

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

³This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

“What is God’s will for my life?” “Does God want me to marry?” “What career does God want me to pursue?” Oftentimes, young adults go through life as though “God’s will” is lost and their life’s goal is to find it. We older adults can fall into the same trap, hesitating to serve while we seek out God’s plan. But God’s will is not “lost.” It doesn’t need to be “found.” It fills the pages of our Bibles.

As we read scripture, we find a clear picture of God’s character. We see His desires, His preferences, and His priorities. To the young adult pondering the future and to the older adult seeking God’s next ministry commitment, I give the same advice: confusion about next steps is not a reason to sit still. Find something God cares about and do it. It may be temporary, but faithfulness in times of waiting leads to clarity and opportunities for the future (Luke 16:10).

Scripture makes God’s priorities clear. He cares for the widow, orphan, and resident alien (referenced many times, including Exodus 22:21-24). He cares for the oppressed (again, many references, including Psalm 10:17-18).

Perhaps most clearly, God cares for the lost. In Noah’s time, the world was given ample opportunity to repent. At the Passover, Egypt had been given nine plagues before the plague of death. John the Baptist made the call to repentance before he decreased.

Above, we clearly see God’s priority in this world. He does not want hell to have one single resident. In the Great Commission, Jesus made our task clear: “Go and make disciples...” This is God’s will for our lives: making disciples! This is an individual daily task.

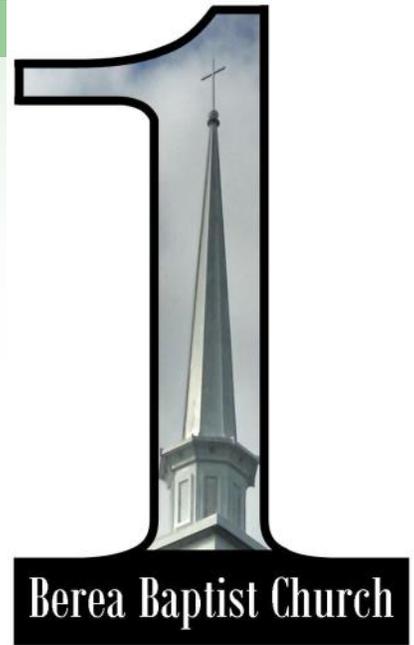
As a church, Berea has opportunities to impact eternity around the world. Our regular ministries and outreaches accomplish the mission locally. Our partnership with our local Association, State Convention, and National Convention likewise leads us to fulfill the mission worldwide.

While the foundation of that partnership is our “Cooperative Program,” budgeted giving, we set aside holiday times for more focused giving. At Christmastime, that is through the “Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.” During the weeks leading up to Easter, our mission giving is focused toward the “Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.”

In March, we will see videos highlighting the work of the Southern Baptist Convention’s North American Mission Board. These videos will highlight how our Cooperative Program contributions lead people to Jesus in North America. They will also show us how the Annie Armstrong offering helps to take the Gospel to areas where Jesus is not as well known as He is in our 100 church county.

I am excited to see how God is working through our Missionaries and how our giving supports the accomplishment of the Great Commission in our generation. As we do, join me in praying for these Missionaries and praying to see how God is leading us to give to support their work.

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



March 2026

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Weekly Activities:

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:15pm Awana
- ★ 6:30pm Adult Bible Study (OFH)

March @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting
3/8 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
3/19 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Fellowship Meal
3/22 @ 12:30pm
- ★ Church Council
3/29 @ 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

Reading 2 Corinthians 11:22-31

In today's passage, Paul's description of his suffering is remarkable. He faced considerable hardship for his faith, but he refused to whine or seek pity. If this was the price for passionately serving Christ, Paul was willing to pay. The apostle's commitment can teach us important lessons about our own walk of faith: We serve according to God's will, not our own. On the road to Damascus, Jesus said to Paul, "It will be told you what you must do" (Acts 9:6). We are to seek the Lord's direction and timing. Committing to do whatever He asks requires courage; instead of placing limitations on our obedience, we must be brave.

