



Zebulon Baptist Church
Strategic Plan
2008-2009

We Are Called to Be God's People



We Are Called to Be God's People

-Thomas A. Jackson

We are called to be God's people,
showing by our lives His grace,
one in heart and one in spirit,
sign of hope for all the race.
Let us show how He has changed us,
and remade us as His own,
let us share our life together
as we shall around His throne.

We are called to be God's servants,
working in His world today;
taking His own task upon us,
all His sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to His summons,
dedicate to Him our all,
that we may be faithful servants,
quick to answer now His call.

We are called to be God's prophets,
speaking for the truth and right,
standing firm for godly justice,
bringing evil things to light.
Let us seek the courage needed,
our high calling to fulfill,
that the world may know the blessing
of the doing of God's will.

The 2008-2009 Church Year at Zebulon Baptist Church

In looking ahead to prepare this plan for our congregation, the Strategic Planning Team used a process to help us identify our church's celebrations, challenges, problems, and opportunities. We did our best to assess our passion for and expertise in certain ministries in developing this plan. The following emphases for the coming year reflect our process of discussion and discernment.

CELEBRATIONS



Our Partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The Team identified our partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as something to be celebrated. In this year in which our Senior Pastor serves as the Moderator of CBF, we encourage the church to strengthen “the ties that bind” us in mission and fellowship in the following ways:

1. Take advantage of member involvement in CBF mission opportunities such as the short term mission project in the Henderson, Warrenton, Littleton area this fall and to encourage members to participate in a mission trip to Belize working with CBF missionaries in the summer or early fall of 2009.
2. Engage in our agreed upon role to be the Encourager Church for Kenny and Karen Sherin, CBF missionaries serving in the Rural Poverty Initiative. This will include prayer support, learning about their ministry and its needs, and finding creative ways to partner with Kenny and Karen.
3. Utilize the positive aspects of our CBF identity in our outreach to the community in new and creative ways.



Benevolence Ministry

The benevolence ministries of our church are a cause for celebration. We are pleased that persons seeking food and fuel assistance, clothing assistance, help in purchasing needed medications, and other forms of benevolence turn to our church. Our Christmas benevolence ministry and our Operation InAsMuch partnership with

Zebulon First Baptist Church are both strong examples of our mission efforts to provide relief for the poor and ministry to children and to the elderly. We believe that these ministries should only be strengthened in light of our economic pressures felt by so many in our community. We celebrate that through our budget process and our Believe Campaign Mission Ventures our church sets aside significant funds for local ministry. In the coming year we urge the church to continue to be faithful in local missions and also do these additional things in the area of local benevolence ministry:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current structure of our food pantry ministry and provide for it through continued gifts for hunger ministry when we celebrate communion.
2. Explore the potential of a ministry partnership endorsed by our Executive Committee, Administrative Deacons, and Ministry Deacons with the Association of Domestic Violence Outreach Stores that will enable us to engage in a clothing ministry once again that will also provide help for victims of domestic abuse. This is a model that has proven effective in many North Carolina communities that we want to help establish in Zebulon.
3. Engage in a discernment process that involves staff, mission leaders, and at-large members of the congregation to identify where God is leading us as a missional church. This process should identify our:
 - Mission philosophy
 - Mission goals
 - Mission process and organization
 - Mission opportunities

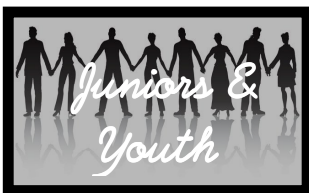
CHALLENGES



Effective Volunteerism

There are so many wonderful volunteers in our church. But, it is indeed a challenge to match our members' gifts, interests, and availability with the ministry needs and opportunities of our congregation. We encourage the church to take on this challenge in the coming year by:

1. Giving high priority to the training of the ministry teams and their leaders in the next church year.
2. Setting a goal of increased member participation on each Ministry Team by the end of the 2008-2009 church year.



