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# Gardner-Webb to Host N.C. Baptist All-State Youth Choir

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Office of University  
Communications

July 17, 2015

## *Group of Teen Vocalists to Rehearse at University, Perform Six Concerts in Region July 22-26*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Almost 100 teenage singers from across the state of North Carolina will meet each other, many for the first time, at Gardner-Webb University on July 19. Within three days, the group will memorize 12 songs and present the first in a series of six concerts as the N.C. Baptist All-State Youth Choir (ASYC).

In the 17th year for the choir, 93 vocalists from 32 of the state's Baptist churches will spend a week based at Gardner-Webb and focused on sharing the "Light for the World," the group's 2015 theme, through concerts and ministry projects in western North Carolina communities. The ASYC is directed by Pepper Choplin, a full-time composer and conductor from Raleigh, N.C., and coordinated by Phil Campbell, a 1975 GWU graduate and associate pastor of music and worship at First Baptist Church in Lincolnton, N.C.

"Our students are high achievers, many at the top of their classes and some who have participated in the choir for four years," Campbell shared. "They auditioned for positions in the group and had to pass tests to be a member, so it is quite a respectable group of young people from all across the state."

The choir, composed of singers in grades nine through 12, includes the following local participants from First Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C.

*Kricket Bridges*

*Luke Graves*

*Caroline Burnette*

*Samuel Robertson*

*Breyonna Davis*

*Simeon Wallace*

*Allie Graves*

The ASYC will perform six concerts in western North Carolina during their time together. The following performances are free and open to the public.

*July 22*

*First Baptist, Shelby*

*7 p.m.*

<i>July 23</i>	<i>First Baptist, Boone</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>
<i>July 24</i>	<i>First Baptist, Weaverville</i>	<i>7 p.m.</i>
<i>July 25</i>	<i>First Baptist, Morganton</i>	<i>6 p.m.</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>First Baptist, Lincolnton</i>	<i>10:30 a.m.</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>Ardmore Baptist, Winston-Salem</i>	<i>6 p.m.</i>

In addition to the concerts, choir members will experience ministry opportunities with children's groups and in several public venues. "They will have opportunities to grow in their faith and express that to others beyond churches and places of worship," Campbell explained. "Many of these students go into full-time Christian vocations and we would love to see them find opportunities through their time on Gardner-Webb's campus, as well as their participation in the choir. The University has been very gracious in welcoming us. Our kids will share by the end of the week that their experience with the choir is one of the most exciting weeks in their lives."

For more information on the ASYC, visit the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina page at [www.worshipnc.org](http://www.worshipnc.org) or contact Sherry Thompson at [sthompson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:sthompson@ncbaptist.org).

*The N.C. Baptist All-State Youth Choir supports and encourages youth choir ministry in North Carolina churches by offering worship and discipleship through performance opportunities, musical development and leadership development while striving for excellence in musicianship, resulting in changed lives.*

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).*