

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.*

*³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

*⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.*

What is your go to coping mechanism when life gets overwhelming? Sometimes we “holier than thou” Christians misread Paul to say that “God will not give us more than we can handle” (Misquote of 1 Corinthians 10:13).

The truth is that life will often be more than we can handle. In fact the verse is actually just talking about temptation & promises that God will provide a way of escape. We are able to bear it only because God provides the means to do so.

We will all have times where the struggles of life bring us to the end of our rope. An untimely death, a broken relationship, an unreasonable workload, or *<fill in your biggest burden here>* can seem to be the end of us.

When life is like that we turn to our favorite coping mechanism. Some of these can be healthy and beneficial. Others can be harmful and even dangerous. Some push us into Godly community. Others isolate us into dangerous silence.

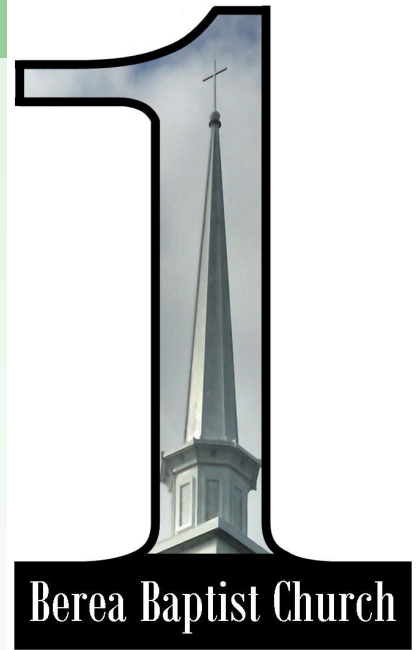
These are the times to remember that our Shepherd “makes me to lie down,” “leads me beside still waters,” “restores my soul.” Our Shepherd comes alongside us with “goodness and mercy.” He is working with us to sustain us in the impossible times. He is providing a way to survive the chaos.

Are you going through one of these seasons of hardship? When it’s possible, take time away from the pain to get away; with family, with nature, with God to provide all the comfort and escape a heavy heart needs.

When life gets too heavy to carry please reach out to those who love you for support. My phone is always on...

Love you all,

Jason



May 2025

Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons’ Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Children & Youth
- ★ Brief History of the CP
- ★ Coming Events
- ★ CCC Stories
- ★ 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
- ★ 6:15pm Awana

May @ a Glance:

- ★ Deacons Meeting
5/12 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
5/21 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council
5/25 @ 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

But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23:12 (NLT)

Don't you think God would favor the humble politician? It's in God's character to favor those who work on behalf of others. When we think too highly of ourselves, we are likely to be disappointed.

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

*Thank
You!*

To all those who visited, called,
sent cards, and prayed; we are
all so very grateful to each and
everyone of you.

Sincerely,
The Seymour Family



Women on Mission

Tuesday, May 20th @
7:00pm in the OFH.

Dave and I praise the Lord for my recovery! And we would like to thank our church family for all the blessings they gave us, and Pastor Jason for his contacts and many visits to be with us.

We would also like to thank our church family for their prayers, visits, cards and meals while I was recovering.

Our love in Christ,
Edith Kelsick

Handyman Ministry

Berea
Handyman Ministry



This ramp was built for
the sister of Carol Hoyer
who is wheel chair
bound.



Removed an old
ramp and built a
new one for
Heather who
needs the ramp
for stability.



A ramp and steps
were built for a
family with stability
issues while walking.
Requested by the
Salvation Army.



Children's Ministry News

Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8

Help! We need donations for our Awana Ministry!

Our **Awana Store** is looking for items for our final store night. Toys, kids craft kits, outdoor items like bubbles, balls and jump ropes, are just a few ideas to get you going. (Requested items for our older clubbers = Fidget cubes, rubix cube, blankets, LED lights, teen appropriate room decor, gift cards in small amounts for example \$5 McDonalds, etc).

Please turn in your items to Pastor Charlie or Mrs. Jessica.

Awana is almost done for the year, and ministry doesn't stop there as we roll into the summer every Wednesday Night to find new and amazing ways to illuminate God's Word. Interested in supporting our summer ministry? We are always looking for volunteers to serve in our weekly ministry as well as through donations to our snack time, crafts and more!

Road Trip VBS is coming! July 13-17

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

"Road Trip: On the Go with God!"

Sunday School for Children - Sunday Mornings @ 10 am

Awana Schedule

May 7th - Star Wars Night!

May 14th - Double Shares Night!

May 21th - Awana Store

May 28th - Last Night of Awana!

**Thank you for your
continued support of
Awana.**



Youth Group News



Trek for Middle & High School Students - Wednesday Nights during Awana

SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10 AM

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.



