

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

ECU Health Medical Center, 2100 Stantonburg Road, Greenville, NC 27835

David Jones (Spouse of Lisa Jones, Lakeside Preschool Teacher)

The Lodge at Rocky Mount, 3322 Village Road (04)

Sheila Whitley, Room 243

The Carrollton of Nash, 7369 Hunter Hill Road (04)

Pat Judge, Room 809

Clarksville Health and Rehab, 184 Buffalo Rd., Clarksville, VA 23927

Richard Wrenn (Chuck Taylor's brother-in-law), Room 224 Dogwood

At Home

Carol Barker, 6313 Sapony Trail, Elm City, NC 27822

Janice Bobbitt (Chuck Taylor's sister), 4204 Whitehurst Dr, Wilmington 28409

Robyn Edwards Chapman (Jeannette Pittman's cousin)

Bob Davis (Dan Davis' brother), 427 McIver Street, Greenville, SC 29601

Michelle Costa Foster, 105 Gloucester Court (03)

Charlotte Gilliam, 3794 Loblolly Drive (04)

Ethel Hines, 125 Cobblestone Court (04)

Linda Hoyle, 210 Gravely Drive (04)

Bill Jones (Dorrie Wright's brother)

C.B. Morris, 1930 Northern Boulevard (04)

Jeannette and Grady Pittman, 313 Englewood Drive (04)

Cornelia Singletary, 15 Weatherstone Drive (04)

Patricia Taylor (Napoleon Taylor's wife), 514 Hammond Street (04)

Our Members-at-Home

Elwood Berry, Spring Arbor, 1251 South Winstead Avenue, Room 206 (03)

Stan Ford, 10820 Sandy Oak Lane, Atria 208, Raleigh, NC 27614

Robert Kincheloe, 3704 Hawthorne Road (04)

Jim Wiggs, 1441 Rock Creek Drive (04)

NAVIGATING GRIEFLAND

No matter who you are, no matter what you've lost, join us in *Navigating GriefLand*. This 8-week study and support group will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning February 11. Participants will need to order their own workbook. Please invite friends from the community who could benefit from this small group experience. Contact Katie Hand, Elizabeth Edwards, or the church office for more information as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

ANNOUNCING OUR LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our next small group Bible study will be guided by Will Willimon's new book *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross*. This six-week discussion group will meet on Tuesdays by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 17. There will not be an in-person option for this study. Participants may order their own book in print or digital format. Please contact Elizabeth or the church office to sign up.

YOUTH NEWS

High school students, be sure to check your email and let me know if you plan to join us on this summer's Pilgrimage to Phoenix by February 10! Youth are needed to host the Valentine Luncheon for our Topnotchers on February 15 and to work at the Casserole Sale & Yard Sale on March 7. Our ski retreat has been rescheduled for February 27 – March 1. We will not have regular activities for youth and children this Sunday night but will resume on February 15. Elizabeth

MUSIC NOTES

Reminder: the Music Committee will meet on Sunday following worship and an agenda will be emailed out today for your review. As of now, Lakeside Ringers and Chancel Choir are planning to meet this evening, as the weather looks to be cold and rainy, but not freezing until later in the night. As always, please let Zack or me know if you plan on being absent.

Jake

TOPNOTCHER NEWS

Our Continue the Communion lunch has been rescheduled for this Sunday, February 8, at Papa Cibo's (1314 Benvenue Road). We will also hold the annual Topnotchers Valentine Luncheon on Sunday, February 15. Please make every attempt to attend! Sign up online or through the church office for the Valentine luncheon so we have a headcount.

Sue

LAKESIDE YOUTH CASSEROLE SALE & YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 – 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

We will begin signing up for food donations this Sunday in the Narthex.

THIS SUNDAY AT LAKESIDE

Deacon Greeter – Kate Barnes and Lori Joyner

Ushers – Trevor Lane, Keith Ballentine, and Alan Clements

Acolyte – Maggie Paszek

February 8, 2026 ♦ The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Lessons: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "The Only Defense"

Anthems: "When the Church of Jesus" – Vaughan Williams

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" – Larson

This Sunday, we will receive a Communion Offering for Local Benevolence.

For Parents: Children's Church is this Sunday!

