

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

February is the month of love. It may have a couple less days, but they pack a punch in bringing couples together to celebrate God's gift of love.

That fits very well in church. Most of what we talk about is love. For God so loved the world (John 3:16); God is love (1 John 4:8); He loved them to the end (John 13:1).

Recently we have talked a lot about our relationship with Jesus. It was all started by His love for us. It has the power to transform who we are as we fall deeper into His love.

Loving Jesus is the real answer to all our struggles in this life. Loving Jesus keeps us from temptation. Loving Jesus keeps us in God's will. Loving Jesus helps make sense of the confusion all around us.

(For more clarity on how loving Jesus transforms our desires read: "The Expulsive Power of a New Affection" by Thomas Chalmers.)

Love is a bit of an abstract concept, but it's more than that. It isn't just a noun. As Gary Chapman wrote and John Mayer sang; "Love is a Verb". But even more than that, Love is an Action Verb.

God's love led Him to send Jesus. Jesus' love led Him to a cross. Jesus' love led me to give Him my life.

My love for Jesus leads me to set aside all other entanglements. My love for Jesus leads me to love my fellow Christian. My love for Christians leads me to want others to know His love too.

Of all the ways Jesus could say non-Christians would recognize that we are His disciples, He didn't say it was by right doctrine, nor proper music, nor the right amount of services, or even how we care for the poor... Jesus made it clear the world will know us by our love for each other.

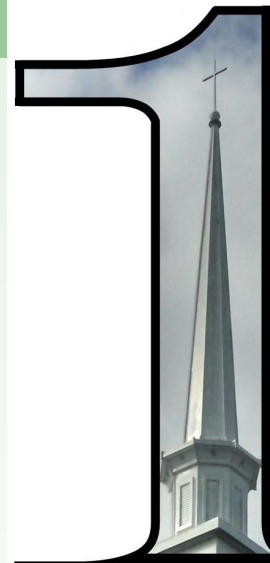
Does your love for God's family exude the imitation of Christ? Does your care for fellow believers shout a love for the Savior? Is your love for the church enough to start conversations about the hope we have in Jesus?

When we love Jesus all other things become unimportant. Disagreements fade, preferences are tabled and our love of Jesus overflows onto the church and eventually onto the community.

Do you love like that?

Love you all,

Jason



Berea Baptist Church

February
2023

Inside this issue:

- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Children & Youth Updates
- ★ A Firefighting Pastor
- ★ Events Page
- ★ CCC story

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

- ★ 10:00am Sunday School
- ★ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ★ 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- ★ 6:30pm Youth Bible Study-FLC

Tuesdays

- ★ 6:30pm Puppets

Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:30pm Awana

February @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting
02/12 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Deacons Meeting
02/13 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
02/20 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council Meeting
02/26 @ 12:15pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



Frank Lilly - Chairman
Fahey Harrell - Vice Chairman
Gary Smith - Secretary
Mike Hanson - Reflections
Bill Durham

Next Meeting: February 12th @ 7:00pm

²⁴And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works,
²⁵not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25

When is the last time you gave encouragement to a member of our church? Stirring up love and good works can take many forms: it could have been checking on someone during recovery from a medical condition; maybe to take more responsibility of a church program, or possibly, as the Nominating Committee is getting prepared for our next church year, a commitment to a committee. Our deacons sure could use additional members. Personally, I would not be involved to the extent I am without several church members and staff taking me under their wing and spending hours talking and praying with me. Why not take a moment and pass on that encouragement to someone that needs a little extra push?

Handyman Ministry



This ramp was built for John and Jane Hutchinson. They need a ramp to assist them in getting in and out of their home.



Mrs. Doris Hawthorne needed a ramp to get in and out of her house. She goes to dialysis three days per week.



Pastor Wise will celebrate 9 years as Berea's Senior Pastor on February 16th. We are so very thankful that we are God's plan for him and his family!





Awana February Schedule

February 1st - Backwards Night
 February 8th - Uniform Night
 February 15th - Red Night
 February 22th - Awana store is open

Children's Ministry News VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Sunday morning Nursery workers & preschool teachers.
 Awana Helpers - Sub in for a week, as needed, or as your schedule allows. Substitutes "on call" are always in need at Awana.

Awana Snack Time

Typically we go through between 30-40 Kool Aid Juice Pouches each week, in addition to Fruit Snacks, Pretzels, Gogurts, etc. If you are able to add us to your grocery list, we would be very grateful. Want us to do the shopping for you? Then you can sponsor snack time for a week for just \$20!



