

Baptisms in N.C. churches decline in 2014

The number of baptisms reported by North Carolina Baptist churches fell more than 10 percent from 2013 to 2014, according to the information provided by churches through the Annual Church Profile (ACP). The total number of believers baptized in 2014 is 18,111. That number is down from the 20,324 reported the previous year.

The top 105 churches in reported baptisms are listed on this page. The top 10 churches account for 19.8 percent of all N.C. baptisms with a total of 3,585. The 105 churches reported 7,761 baptisms or 42.9 percent of the state's total.

One or more baptisms was reported by 1,849 churches. A total of 789 reporting churches, or 18 percent, reported no baptisms.

Do these statistics tell the whole story? In reality, the grand totals may not be complete.

The only information available comes from churches who willingly provide data through the ACP. There are no other sources for this data. All of the information is self-reported by the churches.

According to the report 1,712 or 39.2 percent of the state's 4,370 churches did not submit the ACP. In 2013 there were 441 churches that reported one or more bap-

tisms, but did not provide any data in 2014.

The fact is that reporting is incomplete – either by typographical error, omission, neglect or intentional rejection of the process. In Baptist life, each autonomous church determines what they will do with the ACP.

We would like to provide a list of baptisms by church size, but that information is incomplete as well.

Many churches who provided baptism information did not report the number of members or worship attendance. Therefore, the *Biblical Recorder* cannot report information on baptisms by church size.

