

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

“Does he thank that servant because he did what was commanded? In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, “we are worthless servants; we’ve only done our duty.” Luke 17:9-10

February 1 is a HUGE milestone in the life of our church.

February 1, 2001 I was a seminary student. Chellie & I were merely “dating” (although 8 days later I would propose in the shadow of Ocracoke Lighthouse). Our long-term move to North Carolina was still 13 years (and 15 days) away.

February 1, 2001 Berea hired a new Custodian. Over the course of these 25 years Cindy Vallas has cared for our facilities well.

A Church Custodian has a largely thankless job. Feedback tends to be about rooms being too cool, or too hot, or about small amounts of trash found in recently emptied cans, rather than attaboys or words of affirmation.

A Church Custodian tends to work independently, when no one else is around and no one is looking over the shoulder to check the work. The work has to be done out of a love for the congregation, a care that its members can worship unimpeded by dust, unkempt carpets, or other ancillary distractions.

A Church Custodian’s work is done for necessary compensation, out of compassion for the churchgoers, and for the satisfaction of a job well done. But do those provide enough motivation to continue to do the same work for 1,300 weeks? I doubt it.

A Church Custodian must have their actual Supervisor in mind as they do their work. They must keep in mind Colossians 3:17: “What you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

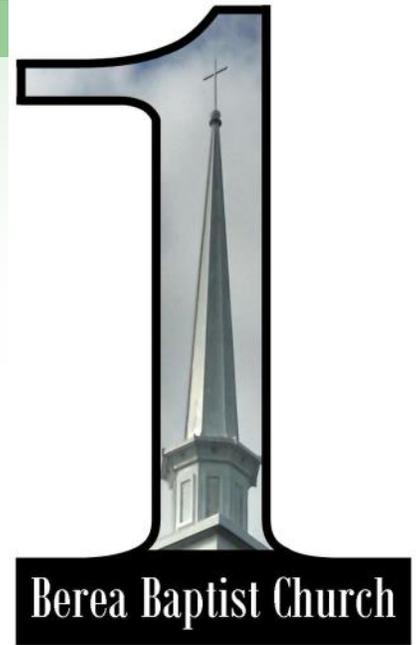
A Church Custodian must have the humble attitude of the servant Jesus references in Luke’s gospel (above): “I’m just doing my job.” It is the essence of all of our “jobs” as Christians to do everything to serve the Savior.

Being a follower of Jesus means saying to Him: “God, my life is Yours. Do with it as You please.” And then meaning it. Even if His pleasure is for you to go unseen. Even if His calling is to work when no one is watching. Even if His assignment involves bleach and a scrub brush more often than it does the spotlight. I am thankful for Cindy’s two and a half decades of dedicated service to Berea, but I am even more humbled by her faithful following of God’s plan for her work-life.

So, what can we learn from this example before us? First, I hope that in the days and weeks to come, we each take the opportunity to voice our gratitude to Cindy. Then I hope we all turn inward and consider if we serve the Lord with such dedicated humility when no one else is watching.

Let’s consider if we have found God’s desired calling for our lives. It all starts with a simple statement of surrendered faith. Can you say it with me: “God, my life is Yours. Do with it as You please.”

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



February 2026

Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons’ Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Berea Basketball
- ★ Biblical Recorder
- ★ AWANA
- ★ 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
- ★ 6:30pm Adult Bible Study (OFH)

February @ a Glance:

- ★ Fellowship Meal
2/1 @ 12:30pm
- ★ Business Meeting
2/8 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
2/19 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council
2/22 @ 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

Have you ever attempted to walk in a straight line while looking at your feet? (Try this on a beach or in wet grass so you can look back at your footprints. It's interesting to see what happens.) You'll probably be surprised at how crooked your steps are. But fix your eyes on something far away, and each step will generally point in the desired direction—toward that distant focal point.

Our lives are like this. If we set goals, then our decisions and thoughts will more likely lead toward the desired end. Goals are crucial to the well-lived life. Think about the many things Jesus did. He served others and taught those who sought righteousness. But more than that, our Savior's primary purpose, set even before time began, was to lay down His life in order to reconcile mankind to the Father and bring Him glory.

