

Why We Give

On pages 8–10, you will find a listing of the 283 churches that financially supported CBFNC last year. I asked pastors from several of these churches to share why they give to CBFNC.



Rick Jordan
CBFNC Church Resources Coordinator

We are grateful at Providence for our longtime relationship with CBFNC. Working together with good people to accomplish good things in Jesus' name is always a positive way to invest our God-given energy, dollars, and time. CBFNC gives us these opportunities. Moreover, I have found CBFNC leadership to be responsive to, and engaged with, the needs of local churches—which is where, as Baptists, we believe the real, life-changing work of gospel ministry happens. For example, CBFNC-sponsored **seminars and workshops** have, through the years, been valuable sources of continuing education for me, and have helped me become—I'd like to think—a better, more effective pastor.



Another example is the way that CBFNC helped encourage several North Carolina churches to form a **mission partnership** with a small French-Canadian Baptist congregation in Quebec. For years, I had wanted to develop a relationship like this so that members of my church could have the chance to become friends with Christians from a different country. When the possibility of working with these Quebecois Baptists arose, CBFNC leaders helped me think through the logistics of such a missions partnership—and, even more importantly, brought the pastor of this congregation to speak at a CBFNC general assembly in hopes that other churches in our state could learn about, and then join, this partnership.

I could go on, but the point is: CBFNC is a good investment for Providence and, I believe, for your church as well because we are, truly, better when we are together.

—Lee Canipe | Providence, Charlotte



The First Baptist Church of Sylva is proud to partner with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina because they are our closest friends. And like any good friend, CBFNC has accompanied us in **times of transition**, joy and celebration, sorrow and in need. When our church has felt called to serve beyond our community, CBFNC has helped us to connect the dots. When we have wanted to learn how like-minded churches have responded to the challenges that we face, CBFNC has been quick to return our



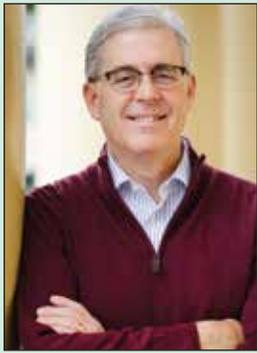
phone calls and to **consult** with us. Attentive when we had a question and intentional in developing trust, CBFNC has walked alongside us since its birth in the 1990s. CBFNC captures for us who we hope to be, and feel called to become. And like the sojourners who traveled the path to Emmaus, we can testify that our hearts were burning as we walked together because Christ was present alongside us.

—Jeff Mathis | First, Sylva



Why does Hayes Barton Baptist Church give to CBFNC? Let me count the ways. First, CBFNC is all about missions and we are happy to support through our giving and our participation the **many mission endeavors** throughout our state and around the world that are sponsored and promoted by CBFNC. Second, CBFNC is about leadership. We are inspired and motivated by the excellent leadership demonstrated by CBFNC's excellent staff. In addition, we appreciate the significant role that CBFNC plays in the education of **divinity**

students and the continuing development of **young clergy**. They are our future, and because of CBFNC's investment our future is bright. Third, CBFNC is committed to the local church. Your reason for existing is to help congregations like ours fulfill our mission of being the presence of Christ in our world.



Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we support CBFNC because of the **core values** upon which CBFNC is founded. If ever there were a time in our world when the proclamation and propagation of historic Baptist principles was needed, it is now! CBFNC Baptists are our kind of Baptists. We need CBFNC, and that's why we give.

—David Hailey | Hayes Barton, Raleigh

The poet John Donne is credited with the thought “no man is an island.” The same can be said for the local church. For a church to fulfill her mission



to the best of her ability, she needs to connect to and learn from other churches of like faith and order. First Baptist Lumberton is grateful for her relationships with Baptist churches and thought leaders across the state through CBFNC. FBCL's pastor participates in a **Peer Learning Group** where CBFNC pastors discuss important congregational and social issues and support one another for the work of ministry. Most recently,

FBCL has benefited from CBFNC's support of the **Growing Young Initiative**. Our congregation is learning that a church that is “growing young” is a church that is investing in young people, taking Jesus' message seriously and working to be good neighbors in its community. FBCL is especially proud to have hosted CBFNC's **Annual Gathering** in 1999 and 2013 and are pleased to welcome regional meetings for churches and leaders to gather to learn from and encourage one another and to celebrate the bonds of fellowship we share as Cooperative Baptists.

—David Elks | First, Lumberton

First Baptist Church of Kannapolis is happy to make a difference by supporting missions in North Carolina, North America and around the world through our gifts to CBFNC. Locally, we can help students prepare for ministry and life by participating with schools like Gardner-Webb, the Baptist House at Duke, and Campbell. We can invest in **new church plants** that are looking for creative and innovative ways to share the gospel with new neighbors who are choosing to live in North Carolina. We know our gifts

leave a legacy in peer learning groups where young ministers find fellowship and encouragement as they live out their God-given calling.

The **CBFNC staff** is always a ready resource for offering guidance and counsel to congregations like ours. We count it a joy to have quality Baptist leaders like our CBFNC staff available to help our church talk and think through the best ways to do ministry in 2019 and beyond. We know help is but a phone call or email away.



Through the CBFNC budget, helping the Baptist Children's Homes and Baptist Retirement Homes is an opportunity for us to reach out to the youngest and often frailest among us who need the love and support of God's family. We take joy in being part of the Cooperative Baptist Family in

North Carolina where we can see God at work and eagerly join in the ways and places God offers!

—Tom Cabaniss | First, Kannapolis

First Baptist Huntersville supports CBFNC because we share this fellowship's mission, vision, and approach to following Jesus. It is a privilege to partner with churches and leaders we admire for the sake of the gospel. But we also receive much from our partnership in return. Our ministers enjoy collegiality with others in the **network**, and both staff and laity benefit from **continuing education opportunities**. When our neighbors near and far are hurting, CBFNC is a trusted conduit for **disaster relief aid**, as well as a source for partnership for on-the-ground service. Moreover, CBFNC has been a helpful resource for ministerial candidates, **Latino ministry**, and business administration **best practices**. It is a gift to be in partnership with the people of CBFNC.



—Stacy Cochran Nowell | First, Huntersville

