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Office of University Communications

February 17, 2012

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb’s School of Divinity recently held Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Day to spotlight the organization’s relationship with the University. The event brought together CBF leaders, CBF student scholars, GWU faculty and staff, and members of the faith community to worship, reflect, and plan for the future.

At a worship service in Gardner-Webb’s Dover Chapel, CBF North Carolina (CBFNC) representatives encouraged the audience to better focus on knowing and relating to God, and to take inventory of individual spiritual gifts and put those to use. “Grow in your relationship with God individually,” said Dr. Larry Hovis, CBFNC executive coordinator, “yet find colleagues you can talk with to help cultivate that relationship with the Father.”

“We are called to expand the Kingdom of God. Even if there are only a few involved in the work, God will say, well done, my good and faithful servant,” said Kathy Gore Chappell, CBFNC’s leadership development coordinator. Chappell also reminded the congregation of the theme of Jesus’s Parable of Talents in Matthew chapter 25: “Unequal gifts with equal faithfulness will end with equal reward.”

Established in 1991, CBF is a fellowship of churches and individuals with a mission to bring Baptists together for Christ-centered ministry. They provide ministry assistance to support things like Christian education, mission work (in-state and abroad), and church planting.

CBFNC provides scholarship assistance to students engaged in theological education. Under their Leadership Development Ministry Council, CBFNC partners with seminaries and divinity schools at Gardner-Webb, Campbell, Duke, and Wake Forest Universities. Those schools receive equal grants and select scholarship recipients who have strong potential for ministerial leadership in the church.

“Gardner-Webb’s School of Divinity is an important partner in our family and to the purpose of CBF,” said Hovis.

Kyle Chastain, a Gardner-Webb divinity student and the minister of students at Double Springs Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., was one of those scholars attending the event. “I am so appreciative of my scholarship. It has enabled me to not only further my education but get a firm grasp on God’s calling for my life,” said Chastain.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.