Youth Activities:

Super Bowl Party @ the Troxell's - Feb 12 @ 6:15 pm
 (Alternate Halftime Show Live with Word of Life)
 Youth Fest @ Camp Cale - Feb 26 @ 3:30 pm
 Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia - Summer 2023

SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10 AM: 6th grade students and above. We meet weekly upstairs for Youth Sunday School where we spend time taking a deeper look at God's Word. Come early to get a cup of Hot Chocolate, juice and a variety of breakfast goodies. What's Next: *"The Resurrection of Jesus"* & *"The Commision from Jesus"*

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Youth Bible Study is every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30 in the FLC. Sunday evenings are for Middle and High School students, and we play games, shoot hoops, enjoy a meal together and most importantly study God's Word, don't miss out!

Some of our youth have been personally affected by the deaths, vandalism, and everyday problems going on at our schools, so they went to each school and held a prayer vigil for all the students, and staff. (Far left picture is New Life Academy, middle picture is Elizabeth City Middle School, and right picture is Pasquotank County High.)



Around the age of 8 years old I had my first summer camp experience at *the Master's Inn*. The camp experience was great as we slept in a TeePee, went hiking and I drank way too much hot chocolate. The afternoon of my first day was the most memorable moment however, as we set off for the camp pool. Surrounded by kids and adults, and absolutely sure of my abilities in the water, I set aside my towel and t-shirt, walked to the edge of the deep end, 6 feet deep to be exact, and jumped in. I sank, like a rock, a very fast sinking, frantic rock. I don't know how long I was underwater, though I certainly remember the panic I felt, when suddenly a teenage boy came up alongside me, helped me to the

surface and, along with his grandfather, hoisted me out of the water.

Allow me to draw some parallels to the world today. The world is oblivious to the peril and destruction that awaits, enjoying the ride, and confident they have all the right answers. However, the reality is they are drowning in sin, from which they can not save themselves, in desperate need of a Savior. There is a world around us frantically searching for the right answers, answers we've known all along. Will you be the one to jump in and lift them to the surface so the One who saves, Jesus, can lift them out of their sin and into the safety of a relationship with Him, or will you continue to watch as the world around you drowns in their sin ultimately headed for destruction?

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:14-15

Further Reading: Titus 3:3-7; James 4:13-17
 Pastor Charlie (252)333-4242 mobile

South Carolina Pastor uses Fire Chief position as an avenue for Ministry



GAFFNEY, S.C. – Every pastor has a burning passion for the Lord and His church. For Dwight Easler, this burning passion carries over into his work as a local Fire Chief, which he views as an extension of his ministry.

Easler has served as the Senior Pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in SC and with the Corinth Fire Department for nearly 20 years.

He told Baptist Press the role is not only about meeting emergency needs in the community, but also about building relationships.

“It has been a way to not only serve people, but also meet people and share the gospel with both people in the community and fellow firefighters,” Easler said.

“I’ve met people, and developed relationships with people outside of the church. Over the years you pick up a first-name basis with these people in the community. Them seeing a pastor outside of the church world gives an opportunity to be there for them when they struggle.

“Many of these relationships have resulted in gospel conversations. I see this as an extension of ministry for me.”

Being in the fire service has also helped Easler in his ministry.

“As a pastor, it gives me the opportunity to be outside of the church world and see what the community is really going through,” Easler said. “I can go back to the church and talk about these needs I see. It has also taught me lessons about relationships and leadership.”

Easler said his role as Fire Chief is mainly an administrative and leadership role, but he will often be a part of a team responding to an emergency call in the district.

Last year the Corinth Fire Department responded to more than 400 emergency calls within both its rural community and other neighboring districts. Easler was personally a part of responding to more than 200 of those calls.

For Easler, an interest in fire service started from a young age. His father was a Navy Firefighter, and two of his cousins also were involved with the fire service.

Easler began his fire training as a teenager in the late 1980s and would go on to serve the local fire department in Youngsville, N.C., while attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In total, he has served with four different fire departments since completing his training, and became Fire Chief in Corinth in March of 2020.

He became interested in fire service because it seemed exciting and he wanted to spend more time with his father. And the field continues to be a family affair, as Dwight’s son Seth is now a career firefighter in Greenville, S.C.