We were created to surrender our lives for God and be fruitful in His service. Imagine the potential impact if we kept our eyes on the Lord and relied on Him to determine our goals. Each day ask God, "What do You want to accomplish through me?" and let Him determine your focus and priorities (Psalm 119:105). In time, you'll be able to see how intentionally keeping your eyes on Him made all the difference.

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons' Meeting will be February 9th @ 7:00pm in the choir room.



Congratulations to our Handyman Team on the completion of Ramp One Thousand! Well Done!!



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.

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

Feb. 4th Layers Night

Feb. 11th Backwards Night

Feb. 18th Cookie Night

Feb. 25th Pennies for the Gospel



Youth Group News



February 8 - Youth Super Bowl Party w/ Alternate Halftime Show

March 1 - Winterjam \$15 @ Scope Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Katy Nichole, and more!

Built to Serve Philadelphia - Details Coming Soon

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.



Recently we sat down as a group and came up with a short list of what a "Good Christian" looks like. Our list carried all the usual suspects, such as being in church, reading the Word, seeking Godly things, prayer, and staying on mission by sharing the Gospel. However, nearly 40 years being in the church has shown me that a lot of these, if not all, can be faked at least for the short term. We walked away from the discussion trying to better understand how each of these hallmarks of the Christian played out in what we truly are looking for: a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

Not simply talking about it, or appearing to walk it and no longer content to merely be a reflection of the relationship someone else has, but something real and tangible of our very own. We looked at the relationships Jesus had with the disciples; messy and riddled with failure. Men who walked in the very shadow of Jesus, hearing His message daily and yet, like us, prone to fall away at the most critical moments. Yet it was these and others, flawed men and women of the Bible, that God chose to use in powerful ways to fulfill His will in the world. It is upon a closer look at these that lead us to want to walk even more closely with Jesus. Not simply checking a box on the "good Christian checklist" but going deeper with Jesus everyday that we may be a reflection of Him and know Him more fully. How about you? Are you simply checking a box on a checklist, or are you pursuing something deeper and more meaningful with Jesus? Today is the day to set aside the trappings of simply going to church and set our sight on pursuing Jesus alone.

Colossians 2:6-7 ⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

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

AWANA



25th Anniversary of Service
Congratulations To Our Custodian,
Cindy Vallas, on the completion of
25 Years of service to our Lord and
His church!

Berea Basketball



Establishing the work of our hands

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands — establish the work of our hands!”
— Psalm 90:17

As we step into a new year, this verse continues to guide my prayers. Throughout 2025, I asked God to “establish the work of our hands” across North Carolina — in our churches, our communities and in the lives of people who desperately need the hope of the gospel. God showed His favor in unmistakable ways. I believe we are standing in a moment of real momentum. God is on the move, and we get to join Him.

Celebrating what God has done

Last year we witnessed indicators of new life in Christ rising across our state. Church attendance grew. Baptisms increased. Last spring alone, nearly 2,000 people publicly professed Christ during the “Fill the Tank” baptism emphasis. Praise God! We are seeing a hunger among the next generation unlike anything seen in decades. Young people are asking questions and exploring what it means to truly follow Jesus. That was on full display through our camps and next-generation ministries.

Across Caswell, Caraway and Truett, nearly 12,000 students gathered at our camps last summer. And God moved. We saw 467 salvations, more than 1,600 recommitments and over 500 calls to ministry. We want students to know that they are sent and that God has a purpose for their lives and a mission for them to join. In 2025, God also strengthened His church through revitalization. We often say that we’re aiming for missional health. There’s no other kind of church health. By God’s grace, 142 churches walked through a revitalization process. Those efforts saw 24 churches replanted, and 56 strong churches help revitalize others. God is multiplying His kingdom, one church, one pastor and one community at a time.

