

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed, ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility - not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it - in the hope ²¹that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children.

Romans 8:18-21

Our world is broken. There is war in Israel & Ukraine. Iryna Zarutka was stabbed to death in Charlotte. Charlie Kirk was assassinated. And those are just stories that make the headlines. We have no idea how many more murders, wars, and tragedies happen every day. Our world is not as it was meant to be. God created this world in perfection. He made everything in it and then was able to declare it to be "very good," because it had been made just right. In the beginning, there was no death, hatred, or even sickness.

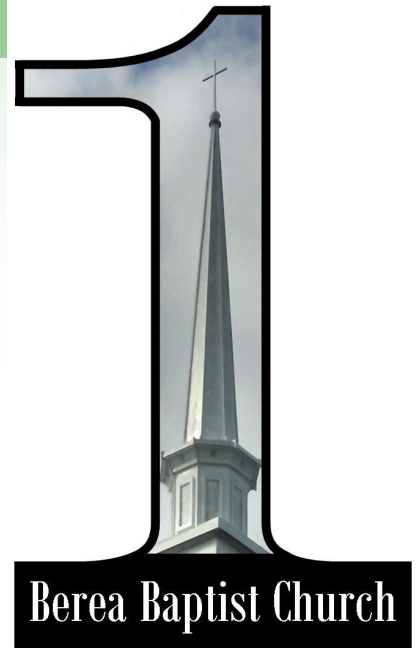
Our world is filled with sin. Satan rebelled. Eve ate. Adam joined. All received God's judgment for their betrayal, and our world has been in a downward spiral of futility ever since. This unavoidable curse follows us everywhere and continues to destroy the beauty and perfection God intended for us. Our world is filled with suffering. Its downward spiral means that the sufferings of this world increase, rather than decrease. Despite technological & medical advancements, despite worldwide communication, and despite the hope of the Gospel our world is still better described by suffering than glory.

Why hasn't God put an end to it? As we experience the suffering of pain, illness, and death, it is natural to ask this question. Often, growing up, we were told "why" is a question off-limits for the faithful Christian. I disagree. Especially since the answer is clearly presented in the scripture. God is patient. As we can see in the verses above, creation awaits "God's sons to be revealed." God *could* put an end to all the suffering right now, but would that be the act of a loving God?

God is love. Stopping all suffering, right now, would be gracious to all those bound for heaven, but it would be premature condemnation for all those who have not yet acknowledged Him as their Savior. God works for His greatest glory. God allows this world to continue on its spiral while more people's eternity is changed. He relies on the Christian to live in hopeful anticipation of heaven, while He uses His church to spread Good News to all who will listen.

God's patience will come to an end. Someday God will indeed end all suffering. I am excitedly waiting for that day! I hope you are too! But, even more, I pray you live each day seeking to share that hope with everyone. The greatest suffering, the greatest tragedy, would be if someone you love found themselves condemned on the very day you have been so anxious to see come.

Love you all,
Jason



October 2025

Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons' Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Thank You Letters to Berea
- ★ 'That's My Place'
- ★ Bereans on Mission
- ★ Upcoming Events
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

- ★ 10:00am Sunday School
- ★ 11:00am Children's Church
- ★ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ★ 4:30pm Puppets
- ★ 6:30pm Youth Bible Study-FLC

Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:15pm Awana

October @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting
10/12 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Deacons Meeting
10/13 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Fellowship Meal
10/19 @ 12:30pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
10/22 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council
10/26 @ 12:15pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



Ross Tenny — Chairman
Steve Durham — Vice Chairman
Don Alexander — Reflections
Cameron Quigley — Secretary
John Gregory
Matt Reed

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Genesis 4:7 (ESV)

Sin is not something to be trifled with for it eventually leads to death. We have every instruction we need in Scripture to help us avoid temptation. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives us the power to say: "no". The suffering of our Savior on the cross can influence us to stay as far away from evil as possible. We must conquer lust, and with the help of Jesus we have all we need to do so.

Next Deacons' Meeting will be October 13th @ 7:00pm in the choir room.

Handyman Ministry



This ramp was built for Clayton Twine. He is wheelchair bound and needed a ramp so his wife can get him in/out of his home.



