

# BereaOne Life

## WISE Musings

You said to me, 'No, we must have a king reign over us' - even though the LORD your God is your King. 1 Samuel 12:12

May was a wonderful month at Berea!

We celebrated two new lives in Christ and witnessed them walk faithfully through baptism. We celebrated our mothers and their dedication to our spiritual journeys. We hosted end of year banquets for Pasquotank County High School's athletics and band. We saw our Sanctuary surrounded by our nation's flag, as we do every year to honor Memorial Day, but this year the picture was even more complete with the cross out front as well (thanks to a very late Easter). The array even included a display of the Christian Flag, the POW MIA flag and ALL the armed forces flags (even Space Force & Merchant Marines). May was a wonderful month of honoring God as our One True King even as we honor our nation and the accomplishments of others.

Recently in our "Journey Through His Word," (yes, we're still doing that) we've been reading in 1 Samuel. Samuel is the last judge, the first in the line of prophets and the one chosen by God to anoint the first Israeli king.

In the verse above the people plead with Samuel to appoint a king over them. While they knew God to be their King, they were frightened by neighboring nations, those nation's powerful kings and even their own waywardness. So in their fear they requested a closer king. One not all the way up in heaven. But, one who lives in a room they may enter more than once a year. A king in flesh, instead of Spirit.

God acquiesces to their demand and grants them Saul. He is everything they could want in a king. He's a warrior, tall, handsome, etc.

But, Saul's leadership does little to help their faithfulness and very soon thereafter they are once again searching for a new King to reign over them. This trend of needing a new, more faithful king, will continue throughout the Old Testament.

Then, finally, in the New Testament, we see God, in Jesus, the King, in flesh. He is the leader Israel seeks. He is the One who can bring victory, not over foreign nations, but over eternal things like sin and death.

Since the true King has come in flesh, every person now has the choice to allow Him to be King in their life. And with those who do, like we saw in May, we all join in the rejoicing.

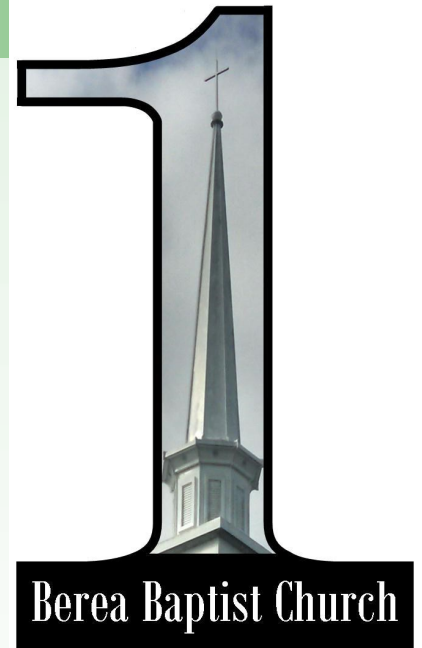
Now, having passed the unofficial start of Summer (Memorial Day), we have a choice to make. God has clearly been the King of our May. He has been the priority in our worship and in our calendar. He is our ultimate King and we have worshiped Him as such.

Will we continue to acknowledge God as the King of our Summer, or will we allow other "kings" to reign over our schedules and our priorities. While we seek time away from work or school to spend time in the sun, is He still our ultimate priority?

How will your Summer show that God is King of your life, your calendar, your finances, or how will your Summer show that you seek after other "kings?"

Love you all,

Jason



*June*  
**2025**

### Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons' Reflections
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- ★ Coming Events
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- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Weekly Activities:

#### Sundays

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

#### Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:30pm Kid's Summer Program

### June @ a Glance:

- ★ Deacons Meeting  
6/9 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline  
6/23 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council  
6/29 @ 12:15pm

## Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



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

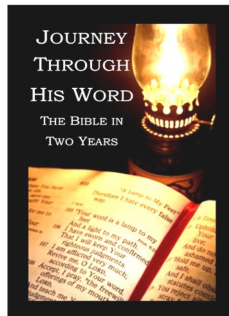
*The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor, and life.*

*Proverbs 22:4 (NASB)*

If we exist only for our own gain, our lives will be defined by the constant effort to fulfill selfish motives. Living for Jesus, following in His example of a humble and sacrificial servant, will bring God's favor. Our time on earth is short, but eternity is forever. Putting Jesus first and living as He did will put your reward in heaven.