We see the same momentum in church planting. Since SendNC launched in 2022, 212 new churches have been planted. At the end of 2025, we had 123 church-planting couples in the pipeline, but the need in North Carolina is so great that we must double that number. Through Baptists on Mission, N.C. Baptists continue to put love into action. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, your generosity and service has helped complete more than 630 home rebuilds, with hundreds more in progress.

Your faithfulness also extended to global missions. For the 21st consecutive year, N.C. Baptists led the nation in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, giving more than \$14 million. That is \$2 million more than the second-highest state. Why? Because we, as a movement of churches on mission together, are committed to the Great Commission.

Looking ahead in 2026

We’re kicking off the new year with a renewed emphasis on helping churches engage in missions both locally and globally through a new missions engagement initiative that launched at November’s Annual Meeting. This new emphasis exists to help churches strategize, mobilize, care and connect, so that every church can take the next step in the Great Commission.

We’ll help churches build partnerships with the International Mission Board, Baptists on Mission and other like-minded groups. We’ll gather leaders monthly for missions roundtables. We’ll help churches send teams on global mission trips. And through initiatives like ServeNC, Coats for the City and Go2Years, we will mobilize people of all ages to live on mission.

We’ve also reintroduced Peoples Next Door, equipping churches to identify and engage unreached people groups now living right here in North Carolina. God is bringing the nations to us, and we want to steward that opportunity well. At the center of all of this work is a simple conviction: Every missionary deserves consistent, Christlike care. In 2026, we want to connect every N.C. Baptist church with a missionary and every missionary with a church. Through PrayNC.org and the N.C. Baptist app, your church can join thousands of others praying daily for missionaries serving around the world.

Let’s keep praying boldly, giving generously and going in faith. The harvest is ready. The moment is now. Let’s go reach, train, send and serve as a movement of churches on mission together.

By Todd Unzicker, Executive Director-Treasurer



J. Walkers Meeting

Valentine's Lunch at Cale Feb. 10
leaving at 10:45 am.



Agape Meeting

Tuesday, February 24th @
6:00pm in the OFH. All
ladies are welcome to join
us.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Terry"

Terry came to our office in crisis, having fallen behind on rent after repeated increases from a new management company. He was on the brink of eviction. Thanks to the generosity of partners and supporters like you, CCC, working alongside another local agency, was able to help Terry catch up on his rent and remain safely in his home. Your support made stability possible for him when it mattered most.

"Sabrina"

When Sabrina, a single mother of two, came to CCC, she was exhausted from holding everything together on her own. Like so many single parents, she balanced work, childcare, school schedules, and household expenses with no margin for error. Then an unexpected car repair, her only way to get to work, threw everything off. The cost of fixing it meant she fell behind on rent, and eviction was suddenly looming.

Because of supporters like you, CCC was able to step in quickly. We helped Sabrina catch up on her past due rent, preventing eviction and giving her the breathing room she needed to stay employed and keep her children safe at home.

*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.*



Dear Pastor Wise and Berea Church,
We wish to thank you for your caring expressions of Christian love in honor and memory of our sister, Stevie Leary Northwood. Your words of comfort and the delicious Monday evening meal prepared by church members were heartfelt examples of discipleship at work. Thank you for your visits to Stevie, the prayers of the entire church, and everyone's extended love. Also thank you for the warm fellowship you have shown us. Blessings to all, **Wayne & Fay Leary, Chris and Pat Leary**

I would like to thank Berea Church for your cards, calls, and prayers during my sister's recent passing. The love and support I received from you all has been a tremendous blessing to me and my family.
In Christ, **Bill Durham**



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Cindy Sawyer | 12 Joshua Wise |
| 7 <i>Melanie Edwards</i>
Donna Pritchard | 14 Rayman Vallas |
| 8 Willie Godfrey | 20 Toni Troxell |
| 10 Bonnie Chappell
Lacy Reeder
Easton Stickle | 22 Virginia Gordon |
| 11 Doug Pritchard | 24 Ed Winslow |
| | 25 Chris Mooring |
| | 26 Jessica Sanders |
| | 28 Dontrel Lee |

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
facebook.com/bereastudentministry
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



bereaone.org