

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness. Isaiah 9:2

Merry Christmas!

As time passes (read: I get older), Christmas seems to come more quickly each year. I find myself being one of those people who regularly say, "Can you believe it's Christmastime already?"

But the signs are everywhere. Wreaths are hung on every door of the church. There is a beautifully decorated tree in the Sanctuary (thank you, EDGE class).

Stores are filled with lights and gift options. Even the parsonage has a 2,500+ light tree on its north side. Christmastime is here! But why the fascination with lights? Why the candlelight service on Christmas Eve?

Isaiah experienced the reality of darkness in a way we never will. He truly lived in a dark world. He lived in a world of hopelessness, disobedience, and idolatry. Isaiah experienced God's Spirit in bursts; he was even given a vision of the throne room of heaven, but that only worked to amplify the darkness of the rest of life.

We live in a world filled with God's grace. We have never known a world where the Holy Spirit was not present. We have never experienced life before the Savior. Yet in the Advent season, we allow ourselves to consider the darkness. We ponder what life would have been like before the hope of God in flesh.

Then we are reminded of the Light of the World coming to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sin. We hear the Good News of salvation offered to all those cursed by Adam's sin. We celebrate Jesus coming as an infant to offer the Hope of Peace with God. We experience the Joy of the season as we see God's Love expressed in physical form.

Christmas is a time to be reminded of the salvation we have in Jesus. We rejoice that though our sins should condemn us, we may be forgiven. That reminder should bring us back to the joy of our salvation. It should remind us what it was like to be lost, and what it was like to be transformed.

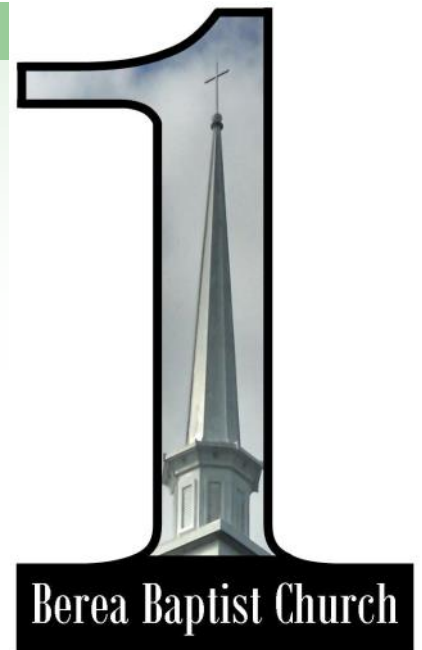
That joy is contagious. It should lead us to tell everyone about our hope. It should lead us to invite everyone to come & worship with us.

That joy is contagious. It should lead us to give generously, even sacrificially, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions to see this Good News penetrate the lostness around the globe.

That joy is contagious. It should permeate our lives in the good days and bad ones. It should keep our eyes pointed upward, even when dark days come.

In this Christmas season, let us think about what it was like to live in the darkness of our sin and rejoice in the hope and joy of our salvation through Jesus.

Love you all,
Jason



December 2025

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- ★ Upcoming Events
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

- ★ 10:00am Sunday School
- ★ 11:00am Children's Church
- ★ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ★ 4:00pm Puppets
- ★ 6:30pm Youth Bible Study-FLC

Wednesdays

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

December @ a Glance:

- ★ Fellowship Meal
12/14 @ 6:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
12/23 @ 12:00pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



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

When people receive exciting news, what's the natural thing to do: keep it under wraps or tell others who can share in their joy? The second option, of course. That's the reason Paul told others about salvation; it was good news he simply couldn't keep to himself.

God saved Paul on the road to Damascus, and the apostle dedicated the rest of his life to spreading the good news of the Gospel. Yes, he did so because he was thankful and felt devoted to the Lord. But there was more to the apostle's motivation—he also felt compelled to offer hope to a world in need (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Paul's message was that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a human being. Through His death on the cross, Jesus redeemed mankind, and all who receive Him as their Savior will be forgiven. Paul realized the Gospel had to be shared, but not just with those around him—he had to tell everyone! Some would accept the truth, while others would reject it. But Paul wasn't responsible for their reaction. His task was simply to talk about Jesus.

Do you feel the same joy and gratitude that Paul felt? Pray that God would give you the courage and wisdom to share His good news with others.

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons' Meeting will be January 12th @ 7:00pm in the choir room.



Removed old steps and platform and replaced with new ones for Angela Williams.



Built this ramp for Mrs. Ellen Temple, she is confined to a wheelchair.



Our Children and Youth!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:15-8

The Awana Christmas store is coming December 17! Our most popular store opening of the year will see many of our clubbers shopping for gifts for family and friends.