Next Deacons' Meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm in the choir room.

Berea is on a "Journey Through His Word" in 2025 & 2026. These books were written by our very own Pastor Jason and will help us read through the Bible in two years with better understanding. If you would like to join us on this journey please call the office to get your books.



Come on in to our Library and browse our many titles. Learn something new or get caught up in a story!



## Handyman Ministry

*Berea*  
Handyman Ministry



This ramp was built for Yolanda Morris' aunt who just underwent surgery and required a ramp to get out of her house.



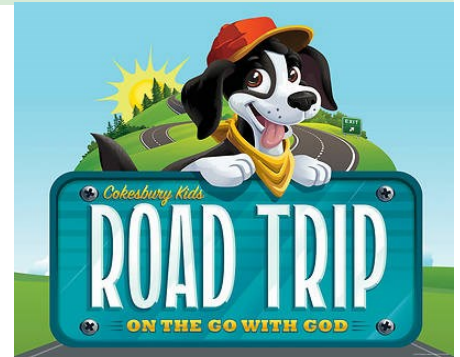
Bruce Long needed a ramp after surgery and rehab. He lives alone.

## Children's Ministry News



### Summer Ministry Program on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8:00pm This Summer's Theme is Bible Scavenger Hunt

Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."  
Donations needed! Juice Pouches like Kool Aid Jammers, Fruit Snacks, Popsicles, Pretzels, Goldfish, String Cheese, GoGurt, Fruit Cups, Individual Cups of Cinnamon Applesauce



### Road Trip VBS is coming! July 13-17 - 6:00-8:30pm

Volunteers NEEDED! Connect with Pastor Charlie to get plugged in!

"On the Go with God!"

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



## Youth Group News



### Children & Youth - Sunday Mornings @ 10 am

#### YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30pm:

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. Our current study is getting to know God, looking specifically in 1 John at the three descriptions found there, God is light, love and life.

### August 3-9 - Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia

**Nonrefundable Deposit of \$100 Due 6/1/2025**

### Youth Supper

You can also sponsor a youth supper night!  
Contact Charlie or Jessica for details.



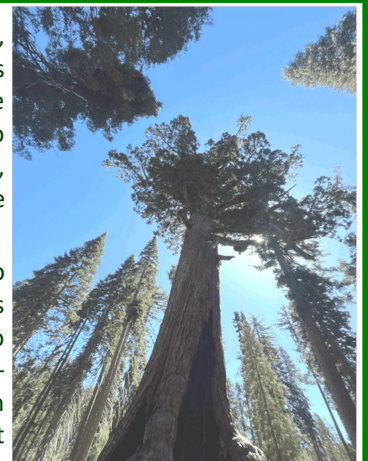
Giant Sequoias typically reach heights of between 250 and 300 feet, with the diameter of the base pushing 30 feet. Add to that branches that can get to be 5 to 7 feet in diameter and you have one massive tree. For perspective, it would take roughly 8 people stretched out to go around a typical sequoia, roughly 15 to go around the largest one, General Sherman. Hyperion, thought to be the tallest Sequoia in the world at 379 feet, is nearly 75 feet taller than the statue of Liberty.

Yes, God created that. With just a word from His lips, He brought into existence these massive, wonderful, beautiful works of creation. This is

the same God that is at work in our lives, and in the world around us. Ephesians 3:20 speaks to this same power that is at work within us when it says, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us". The same God with the same power that created the Sequoia, that parted the seas, that raised the dead, is the same God that is at work in our lives today. He is the same God that can make the impossible seem easy, and He is the same God that can use you and me to do incredible things for His Kingdom. How about you? Are you stuck in life's rut because you haven't allowed God's power to pull you through? Have you found yourself held back by your own limitations because you just can't see how God will do it this time? Allow God, and His mighty power, to move and work in and through you and just watch what amazing things God can do in your life.

Further Reading: Jeremiah 10:12-13; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 3:20

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





## Local church steps in to support ECSU students after campus shooting



**Photo by Ava Morris.**

Redemption City Church volunteers and students hand out “encouragement bags” filled with snacks, notes and care items for ECSU students on April 30.

