



*God has placed you here for a purpose,
whatever it might be. He has chosen you
for it; therefore, labor faithfully.
Bloom where you are planted?
~Copied~*

**NORTH CAROLINA
CAMPERS ON MISSION
2025 SPRING RALLY**



"BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED"



NCCOM SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

But thou, O LORD, are a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. Psalm 3:3.

This verse has been singing in my head for the last several days as a reminder that God is in control and all I have to do is to lift my head and follow him. As I am writing this, Jean and I are sitting in Plant City, FL. volunteering at the Strawberry Festival through Liberty Southern Baptist Church along with the Ainsley's, Marsha Powell, Don and Linda Shrum, Gwen Frazier,

Doreen Carson, and Jim and Laura Parks, our new Area Directors in training. We are ministering to the Fair Workers, but also the homeless; some who help with this undertaking. The ministry here makes a major impact on the area and those that we serve. We are uplifters to many as they see love, hope, and mercy through us. Pray for this ministry and all ministries of COM, that God will use our voices, hands, and feet to bring glory to HIM.

Black Mountain Home for Children and Families have opened their doors to us again after the devastating damages and destruction from Hurricane Helene. **Please search your heart to see if God is leading you to help. on how you can be a part of what we do there pretty much every month for a week.** Wanda Ledford, Western Region Wagonmaster, coordinates our schedule with them. Let her know if you would like to volunteer. They have a vetting process that you would need to go through, but it is worth it.



NCCOM SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



President's Message Continued

Spring Rally is right around the corner and I hope to see all of you in Mayberry. It promises to be a great rally time for us to fellowship and rejuvenate our souls and bodies to continue to serve. If you haven't made reservations, please do so very soon and put April 24-27 on your calendar.

The National Rally is coming up June 3-5 at Aiken, SC. Go to the national website, campersonmission.org to get details and register. We hope to have a large contingent to go since it is so close to us.

Thank you for all you do to represent God and NC COM. We have several of our members at Lake Yale and other areas, so inquire as to how you can be a part of that.

Be in prayer for our rally and lift up those who are having physical difficulties that prevent them from travelling. Also, if you feel God calling you to serve in some way, let me know. We are always in need of bodies and minds.

See you in April in Mayberry.

Keith Smith, President



I hope you have had a good winter. Even though we've been in Florida for three months, I'll be glad to see everyone in spring at our Mayberry rally! We've had nights down in the mid thirties. Now that's cold to me in Florida. Even though we've had some days in the mid 70's, we have enjoyed serving the Lord at Lake Yale.

Since our Fall rally we have added three new couples to our COM Membership. Please welcome them to our Mayberry Spring Rally. God is good to replenish our roll as we've had quite a few members that have had to park their rigs for one reason or another. I look forward to working with our new members at different projects.

Speaking of that, Dell and I will be serving at the Cove in July and August. There is one campsite left if you would be interested in going. Please contact me and we will be glad to have another NCCOM couple serve with us!

Our president sent out an email recently announcing the National Rally being held in Aikens, SC.. I want to encourage you to go, this is right in our back door, as next year's National rally will be in Iowa. It would be nice to have the greatest attendance of any of the states. I checked last week and there's still 20 some sites left with sewer.

Last November at the Baptist State Convention I was pleased with our NCCOM booth. We talked with a lot of people and gave out many COM pamphlets. Truett Conference Center talked with me about NCCOM members coming to help them with youth camps this summer. If you feel led, contact me and I will put you in contact with their volunteer coordinator.

If you haven't already, call Mayberry Campground and make your reservation for our Spring Rally. We always have good fellowship, food and worship services. See you there!

Lee Wolfe, NCCOM State Director



Greetings from sunny and warm central Florida!

Gray and I along with several others from NC are volunteering at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center. I want to remind you of some very important upcoming dates. The NC COM rally will be April 24-27, 2025 at Mayberry Campground. As of now, there are only 7 sites available and they are shorter sites. If you haven't made your reservations yet, I encourage you to do so by calling 336-789-6199.

The National COM rally is being held June 3-5, 2025 at Western Carolina Fairgrounds in Aiken, SC. I myself have never attended a National rally so I am really looking forward to it. Information can be found on the National COM web site.

Do you have someone that you would like to nominate for The Lifetime Achievement Award or the Camper of the Year award? If so, please let me know. Email wandabodford@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring rally!
Wanda Bodford, NC COM Vice President



Rex Shuping sent me this text (below) and wanted me to ask that it be sent to all membership.