We serve according to our gifts, not our talents. A spiritual gift is the special endowment God gives us to serve where He calls. Talents may be useful in His work, but His gifts equip us. Natural skill wasn't what made Paul a powerful preacher. In fact, he spoke of the uselessness of his abilities and lineage in comparison with knowing and serving Christ (Philippians 3:4-9). Even when we stay focused and serve using our gifts, there may be moments when service feels hard or draining. Yet it will, overall, be filled with joy and satisfaction. Are you serving the Lord with the gifts He's given you?

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons' Meeting will be March 9th @ 6:00pm in the choir room.



This ramp was for Mrs. Cortina Bryant. Her husband has Parkinson's.



Ramp was built for Mr. Joesph Smith.





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.

AWANA Volunteers - Looking for those that could work for a week here & there as needed.

Sunday School Volunteers - Nursery & 3 thru 5 year old Sunday School Volunteers.

Awana Schedule	
Mar. 4 th	Grand Prix Decorating
Mar. 11 th	Decorating Continues
Mar. 18 th	Grand Prix Pit Night
Mar. 25 th	Grand Prix Race Night

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



Youth Group News



**March 1 - Winterjam \$15 @ Scope
Hulvey, Disciple, Newsong, and more!**

**April 6 - Spring Break Escape - \$20
Built to Serve Philadelphia - 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.



My first full time ministry was a large one in the middle of Portsmouth, VA. Most of the kids that came walked in off the street and had no connection to the church. With them they brought a bevy of issues ranging from typical teenage "stuff" to drug use and gang activity. Given the range of issues and typically being out numbered 10 to 1, teens to adults, I had little patience for nonsense and everyone that walked through the doors knew it. Step out of line and we were quick to respond, and that approach, while useful to maintain a safe, quiet place to share the Word, was certainly lacking in the same grace and mercy that God shows us daily.

The truth is, God deals with us far more patiently than you and I deserve. Consider 2 Peter 3:9, that says "Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." From the very start we are deserving of punishment as a result of the sin that is in our lives, yet God, not wanting even one person separated from Him gives us opportunity after opportunity (see Jesus' parable in Mark 12:1-12) to come to accept the gift of Jesus. Then, His patience never waning, God waits for us to answer His invitation to serve Him. This call to serve obediently, to share the gospel, and to love unconditionally is one He makes for each and every one of us. Are you listening? Have you responded? Have you, like the prophet Isaiah, heard the Lord's call and said, "I hear you calling and I'm ready to go!"

2 Peter 3:8-9 "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Further reading: Isaiah 6:1-8; Mark 12:1-12

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

Cindy's Celebration



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

**"I would like to thank Berea for the
continued support these past 25 years as I
served as custodian. Thank you for the
meal, cake and gifts. I am blessed to have
you as my church family."**

**In Christian Love,
Cindy Vallas**

Berea Basketball



Former NC pastor, Rep. Mark Walker accepts religious freedom role in Trump administration

WASHINGTON — Former North Carolina Baptist pastor and congressman Mark Walker announced Thursday (Jan. 8) that he has accepted a new role within the Trump administration focused on advancing religious liberty around the world. Walker, who had been under consideration to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, said he has withdrawn from that nomination and will instead serve as principal advisor on global religious freedom in the U.S. State Department.

In a statement released on social media, Walker expressed gratitude to President Donald Trump for the opportunity to serve and for the administration's emphasis on defending religious freedom internationally. "I am deeply grateful to President Donald J. Trump for the honor of nominating me to serve as United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom," Walker said. "Promoting religious liberty worldwide has been a cornerstone of my life's work—as a pastor, as a Member of Congress, and as a passionate advocate for the persecuted."

After what he described as "careful consideration and thoughtful discussions with the Administration," Walker said he chose to withdraw from consideration for the ambassador role in favor of the newly announced advisory position. "I am respectfully withdrawing from consideration for the Ambassador-at-Large position and excited to announce I have accepted the new role as Principal Advisor on Global Religious Freedom to the State Department," Walker said. In his new role, Walker will work closely with Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other administration leaders to address religious persecution and human rights abuses worldwide. He emphasized that religious liberty continues to face significant challenges in many regions.

"Religious freedom remains under assault in far too many corners of the world, and I am committed to supporting the Trump Administration's bold efforts to defend this fundamental right," Walker said. The Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) had been pressing for Walker's Senate confirmation but is pleased with this new development. "I'm so glad to see my friend Mark Walker appointed to this important role of Principal Advisor on Global Religious Freedom to the State Department," Interim ERLC President Gary Hollingsworth said. "It is gratifying to have someone who is so firmly committed to advancing religious liberty at home and abroad in this position."