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — In the wake of the recent shooting at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), Redemption City Church has become a key source of spiritual and practical support for students and staff navigating the tragedy.

One person was killed and six others were wounded in the shooting that took place in the center of ECSU’s campus at approximately 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 27, following the school’s annual “Viking Fest” event.

The victim was later identified as 24-year-old Isaiah Caldwell, who was not a student at the school. Four other people were shot in the incident, including three ECSU students. Two more students were injured in the “subsequent commotion,” the school announced in a statement. None of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

The shooting remains under investigation by campus and local law enforcement agencies, as well as the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. No information regarding a suspect or suspects has been released.

Redemption City, located just 300 yards from where the shooting occurred, has deep ties to ECSU. With roughly half of the church’s small but growing congregation made up of ECSU students, the shooting hit especially close to home, said Pastor Andrew Browder.

Within hours of the incident, Browder and a team of about 10 volunteers — students and community members — mobilized to be present on campus in partnership with ECSU counseling services. Arriving just 12 to 15 hours after the shooting, the team offered a ministry of presence, simply being available to listen to students, pray with them and connect them to on-campus counseling services if needed.

“They really hadn’t even had time to process everything that was going on, it was so fresh,” Browder said.

The church leaned on its existing campus partnerships, including Viking Care, ECSU’s on-campus food pantry. While Viking Care regularly helps students in need, its services were especially needed the week following the shooting as the cafeteria closed temporarily and many students relied on the food pantry.

Many students from Redemption City volunteered their time to pack bags for the food pantry. Redemption City also organized the packing of 200 “encouragement bags” filled with snacks, notes and care items, prepared by volunteers and students from the church that were handed out April 30.

“The students are taking the wheel of a lot of this, too,” Browder said. “Our community members are coming in, but our students are also like, ‘How can we love on our campus?’ Which is really cool to kind of see discipleship work itself out in the heart to serve people selflessly.”

Among the ECSU students serving their campus is Ava Morris, a senior studying business. Last week, she participated in many outreach opportunities, which included passing out the encouragement bags and walking around campus with her mom to talk with students.

“The church is supposed to be here for such a time as this, we’re really called to be there and show up for the people in this way,” Morris said.

Redemption City is also planning a dinner and movie night to help students relax and get off campus.

“It’s a felt need from them,” Browder said, noting that students are looking for comfort and safe spaces in the aftermath of the incident.

Janiah Beach, a junior at ECSU studying elementary education and a member of Redemption City, witnessed the shooting from her dorm room window. She called campus the next day “a ghost town” as many students desired to get off campus quickly.

ECSU officials canceled classes the Monday and Tuesday after the shooting and transitioned to remote learning for the remainder of the semester. Final exams are also being administered remotely.

For those who chose to stay on campus, Beach said that Redemption City has “been on campus every single day, checking on the students and making sure that if there’s a need, that it’s being met.”

In addition to student care, the church is exploring how to support ECSU faculty and staff.

“They’re getting hit just as bad,” Browder said. “It’s almost like being in the break zone in the ocean, you’re just getting hit, wave after wave, but you can’t come out. You feel like you have to stay in and help the students.”

As the university community continues to recover, Redemption City hopes to serve as a bridge — connecting local churches to the university as the need for support continues.





## Baptist Children's Homes April Food Roundup

Thank You to **ALL** that helped the Agape WOM with the Baptist Children's Homes Food Roundup. We gathered 4boxes of food and 9 gift cards!



## Camp Cale Donation items needed for Summer Camp:



### Food Items

- \*Apple Juice (96 oz)
- \*Country Time Lemonade (82oz)
- Canned Pineapple (100+oz cans)
- \*Canned Green beans (100oz cans)
- Flour Tortillas (6 & 10 inch)
- \*Ranch & Italian Dressing
- \*Hershey's Chocolate Bars
- Individual candy bars/snacks/chips
- Marshmallows (regular size)
- Drink mixes: Gatorade, Kool Aid
- \*Baking mixes: Cake, Brownie, Muffin, Cookie dough
- \*Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, BBQ & Hot sauce
- \*Cereal: Lucky Charms, Honey Nut Cheerios, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Froot Loops.
- \*Grape Juice (96oz)
- \*Sugar
- \*Maple Syrup
- Pretzels
- \*Graham Crackers
- Tortilla Chips
- \*Spaghetti Sauce (bulk)
- Applesauce 100oz can

### Paper/Kitchen Products

- \*Foam Plates (10' w/3 compartments) , Paper Towels
- \*Dessert Plates , Napkins, \*Foam Bowls, \*Foam Cups (8 & 10oz) Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons), Aluminum Foil Pans w/lids, Gallon-size Ziploc
- Bags—Freezer, Individually wrapped straws.

