

# BereaOne Life

## WISE Musings

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."  
Acts 20:35

Berea is a giving church!

Berea is a generous church!

Those two truths have rung true throughout the month of November and I pray they will continue through December as well.

Last month you all worked together to collect and deliver a multitude of coats, sleeping bags and blankets to Western North Carolina.

Then you stuffed and collected 179 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child that will be delivered to children around the world as a catalyst to sharing the True Gift of Christmas.

Then you took time, after our delicious Thanksgiving meal, to prepare 86 Christmas cards that will be distributed to local Home Delivered Meals recipients. Then, the next day, J Walkers made more bringing the total well over 100.

November was certainly a month of giving! Now we move to December.

Every year in December we are encouraged to give to Jesus our largest Christmas gift in gratitude for His amazing grace.

Across Southern Baptist life this is done through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Every penny given to the LMCO goes directly to mission fields around the world where our Missionaries use the funds to get the gospel to those who have never heard.

You all have always amazed me at your dedication to the Great Commission in your overwhelmingly generous support of Global Missions! Heaven will be populated by a multitude that heard and received the Good News through your sacrificial giving.

There are infinite opportunities for generosity this time of year, but I want to highlight one other specifically.

For a couple years now Berea has supported the Community Care Collaborative of the Albemarle Area United Way. CCC provides assistance to individuals and families facing temporary emergency crisis.

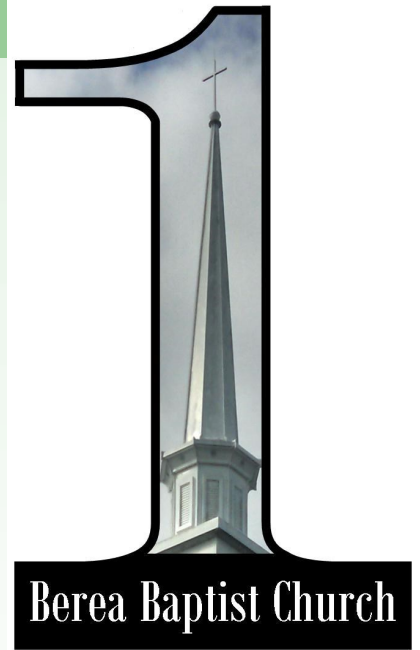
Since officially launching in 2019, CCC has already assisted over 2,000 households and invested over \$700,000 with an average of \$475 per case across Pasquotank, Camden, Perquimans & Gates Counties.

For the fourth year in a row CCC has been awarded a \$10,000 challenge grant. IF CCC is able to raise \$10,000 in donations before the end of 2024 the donations will be matched by a donor advised fund of the Northern Albemarle Community Foundation.

This would be an excellent way to double your contributions to help neighbors in need.

Jesus is the One who told us "it is more blessed to give than to receive" and I pray you will live out His declaration with a December filled with generosity!

Love you all,  
Jason



## December 2024

### Inside this issue:

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- ★ CCC Stories
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Weekly Activities:

#### Sundays

- ★ 10:00am Sunday School
- ★ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ★ 6:30pm Youth Bible Study-FLC

#### Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:15pm Awana

### December @ a Glance:

- ★ **NO** Business Meeting
- ★ Deacon's Meeting  
12/9 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Church Wide Christmas Party  
12/15 @ 6:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline  
12/18 @ 12:00pm
- ★ **NO** Church Council



Ross Tenny — Chairman  
 Mike Hanson — Vice Chairman  
 Steve Durham — Secretary  
 Don Alexander — Reflections  
 Bill Durham  
 John Gregory  
 Fahey Harrell  
 Frank Lilly  
 Matt Reed

## Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:9

God calls us to do good when we are harmed. We are never to seek vengeance. We are to remain peaceful knowing that our God is the one who judges. If someone hurts you, bless them. When they see your good works, it may be the very thing that leads to faith in Christ.

Next Deacon's Meeting will be a Christmas Dinner at  
 Bill Durham's house on December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.

## Handyman Ministry

*Berea*  
 Handyman Ministry



This ramp was built for Jack Spence. Jack is an amputee and needed a ramp to be able to get in/out of his house. He lives by himself.



This ramp allows Teresa, whose mother is wheelchair bound, to be able to get her in/out of the house. This ramp is recycled and didn't cost them anything.



