

Cary church helps job seekers make connections

By **Patty E. Shaver**
BR Graphics Editor

Professionals exchanging handshakes and business cards fill the room with loud chatter. They are engaged and enthusiastic. They are also unemployed. Most of them had been laid off from their jobs, making them part of North Carolina's 7.9 percent unemployment rate.

Most of the job seekers heard by word of mouth about a networking group called Colonial JobSeekers (CJS) that meets at Colonial Baptist Church in Cary on Monday mornings. Here they can find a sense of community, accountability, networking and job search skill development in a confidential and professional environment.



Bryan

Colonial is experiencing the largest turnout since 2001, said Paula Bryan, director of Colonial JobSeekers. Recently, the number of job seekers in the networking group has more than doubled, mostly due to area layoffs.

"Many have said that their time of unemployment has redirected their lives. If it wasn't for this transition, it may not have happened," said Bryan, as she spoke to 145 members Dec. 8. "God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28)," she said.

The group meets on Monday mornings to help job seekers get ready and motivated for other job search activities throughout the week.



BR photo by Dennis E. Shaver

NETWORKING — Colonial JobSeekers volunteer, Kevin Hackney, speaks to other professionals after a networking session Dec. 8.

"Networking is about building relationships," Bryan said. "Come with the objective to encourage someone else. The more you reach out and help others, the more it will strengthen you."

"Unemployment can drain your hope if you let it," Bryan said. "The No. 1 way to find a job is networking." Someone who knows you may be the one to open the door to your next job, she said.

After devotions, the professionals split up into special interest groups consisting of individuals with common professional backgrounds and skill sets. Here they exchange job leads and discuss upcoming interviews.

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— Paula Bryan

"Colonial JobSeekers supports professionals from a personal level," said Kevin Hackney of Cary. Hackney is one of a number of job seekers who attends and volunteers at Colonial as a way to give back and to help others.

Developing relationships during the career transition is very important, Hackney said. Colonial provides a place for professionals to meet others and network.

Colonial is Christ centered, and makes the point that the job seekers' ultimate relationship needs to be with Jesus.

Sharon Cox, a career coach for Career Directions/Resume Writing,

assists with forwarding job leads and leading a small group of job seekers in career transition at the weekly meetings.

"JobSeekers is not just a networking group, said Cox. "It provides spiritual and emotional support, accountability, and job seeking skills" such as resume writing and interviewing skills.



Cox

"Colonial differs from other groups as this is the group with heart," said Cox. The work gets done by a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom are job seekers themselves. Some volunteers from the community dedicate their time to serve as speakers, counselors, recruiters, etc.

"It is important for community employers to be made aware of the available pool of qualified candidates through local networking groups like Colonial and to list their job openings with these groups," said Bryan.

Many job seekers suffer disappointment from losing their job, but they can choose two different paths: despair or hope. "If you don't have anything to hope for, you will despair," said Hackney. "We try to give job seekers hope by sharing the gospel with them. We encourage them by letting them know that they are not the only ones out there looking for a job. Others are getting interviews and jobs." Hackney said. "There are things to be joyful about."

For more information about Colonial JobSeekers, visit www.colonial.org/jobseekers.

Using many job search methods gets job faster

By **Patty E. Shaver**
BR Graphics Editor

Has your job been downsized, restructured, outsourced, or just plain eliminated?

You're not alone. It's happening everywhere, everyday.

In the current labor market there are more people looking for work than there are available jobs. That means there is a lot of competition for jobs which requires a lot of hard work. In fact, looking for work can be a full-time job in itself.

According to *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition (OOH)*, "finding a job can take months of time and effort. But you can speed the process by using many methods to find job openings. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest that people who use many job search methods find jobs faster than people who use only one or two."

Most effective job search methods

The most successful job search methods are networking and researching employers and applying directly. This is how to tap into the hidden job

market — finding the jobs that are not advertised.

- **Networking** is when you make personal contacts by talking to friends, family members, acquaintances — everyone you can think of — who might know of an open position. Job seekers can expand their network by joining networking groups and professional associations. Some networking groups offer resume and interview preparation workshops and other resources.

- **Research companies** of interest and apply directly. Find out about the company from its web site or see if anyone in your network knows the manager or anyone else who works there.

Try and arrange for an introduction through your network or contact the hiring manager directly and ask for an interview.

Other job search methods

The least effective job search methods involve applying to advertised positions, such as: classified ads in newspapers, trade journals and magazines and Internet job posts. The large number who see and apply to these ads decreases the probability of one person getting hired.

Other options to consider include applying to job ads through the state employment services office, private employment and staffing agencies, career centers, and community non-profit agencies.

Temporary or contract work may be a good option, especially during a lengthy job search. Not only can this bring in some money, it could also expand your network and possibly lead to a permanent position.

Working as a volunteer or intern, or joining professional associations related to your career is another way to network or discover job openings.

Remember to use several different methods spending the most time on the most effective methods — networking and applying directly to employers. Spend less time on the least effective methods. Also, find out how others in your field found their jobs and do the same.

