

Baptist Beacon  
Nashville Baptist Association  
420 Main Street  
Nashville TN 37206

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# Baptist Beacon

## A Letter from Rusty Sumrall

Dear NBA family,

As you know by now, I am retiring from the Nashville Baptist Association on March 1, 2023.

It has been a pleasure serving you in several leadership roles during the past 30 years. My wife Becky and I have been blessed knowing each of you and sharing the joys of our ministry and faith together. Thank you to all of you who have worked diligently with me to make the Nashville Baptist Association one of the strongest and best associations in the Southern Baptist Convention.

I am thankful to God that I have been blessed to leave the NBA with a solid financial base and a vision for the future. I am eager to see what God is going to do through the ministry of the NBA in the future.

Becky and I plan to stay in Nashville and to continue to follow God in the ministry He has for us during this new phase of our lives. We are available to support and encourage each of you in ministry. Though I am retiring from work with the NBA, I would love to remain involved in ministering alongside the churches of Nashville. If you ever need me, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for 30 years of ministry together.

**Rev. Rusty Sumrall**  
[revrustysumrall@gmail.com](mailto:revrustysumrall@gmail.com)  
(615) 419-1944



## Pastor Groups for 2023

The ministry of the Nashville Baptist Association is based on trust and relationships, and it is therefore vital for church leaders to make intentional efforts to grow in relationship with each other.

The Association facilitates opportunities for church leaders to connect to their local peers for the main purpose of encouragement, care, and problem-solving. These pastor groups meet monthly in different areas of town in order to provide an even more local connection.

For information about joining one of these groups or to start another group in your area of town, please contact the group leader or the NBA office.

### South Nashville

Led by Tom Agnew of Grace Church Smyrna and Matt Gray of First Baptist Antioch

### Hendersonville (new)

Led by Jamie Mosley of Redeemer Church

### West Nashville (new)

Led by Joe Frejosky of Charlotte Road Baptist Church

Share this information on our website at:  
[www.nashvillebaptists.com/pastor-gatherings](http://www.nashvillebaptists.com/pastor-gatherings).

## Openings & Opportunities

To have your resume forwarded to churches seeking a pastor, worship leader, or other ministry personnel, please submit a current resume to [general@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:general@nashvillebaptists.com).

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee is looking for an Administrative Assistant to Great Commission Relations and Mobilization Team. This position provides general administrative and clerical support to the Associate VP of African American Relations, the Associate VP of Asian Relations, and the Associate VP of Hispanic Relations and reports to the Administrative Assistant Senior. An ideal candidate would be fluent in both English and Spanish.

For a full job description and information on how to apply, visit [jobs.sbc.net/job/administrative-assistant-to-great-commission-relations-and-mobilization-team](https://jobs.sbc.net/job/administrative-assistant-to-great-commission-relations-and-mobilization-team)

Job descriptions and more openings can be found on our website at [nashvillebaptists.com/jobs](http://nashvillebaptists.com/jobs).

**Nashville Baptist Association has a policy of publishing job openings for ministerial and support positions when a church requests us to do so. In our desire to assist churches to fill vacancies, NBA will continue to offer this service at no charge.**

**For more information, call 615-259-3034.**

## **\*\*NOTICE!\*\***

This is *the last issue* before the Baptist Beacon goes fully digital.

Please make sure your church office is signed up to receive the Beacon via email, or download PDF copies from [nashvillebaptists.com/baptist-beacon](http://nashvillebaptists.com/baptist-beacon).

If your church **cannot** receive digital copies, please call the office and let us know.

## Webinars

### Peer Learning Webinar

Each month, the association will offer a Peer Learning Webinar in which a church leader from our association will share valuable and practical skills and insight relevant to a particular area of ministry.

**Topic:** Leading Through Transition

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 21 at noon

**Presenters:** Steve Durham of Sunset Hills Baptist

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](https://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning)

Last month's webinar, "Doing Ministry in Your Local School," led by Aaron Bryant of The Church at Avenue South, is also available to view at: [nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](https://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning)

### Churches Planting Churches Webinar

Our Church Planting Strategist leads a discussion about how our churches can plant and grow new congregations in Nashville and the surrounding areas.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 28 at 11am

**Presenter:** Dwayne Lewis, NBA Church Planting Strategist and Pastor of New Season Church

**Topic:** Tools to share with church members to invite their family and friends

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches](https://nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches)

## CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES

MONTHLY WEBINAR

February, 2023 11:00am

PRESENTED BY  
THE NASHVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
CHURCH PLANTING TEAM



Dwayne Lewis  
NBA Church Planting Strategist  
and Pastor of New Season Church

## Church Growth Training Workshop

2023 is upon us and many churches and church plants have plateaued and declined but are planning for a strong start in the new year. Is that you and your church?

In Tennessee and across the globe, churches are in a transformational phase. In this phase, some church planters and pastors are planning relaunches and other are deciding whether to bury church functions and programs that are no longer relevant for different reasons.