My first job as a 16-year-old was an experience in itself. My coworkers consisted of grown adults from all walks of life and the level of exposure to the "real world" for me was astonishing at times. I didn't talk much that first summer, and mostly I just worked under the hot sun, getting burnt to a red that resembled a lobster, and watching. It was watching with what everyone described as big eyes that earned me the nickname Elmo (tickle me Elmo was a hot toy then).

It was a fitting nickname that uniquely described me to those that knew me at the time. Along with a host of other titles and names through the years like Coach, Daddy, and one of my favorites Megatrox, these and others could be used to accurately describe who I am to those wanting to get to know me.

That makes me think of some of the descriptions we find of God and how they uniquely describe for us who He is. Descriptions like Alpha & Omega, the beginning and the end, my Rock & my Fortress, my Rock & my Redeemer, Heavenly Father, The Almighty, and Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Perhaps it's the descriptions of Jesus such as The Good Shepherd, Teacher, Servant, a Ransom and The Way that leap off the page to you. These and many other descriptions are used to tell us just who God is and depending on the day and the season, more importantly who He is to us. So what title do you identify with today? What description, what aspect of God are you in most need of today? Know and trust that He is these, and so much more, and that He is here for you today.

Further Reading: Revelation 1:8; John 10:11-15; Psalm 59; Mark 10:42-25

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

NC Baptists on Mission helps Spruce Pine homeowner rebuild following Helene



Spruce Pine resident Barbara Douglas stands inside her home that was damaged by Hurricane Helene last September. Volunteers with N.C. Baptists on Mission have helped her rebuild.

SPRUCE PINE, N.C. — Barbara Douglas had seen the water from the creek that runs by her home in Spruce Pine rise significantly several times over the years, so she wasn't too concerned as she monitored the rainfall early on the morning of Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

"It didn't look like we were going to have a problem," Douglas said. "It was expected to stop raining about like 11, 11:30, 12, and around 10:45, I noticed it started to come on to the lawn."

Douglas never could have imagined what would happen over the next few minutes. She said the water rose about 4 feet in about 45 minutes, completely flooding her basement and rising to chest high in some rooms of her home that's nestled in a small valley in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina.

"I was in shock a little bit because this house has been here 75 years and never has it flooded," Douglas said. "We've been through a couple of big storms a few years back and it got fairly high, but we never felt like we were in jeopardy here of having an issue like that."

Countless homeowners experienced the same thing as Douglas did on that fateful Friday when Hurricane Helene ravaged western North Carolina, leaving behind damage and destruction so severe that the effects are still being felt months later and will be for months and even years to come.

According to the National Weather Service, Helene dumped more than 24 inches of rain on Spruce Pine alone, and rainfall amounts in some places exceeded 30 inches for just the second time in North Carolina's recorded history. The rain and resulting floodwater overwhelmed homes, businesses and entire communities throughout western North Carolina.

In the aftermath of the storm, many in the region shared the same sentiment as Douglas — "How am I going to do this?"

After a few days went by, some volunteers from N.C. Baptists on Mission showed up at Douglas' home to begin helping her put the pieces back together.

Following the initial response and recovery efforts related to the storm, N.C. Baptists on Mission began focusing on home rebuild efforts last November. Because of the overwhelming need, Baptists on Mission officials have committed to serving on home rebuild projects throughout western North Carolina over the next four to six years to help people like Douglas.

"They came, and they just took over, which was an amazing thing because you're so in shock still," Douglas said. "You don't know what you're going to do. You know?"

Several teams of volunteers made up of individuals from local churches from across that state have worked almost non-stop in Douglas' home, starting with removing mud and debris before subsequent teams started repairing flooring, installing insulation, hanging drywall and more.

"These crews are just so happy to be here, and they want to be here to help you piece things back together," Douglas said. "I guess their faith drives them to be in this position, and it's really important for them to help, and they've done amazing work."

In addition to helping meet Douglas' physical needs, volunteers have helped her emotionally and spiritually, as well.

"You would meet someone who's here to sit with you, and they listen to your story," Douglas said. "You just sometimes break down and cry because you're so happy they're there. You know, you need them to be there."

One team of volunteers with Baptists on Mission presented Douglas with a Bible signed by some of the people who worked on her home.

"They gave me this beautiful Bible they all had signed in the front, which I thought was so sweet," said Douglas, who is a special education teacher at a local middle school in Mitchell County.

Douglas was also surprised in mid-January when new N.C. Gov. Josh Stein showed up at her home to serve with Baptists on Mission. Stein and members of his cabinet spent the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend volunteering with several organizations in western North Carolina as part of a series of community service projects.