The store is currently in need of Christmas items, like ornaments and decorations or small inexpensive gifts for "Mom & Dad". We are also looking to restock our toy section with things like Play-Doh, Legos, and gifts for our younger clubbers. Bring your items to the church office or contact Pastor Charlie with more questions.

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

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am

Awana Schedule

Dec. 3rd - Door Decorating Contest

Dec. 10th - Happy Birthday Jesus

Dec. 17th - Christmas Store Night

Dec. 24th - Christmas Break

Dec. 31st - New Year's Break



Youth Group News



December 21 - Youth Christmas Party

March 1 - Winterjam \$15 @ Scope

Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Katy Nichole, and more!

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.



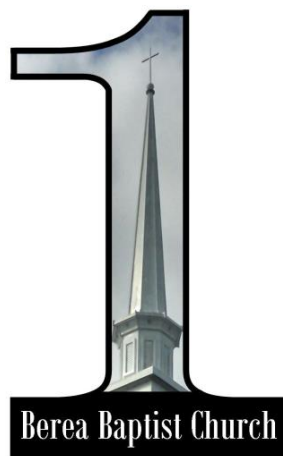
What a world we are living in! Evil seems to be around every corner and on every channel. Worse yet, it is constantly pulling at you and me, seeking to draw us back in. The Apostle Paul struggled with it as well, saying "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing" (v.19) Yet it is right there in the midst of the battle being waged with evil, that we find ourselves closer than ever to Jesus as it is Him, and Him alone, that can deliver us from the evil that looks to drag us down. Perhaps you recognize that's where you find yourself today, draw near to Jesus and cry out for Him, and be assured He will deliver you.

²¹So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:21-25

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

Donor Spotlight: Berea Baptist Church



“Alone we may help one periodically; together we help dozens every month.”

— Rev. Jason S. Wise, Senior Pastor, Berea Baptist Church

Compassion has always been at the heart of Berea Baptist Church. For years, the congregation longed to support neighbors in crisis but lacked the tools to ensure their generosity truly made a difference. As Pastor Wise reflects, “Our previous attempts at benevolence always felt like throwing money into a bottomless pit. Either our meager gifts were inadequate to meet the need, or the actual problem had deeper roots that we were ill-equipped to solve.” That changed when Berea partnered with the Community Care Collaborative (CCC).

Through CCC’s expertise in evaluating needs and coordinating long-term solutions, Berea’s benevolence funds are now transforming lives, not just offering temporary relief. “It is comforting to know that our limited benevolence funds are now providing assistance that can truly solve temporary financial crises,” Rev. Wise shares.

Together, we’re multiplying impact. What once felt like a solitary effort now ripples across counties, helping dozens of families each month find stability, hope, and a path forward. We’re deeply grateful to Berea Baptist Church for their trust, compassion, and commitment to community care. Their partnership is proof that when churches and nonprofits unite, miracles happen: one household at a time.

(Reported in the in the CCC November 2025 Newsletter)

NC Baptists launch new missions effort, send missionaries at 2025 annual meeting

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The 2025 N.C. Baptist annual meeting began with missionaries standing before attendees ready to be sent to the nations. It ended with those same attendees on their knees, praying for the next generation who will one day join in carrying the Gospel forward. In between those moments, worship and business blended into a shared vision of living out the meeting's theme of "On Mission Together" as N.C. Baptists launched a new missions engagement initiative, celebrated sending 22 missionaries from local churches, emphasized reaching the next generation and prayed for God's favor for work still to come, echoing the event's supporting verse of Psalm 90:17.

The two-day meeting, held Nov. 10-11 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, drew 2,039 attendees — 1,595 messengers and 444 guests — which marked the highest total in 16 years when 2,055 people attended the 2009 meeting. Messengers also approved a \$30 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2026, reelected the full slate of state convention officers, and heard messages, ministry reports and more during the meeting, which was the 195th annual gathering in Baptist State Convention of North Carolina history.

During the event's opening session, N.C. Baptist Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker unveiled a new missions engagement initiative aimed at helping churches live out the Great Commission. The initiative is built around a fourfold framework of strategizing, mobilizing, caring and connecting. "Our vision is simple, but it's bold, and it's going to take all of us being on mission together," Unzicker said. Unzicker's address preceded an N.C. Baptist Sending Celebration in which 22 missionaries representing 10 churches from across the state were recognized and given the opportunity to share about their ministry assignment and prayer requests. Attendees concluded the opening session by praying over the missionaries, many of whom will be serving in hard-to-reach locations where access to the Gospel is limited. "This is what it means to be on mission together," said state convention President Allen Murray, pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Supply, N.C., before leading attendees in prayer over the missionaries to conclude the meeting's opening session Monday night.