This is one of the hardest letters I've had to read in a long time. Rex is my brother, friend, fellow church member and a great partner in hand and foot. He and Peggy were the ones that told Jean and I about COM back in 2013 after church one Sunday which led to us going to the Spring Rally, 2014 and joining.

As Rex and Peggy move to Emeritus status they will continue to pray, continue his Prayer book, and communicate with us. He just will not be able to come to rallies or projects. Pray for our Nominating Committee as they seek God's will in filling this most important position, but especially pray for our friends, Rex and Peggy. Pray for better health, healing, good discernment, and for a peace that passeth all understanding and, especially, for God's Will to be done!

Well done, my good and faithful friend!!

Keith



Our Message from Rex and Peggy:

I remember when I was asked to be Chaplain for NC COM. I said I was not honored, but humbled that you would allow me to handle your prayers. I still feel that way. It is with a heavy heart that I ask the chapter to search out a person to fill my position. This last stroke that I had has effected my eyesight, my hearing and my balance. They stopped my driving and I have to use a walker to get around.

God is good! And we rejoice in this and Praise Him. There are over 2,200 names in my prayer book and I still have 3 blank pages until it is full. Then I will start a new one. I still and will pray for you every day. Our RV is for sale but we will remain as active as the Lord permits. We still claim Romans 8:28- And we KNOW that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his will and purpose.

Sharing Christ as we go, wherever we go!

WE LOVE YOU!!!!

Rex and Peggy Shuping



Hi Campers;

This is your friendly Wagon Master.

I hope all of you are well. I know some of you have had some health issues. I hope everyone is doing better and on the road to recovery.

We haven't been as busy because of health but some people have worked in Florida, the western area and other places.

It's our turn to do the meal for Campers the time. We're having B-B-Q, slaw, baked beans and desserts. Everyone please make a dessert. Please be ready to lend a helping hand.

We have a new couple joining our area. They are Bill and Amy Nagy. They sound very excited about joining us and I'm excited about them also. They are supposed to be at the rally.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

Marsha Powell, Central Wagon Master

ALSO from Marsha: Kitchen Committee

The Kitchen Committee will be setting up the tables for our meals. The Central Area will be in charge of the Friday night meal. We will be fixing B-B-Q, slaw, baked beans and desserts.

Please bring your plates, utensils and drinks with you. That keeps our costs low for our budget. I will see everyone around noon on Thursday so I can get names for reservations for our Thursday night outing.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the rally.

Marsha



I will be emailing a new roster about the same time this newsletter is sent. If you need any corrections to be made to it, please email me at nccomers@gmail.com

Stay tuned, there will be a lot of information shared at our Rally! I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Mona Sadler, Communication Coordinator

Church History - Taken From 'The Life of The Reverend Charles Wesley'

Charles Wesley was born on December 18, 1707 and died on March 29, 1788 at the very old (at that time) age of 81. He wrote over 6500 hymns in his lifetime. He married Sarah Gwynne who was somewhat younger than him in 1749. Their first son died of small pox. Sarah also had it and it is said that afterward people who knew her, no longer recognized her. Of their 8 children only three survived to adulthood.

Some of the hymns Charles Wesley wrote were 'O for a Thousand Tonuges to Sing,' 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today' (music written by composer Handel), and 'Hark! the Herold Angels Sing' (music written by composer Mendelssohn).

From his journal you learn that he fell off his horse more than once. Both he and his brother (John) often had to cross rivers with unreliable ferries and bad weather. He and his brother were beaten, had rocks thrown at them, yet still traveled thousands of miles yearly to preach the gospel.

He wrote "And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused his pain!
For me! who him to death persued.
Amazing Love! How can it be, That Thou My God, shouldst Die for me?
Amazing Love! How can it be, That Thou My God, shouldst Die for me?"

Consider Charles Wesley singing about this amazing love of God that as he traveled on horseback to preach the gospel knowing there would be opposition and hatred at any turn. Pray for our own service to God to be as faithful.



Spring is quickly approaching and I have already seen many of my tulips and other flowers peeking their little heads out of the ground and coming back to life. It is a time of renewal and refreshing. We all need this in our lives and prayerfully, our 2025 Spring Rally will refresh and renew us to be the zealous missionaries God wants us to be. There are many needs all around us and God uses Campers On Mission to meet many of those needs. The theme for this year's rally is "Bloom Where You Are Planted". We will again sow evangelistic seeds around the campground, inviting guests to join with us in worship and fellowship. We will have a special activity for the children and B-I-N-G-O for the adults. We need door prizes for bingo and ask that you help with this. I'm so thankful for the beautiful new tent we used in the fall; it was a great addition and protected us from the elements. Thanks to all who made this possible! The National Rally did an amazing job last year memorializing members who have gained their angel wings. If you know a COM member who has passed in the last year, please let me know so that their service can be recognized. If possible, provide a picture, date of death, surviving spouse and any military service. Sympathy is extended to the family of Dale Sloop (gentleman who attended with John & Linda Ross) in his unexpected passing last month. I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces next month!

