



NORTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST AGING MINISTRY
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Help for the Journey

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The Newsletter for North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

NCBAM is a dynamic Christian resource for the aging and their families. It is Christ-centered and seeks to treat the aging with dignity and respect enabling individuals to maintain independence and a quality life. NCBAM is a ministry of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Michael C. Blackwell, President.

A Little Voice From Heaven

By Carol Layton

Seventy-five-year-old Maxine Hare laughs with embarrassment remembering how she responded to her pastor back in 1995 when he phoned her one day. When he asked her to assume a leadership role in senior ministry, she flatly told him, "I don't want to be a senior, and I don't want to work with them either!"

With a satisfied smile, Hare hung up the phone – glad the discussion was over. But before she could walk through the dining room, she heard a little voice. "I didn't ask you if you wanted to. I didn't ask you if you had time, talent or money. I asked you to follow Me."

Hare recognized the voice. She didn't procrastinate or even feel the need to pray about it. She turned around, went back to the kitchen, and called her pastor.

Hare soon began serving as Sunday School Director for aging adults at North Kannapolis Baptist Church and hasn't slowed down since. "I've served in senior ministry in many capacities over the years, and I am more excited about it now than ever. My church's partnership with



Maxine Hare is a spark plug igniting excitement as North Kannapolis Baptist Church outreaches to aging adults. She has served the aging in her church for many years, but says she is more excited about it now than ever.

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry has opened doors for us to expand beyond what we were able to do before."

Hare first learned of North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) last winter during a Cabarrus Association meeting. Debbie Pilson, a regional director for NCBAM, was giving a presentation about the new ministry and how churches and associations could be involved.

Hare remembers, "I could see that the structure NCBAM had put in place would be an effective way to continue ministering to seniors in our church and that it would give us more opportunities

for community ministry. I immediately called my pastor and shared what I had learned."

Hare's pastor, Rev. Chris O'Guin, was equally excited. Pilson reports that Maxine's enthusiasm has spread to other church members. "Maxine is on fire! She is a beautiful example of a North Carolina Baptist effectively leading a ministry for seniors."

Hare is grateful for the meaningful work the Lord has given her to do. "We know this ministry will expand, and we're excited to see what God will do. We want to let our community know that we are ready, willing and able to help seniors."

PHOTO: NCBAM Director Sandy Gregory and the NCBAM Team were recognized by the Southern Association for Area Agencies on Aging for outstanding community service in North Carolina.



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INSIDE:

Fall is a time to celebrate God's blessings – NCBAM marks its first anniversary with thanksgiving!

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Strength In Relationships

By Dr. Sandy Gregory

NCBAM has been awarded the "Outstanding Community Service" award by the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging. It was an honor to receive this award on behalf of North Carolina Baptists and the NCBAM team.

The secret to being recognized is our commitment to "building relationships." John C. Maxwell, noted Christian author, writes, "Relationships are the glue that sticks an organization together." By partnering and working with many Baptist churches, associations and social service agencies, we are making a difference.

In less than a year, NCBAM has helped almost 400 needy aging adults. Those needs are varied and include providing vital information on services. The NCBAM call center staff works diligently calling and networking with churches to meet needs. Our continued success lies within our relationships with each other.



Dr. Gregory is a native of Statesville. His pride and joy are his three teenage sons.

Reflect with me...

Are You Tired? Many Are

By Wendy Minton Edwards

I love an old quote about being tired. The author comically lists many potential culprits before coming to the conclusion that he/she is tired because he/she is the only person working. The number of those who work long hours tirelessly in schools, hospitals, prisons, rest homes, etc. are subtracted from the population and only two people remain – you and me.

Since you're busy reading this, you certainly aren't working. The thought concludes, "I'm doing all the work. No wonder I'm tired."

Ever felt like that?

While I'm under no illusion

that I'm the only one working, I do feel tired at times. And I'm not alone. I regularly hear people speak of tiredness, weariness or fatigue. Reflect for a moment about what is wearing you down and draining your energy and passion.

Scripture teaches that Christians find strength through the eternal Zoe (higher life in God). God's zoe is mentioned 120 times in the New Testament in reference to the Tree of

Life, Crown of Life, Book of Life, or Spirit of Life.

God's zoe never runs out and never runs low. Is God's zoe flowing in your life today?

Nehemiah 8:10 proclaims - "the joy of the LORD is your strength."



Wendy Minton Edwards lives in Spring Hope with her husband of 20 years, Arnold Ray.

Get involved and help an aging adult.

There is an immediate and urgent need for transportation assistance and friendly visit/respice care providers.

Visit www.ncbam.org/involved or call 877-50 NCBAM.

Take Off with this special "Passport!"

Call 1-877-506-2226 to order these helpful guides with suggestions on how you can minister to aging adults!



Church Powers-Up for Take Off

By Carol Layton

Like a pilot preparing for takeoff, North Kannapolis Baptist Church has completed its pre-flight checklist. They've prayed, planned, researched, raised funds, and trained volunteers. Since partnering with North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), their staff members and volunteers are prepared to be a "first class" resource for their community's aging.

Debbie Pilson, a regional director for NCBAM, serves as an advisor with the church. "They are an excellent model for how an effective ministry to aging individuals should be developed. They have positioned themselves well and are ready to 'take off.'"

Chris O'Guin, pastor of North Kannapolis Baptist Church, welcomed his church's partnership with NCBAM. "We were already doing ministry work with seniors – building ramps, helping with transportation, groceries and other things. But we wanted to do more – to extend the ministry into the community. We're excited to partner with NCBAM and we are enthusiastic about their intent to help seniors stay in their homes. We, too, are passionate about this mission."

O'Guin also applied for



North Kannapolis Baptist Church partners with NCBAM to outreach to the aging in their community. Pastor Chris O'Guin places a high priority on reaching aging adults as the church focuses on growth.

a NCBAM matching grant available through the Baptist State Convention. "The grant allowed us to expand and jumpstart our ministry into the community. An advisory team is now planning a silent auction and dinner party in October to match the funds."

Pilson explains the importance of financial planning. "Some churches see needs and receive a grant to meet those needs. The needs are met and that is great, but then a church might not have a system in place for sustaining their ministry. North Kannapolis has done it right. They not only have planned financially for their ministry, they have trained volunteers in place ready to minister."

A five-member Advisory Team meets regularly to brainstorm ways to make a difference in people's lives. The Advisory Team has recruited church members with areas of expertise such as roofing, plumbing, and nursing who can offer services. Twenty-one people have been trained as Care Team Members. The Care Team ministers as needs become known. Calls for assistance in their community that come into NCBAM's hotline are referred to the church.

Rev. O'Guin is excited. "This is not a short-term project for us, but a long-term commitment to seniors. The lifeblood of the church is when people are involved in ministry outside the church doors."