### Gift Cards

Food Lion, Lowe's , Sam's Club, Walmart, Amazon

### \*Cleaning

- Scrub (dish) sponges
- Soap REFILLS (bulk soap)
- Trash bags (13 gallon and 33 gallon)
- Swiffer Wet Jet refills (pads & liquid solution)
- Bleach
- SOS (soap) pads
- Dawn Dish Soap

### **\*Most needed food/supplies**

**Please drop off food in the Parlor no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

*Thank You!*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, and most of all your prayers during the loss of my brother, Eugene. It means so much to know there are folks surrounding you with love and prayers, especially during the difficult times in our lives. Thank you Jason for the phone call and always being there to listen no matter what. Thank you to Mike Hanson for delivering the meat and fruit trays to Frederica, Eugene's wife. It meant so much to her to feel the care being extended to her as well. Thank you again for always being there in a multitude of ways, y'all are the best and I thank God for you every day.

Love in Christ,

Jan Sawyer and Family

***N.C. Baptist churches have reported more than 1,740 baptisms during the Fill the Tank baptism emphasis, with more reports expected. From revival in western N.C. to sunrise baptisms on Oak Island, churches celebrated new life in Christ, family members getting baptized together and some church plants' first baptisms.***



Photo courtesy of FBC Oak Island

At First Baptist Church (FBC) of Oak Island, Easter morning doesn't start within the confines of the church building walls, but rather on the sands of the beach as they host baptisms in the ocean at sunrise.

Attendees watched from Ocean Crest Pier and the beach below as the weekly outreach service that takes place at the pier turned into a gathering of more than 1,000 people for Resurrection Sunday.

Four individuals had planned to be baptized that morning, but in a moment of spontaneity, a fifth person stepped forward to be baptized on the spot, said Pastor Lyle LaFountain.

"It's a really evangelistic opportunity out there, where people wouldn't walk into the doors of a church, but they'll go to the beach, they'll go to a pier, and they'll go hear the Word of God, which is a unique opportunity," said LaFountain.

The atmosphere that morning, as LaFountain put it, "was so celebratory." As waves crashed, the crowd joined with cheers to honor the public profession of faith from brothers and sisters in Christ.

One more person was baptized at FBC Oak Island on April 27 — Fill the Tank Sunday — and about 15 more individuals are preparing for another beach baptism this coming week. These are just a few of the hundreds of individuals who were baptized as part of Fill the Tank, a yearly baptism emphasis that usually takes place the Sunday after Easter. Churches are encouraged to participate on any Sunday surrounding Easter.

As of May 14, 187 churches had reported more than 1,740 baptisms, with more reports expected to come.

In western North Carolina, First Baptist Church of Clyde witnessed eight baptisms in the last two weeks and 16 over the last five months, with three more to be scheduled. Months after Hurricane Helene devastated the region, the church has "experienced revival," said Pastor Byron Burnette.

"There is power in the Word of God when it is proclaimed boldly," Burnette said. "Our God is still in the saving business. All we have to do is be faithful and preach Christ crucified."

Brandon Watson, pastor at Oakdale Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, marked the April 27 Fill the Tank date on his first Sunday at Oakdale this January. He challenged the church to pray every week that God would call people to follow Him.

Watson reminded them that they were "filling the tank, and even if we didn't have anyone on the 27th, we would gather around that tank and pray that God would do what only He could do to save people."

Oakdale had 10 people come forward for baptism.

Families appeared to be a common theme in reports from churches over the weekend. A father baptized his young son, and a husband baptized his wife at NewLife Church in Locust, N.C. A family of four was baptized at Sunset Forest Baptist Church in Gastonia.