LAKESIDE'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY PLAN

2026 Missions and Ministry Budget: \$599,734

2026 Missions and Ministry Budget: \$599,734

YTD Giving Through February 1 \$63,558

Amount Remaining to Collect: \$536,176

LAKESIDE CHURCH
1501 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27804
Phone: 252-446-0126 Fax: 252-446-4997
E-mail: lakesideirm@embargmail.com
Website: lakesidechurchmt.org
CareNet Counseling East of Rocky Mount
252-355-2801 • toll free: 866-355-2801

CHURCH STAFF	
Libby Grammer <i>Senior Minister</i>	Elizabeth Edwards <i>Associate Minister</i>
Lisa Meadows <i>Minister to Children</i>	Liz Broomell <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Sue Bulluck <i>Senior Adult Director</i>	Cindy Davis <i>Custodian</i>
<hr/>	

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROCKY MOUNT, NC
Permit No. 240

The Link
1501 Sunset Avenue
Rocky Mount, NC
27804-5014
Address Service requested

LAKESIDE CALENDAR

Thursday, February 5

10:00 a.m. Needles and Prayers, Parlor

Sunday, February 8

9:45 a.m. Growing Together Groups, Education Building
10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:20 a.m. Children's Church, Children's Classroom
12:15 p.m. Missions Committee, Conference Room
12:15 p.m. Music Committee, Music Suite
12:15 p.m. Continue the Communion, Papa Cibo's

Monday, February 9

11:00 a.m. Circle 10, Lecture Room

Wednesday, February 11

10:30 a.m. At the Table, Benvenue Country Club
6:00 p.m. Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal, Music Suite
7:00 p.m. Navigating GriefLand, Parlor
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

SAVE THE DATES

Community VBS – June 8-12 at Lakeside

**Registration for children ages 3 through current 5th graders
will open on our website soon!**



**Lakeside
Church**

Vol. 67, No. 5

The Link

February 4, 2026

THE WEEKLY *LINK* GOES ALL-VIRTUAL: WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

In order to save money in our annual ministry plan and be better stewards of the gifts you so generously provide to Lakeside each year, our staff and Administrative Council have approved a change to our publication of *The Link*. Currently, we are printing and bulk mailing 200 paper copies of *The Link* each week, and the majority of these paper copies are received by people who can access email. We also email *The Link* to those already subscribed to our weekly emails, which is a far timelier mode of communication.

Moving forward, our weekly *Link* publication will be transitioning to an email-only format. **If you do not receive *The Link* via email right now and you have access to email, we need your most up-to-date email address** so we can make sure you receive the weekly *Link* in your email inbox. We need these updated email addresses by the end of February. Please email or call the church office with your information.

For our homebound members with no access to email, we will be mailing a monthly paper *Link* so they can keep up with church news. This limited paper mailing list is for those who otherwise cannot contact the church electronically. If you know someone who needs to continue to receive the monthly paper *Link*, please contact the church office.

These changes will go into effect on March 1, 2026, so be sure to update us with your information before that date!

TOPNOTCHER VALENTINE LUNCHEON

The Lakeside Youth invite our Topnotchers to join us for lunch, fun, and fellowship on Sunday, February 15, immediately following the called church conference in Robbins Hall. Please sign up through the church office or on the Event Registration page of the website as soon as possible.

CIRCLE 10

Lakeside Circle 10 will meet on Monday, February 9, at 11:00 a.m. in the Lecture Room. Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Edwards will speak to us about Lakeside's ecumenical efforts and ways we can become more involved in bringing our community together. Denise O'Geary will bring our devotion. To continue the fun and fellowship after the meeting, we'll follow Ginger to Panera.

**FROM YOUR BOARD OF FINANCE:
PROVISIONAL 2026 REVISED MINISTRY PLAN DETAILS**

Dear Lakeside Family,

We are writing today to share a transparent update on the current financial standing of Lakeside Church. As previously communicated, our actual income for 2025 fell short of our actual/planned expenses, resulting in supplemental action by your Board of Finance, the Diaconate and our Ministerial staff to reduce our 2025 Denominational Missions payments by approximately 55%.

As responsible stewards with a focus on the long-term sustainability of our missions, your Board of Finance and the Diaconate, along with affected committees have developed a provisional revised budget for 2026. A copy of this revised Ministry Plan, noting all changes, was included with last week's edition of *The Link* for your review prior to the church conference scheduled immediately after our service on February 15. If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to reach out to me or one of our ministerial staff before the called conference.

We are deeply grateful for the consistent, faithful giving of our members. Our goal has always been to steward the resources you entrust to us with integrity and prayerful foresight.

We remain confident that God will continue to guide us through the year and that we will be able to fulfill all the goals of our originally passed 2026 Ministry Plan. We ask that you join us in prayer for wisdom and in continued support of our ministry.

Keith Ballentine
On Behalf of your Board of Finance

**NOTICE OF CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE ON
FEBRUARY 15**

There will be a called church conference on Sunday, February 15, immediately following worship for the purpose of approving the Provisional Revised 2026 Ministry Plan. Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the revised plan, as approved by the Board of Finance, Missions Committee, and Diaconate.