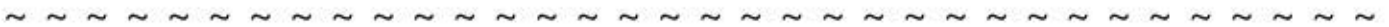
Jean Smith



The Western AREA had a few that went to work at the Strawberry Festival in Florida in February. We as a group are just beginning our year at Black Mountain Home for Children March 21-31. The other scheduled dates for work there: May 18-26, October 9-13, and November 20-23. If you would like to join us please let me know as reservations must be made now for May and the October date is almost full as this is the annual Fall Festival. Of course November is open. I was told that June is already full! South Carolina Campers on Mission will be working there most of the month. So far we have no other set plans but will meet at the Spring Rally to make further plans.

Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Ledford, Wagon Master.





Fall 2024 Rally





Fall 2024 Rally





Thursday, April 24, 2025

Early Arrivals Check-In

4:00 PM Fellowship Meal (Location to Be Announced)

7:00 PM Spring Rally Welcome – President, Keith Smith
Recognition/Introduction of New Members and First Time Attendees
Recognition and Introduction of Area Wagon Masters

7:15 PM Evening Vespers – Wanda Bodford, Vice-President

7:45 PM Dismissal Prayer – Wanda Bodford

COM Song – (Words on Back of Program)

7:50 PM Nominating Committee Meeting

Friday, April 25, 2025

9:00 AM Morning Devotion – Tony Moore
Intercessory Prayer Time

9:45 AM Executive Committee Meeting

11:00 AM Wagon Masters Meet with Wanda Bodford

New Members Meet with Lee Wolfe

11:30 PM Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM Meetings with Area Wagon Masters

2:00 PM Campground Blitz – Distribution of Saturday's Event Fliers

↑ COM Store – Richard & Dawn Smith

4:00 PM Compassion Cards for COM Families/Friends

5:00 PM Evening Meal – Provided by Central Region

(NOTE: BRING YOUR OWN PLATE, UTENSILS AND DRINK)

6:15 PM Are you a Bloomer? – Jean Smith
Quick Survey/Designated Committees Announcement

7:00 PM Message: Rev. Clay Leonard

Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina

7:45 PM Dismissal Prayer – Rev. Clay Leonard



Saturday, April 26, 2025

9:00 AM Morning Devotion – Lee Wolfe
Intercessory Prayer Time
10:00 AM Business Meeting
11:30 PM Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM COM Store – Richard & Dawn Smith
Compassion Cards for COM Friends
1:30 PM Designated Committee Meetings
2:00 PM Activities for Campground Children at the Big White Tent
Craft, Entertainment, Games and Snack

3:00 PM Cookies, Kool-Aid & Bingo for Campground Guests & Families



4:30 PM Pre-Dinner Rest Break

5:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner – **BRING A LITTLE EXTRA FOR GUESTS!**
(BRING YOUR OWN PLATE, UTENSILS AND DRINK)

6:00 PM Clean-up & Set Up for Tributes and Mission Report

6:15 PM Memorial Tributes – Jean Smith & Wagon Masters

6:30 PM Mission Report – Billy Layton, Missions Coordinator

Date & Place of 2026 Spring Rally – Vice President, Wanda Bodford

COM Song – (Words on Back of Program)

Dismissal – Closing Prayer – Keith Smith



Sunday, April 27, 2025

Morning Worship Service

9:00 AM Welcome & Opening Prayer – Keith Smith, President

9:10 AM Hymn Sing-A-Long

9:30 AM Morning Message – Rev. Ray Ledford

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

Closing of Rally – Campers on Mission Song

Campers on Mission Song

Verse 1: As we travel the highways and byways,
Thru the fields white with harvest we'll go.
In the strength of the Lord we will share His Word,
And let glory to God overflow.

Chorus

We are campers on mission for Jesus,
We are laborers with God here below;
And wherever He leads we will follow,
Sharing Christ, sharing Christ as we go.

Verse 2: With the talents God gave us we'll serve Him,
We will labor before it is night;
And whatever our hands find to do for God,
We will do it with all of our might.

Repeat Chorus

Verse 3: We will be a bold witness for Jesus.
Ev-'ry day we'll proclaim His great love.
We will tell of His mercy and grace so free,
And the home He's preparing above.

Repeat Chorus



**Remain for
Group Photo**