Ministry to Juniors, Youth, and Their Families

Zebulon Baptist Church has long been noted for effective ministry to youth. Youth who have been active in our ministries to young people have gone on to serve the Lord well as lay leaders and ministers in our church and in other congregations. But, we recognize the many challenges of effective youth ministry today. Many old patterns of ministry are well worn. Youth and older children live busy lives. There is often a lack of clarity concerning the real goals of ministry to youth. We believe our congregation is up to the challenge of energizing our ministry to youth, juniors, and their families in the coming year. We suggest these strategies:

1. Changing the Wednesday Night program for Juniors, Grades 4 through 7, to include thirty-five minutes each week led by our Youth Minister. This time for Juniors will be much like the time the older youth enjoy each Wednesday night. We believe that this change can excite and inspire our older children and younger teens to develop greater closeness with their peers at church and encourage them in a positive way to grow closer to God.
2. Provide a mission group experience for Grade 4-7 girls on Sunday afternoons.
3. Energize our Youth Ministry with greater outreach, a big/brother and big/sister ministry, the revitalization of the mentoring program, The Samuel Project, partnership with other youth groups, and more mission outreach.
4. A focus on developing and training effective ministry teams for Juniors and for Youth.
5. Help for parents of Juniors and Youth in parenting issues and in giving spiritual leadership in the home.



Stewardship and Giving

Zebulon Baptist Church is supported by the tithes and offerings of its members. Two main streams of revenue fund our ministries – the UNIFIED BUDGET, which funds our mission partnerships, pays for staff salaries, supports the programs and ministries of the church, and provides the resources needed for the routine operations of our church and its campus, and, the BELIEVE CAMPAIGN – which pays our indebtedness for the purchase and renovation of Building D and also provides funds for the Mission Ventures of our congregation and Caring for the Campus, special capital projects that are needed. Our church must meet the challenge of fully funding both revenue streams in the coming year. We recommend:

1. Increase the percentage of church families that give to the Unified Budget and the Believe Campaign.
2. Encourage the Stewardship Team of the Administrative Deacons to provide challenge and motivation for the congregation to reach its stewardship goals.

3. Conduct a life skills workshop for adults that will take seriously the challenges faced by Christians living in these economic times. This workshop should address topics such as career assessment, job searching, personal budgeting, estate planning, and Christian stewardship.
4. Focus on improving the percentage of members in attendance in Sunday School and worship. The spiritual benefits of faithful, regular attendance are the primary reason for promoting attendance. But, the secondary benefit is the link between attendance and giving.

OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday School

A new Pastor for Discipleship begins her ministry on our staff in this church year, providing us with wonderful opportunity to evaluate our Sunday School ministry, improve and promote it, and look to new and creative ways to involve our congregation and reach out to our community through a Sunday School ministry of Bible study, fellowship, mutual care, and outreach.

Here are specific actions to be taken:

1. Use the website to promote Sunday School. Post pictures of classes and descriptions of their ministry.
2. Provide training opportunities for all Sunday School workers.
3. Set goals for attendance in every age group and level of Sunday School for the entire year. Work to achieve those goals so that our Sunday School attendance is consistently over 300 and is closer to our worship attendance.
4. Assess and strengthen the Sunday School Communities and their outreach to members, guests, and unchurched persons in our community.



Website

Our Pastor for Congregational Care, with the help of our Church Administrator, have moved us forward in developing a more effective website. In the year ahead we want to continue to advance the website, making it an effective site for communication, information, interaction, and outreach. Everyone's help is needed in getting the best information on-line and in giving feedback on how the website meets your needs. Visit the website often and invite your friends and neighbors to check us out at www.zebulonbaptist.com.



Pictorial Directory

It is time to get our new families and their faces into a Church Directory that we will all use and enjoy. After the September Conference, there will be a Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator for a Pictorial Directory project that will be carried out in the coming year.



