

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. John 15:5

Easter is a busy time at any church.

In preparation for Easter, about 30 of us gathered on a Wednesday morning to celebrate a traditional Passover meal. We were also shown the symbolism to understand how Jesus is *our* Passover Lamb who offered His life once (instead of annually) for all our sin.

I am excited this year for our Easter celebrations (April 5) where we will gather at 6:45 am to watch the sunrise and proclaim the Resurrection on the front steps of the Sanctuary.

Later, we will have our usual schedule of Sunday School at 10 am and our full corporate worship service at 11. There are Sunday School classes for all ages and a seat reserved for you, your family, and friends at 11. I pray you will join us and add your voice to the celebration!

This year, we resumed a Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study after a couple of years of only having children's ministries on Wednesday night. It has been a great time of fellowship & study as we have considered what it means to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our children's lives.

Starting April 1st, our Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study group will be studying Henry Blackaby's book "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God."

This is a book I have enjoyed for years and was instrumental in deepening my own walk with God. I have personally seen this book used to draw people to Jesus and to increase the intimacy of their relationship with Him.

As we study this book, we will learn that God is always at work all around us and that He desires for us to join Him in His work. We will learn 5 ways that God typically speaks to us and how we can clearly understand God's will for our lives.

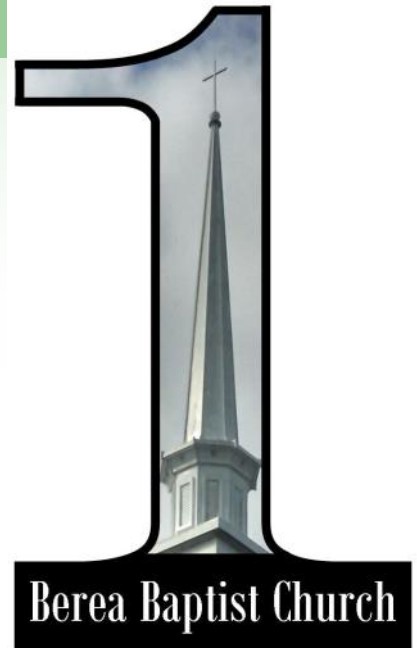
If you are available on Wednesday Evenings from 6:30-8pm, I hope you'll consider joining us. Your relationship with God will thank you!

And that sets it all up right there. There are so many opportunities to deepen your walk with Jesus. Which ones are for you? Which ones will you join?

It is such a privilege to be a part of this family of faith known as Berea Baptist Church! It is a privilege to say we are a part of this family *together!*

I look forward to deepening our relationship with God and His church... TOGETHER!

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



April 2026

Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons' Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Berea Basketball
- ★ Biblical Recorder
- ★ Agape
- ★ Coming Events
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

- ★ 10:00am Sunday School
- ★ 11:00am Children's Church
- ★ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ★ 5:00pm Puppets
- ★ 6:30pm Youth Bible Study-FLC

Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:15pm Awana
- ★ 6:30pm Adult Bible Study (OFH)

April @ a Glance:

- ★ Easter Sunrise Service
4/5 @ 6:45am
- ★ Business Meeting
4/12 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
4/16 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Fellowship Meal
4/19 @ 12:30pm
- ★ Church Council
4/26 @ 12:15pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



Ross Tenny — Chairman
Steve Durham— Vice Chairman
Matt Reed— Reflections
Cameron Quigley— Secretary
John Gregory
Don Alexander

Philippians 1:12-25

Have you ever hoped you could change what is happening in your life? Most of us would probably say yes. We all face tough times we cannot control—things only God can change. In His wisdom, He sometimes lets challenges stay in our lives for a reason.

Look at Paul’s story. He wanted to share the good news about Jesus in Rome, but the path to get there was nothing like he expected. Paul’s journey took him through false accusations, standing trial, a dangerous sea trip, a shipwreck, and even time in prison. While chained to a Roman guard, Paul wrote that his “circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the Gospel, in other words, more people heard about Jesus because of his situation. Seeing Paul’s courage helped others feel brave enough to speak about Jesus too (Philippians 1:12-14).

What seems like a wrong turn or a big problem in our lives might be part of God’s plan. We might face money troubles, health problems, or struggles with friends or family. But one thing never changes: Jesus is always with us, and He is the most important thing in our lives.

Even when everything around us changes, if we belong to Jesus, He will use every part of our story for good. No matter your age or where you are in life, we can all hope—just like Paul—that Jesus will be seen in us, whatever comes our way.

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons’ Meeting will be April 13th @ 6:00pm in the choir room.



Ramp built for Mrs. Janice Sloan. The one she had was too steep.



Replaced ramp for Mrs. Stokely who is wheelchair bound.





Our Children and Youth!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:15-8
Ministry Needs**

T&T Boys Helper - we are looking for someone to serve as a second set of eyes in our 3rd thru 5th grade class.

AWANA Volunteers - Looking for those that could work for a week here & there as needed.

Sunday School Volunteers - Nursery & 3 thru 5 year old Sunday School Volunteers.

Contact Pastor Charlie to begin serving in these vital areas of the church.

Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:15-8

Sunday School for Children & Youth - Sunday Mornings @ 10 am

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am

Awana Schedule

Apr. 1st Grand Prix Race Night

Apr. 8th Spring Break

Apr. 15th Twin Night

Apr. 22nd Crazy Hair/Hat Night

Apr. 29th Camo Night



Youth Group News



April 6 - Spring Break Escape - \$20

June 7 - Burger Bar Fundraiser

July 26-August 1 - Built to Serve Philadelphia - \$125 Due 5/31

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:

All Students, 6th grade and above, are welcome to join us every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30 in the FLC, as we share a meal together, shoot hoops, play games and study God's Word.



The typical week for my family consists of work, practice and games, church activities and school. Sprinkled throughout that time are household chores, yard work, the usual errands about town, and the odd task or activity that is not accounted for in that list. It's a busy life, and certainly a busy world that we all live in, and like most of you, we could use a break.

That said, Sunday afternoons about 3 o'clock, I love to sit down for about an hour, watch a game and let's be honest here, take a nap. How important is that nap? In a word, VERY. Perhaps you've seen the meme or t-shirt, "Jesus Took Naps, Be Like Jesus". Actually there is truth in it as we see several times throughout the Gospels, that Jesus took time to withdraw and get some rest. In Mark 6:31 we see the disciples and Jesus regrouping from a long day of ministry and Jesus response being "Then, because so

many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." You've probably been there, running and running, so busy, you didn't even have time to stop and eat. However, from the very beginning, scripture illustrates throughout the importance of taking time to rest and be refreshed. It is critical to take time to take care of our bodies so we can get back into the fight (it is after all spiritual warfare) ready to take on the next task or challenge. The question today, are you in need of rest? Perhaps you need to withdraw for a short time to rest and refuel, to ready yourself for what lies ahead.

A final thought, and a word of caution. Scripture also takes a definitive stance on laziness. Throughout Proverbs we see the sluggard: the one who has nothing but poverty to show for his laziness. Then in the New Testament we see Jesus speaking of a servant He called, "wicked and lazy" for burying his talent (Matthew 25:26-30). Even Paul pointed out those that appear to be busy and instead are disruptive busybodies, urging them "to settle down and earn the food they eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12). So where do you find yourself? In need of rest, or having rested too long?

Further reading: Psalm 23:1-3; Proverbs 6:6-11; Mark 4:38

If you ever have questions or need anything, please feel free to contact Pastor Charlie - (252) 333-4242.

Agape Ministry



On Tuesday March 10th, Agape donated 40 soup meals to our homebound and meals on wheels clients.



FIRST-PERSON: Are you a Saul or a Paul?

Southern Baptists have lingered at a critical intersection for the past several years, and the ultimate choice of which road we take will shape our identity. Essentially, who will we most resemble — Saul or Paul?

Both have a bearing on how effectively we fulfill our Great Commission responsibility. We need to decide quickly because the secular world increasingly perceives us as Saul rather than Paul.

Why should we care what the world thinks? Because it is deeply misguided to expect people we alienate to also be open to the Gospel message we proclaim.

Various studies from Barna Group, Pew Research Center and Public Religion Research Institute find that conservative evangelical Christians are viewed as too stridently political, judgmental on cultural issues and morally hypocritical. The studies also indicate that the issue is not with our theology as much as with the disconnect the world sees between what we say we believe and how we exercise those beliefs.

Americans have generally lost the capacity to hear, think, process and delineate ideas. Rather than being challenged by perspectives we do not agree with, we bypass thoughtfulness and get defensive when criticized. Discussion — if you can even call it that — on virtually every issue is now divisive rather than unifying.

Research published last year found that only 10% of American friendships cross party lines. One political scientist observed, “Part of what is destroying our social fabric is that we have set an expectation that to be a good Democrat or Republican, you have to unconditionally hate the other party.”

We cannot simultaneously hate spiritually lost people with whom we disagree on virtually every issue and love them to Christ. Jesus will not become the object of their affection through the legalistic rantings of a Saul. From biblical accounts, an unregenerate Saul was a rigidly legalistic religious zealot fueled by a determination to punish and eradicate those who did not conform to Judaism. This is sometimes how conservative Christians are perceived. We expect spiritually lost people to convert to Christianity through our strident efforts to “morally correct” their perspectives on politics, human sexuality, immigration, abortion, gun rights, religious liberty and a host of other issues.

The Apostle Paul did not — and would not — do that. Paul did not condone sin, but set aside his rights, not his theology, to “become all things to all people, so that (he) may by every possible means save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22) He chose the greater purpose. So where is the balance? Christians must engage the marketplace, political and cultural arenas, and be a voice for righteousness.

However, we must guard against weaponizing moral truth or exchanging evangelism for activism. Like Paul, we must build bridges and earn the right to be heard. Here are four ways Christians can live with biblical conviction while being effective witnesses in a divided culture:

Prioritize relationships over cultural combat. Pew Research shows that personal familiarity reduces stereotypes and builds understanding. Relationships defuse the intensity of disagreements and create space for dialogue. Trust grows when people do not feel like projects.

