drama, "Two On The Emmaus Road" will be presented at the church on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 PM. All seating is free for this presentation.

- The drama will presented in the form of a Dinner Theatre on Saturday, April 16 at 6:00 PM. Reservations are required and seating will be limited to 150 due to social distancing. Reservations will be accepted beginning March 1 by calling 828-396-2417 or stopping by the church office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM Monday-Thursday. Click [here](#) for more information.
- A Sunrise Service is being planned for Sunday, April 17 at 6:45 AM followed by a fellowship breakfast. Sunday School is scheduled for 9:45 and worship service at 11:00. Everyone is encouraged to join with our church for worship because Jesus Is Alive!

For a list of available interim/supply ministers click on the [link](#).

## Community News

### **Baptists on Mission Ukraine Update March 13, 2022**

God has opened doors for Baptists on Mission to send volunteers into Hungary and Poland to assist with refugees who have left Ukraine. Because of the war, things change often. Right now, we are sending volunteers to assist displaced refugees and we are keeping a list of potential volunteers who have a passport and would be willing to go and assist in relief efforts. We have had many more people to volunteer than we are able to send. Signing up will only put you on a list of potential volunteers if this was needed.

One of the greatest needs right now is monetary donations to provide food, medical supplies, hygiene items and other essential supplies. On faith, we have committed to sending a significant amount of funds to assist people in the region. These funds will be used for purchasing food, medicines/medical supplies, hygiene items and other assistance for displaced Ukrainians. Through a trusted partner, we are able to get these items into Ukraine and to the churches who are housing internally displaced Ukraine refugees. We are getting most of these items in Europe, so financial support is what is needed. Your gifts to Baptists on Mission -Ukraine Crisis will provide non-perishable food, toiletries, medical supplies, blankets and other essential needs for temporary housing. 100% of what you give will go to this effort. To give to this fund make checks payable and send to Baptists on Mission, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Designate for Ukraine Crisis. To give online go to <https://baptistsonmission.org/ukraine-crisis>.

The NCBAM Aging Well Conference will be held April 7th in Ashe County. It will be a blessed day of worship, learning and fellowship. For more information click [here](#).

The 2022 Missions Extravaganza Conference & WMU NC Annual Meeting will be held April 22-23 at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC. For more information and to register click [here](#).

Baptists on Mission is sponsoring a *Men's Outdoor Weekend* on April 29-30 at Camp Caraway. The cost is \$88 per person, which includes Friday night lodging and three meals on Saturday. To register and for more information click [here](#).

The Baptist Children's Homes of NC have started back their Saturday Missions Day. This is a local, one-day missions opportunity for your church to help with projects at their ministry locations. Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with projects from 9:00 until noon, followed by lunch, and optional tours. Click [here](#) to register or contact Alan Williams at 336-474-1277 for more information. The dates are as follows:  
April 9 - Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron

May 7 - Odum Home, Pembroke  
May 14 - Kennedy Home, Kinston  
May 21 - Camp Duncan, Aberdeen

Would you like to know more about Truett Conference Center & Camp located in Hayesville, NC? If so, click on this [link](#). They have some upcoming events that you may be interested in. Click on the following links for more information.

[\*\*Father & Son Warrior Weekend\*\*](#): April 8-10

[\*\*WMU Event\*\*](#): April 22-23

[\*\*Mother & Daughter Retreat\*\*](#): April 29 to May 1

Unifour Christian Singles and Seniors have several upcoming events. Please click on the [link](#) for detailed information.

## Available Positions

Dudley Shoals Baptist Church in Granite Falls is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. Resumes may be mailed to Post Office Box 674, Granite Falls, NC 28630 or [email](#) by May 9. For more information click [here](#).

Dry Ponds Baptist Church in Granite Falls is seeking a Music Minister. Resumes may be sent to the church at 5235 Union Church Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630 or [email](#). Must be received by March 15, 2022. Click on the [link](#) to get the job description and list of qualifications.

Union Baptist Church is searching for a part-time (15-hours weekly) Financial Secretary/Receptionist. Please submit resumes to Paula Benfield, Search Committee Chairman, Union Baptist Church, 4595 Union Baptist Road, Lenoir, NC 28645.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Hudson, NC, is seeking a pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 859, Hudson, NC 28638.

Friendship Baptist Church, Hudson NC, is seeking an energetic interim children/Youth leader with potential for a permanent position (15-20 hours per week). Please [email](#) resumes.

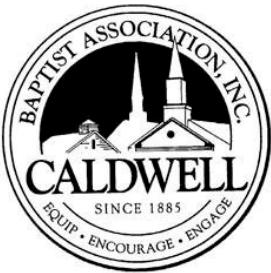
Nelson's Chapel Baptist Church of Lenoir is seeking a part-time minister of children and youth. Resumes can be sent to the church at 4958 Kirby Mountain Rd, Lenoir or by email [here](#).

Lower Creek Baptist Church in Lenoir is seeking a full time associate pastor. Click on the [link](#) to submit a resume. For more information about the position click [here](#) or go to the church [website](#).

Middle Fork Baptist Church in Blowing Rock is seeking a pastor. Click on the [link](#) to send resumes. For more information click [here](#).

Oak Grove Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro is seeking a full-time pastor. Click on the [link](#) for more information concerning this position and requirements for submitting a resume.

First Baptist Hildebran is seeking a senior pastor, pianist, and a music director. For more information click [here](#).



Visit the Caldwell Baptist Association's Website

[www.caldwellbaptist.org](http://www.caldwellbaptist.org)

Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc. | PO Box 1555, Lenoir, NC 28645

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