*Preparing For A Unique Opportunity
100 Years of Ministry As Zebulon Baptist Church*

Zebulon Baptist Church's history is rooted in the beginnings of a ministry that began at White Stone Masonic Lodge in 1869. The church was constituted and recognized by the Raleigh Baptist Association in 1871. But, it was in October of 1909 that the minutes of the Raleigh Baptist Association reflect that the church notified the Association that it was changing its name to Zebulon Baptist Church and moving to the new town of Zebulon. That move took place in the winter of 1910. From October of 2009 through February of 2010 we want to celebrate "100 Years of Ministry" in the town of Zebulon. Our Moderator will appoint a group to be elected by the church at the November Conference so that we can take advantage to celebrate this 100-year milestone in ministry in the next church year.



2008-2009 Calendar Highlights

The Fall Quarter, October - December, 2008

- Fall Revival
September 28 - October 1
Dr. William Self, Pastor
Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta, Georgia
- Deacon Ordination and Installation
October 19, 6:30 PM
- Training for Ministry Teams
October 5
- Training for Sunday School Leaders
October 12
- Fall Carnival
Wednesday, October 22
- North Carolina CBF Mission Weekend to
Henderson/Littleton
October 24,25
- Trunk-Or-Treat
Sunday, October 26
- Sunday before All Saints
October 26
- Homecoming Sunday
November 2, Dinner on the Grounds
Speaker, Dr. Charles Edwards, former Zebulon Baptist
Pastor
- Musical by the Sanctuary Choir with Orchestra,
6:30, November 2
"Classic Praise", A Celebration for Homecoming Sunday
- November, Youth Dinner for Senior Adults
- Fall Quarter Conference
November 16
- Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 25
Hosted by Wakefield Central Baptist Church
- Advent Wreath Workshop
6:30, November 30
- Ingathering for the CBF Global Missions Offering
December 7, 10 AM
- The Hanging of the Green
6:30, December 7
- The Joy Gift Service
6:30, December 14
- Christmas Benevolence Ministry
Week of December 15:20
- Sanctuary Choir Musical
6:30, December 21
"Noel"
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services,
December 24, 5:00 and 11:00 PM

The Winter Quarter, January-March, 2009

- College Night at Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 6:30 PM
- Zebulon King Day Breakfast at Zebulon Baptist
January 19
- Winter Bible Study, "The Book of Acts"
Morning Sermons, Evening Bible Studies
- Valentine's Banquet
February 15
- Youth Sunday
February 22
- Winter Quarter Conference
February 22, 6:30
- Ash Wednesday
February 25
- North Carolina CBF General Assembly
March 20-21
Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville
- Lenten Season, with Lenten Small Groups
through March

The Spring Quarter, April - June, 2009

- Palm Sunday
April 5
- Easter Musical
Palm Sunday Evening
- Picnic and Egg Hunt
Wednesday, April 8
- Maundy Thursday Worship
Thursday, April 9
- Easter Sunrise Service and Easter Worship
Sunday, April 12
- Operation InAsMuch
with Zebulon First Baptist Church
- BELIEVE Sunday
May 3 (celebrating the campaign's end of year 1)
- Mother's Day
Parent/Child Dedication
May 10
- Spring Quarter Conference
May 31
- Senior Sunday
June 7
- Vacation Bible School
June 22-26

The Summer Quarter, July - September, 2009

- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
General Assembly, Houston
July 23
- Youth and Older Juniors Summer Camps
- Mission Trip to Belize
- Summer Preaching Series
- Summer Small Groups
- Deacon Fellowship Retreat
- Christian Citizenship Sunday, July 4
- 2009 Revival
- Fall Quarter Conference, September 20

We are very excited about the upcoming year at Zebulon Baptist Church and hope you are as well.

-Strategic Planning Team 2008-2009

*Jack Glasgow, Senior Pastor
Susan Ellington, Moderator
Don Perry, Past Moderator
Alan Rodemaker, Vice Moderator
Sheri Hester, Chair
Faith Ballard
Rigy Massey
Sam Matheny
Valerie Shelton
Kristin Woodard*



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