– BR Editor

Top 105 N.C. churches in baptisms for 2014

Rank	Church	Pastor	Baptisms	Rank	Church	Pastor	Baptisms
1.	The Summit Church, Durham	J.D. Greear	928	54.	Denver Baptist Church, Denver	Christopher Griggs	38
2.	Elevation, Matthews	Steven Furtick	638	54.	Bethel Baptist Church, Vilas	Charles Martin	38
3.	Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden	Bruce Frank	549	56.	Union Grove Baptist Church, Lenoir	Sam Craven	36
4.	First Baptist Church of Jacksonville	Jason Brinker	334	56.	Putnam Baptist Church, Shelby	Bryan Glisson	36
5.	C3 Church, Clayton	Matt Fry	264	56.	Southview Baptist Church, Hope Mills	Brian Kinlaw	36
6.	First Baptist Church, Indian Trail	Michael Whitson	249	59.	Christ United Baptist Church, Hickory	Michael Rudisill	35
7.	Daystar Church, Greensboro	Allen Holmes	233	60.	Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro	Joe Giaritelli	34
8.	Prospect Baptist Church, Albemarle	Stoney Benfield	154	60.	Cliffdale Community Church, Fayetteville	Grady Barnett	34
9.	Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte	Clint Pressley	131	62.	Southside Baptist Church, Greensboro	Patrick Fuller	33
10.	Carmel Baptist Church, Matthews	Alex Kennedy	105	62.	Hephzibah Baptist Church, Wendell	Aaron Wallace	33
11.	Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem	Robert Peters	104	62.	Surf City Baptist Church, Surf City	Danny McLamb	33
12.	Osborne Baptist Church, Eden	Steve Griffith	100	65.	Village Baptist Church, Fayetteville	Bruce Martin	32
13.	Vertical Church, Bladenboro	Mike Pittman	98	65.	Salem Baptist Church, Apex	Jeff Beckett	32
14.	North Asheville Baptist Church, Asheville	Jim Dykes	93	65.	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone	Greg Heisler	32
15.	Temple Baptist Church, New Bern	Jim Pennington	92	68.	South Erwin Baptist Church, Erwin	Turner Matthews	31
16.	Crossroads Fellowship, Raleigh	Chuck Millian	89	68.	Temple Baptist Church, Fayetteville	Kelly Bullard	31
17.	Winkler's Grove Baptist Church, Hickory	Dale Faulkenberry	84	68.	Emmaus Baptist Church, Pittsboro	Steve Moore	31
18.	Lee Park Baptist Church, Monroe	Chris Justice	82	68.	Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Durham	Marc Francis	31
19.	Centerview Baptist Church, Jacksonville	Michael Schwalm	81	68.	Living Water Baptist Church, Hendersonville	Tony Birkhead	31
20.	Life Community Church, Jamestown	Jake Thornhill	79	68.	The Church at Clayton Crossings, Clayton	James Tilton	31
21.	Central Baptist Church, Dunn	Tom Wagoner	77	68.	Summit Community Church, Morganton	Mike Chandler	31
22.	Apex Baptist Church, Apex	John Mark Harrison	73	75.	Green Street Baptist Church, High Point	Brandon Ware	30
23.	Hopewell Baptist Church, Monroe	Lee Pigg	72	75.	Real Life Church (Lucia), Stanley	Mike Davis	30
24.	Arran Lake Baptist Church, Fayetteville	Jeffery Isenhour	68	75.	Shepherd's Heart Ministries, Boone	Jason English	30
25.	Cerro Gordo Baptist Church, Cerro Gordo	George Strickland	67	75.	The Potter's Hand Bible Church, Apex	Steven Rumley	30
26.	Salemburg Baptist Church, Salemburg	John Adams	65	79.	Crestview Baptist Church, Canton	Dan Page	29
26.	East Lumberton Baptist Church, Lumberton	Michael Bowen	65	79.	Cowee Baptist Church, Franklin	David Powell	29
28.	Mission 217, Kannapolis	Thomas Alley	64	81.	Pole Creek Baptist Church, Candler	Dennis Thurman	28
29.	Hulls Grove Baptist Church, Vale	Marcus Redding	61	81.	Anthony Grove Baptist Church, Crouse	Dennis Bean	28
30.	Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville	Greg Mathis	56	81.	Little Brasstown Baptist Church, Brasstown	Aud Brown	28
31.	Grandview Park Baptist Church, Lenoir	Raymond Spann	55	81.	Spout Springs Church, Cameron	Steve Davis	28
32.	Faith Baptist Church, Youngsville	Richard Mills	53	85.	Albertson Missionary Baptist Church, Albertson	Steve Grissom	27
32.	Englewood Baptist Church, Rocky Mount	Michael Cloer	53	85.	Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge	Roy Carter	27
34.	Christ Community Church, Huntersville	Jack Homesley	51	85.	CrossPoint Church of Greensboro	No pastor	27
34.	Peace Church, Wilson	Rusty Russell	51	85.	Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids	Randy Martin	27
36.	Enon Chapel, Midway Park	James Kelley	50	85.	Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh	G. Jeffery Roberts	27
37.	Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh	Marty Jacumin	49	85.	Trading Ford Baptist Church, Salisbury	Michael Motley	27
38.	Trinity of Fairview, Fletcher	Stacey Harris	48	85.	North Toxaway, Lake Toxaway	Tommy Mullis	27
38.	Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Pleasant Garden	Michael Barrett	48	85.	Grace Community Church of McDowell County, Marion	Jerry Lewis	27
40.	Center Grove Baptist Church, Clemmons	Steve Corts	47	93.	Tri-City Baptist Church, Conover	Jerry Chaddick	26
40.	Woodlawn Baptist Church, Conover	Ed Yount	47	94.	Cathedral Baptist Church, Wadesboro	Randy Swaringen	25
40.	Northside Baptist Church, Wilmington	Kenneth Chinn	47	94.	Tryon Second Baptist Church, Tryon	Dennis Jones	25
43.	The Point Church, Cary	Chris Hankins	46	94.	Southside Baptist Church, Elm City	Harry Fowler	25
43.	Forest Pointe, Belmont	Ray Hardee	46	94.	Myrtle Grove Baptist, Wilmington	Paul Waters	25
45.	Gourd Springs Baptist Church, Spring Lake	Ronnie Stewart	45	98.	First Baptist Church, Hendersonville	Steve Scoggins	24
45.	Lake Hills Church, Candler	James Walker	45	98.	Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina	Tommy Pillow	24
45.	Campus Church, Sylva	Josh Hyde	45	98.	Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Millers Creek	Joey Moore	24
48.	Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro	Jason Williams	44	98.	Sharpsburg Missionary Baptist Church, Sharpsburg	Todd Greene	24
48.	Woodleaf Baptist Church, Woodleaf	Chris Williams	44	98.	Salem Baptist Church, Dobson	No pastor	24
50.	Concord First Baptist Church, Concord	Herb Rhedrick	43	98.	Maple Springs Baptist Church, Louisburg	Jason Havens	24
50.	Lake Norman Baptist Church, Huntersville	Bobby Blanton	43	98.	Mountain View Baptist Church, Hickory	John Compton	24
50.	Hillside Park Baptist Church, Thomasville	Steven Chippis	43	98.	Southbridge Fellowship, Raleigh	Jason Tovey	24
53.	Memorial Baptist Church, Norwood	Josh Phillips	40				

Source: Baptist State Convention of North Carolina