Resources for job seekers

Christian Women's Job Corp/Christian Men's Job Corp
(www.wmu.com/VolunteerConnection/cwjcc)

Provides a Christian context in which men and women in need are equipped for life and employment; and a missions context in which women help women and men help men.

Jobs for Life (www.jobsforlife.com)

Equips churches and faith-based organizations to provide job training and support enabling everyone to secure meaningful employment.

Colonial JobSeekers (www.colonial.org/jobseekers)

A networking group that meets on Monday mornings at Colonial Baptist Church in Cary.

LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com)

An online network of more than 30 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries.

Resume tutorial.

For resume tips and samples, use the online resume tutorial at www.acinet.org/acinet/resume/resume_intro.asp.

In tight times, clergy counsel patience

By Jeff Diamant
Religion News Service

Since September, the financial crisis has been an especially palpable concern at houses of worship, church leaders. It has been the subject of clergy counseling sessions, sermons, and in-house career seminars.

Many clergy say they find themselves doubling as networking career counselors and therapists more than ever.

"Some people, you know, they've been at Lehman Brothers or Bear Stearns," said Edward Halldorson, pastor of Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township, N.J., where many of the parishioners work in New York City. "(We) look for ways we can gather to have groups of men

and women who are going through this, and share with men and women who have been through it before. If I lost a job in the past, I can give a great deal of hope to someone going through it now."

The Jethro James, pastor of Paradise Baptist Church in Newark, where some parishioners have recently lost jobs as security guards and engineers, said he urges the unemployed toward education.

"We're encouraging folks to go back to school and take courses. We're telling our young people to prepare," James said. "More people are coming in for counseling than ever. More people are taking food

from the food bank than ever."

He said his church keeps up with social service agencies to note any changes in food stamp requirements, and also networks with fast-food restaurant managers about jobs to help needy members.

"You almost become an employment agency," he said. "A young lady who lost her job, was a professional, she had a knack for cleaning. If we can get her \$100 a day to clean someone's house, we'll do that."

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— Jethro James

He has noticed an unexpected source of angst in some who talk with him: the anticipated effect of their parents' dwindling fortunes on their own financial futures.

"Your mother now needs to get a reverse mortgage and in reality it may deplete what you believe is your inheritance," James said.

"You'd be surprised at how many folks get bitter about that. They feel something is owed to them. But don't you want your mom to have a great next 20 years?"

In Ridgewood, N.J., leaders of the Career and Resources Ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church have seen larger-than-ever attendance at monthly workshops, which were begun seven years ago to help parishioners who lost jobs after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Usually, five or 10 people attend. But the September crowd was 15, and October's was 30.

Even in wealthy areas, some six-figure households are "making the

same money decisions that people who live on the edge make every single day," said the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul in Chatham, N.J.

She said her church usually gives away about eight \$25 supermarket gift certificates a month, on an as-needed basis, but has gone through 16 in the last three weeks. In her church bulletin she has been posting toll-free numbers for people who need assistance.

"A couple of parishioners don't believe that they're going to be able

to finish off the year with the commitment to their pledge because either their husbands have lost their jobs, or in one instance a person in sales hasn't made a sale in six months, so hasn't gotten a commission," she said.

Kaeton said the tough times can give people unexpected spiritual opportunities: "It allows us to go off automated pilot and live a more intentional life — to really examine your priorities."

(Jeff Diamant writes for *The Star-Ledger* in Newark, N.J.)

Pastors unite to help job seekers find work

By Patty E. Shaver
BR Graphics Editor

A group of pastors from Unite Raleigh met Dec. 10 to begin

planning a job fair and seminar to help the unemployed find work.

The group was started by Biblical Wellness Ministries (BWM) with the intent to come alongside pastors and help them in fulfilling their calling and to facilitate pastors working with other pastors, connecting them with a purpose.

Unite Raleigh is a roundtable for racial reconciliation. However, due to the recent economic issues pastors felt a great burden.

"We prayed together and this is what came out of it," said Jerry Lankford, executive director and counselor of BWM. "We need to do more for others rather than pat them on the back and say we're praying for you."

The job fair is an evangelical cross-denominational and cross-racial effort, said Lankford. Many area churches are involved.

"Many networking groups tend to focus on just professionals, said Lankford. "We want to include others."

The job fair is still in the planning stage and set to take place some time in 2009.

For more information, e-mail Jerry Lankford at office@biblicalwellness.org.

"Many networking groups tend to focus on just professionals."

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— Jerry Lankford

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Pastor

Pastor. Bethel Baptist Church of Dublin, N.C., is seeking a full-time pastor for a conservative, evangelical, Southern Baptist church, with an average attendance of 150 in worship. We are seeking the man that God wants for Bethel. View church web site at: www.bethelnc.net. Send resume and DVD if possible to: Bethel Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Dublin, NC 28332, or you can e-mail the resume to mbrisson@embarqmail.com. Deadline to submit resumes in Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Senior Pastor. Bethlehem Baptist Church of Knightdale is in a growing community located in the greater Raleigh area. We seek a full-time pastor who is an effective gospel preacher, administrator and has desire to reach the community for the Lord. Experience of at least six years in senior pastoral ministry, Master of Divinity, and ordained by a Southern Baptist church. Bethlehem's average attendance is 340 for both morning worship and Sunday School with a traditional style of worship. We have a strong discipleship training program on Sunday evenings for youth through adult and children's choir programs. A new family life center with classrooms will be complete fall 2009. Wednesdays we have prayer meeting with separate programs for children and youth. Send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee in care of Bethlehem Baptist Church, 8400 Poole Rd., Knightdale, N.C. 27545 or e-mail pastorsearchbbc@bellsouth.net.