Murray opened the second day of the meeting Tuesday morning by delivering the annual president's address. Murray emphasized the importance of prayer in a message titled "In Prayer Together" based on Acts 4:23-31. In his sermon, Murray shared three characteristics of "On Mission Together" people. Murray said "On Mission Together" people believe in prayer, providence and proclamation. "Prayer is no bookend for the Christian on mission," Murray said. "Prayer is the mission." Murray was one of the three state convention officers who were reelected to second terms of service in 2026.

In addition to Murray being reelected president, Steven Wade, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Youngsville, N.C., and professor of pastoral theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was reelected as first vice president, and Matt Capps, lead pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, N.C., was reelected as second vice president. All three officers ran unopposed.

Messengers adopted a 2026 Cooperative Program budget totaling \$30 million, which is \$1 million less than the 2025 budget. The budget maintains a 50/50 split between N.C. Baptist ministries and global ministry partners. Messengers also approved a motion stipulating that undesignated CP receipts in excess of the \$30 million budget in 2026 be allocated equally between N.C. Baptists' life initiative and mission engagement activities. An increased \$2.8 million goal for the 2026 North Carolina Missions Offering was also adopted along with offering allocation percentages. The \$2.8 million goal represents a \$200,000 increase from the 2025 goal, while the percentage allocations were unchanged. Similar to 2025, 62% of the offering will go to N.C. Baptists on Mission ministries, 28% will go to church planting and 10% will go to missions projects in local Baptist associations.

Shane Pruitt, national next-gen director for the North American Mission Board, closed out the meeting by delivering the annual convention sermon. Pruitt preached on spiritual awakening and the next generation, sharing four markers of a genuine move of God from Acts 5:27-42. He said one can know God is moving when obedience is the priority, the Gospel is being proclaimed, there is an awareness of kingdom victory and there is mission without fear. At the conclusion of his message, Pruitt invited attendees to gather around the stage to kneel and pray for the next generation. "We need to help young people realize that Jesus is the best, and there is none like Him," Pruitt said.

Next year's N.C. Baptist annual meeting will be held Nov. 16-17, 2026, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C. Messengers voted to approve Trevin Wax, vice president of research and resource development with the North American Mission Board, to deliver the 2026 convention sermon.



Berea Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal 2025





J. Walkers Meeting

December 9th @ 11am (Camp Cale)

December 15th @ 11am in the OFH.



Agape Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16th

@ 6:00pm in the OFH.

All ladies welcome to
join us.



Mike Hanson is seeking lunch snack donations (i.e. individually wrapped chips, cookies, etc.) for Spruce Pine, NC to be collected at Berea for their trip in January. Please have all donations in the **parlor** no later than **January 4th**. Cash donations will also be accepted for the purchase of these items.



Churchwide Christmas Party

Join the Fellowship Committee and the Puppet Team for a Christmas Party in the FLC on December 14th at 6 pm. Please bring a side and dessert to share with others.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"David", a senior living on a fixed income, has rented the same home from the same landlord for seven years. As the cost of essentials like food and healthcare continue to rise, his budget became increasingly strained eventually causing him to fall behind on rent. This is a challenge many seniors, young families, and single parents face: choosing between basic needs and housing stability.

Thanks to CCC's support, David's past-due rent was covered, allowing him to remain in his longtime home. His landlord, recognizing David's long-standing tenancy, was willing to work with him, an outcome made possible by both compassion and community intervention.

"Jan" is a senior struggling with her health. Her doctor has placed her on oxygen but she still gets very short of breath. The light company does not accept any health forms to prevent a disconnection regardless of the member's need or medications. Because of her hospitalization and medications, she fell behind on her electric bill. CCC was able to pay her bill, preventing her power from being disconnected and keeping her healthy and safe.

*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.*

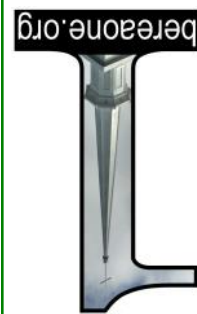
December

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Barbara Tidd | 17 | Ross Tenny |
| 3 | Rick Romaine | 18 | Alan Harrell |
| | Michelle Wise | 20 | Gunnar Barragan |
| 6 | Brookelyn Mansfield | 21 | Ross & Charlene Tenny |
| | Joshua Tenny | 22 | Olivia Spruill |
| 7 | Tiffany Quigley | 23 | Dave Kelsick |
| 10 | Robert Nall | | James Tenny |
| | David Quillin | 27 | Paula Keith |
| 11 | Lee Hill | 28 | Faith Long |
| | Gary Smith | | Dickie & Vickie Sanders |
| 13 | Cole Bradshaw | | Allen & Kimberly Smith |
| 14 | Mary Pritchard | 30 | Carolyn Sanders |
| 15 | Emma Lee Wise | 31 | Zechariah Tenny |
| | Jason & Michelle Wise | | Kevin & Tiffany Quigley |

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