Listen to learn, not to correct. People rarely change their views because of an argument, especially those online through social media. However, psychology research demonstrates there is greater openness when people believe they have been heard and feel respected.

Service opens the door to engagement. Actions truly do speak louder than words. We live among broken people who need mercy. People see alignment between our theology and our actions when we go from shouting to serving. Thousands of Gospel Conversations have happened through the years through volunteer ministries like Southern Baptist Disaster Relief that build relationships and earn trust.

Be the church people expect. Sociologists estimate that about 66 million Americans — one-fifth of the population — struggle with feeling isolated and lonely. They long for a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves, connection and shared experience. Healthy churches offer an impactful witness to their communities.

To rephrase Mark 8:36, what does it profit us as Christians if we win all the cultural and political arguments but forfeit our opportunity to “save some”? The most persuasive witness in a divided culture is not louder conviction; it is embodied conviction with relational warmth.

In a world full of Sauls, strive to be a Paul.

Berea Basketball



K-2 grade
1st place
Coach Charlie and Assistant Cameron



3rd to 5th grade
2nd place
Coach Greg and Assistant Cameron



5th to 8th grade
1st place
Coach Riley and Assistant Cameron



Church Business Meeting
April 12th @ 12:15pm



Agape Meeting
Tuesday, April 21st @
6:00pm in the OFH. All ladies
are invited to join.



J. Walkers Meeting
April 20th @ 10:30 am in the OFH.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Bobby"

When the federal government shutdown in January, many families in our region suddenly found themselves without a paycheck. One local family, hardworking, stable, and doing everything right, was furloughed with no warning. Overnight, their household income dropped to zero. As the shutdown stretched on, they fell behind on their power bill. By the time they reached out to the Community Care Collaborative (CCC), they were just days away from disconnection. The stress was overwhelming: winter temperatures were still low, their children needed a warm and safe home, and they had no clear timeline for when work would resume.

Because of the support of our community partners and donors, CCC was able to step in immediately. We worked with the utility provider, covered the past due balance, and ensured the family's power stayed connected while they waited for their furlough to end. This is the kind of crisis no one can plan for, but it's exactly the kind of moment your generosity makes a difference. Thanks to you, this family weathered an unexpected hardship without losing the stability they've worked so hard to maintain.

"Anastasia"

When a family unexpectedly lost a close loved one this winter, their world shifted overnight. Along with the emotional weight of grief came the financial strain of funeral expenses, missed work, and the sudden disruption of their household income. They had always managed their bills, but the combination of loss and reduced wages pushed them behind on rent for the first time. By the time they reached out to the Community Care Collaborative (CCC), they were facing an eviction notice. The thought of losing their home on top of everything else felt overwhelming. They were doing their best to stay afloat, but grief had created a gap they simply couldn't bridge alone.

Because of the generosity of our donors and partner churches, CCC was able to step in quickly. We worked with the landlord, covered the past due rent, and ensured the family could remain safely housed while they regained their footing. This support gave them the space to focus on healing, caring for one another, and rebuilding stability without the fear of homelessness hanging over them. This is the heart of CCC's mission: meeting families at their most vulnerable moments with compassion, dignity, and practical help. Your support made it possible for this family to stay in their home during one of the hardest seasons of their lives.

Berea partners with the Community Care Collaborative in meeting human needs by providing assistance to those facing temporary emergency crisis. To learn how you can offer additional support visit:

aunitedway.org/communitycarecollaborative.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 3 | Earl & Diana Heatwole | 16 | James & Ruth Russell |
| 5 | Timothy Bradshaw | | Konnie Poulson |
| 7 | Karl & Kristy Poulson | 17 | Paris Primus |
| | Terry & Joanie Taylor | | Gregory Primus |
| | Sammy Wise | 18 | Bill Durham |
| 8 | Kenny & Kathy Waters | | Stephen Troxell |
| | Mildred Godfrey | 19 | Fahey & Amanda Harrell |
| | Asher Long | | Blake Ennis |
| 11 | Mike & Dawn Johnson | 20 | Don & Miriam Alexander |
| 12 | Evelyn Milam | | Sarah Long |
| | Pat Lehman | 21 | Pamela Robinson |
| 14 | Laura Barbettini | 23 | Luke & Diane Whedbee |
| | Donovan Hodges | 24 | Sam & Paula Keith |
| 15 | Fahey Harrell | 30 | Peggy Bunch |

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Permit #2

Berea Baptist Church

2033 North Road Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Find us on the Web: www.bereaone.org

Like Us On  :
[facebook.com/bereaone.org](https://www.facebook.com/bereaone.org)
[facebook.com/bereastudentministry](https://www.facebook.com/bereastudentministry)
[facebook.com/bereabaptistchildrensministry](https://www.facebook.com/bereabaptistchildrensministry)

Email Us: office@bereaone.org

Contact Us:
 Phone:(252) 338-8128
 Fax:(252) 335-7524

Regular Office Hours:
 Monday – Thursday
 9:00am – 2:00pm