The job has changed a lot, he said, especially the additional emergency services that fire departments now provide. Responding to fires is only about 25 percent of the emergency calls his department responds to.

The other 75 percent of response calls involve other emergencies like vehicle accidents, fallen trees or wires, situations involving hazmat materials and various medical needs.

Easler said fewer people are getting involved with the fire service, both vocationally and as volunteers, even as the number of people needed in an emergency continues to rise.

He explains to new trainees that they should expect to deal with a lot of low man-power situations in their emergency responses.

Despite these difficulties, Easler said he desires to use his role to “mentor younger guys and help them grow and develop.”

Easler added pastors with firefighters in the congregation have a unique opportunity to minister to these members, particularly in helping them process the traumatic experiences they often go through.

“For pastors, try to have more of an understanding about what emergency services go through in today’s world,” Easler said.

“There needs to be a level of understanding about who you have in your church, but also how to minister to those folks. It can sometimes just help to be a listening ear and a helping hand. Almost like a ministry of presence. I think pastors can be a huge help in their community in this way.”



Our Basketball Ministry is up and playing. We have two teams, Coed K-3 coached by Pastor Jason; and boys 4-7 coached by Noah Troxell.

February Schedule

February 4th At Berea

Berea vs Sandy Cross 2 White K-3 @ 2:00pm,
Berea vs Ramoth Gilead 4-6 boys @ 4:00pm.

February 11th At Gates

Gatesville vs Berea K-3 @ 2:00pm
Gatesville vs Berea 4-6 boys @ 4:00pm

February 18th At Berea

Berea vs Gatesville K-3 @ 2:00pm
Berea vs Gatesville 4-6 @ 4:00pm.

February 25th At Gates

Sandy Cross 2 White vs Berea @ 2:00pm.
Ramoth Gilead vs Berea @ 4:00pm.



We are in NEED of volunteers for the nursery & preschool on Sunday mornings, and our Awana Program on Wednesday nights. PLEASE contact Jessica Troxell or Pastor Charlie if you are willing to fulfil God's word for you and help out where needed!



Success Story

Miss Betty applied to Habitat for Humanity for help with the senior home repair program. Habitat has been doing an amazing job making Miss Betty's home safe and nice for her. However, there are more issues with the house. Habitat for Humanity and Miss Betty reached out to us for help with the trees in her yard. During hurricane Ian several tree limbs fell on Miss Betty's house, knocking out her power for days. As a senior with disabilities, Miss Betty was in danger when this happened. Miss Betty has three big trees in her yard that are threatening her home. Habitat reached out to local tree removal companies and found one that agreed to remove three trees for the price of two. Through our local churches, we found collaborators to help pay for the cost of tree removal. Two local churches and CCC joined together to make sure that Miss Betty's home is 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.



Congratulations to Ross & Charlene Tenny on the birth of their baby girl, Salome Alexandra Born on Jan. 23rd
6lbs 11oz
19 1/2 in. long



Women on Missions
Tuesday February 21st @
7:00pm in OFH.



Senior Adult Luncheon

A Heart for the Community

Singing, Entertainment, Games & Giveaways

Menu: Soup, Sandwiches, Desserts

Menu Subject to change

February 14, 2023

11:30am-1:00pm

\$7.00 per person

If interested please sign up at Adult Bible Study or let Pastor Jason know before February 5th.

377 Camp Cale Road, Hertford, NC 27944

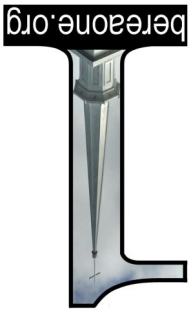


Albemarle Area United Way



- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Cindy Sawyer | 15 | Richard Martin |
| 2 | Hannah Kent | 16 | Sandy Cahoon |
| 6 | Jennifer Durham Martin | 18 | Dottie Pritchard |
| 7 | Donna Pritchard | 20 | Jesse Dail |
| 8 | Willie Godfrey | | Toni Troxell |
| 10 | Bonnie Chappell | 22 | Virginia Gordon |
| 11 | Doug Pritchard | 24 | Ed Winslow |
| 12 | Joshua Wise | 25 | Chris Mooring |
| 14 | Rayman Vallas | 26 | Jessica Sanders |

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED




beraone.org

Berea Baptist Church

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Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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Regular Office Hours:
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9:00am – 2:00pm

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