This ramp was built for Mrs. Scott. She is wheelchair/walker bound.





## Children's Ministry News

### Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8

It's the most wonderful time, of the year AND the Awana Christmas store is right around the corner. We need your help to restock our shelves. We are looking for Christmas decorations, and gifts for our clubbers to purchase for their families with the Awana shares they have earned. Pray that God will continue to introduce our program to new families and clubbers.

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

### Awana Schedule

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** - Door Decorating Contest  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>** - Happy Birthday Jesus Party  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - Store - Christmas Edition  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - Merry Christmas



## Youth Group News



**Trek for Middle & High School Students** - Wednesday Nights during Awana

**SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10 AM**

**December 21** - Live Nativity

**December 22** - Youth Christmas Party

**Coming Soon** - Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia

**SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:**

Youth Bible Study is every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30 in the FLC, as we share a meal together, shoot hoops, play games and most importantly study God's Word.



From time to time children come into my toy shop and I am suddenly motivated to give them a toy. I love the excitement a child gets from receiving a gift. Recently while a family was shopping I grabbed a new figure off the shelf and gave it to the young boy. To my surprise, there was no excitement, instead my gift was met with disdain, and was eventually given back because the young boy didn't like that particular brand.

The interaction gave me pause to think of my relationship with my Heavenly Father, Who is the Author of every blessing in life. It made me wonder if that was a picture of what God sees in my heart and in my life. Instead, my reaction should be to follow scripture where it tells us in Psalm 100:4-5 to "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." On a daily basis God showers us with blessings, perhaps so much so that we take it for granted. We are blessed with daily provisions, people who love us, and a church where we can worship freely, saying nothing of the abundance of blessings that we don't even need. Yet sometimes we forget to come before Him with thanks. We look at today's gift with an eye for something else, lacking in gratitude for what He has done today.

May our attitudes this holiday season, and beyond, be an attitude that reflects genuine thanks for ALL that God has done. Spend time daily thanking Him for all He has done, and continues to do for us, though we are most undeserving.

Further Reading: Psalm 9:1; 103:1-5; Matthew 6:30-33; Ephesians 3:20

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



## Coats for western NC

Each year, N.C. Baptists partner with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association to collect and distribute coats in New York City as part of an outreach event called “Coats for the City.” This year, officials added western North Carolina to the distribution list following the effects of Hurricane Helene.

“Coats [for the City] started as seeing the need in the community in New York City, but this is a way to see the need in our own backyard,” said Janet Packard, executive assistant with N.C. Baptists’ Mission Catalysts group and has worked with the outreach for several years.

Throughout the Annual Meeting, messengers and visitors had the opportunity to drop off their new or gently used coats outside of the exhibit hall. Packard said that this year the number of donations is one of the highest they’ve ever received.

Packard said that several pastors from western North Carolina stopped by the collection booth and said seeing the collection taking place at the Annual Meeting was an encouragement to them.

Right: Coats we collected for the Deacon’s coat/blanket drive. Mike and Matt took them to Spruce Pine, NC.





## NC Baptist Annual Meeting puts spotlight on Helene victims, response



GREENSBORO, N.C. — As communities across western North Carolina continue to recover from the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene, N.C. Baptists heard about the ongoing relief efforts and prayed for those still recuperating from the storm's destruction during the 2024 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Annual Meeting.

Attendees who gathered for the meeting Nov. 4-5 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center had several opportunities to learn about the ways in which N.C. Baptist churches have contributed to disaster relief efforts in western North Carolina.

### Live panel

Even before the Annual Meeting officially kicked off, officials with the State Convention and N.C. Baptists on Mission held a live

panel discussion in the exhibit hall. Seth Brown, N.C. Baptist Director of Convention Relations, spoke with Richard Brunson, Baptists on Mission's Executive Director-Treasurer, and Tom Beam, Baptists on Mission's Disaster Response Coordinator, on how they've seen churches respond to the crisis and the ongoing need in western North Carolina.

"This is the disaster that's been the biggest, and it's been the one that we've had the most support for from our churches, by far," Brunson said. "It's just been amazing how North Carolina Baptists have been On Mission Together, and they care about people who are hurting."

Beam shared how volunteers from the western part of the state have come together to help with relief efforts even though many have lost their homes.

"Those volunteers, they just want to serve, and they'll serve no matter what," Beam said. "And that's really the kind of spirit that you saw for people all over western North Carolina."