Would you like to have the needed resources, practical tools and feedback to get your church leadership and members on mission? Are you ready to find and hit the "sweet spot" for your church's growth?

The Nashville Baptist Association is here to walk alongside you and your leadership with more than lectures and books. Our Church Growth Training Workshop is hands on interaction with tools and feedback to increase the capacity for ongoing Kingdom growth and development through:

- Evangelism Strategies
- MissionInsite (Community Demographics)
- Discipleship and Leadership Strategies
- Stewardship Strategies
- Church Health: Vision, Mission, Core Values
- Digital Technology (social media)

During this workshop you will connect with other church leaders and church planters, along with experienced practitioners, that will unlock your church potential through practical applications. You will come away with a transportation system to move your dreams, ideas, and church along in its context.

### For more information, contact:

Dwayne Lewis

Church Planting Strategist

Nashville Baptist Association

Office: 615.259.3034

Cell: 615.519.2222

Email: [dlewis@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:dlewis@nashvillebaptists.com)

Registration: [nashvillebaptists.com/events/church-growth-training](https://nashvillebaptists.com/events/church-growth-training).

## Pastor Profile

**Matt McCullough**  
Edgefield Church

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



Matt McCullough serves as a pastor of Edgefield Church.

Before joining with Edgefield, he helped to plant Trinity Church near Vanderbilt University and served as pastor for ten years. He and his wife Lindsey first moved to Nashville for graduate school at Vanderbilt, where he completed a PhD in American religious history. He's written two books, including Remember Death: The Surprising Path to Living Hope. And he writes on occasion for 9Marks and the Gospel Coalition. Matt and Lindsey are the parents of three young boys.

### What is your favorite local Nashville restaurant?

Butchertown Hall

### How would you spend a day off with no ministry responsibilities?

Canoeing/fishing with the family

### What Bible verse or passage is particularly meaningful to you right now?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5: "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with superior eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed the testimony of God. For I decided to be concerned about nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling. My conversation and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on the power of God."

### Is there a quote that has stuck with you and influenced the way you have thought or behaved?

I love this quote from a letter John Newton wrote to a young pastor he was mentoring: "Be not discouraged: usefulness and trials, comforts and crosses, strength and exercise go together. But remember he has said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' When you get to heaven, you will not complain of the way by which the Lord brought you."

### What is one exciting thing God is doing in your church right now?

Now two years into a church merger, it's wonderful to see how God is stitching our church together. Transitions like ours can be tough for everyone in different ways. They take time and patience. But most of all they require the supernatural work that God loves to do through his Word. We've kept our focus on Jesus, and through him on one another, and it is clear that God is drawing us together around him.

## Around the Association

### Victory Baptist Church

March 24-26, Victory Baptist Church of Mount Juliet is hosting pastor/author/speaker Dr. Erwin Lutzer for a weekend of events. This weekend includes a pastor-focused conference from 8 am-noon on Saturday morning. For more information about this event, or to sign up for Saturday's Pastor's Conference, please call the church office at (615) 773-5200.

### Nashville Baptist Associational Bible Drill

#### Tulip Grove Baptist Church

The Associational Bible Drill will take place on Sunday, April 16 at Tulip Grove. Please contact Pam Reasonover if your church will be participating in Bible Drill this year, if you need any assistance, or would like more information. Pam can be reached at (615) 260-9661 or [pamr9960@comcast.net](mailto:pamr9960@comcast.net).

### First Baptist Church Joelton

On Saturday, March 25, FBC Joelton is holding "Living to the Fullest," A Community Program of Resources for Seniors. The event will last from 9am to 1:30pm, and the \$20 per-person cost includes lunch. Join us as we cover topics in healthcare, law, and safety geared towards aiding caregivers and those looking to maintain independence while planning for tomorrow. In addition to our guest speakers (see below), we will be joined by more than 15 organizations that that specialize in various topics related to health & memory care, mobility retention, legal advice, finding community and much more! Speakers will be Zale Dowlen, JD, MBA; Jenny Kim, DNP, Geriatric NP at Vanderbilt; and Commander Scott Byrd of the Metro Nashville Police. For complete details and registration, visit [fbjoelton.org/events/living-to-the-fullest-senior-conference](https://fbjoelton.org/events/living-to-the-fullest-senior-conference).

To see your church event, need, or accomplishment listed here, please call the NBA office or email Alicia at [adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com).

## Free Resource

Each month, the association will provide a free resource to the readers of the newsletter. These resources are meant to be practical, helpful, and relatable, just as we are working to be as an association.

This month's free resource is *The Peoples of Nashville*. Produced by the Nashville Baptist Association, this booklet contains a description and brief demographic study of the almost 100 distinct people groups in the city. Though almost 10 years old, the book remains a valuable resource for churches who desire to reach the world for Christ, starting in our own city.

Download a PDF copy from the homepage of [nashvillebaptists.com](https://nashvillebaptists.com).



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