

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Baptist Bulletin

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Celebrating 150 Years



2017 marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. On October 18, 1867, a meeting was held at First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro which led to the establishing of the General Association for Colored Baptists of North Carolina.

Two opposite forces contributed to the establishment of the Convention. First, there was the strong desire of recently freed persons to organize churches of their own. Secondly, there was a strong push by white churches (in which the former slaves had been members) to exclude the former slaves in order to prevent the possibility of the former slaves become socially

equal to whites or ascending to leadership in the white churches.

From 1865 to 1870, black Baptist Churches began to spring up all across the state. By 1871, the Convention reported having eighty-eight ministers serving in Churches from Asheville to Edenton. By 1882, the Convention reported having 95,000 members, 800 churches, and 450 ministers.

From meager beginnings with a largely uneducated and destitute membership, the General Baptist State Convention

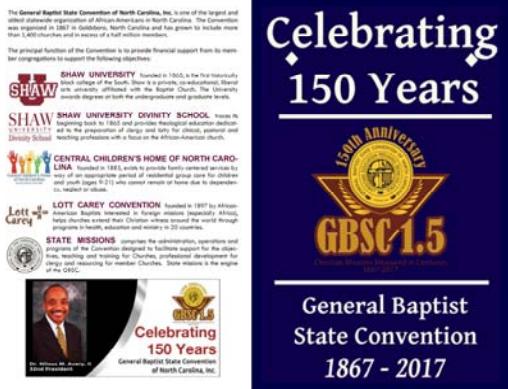
grew to become one of America's preeminent African-American religious organizations.

The Convention is celebrating its legacy and history in 2017 as the Convention turns 150 years old. Special events are planned throughout the year. The celebration began in January with the Annual MLK Memorial Banquet. The celebration will conclude with the 2017 Annual Session in October.

A special Anniversary Logo has been introduced for the celebration. "GBSC 1.5:

"Christian Missions Measured in Centuries" is the motto for the Anniversary celebration. The "GBSC 1.5" tag is a reference to our having operated for 1.5 centuries. The Anniversary Logo will appear on various materials throughout the Anniversary year.

The next event in the year-long celebration is the 2017 Mid-Year Session on May 8-10, 2017. The Session will convene in Goldsboro, NC which is the site of the original organizational meeting in 1867. A special commemorative worship service will precede the Mid-Year Session at First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro.



Free Bulletins

A special bulletin has been designed to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Convention. An attractive navy blue cover carries the 150th Anniversary logo and the back page describes our 1867 founding and our current objectives.

Churches are asked to consider using this special bulletin cover at some point before our October Annual Session. It is hoped that the bulletin will inspire interest in the Convention by the laypersons attending worship in our churches. Printed on a smooth, 32-pound white paper, the bulletin will make an attractive addition to any worship service.

The bulletins will be distributed at the Mid-Year Session in Goldsboro. Each Church will be given 200 free bulletins. Churches needing more than 200 can purchase additional bulletins at a cost of \$5.00 per hundred. Bulletins will be available for pickup during the Mid-Year Session while supplies last.



President Nilous M. Avery, II wishes to make our upcoming gathering in Goldsboro to be an especially memorable event. To that end, the President has directed that a "thank you" card and engraved key ring be given to each person who registers for the Mid-Year Session.

"We can never forget," says Dr. Avery, "that the people in our Convention have always been the keys to our success. And this is one way for the Convention to say thank you to our supporters over the years."

The key ring is chrome in color and has been

A poster for the General Baptist State Convention Of North Carolina Inc. Golf Classic. The background features a white golf ball on a green grassy field under a blue sky. The title "General Baptist State Convention Of North Carolina Inc." is at the top in white, serif font. Below it, "Golf Classic" is written in large, bold, white letters. In the center, the date "May 08, 2017" is displayed in large green bold letters, with the text "PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!" in red bold letters underneath. The event details are listed below: "Event: The General Baptist State Convention Golf Tournament in conjunction with the 2017 Convention", "WHEN: Monday, May 8th, 2017", "TIME: 9 am", "WHERE: Lane Tree Country Club @ 2317 Salem Church Road Goldsboro, NC 27530 (919) 734-1245". A list of tournament activities follows, including Million Dollar Shoot Out, Accurate Drive Contest (Men & Ladies), Longest Drive Contest (Men & Ladies), Hole-In-Ones, Closest-To-The-Pins, Registration Gifts, Silent Auction & Raffle, Food and Beverages before, during and after, and Awards Banquet. To the right of the text is a graphic of two crossed golf clubs on a green putting surface with a white golf ball near the hole. At the bottom, there is information for "For Information & Sponsorship Opportunities Call: Rev. Charles Walton – (252) 213-0206".

Avery Gift for Mid-Year Attendees

laser engraved with the 150th Anniversary Logo. Also a silver antique skeleton key is on each key ring. The skeleton key is a reminder that our people have been the key to our success.

The Presidential "Thank You" card has a full-color wraparound photograph of the Baptist Headquarters building. A personal message from the President is printed in each "thank you" card.

The Mid-Year Anniversary Gift will be in each registration bag for the first 800 registrants.

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