Non-traditional Southern Baptist church (of 175) searching for passionate, cutting edge, **senior pastor** to reach fast growing community near Savannah, Ga. Multi-use building, 49.5 acres, hearts yearning for discipleship, evangelism and leadership. Send resume by Jan. 31, 2009, to pastorsearch@southeffingham.com.

Senior Pastor. Ebenezer Baptist Church in Indian Trail, N.C., is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Send preaching samples with resume to: Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1417 Unionville-Indian Trail Road, Indian Trail NC 28079, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail ebcpastorsearch@aol.com.

Pastor. Moravian Falls Baptist Church is seeking a God called experienced pastor with good work ethic. Please send resume, cover letter and preaching sample to: P.O. Box 63 Moravian Falls, NC 28654. Letters and resumes must be received by Jan. 30, 2009.

Pastor. Bethlehem Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, is seeking a senior pastor, 30-60 years of age, with a seminary degree, and at least five years experience. The church is 166 years old, has 500+ members, 320 resident members, with an average attendance of 145-165. Staff: Youth/children pastor, administrative assistant and part-time minister of music. Church has a blended worship service and offers an excellent opportunity to someone with good leadership skills and vision for the church. Send resume by Jan. 31 to: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

Church Staff

Minister of Youth. Clarksville Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth. We are a growing church in southern Virginia affiliated with the BGAV and CBF. We are looking for a minister who is interested in building relationships with students and their families and has a desire to help others encounter the living God. Please send a resume with a cover letter to: Youth Minister Search Committee PO Box 126 Clarksville VA 23927.

First Baptist Church of Sevierville, Tenn., is seeking to fill the position of **executive associate pastor**. Send resumes to: Executive Associate Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 317 Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37862. A ministry description for this position can be requested by e-mailing info@fbcsev.org.

Associate Pastor for Worship and Music. First Baptist Church, Asheboro, N.C., is seeking an associate pastor for worship and music. Requirements: minimum of a bachelor's degree in music, seminary a plus, three to five years experience. For further details check the church web site at: www.fbcasheboro.com. Submit resume to: First Baptist Church, 133 N. Church St., Asheboro, NC 27203 Attn. R.M. Stratton, Chairman of the Music Search Committee or to: rstratton@triad.rr.com.

Minister of Youth. Southport Baptist Church in the beautiful seaside community across the bay from Fort Caswell is in need of a full-time minister for our youth and young families. Resumes may be submitted to: Youth Minister Search Committee, PO Box 10009, Southport, NC 28461.

Coats Baptist Church is seeking a year-round part-time **Child and Families Ministries Coordinator** to assist in planning and coordinating programming for children (newborn through grade 6) and their families with the purpose of strengthening family relationships and supporting and supplementing the parents in their God-ordained role as the primary spiritual teacher of their children. The ultimate goal is helping children and parents to come to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. Assistance with room and meals is possible. To receive an application packet contact Tom Austin, Associate Pastor/Minister of Education at one of the following: PO Box 297 Coats, NC 27521; (910) 897-5173 or tom@coatsbaptist.com.

Music Minister. Concord Baptist Church in Granite Falls is looking for a full time minister of music. Education experience is desired. The church has blended services. Attendance over 300 that also supports a full-time minister of students. Submit resume to Search Committee, Concord Baptist Church, PO Box 127, Granite Falls NC 28630.

Minister to Children and Families. Burkemont Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C., is seeking a full-time minister to children and families. Responsibilities will be to minister to children (birth-sixth grade) through Sunday School, as well as, overseeing Awana, Upward, VBS and a variety of other outreach and in-reach children's ministries. Family ministry will include couple's retreats, parenting helps and other creative ministries to help our family and children. Send resume by e-mail to dmills@burkemontbaptist.org or mail to Dr. David Mills, 4668 Burkemont Road, Morganton, NC 28655.

Minister of Worship. First Baptist Church of Gibsonville, N.C., is seeking a part-time minister of music and worship. Responsibilities include leading a blended worship service, directing choir and band. Please send resume to 221 Piedmont Ave., Gibsonville, NC 27249 or e-mail to fbcgib01@triad.rr.com.

Church Secretary. Wakefield Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C., is seeking a highly organized, competent, and professional administrative assistant to serve full-time as the church secretary. Resumes should be sent to Scott Parkison, senior pastor at sparkison@wakefieldbaptist.org.

Retreat Center

Siloam Missionary Homes and Retreat Center, Snow Camp, NC. "A retreat center with the small church in mind." Visit us at www.siloamhomes.org for more information.

Miscellaneous

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