First Baptist Church (FBC) of Hendersonville celebrated 12 baptisms on Sunday, including two siblings who came to faith last year whose parents discipled them through their decision to follow Christ through baptism. Justin Alexander, lead pastor at FBC Hendersonville, also baptized a married couple.

A deacon at Arran Lake Baptist Church in Fayetteville baptized his son, who then baptized his own wife and son. Two newlywed couples were baptized there, and a family traveled from Virginia to be baptized in their home church so their mother could witness the baptisms.

"God is moving in a mighty way across our state," said Currie Tilley, director of the N.C. Baptist Mission Catalysts group.

Tilley witnessed 13 people publicly proclaim faith in Christ through baptism at Crosslink Community Church in Mebane.

"Pastor Ken Tilley encouraged parents as the primary disciple-makers of their children as one father baptized his daughter on Sunday," he said. "I am thankful for all of the N.C. Baptist churches that participated in Fill the Tank this year."

Testimonies came from SendNC church plants — with many holding their very first baptisms on Easter and Fill the Tank Sunday. True Point, a plant in their first year of ministry, celebrated three baptisms on Easter. Mud Creek Baptist Church celebrated as their church plant in Mexico had 19 baptisms take place.

The Fill the Tank initiative invites new believers or those who haven't been baptized yet to take a step of obedience and publicly profess their faith in Christ. Pastors and churches are encouraged to plan ahead for baptisms on that Sunday — or any weekend leading up to or following it — trusting and praying that God will save souls when they boldly proclaim the gospel.

Fill the Tank coincides with the North American Mission Board's nationwide Baptism Sunday. This was the fifth consecutive year of the statewide baptism emphasis.

"Reaching the lost is central to being On Mission Together," said Todd Unzicker, N.C. Baptist Executive Director-Treasurer. "The gospel compels us to go and make disciples. We fill the tank because we believe God will move, and we get ready to see lives changed and new believers baptized." **N.C. Baptist churches reported about 900 baptisms during Fill the Tank Sunday in 2024.**



### Burger Bar Luncheon Youth Fundraiser! June 22 @ 12:15pm

Come join us for Burgers, baked potatoes and all the fixins and help the youth get to Philly to spread God's word!



### J. Walkers Ministry

Our next meeting will be  
June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am.  
Please come and join us for  
fun and fellowship.



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Louise" is an elderly woman on a fixed income who, until recent years, managed to pay her bills. However, with rising inflation, increasing rent, and mounting medical copays and medication costs, she is struggling to stay afloat. The uncertainty surrounding the future of social security makes it imperative to educate our younger residents that relying on disability or social security should not and cannot be an end goal.

Statistics highlight the severity of elderly financial struggles:

- 80% of adults aged 60 and older lack the means to pay for long-term care or withstand another financial shock.
- 17 million older adults aged 65+ are economically insecure, living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- 60% of older adults are unable to afford two years of in-home long-term services and supports.

CCC can assist seniors with outstanding bills when eligible. However, the elderly often need continued assistance more than once per month and year after year, which means they reach their maximum assistance limit with our program and have few other avenues to turn to.

Despite these challenges, there is hope. By raising awareness and advocating for better support systems, we can work together to ensure that our elderly community receives the care and assistance they deserve.

*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](http://aunitedway.org/communitycarecollaborative).*





# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Barry Ward                | 19 Mike & Kathy Duncan     |
| 2 Timmy Smithson            | Vernon & Geralene Smithson |
| 5 Beau Smith                | 22 Dave & Edith Kelsick    |
| 6 Lisa Finley               | 23 Matt Reed               |
| Hezekiah Tenny              | 24 Emma Hudson             |
| 7 Bobbie Hayman             | 26 Coley & Lou Brickhouse  |
| 8 Riley Hudson              | Doug & Ramona Hodges       |
| 9 Aline Mickey              | 27 Kevin Quigley           |
| 11 Richard & Robin Rindels  | 28 Doug Hodges             |
| Delores Seymour             | 29 Cheryl Bundy            |
| 17 Willie & Mildred Godfrey |                            |

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Berea Baptist Church

2033 North Road Street  
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Email Us: [office@beraone.org](mailto:office@beraone.org)

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

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

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