"Here at the ERLC, we look forward to working closely with him on global issues that matter deeply to Southern Baptists. Please join us as we pray for him in this new endeavor of public service." Trump nominated Walker to serve as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom in April 2025, a position that requires Senate confirmation. While Walker's nomination drew support from administration officials and faith leaders, it never advanced to a Senate vote. Executive branch nominations that are not confirmed before the Senate adjourns each year expire, requiring the nomination process to start over in a new session.

By moving into an advisory role, Walker is able to begin work on issues pertaining to global religious freedom immediately without restarting the formal nomination and confirmation process. Walker has long been vocal on issues of faith and religious liberty. He said the advisory position will allow him to continue that work while helping advance America's leadership on the issue internationally. "I look forward to working closely with Secretary Rubio, President Trump and the entire Administration to advance America's leadership in confronting religious persecution, exposing human rights violations, and advocating for people of faith around the globe," Walker said.

Walker, a Republican, represented North Carolina's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2015 to 2021. During his time in Congress, he served as chairman of the Republican Study Committee from 2017 to 2019 and as vice chair of the House Republican Conference from 2019 to 2021. Before entering politics, Walker spent 16 years in pastoral ministry, serving churches in Florida and North Carolina. He previously served on staff at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem and most recently as worship pastor at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro from 2008 to 2013.



Church Business Meeting
 March 8th @ 12:15pm



Agape Meeting
 Tuesday, March 17th @
 6:00pm in the OFH. All
 ladies are welcome to join.



J. Walkers Meeting
 March 16th @ 10:30 am in the OFH.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Kristina"

This month, one of our phone calls received was from a young mother facing an overwhelming set of challenges. She had recently traveled out of town so her daughter could undergo a necessary surgery, an already stressful situation for any parent. In the days that followed, her daughter began showing signs of a possible infection, and doctors advised that she may need to return for further care.

With medical concerns mounting and unexpected travel costs piling up, this mother found herself unable to cover her past-due power bill. As temperatures dropped sharply, she feared her family would lose heat at the worst possible time.

Thanks to the support of our community and the resources of the Community Care Collaborative, we were able to step in quickly. We worked with the utility provider to prevent the disconnection and ensure her home remained warm and safe while she focused on her daughter's health.

"Tracey"

Recently, a local resident reached out to the Community Care Collaborative seeking help with past due rent after a temporary loss of income. As we walked through her application together, she shared that her home had several serious maintenance issues, problems that were creating unsafe living conditions. Because safety always comes first, we encouraged her to contact code enforcement so the necessary repairs could be addressed quickly. She took that step, and the response was immediate. Inspectors visited the property, documented the concerns, and the owners completed the required repairs soon thereafter.

What happened next was unexpected, and powerful. Her neighbors, seeing the improvements and realizing they too had long standing issues, began reaching out for guidance on how to advocate for safe, healthy housing. A single call for rent assistance became the catalyst for broader change, helping an entire group of families access the repairs and respect they deserve. This is the kind of community impact your support makes possible every day.

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 John Hudson | 17 Cody Johnson |
| 2 Timothy Erickson | Sylvia Whitehead |
| 3 Mark Wall | 18 Kenny Waters |
| 4 Robert Payne | 19 Krystle Nall |
| Pam Price | James Russell |
| 6 Mike Hanson | 22 Jade Tenny |
| 7 Douglas & JoAnn Beasley | 24 Luke Whedbee |
| Charlie & Jessica Troxell | 25 John Gregory |
| 8 Kimberly Smith | 26 Gwen O'Connor |
| Charlie Troxell | 27 Wayne Brooks |
| 9 Dickie Sanders | Lori Mann |
| 10 James Coley | 28 Joanie Taylor |
| 11 Earl Heatwole | 29 Noah Troxell |
| Leia Troxell | 30 Cathy Markham |
| 14 Trey Kitchen | Billy Spencer |
| 15 Justine Brown | 31 JoAnn Beasley |
| Cindy Vallas | |
| 16 Ruth Russell | |
| Jessica Troxell | |

Berea Baptist Church

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



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