"When he came it was a little surreal," Douglas said. "He greeted me, and we talked about my story, and I showed him some of the areas impacted, and then he went right to work. He didn't seem like a politician. He was there to work."

Later that day, Stein shared about the experience in a social media post on Facebook.

"Barbara and her family in Spruce Pine endured extensive damage to their home because of Hurricane Helene," Stein wrote. "I appreciate them inviting me into their home to help install drywall and insulation alongside the hardworking volunteers with Baptists on Mission. What an impressive group! When we work together, we are stronger."

A little more than a week later, Stein announced a \$3 million grant to Baptists on Mission to assist with long-term rebuild efforts in western North Carolina.

"Baptists on Mission's plan is to stay here for as many years as it takes to help the people of western North Carolina rebuild," Stein said. "They are among the unsung heroes here out west, and I think we need to help them keep doing what they're doing, and we need to support their efforts. That's why I'm announcing a \$3 million grant to Baptists on Mission to continue their Emergency Rapid Repair projects."

As Douglas' home gets closer to completion with each passing day, she says more volunteers are needed to help others who are in a similar predicament as she is.

"I'm getting closer, but there are so many people that have barely begun," Douglas said. "You know, we need help. We need people to come help."



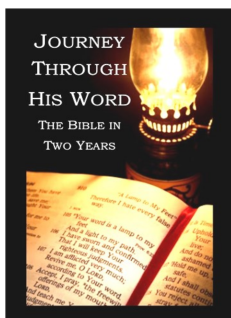
Potluck and Bingo!



Please join the Fellowship Committee for a Potluck Lunch and Bingo fun May 4, right after Morning Worship. Please bring enough food to feed your family and a few more. Be ready for some good food and fun Bingo games.



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.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories

"George"- With the unexpected cold weather this winter, many families were facing extremely high electric bills, regardless of the company they use. George had an extremely high bill of over \$800 that he had to pay in January. While it was difficult for him to come up with the funds, he was able to pay his bill. However, when his next bill came for February that was this time over \$600, he couldn't cover it and turned to CCC for help. CCC was able to pay his bill easing his fears of losing power for his family and comfortable knowing warmer, and brighter days are ahead.

"Patty"- When unexpected illnesses occur, it's difficult to have enough to cover expenses and everyday necessities. Patty had a stroke that required her to be out of work for several months. While Patty was able to come up with half of her February rent, she fell short on the remainder, putting her at risk of eviction through no fault of her own. CCC was able to partner with Patty to help cover the remaining past due rent knowing that she is now back to work and able to pay her full rental amount next month.

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.



First Chistian Church (800 Beech Street) will host a prayer service at 8:00am with a free breakfast from Panera. City Road Methodist Church (511 N. Road Street) will host a prayer service at noon. And Towne South Church of Christ (2224 Peartree Rd) will host a prayer service at 7:00pm.



Harold & Adelle Boothe Scholarship*



A \$1000 (or two \$500) scholarship will be awarded this year. The Deacons of Berea are accepting applications for consideration. The qualifications for applying for the scholarship are:

- †The candidate must be a Christian who is an active member of Berea Baptist Church and attends both Sunday School & Church Services on a frequent and regular basis.
- †The recipient must be attending an accredited institution of higher learning.

Application for this scholarship may be made by writing a letter to the Deacon Chairman, Ross Tenny, no later than May 11th. This application should include: 1. A summary of your activities at Berea (past & present). 2. The school you plan to attend. 3. Your chosen major (if known) 4. Your future goals. *(This is a one time scholarship)



J. Walkers Ministry

Our next meeting will be May 19th @ 11:30am for a cookout. Please come and join us for fun and fellowship.



Albemarle Area United Way



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

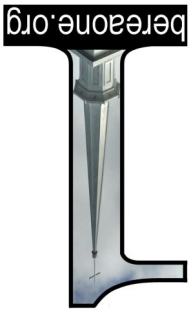
Let's celebrate together!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Reginia Quillin | 15 Terry Taylor |
| 2 Donnie & Anita Byrd | 16 Jean Cartwright |
| 3 Kristy Poulson | 19 Chris & Cindy Vallas |
| Becky Winslow | 20 Gearldene Thompson |
| 7 Garland & Carolyn Sanders | 21 Cody Hudson |
| Samantha Harrell | Judah Tenny |
| 8 Gary & Cathy Markham | 26 Frank & Dawn Lilly |
| Don Alexander | 27 Kyle Hewitt |
| William Sanders | Tara Hunter |
| 10 Faith Kitchen | 31 Jezreel Tenny |

Berea Baptist Church

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



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