Brunson detailed the stages of the response over time, which moves from relief to recovery to rebuilds. Though the relief stage is mostly over, there's still overlap among the stages in some places as many North Carolinians continue to go without power. Because of this, Baptists on Mission is still operating one mass feeding site and nine recovery sites.

As the response moves to the rebuild stage, Baptists on Mission volunteers are performing essential rapid repairs (ERR) to get as many people back into a functioning, but not yet fully finished, home before the worst of winter hits. Brunson said that the entire rebuild stage could be four to six years long, and the need for volunteers will be ongoing.

### Baptist on Mission report and time of prayer

During the final session of the Annual Meeting, Brunson took the stage to deliver Baptists on Mission's report and shared with messengers the current and future relief efforts in western North Carolina.

Brunson began by thanking N.C. Baptists for all they've done to support the response, which includes donating generators, running mobile kitchens, removing trees from homes and mudding out homes. According to Brunson these are just a few of the many ways N.C. Baptists are being used to share the good news with people in need.

"Jesus is alive. He's still working," Brunson said. "And He's not only rebuilding broken homes, but broken lives."

Brunson and N.C. Baptist Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker concluded the Annual Meeting by recognizing those impacted by Hurricane Helene, inviting them to stand. Unzicker invited messengers to surround those affected by the storm, lay hands on them and pray for strength as they continue to serve their communities and recover themselves.

"As N.C. Baptists come around other N.C. Baptists right now in this room, we pray that You would use our movement of churches to be On Mission Together to rebuild North Carolina," Unzicker said during his concluding prayer.





The Fellowship Committee's Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success! The food was delicious! We had close to 120 people in attendance and we made 86 cards for meals on wheels recipients! A huge thank you to everyone that was involved in making it such a great fellowship success!



**Operation Christmas Child**  
A total of 179 Boxes Collected



Thank you for participating in another successful year of Operation Christmas Child at Berea as you help bless children in need across the world.





### J. Walkers Ministry

Our Christmas Party will be December 16th @ 10:30am in the OFH. Bring a "brunchy" dish and come join us for fun and fellowship!



Women on Mission  
Christmas Party  
Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:00pm in the OFH. Please  
bring a party dish and a  
\$10.00 gift to exchange.

### From Berea's staff to you... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

December  
24 & 25

January  
1, 2025



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

When "Ryan's" job unexpectedly closed, he was left without a reliable source of income. He lost his car, his home, and was struggling with the stress. Ryan's job reopened, and he was able to begin working once again, but had to come up with a security deposit to move to a new place. CCC stepped in and provided the necessary funds for Ryan's security deposit, helping him move into his new apartment.

When "Jane" was hospitalized after her diagnosis of cervical cancer, she fell behind on bills. She used up her paid leave and had few resources available to her. CCC was able to cover the past due rent for Jane, ultimately preventing eviction while she continues to heal knowing that the following month she'll be back to work and financially stable.

*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:  
[aaunitedway.org/communitycarecollaborative](http://aaunitedway.org/communitycarecollaborative).*





# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

- |    |                      |    |                         |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2  | Barbara Tidd         | 17 | Ross Tenny              |
| 3  | Chellie Wise         | 18 | Alan Harrell            |
| 5  | Gary Gordon          |    | Coleen Turner           |
| 6  | Brookelyn Mansfield  | 21 | Ross & Charlene Tenny   |
|    | Amy Langley          | 22 | Olivia Spruill          |
|    | Tracy Markham        | 23 | Dave Kelsick            |
|    | Joshua Tenny         |    | James Tenny             |
| 7  | Tiffany Quigley      | 25 | Penny Elmore            |
| 10 | David Quillin        | 27 | Paula Keith             |
| 11 | Gary Smith           | 28 | Dickie & Vicki Sanders  |
| 13 | Cole Bradshaw        |    | Allen & Kimberly Smith  |
|    | Richard Seymour      |    | Faith Long              |
| 14 | Mary Pritchard       | 29 | Joseph Martin           |
| 15 | Jason & Chellie Wise | 30 | Carolyn Sanders         |
|    | Emma Lee Wise        | 31 | Kevin & Tiffany Quigley |
| 16 | Josiah Tenny         |    | Zechariah Tenny         |

bereaaone.org



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