Built for Mrs. Josephine Spruill. She uses a walker and has difficulty going up/down steps.



Our Children and Youth!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:15-8

Our Children's Ministry and Awana are in full swing and we are having an amazing year thus far. Clubbers have already begun memorizing scripture while diving deeper into the truth found in God's Word.

It is amazing to see the growth in our Children's Ministries on Sunday Mornings. God is indeed blessing us with new opportunities for growth from Wednesday night to Sunday morning. As we continue to grow and move forward we ask that you prayerfully consider joining our roster of volunteers. You can serve as a part of the rotation or as a back up as needed, and know that you will be both a blessing and blessed.

Awana Schedule

Oct. 1st - Sports
Oct. 8th - Cartoon Character
Oct. 15th - Neon, Store OPEN
Oct. 22nd - Campfire Night
Oct. 29th - Real Hero's

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

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am



Youth Group News



October 24 - Lock-In
December 20 - Live Nativity

November 23 - Big Table
December 21 - Youth Christmas Party

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.



Our first glimpse is of a man standing complicit in the murder of one of the saints (Acts 7:58). Our next view is of a man trying to destroy that which Jesus created; ravaging the church, persecuting and imprisoning men and women (8:3). A sinner, Pharisee, fear monger, or one of a dozen other descriptions, each depicting a man we would want nothing to do with, yet these are the early descriptions of the man Jesus would call to do a mighty work.

Saul, whom we know best as Paul, is the man we see at first in direct opposition to the Gospel. After his encounter on the road to Damascus we find this man, changed by Jesus, who would write a majority of the New Testament, and help convert countless people to Christianity while leading the early church to spread like wild fire throughout the ancient world.

Observing how God can use a man like Saul gives us the knowledge that God can use even us. Maybe you've said things like, "I'm not an eloquent speaker", God can use you. "I don't have a testimony like Saul", God can use you. "I'm not trained! I don't know the Bible well enough, I won't be able to answer every question", my friend, God can still use you and me. The simple fact is, if you know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then you have all you need to share your story. You know that Jesus loves us, that He paid the penalty for our sin, and that Jesus has created a way for us to enter into a special relationship with Him. You know that because of what Jesus did, we are made righteous in God's sight, and you know that we are special to Him. If God can use someone with a past like Paul, then be assured He can, and will, use us. Don't allow excuses and feelings of inadequacy to keep you from doing what God has called each of us to do.

Further Reading: Acts 9:1-30; Colossians 3:12-14

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

Thank You Letters to Berea

The following letters were received thanking Berea Baptist Church.

Thank you so much for the use of the church for my husband's memorial service. I also thank you for all your prayers. The meal prepared for my family was delicious and appreciated.

In Christ,
Ruth Lane

Dear Berea,

Thank you for allowing PCHS to use your facilities for our sports banquet.

Sincerely,
PCHS Athletic Booster Club

We wish to thank you for all the prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, food, flowers and other items members of Berea Baptist Church have given to Mary & I over the past few months as we endured numerous tests and repeated hospital confinements. Hopefully with the Lord's blessings some of our various health issues will improve in time, making life little easier for us. A special thanks to Pastor for visits & prayers at hospital and home. Thanks & God Bless each of you for the kindness shared to us.

Doug & Mary Pritchard

The Family of Janet Hunter Cooke acknowledges
with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy

Dear Jason,

Thank you so much for the wonderful job you did at our mom's funeral. I know it was unexpected. I still cannot believe she is not with us! We so appreciate your attention to detail, especially considering everything occurred during VBS and at the end of your mission trip to western NC.

My mom LOVED Berea. It was such an important part of her life, starting in 1961. Thank you for leading a congregation that was so encouraging and supportive of her, especially in her later years as a widow.

Much love and respect,
Judy McCreery

'That's my place': Pastor answers call to plant in remote beach village

When the Ellington family moved to Avon, no other planters or sending churches were focused on the Outer Banks. Today, lives are being transformed, thanks to support from SendNC and partner churches. The North Carolina Missions Offering helps fund church planting and ministries so the Gospel can reach the most remote corners of the state. Frankie Hopkins, Fire Chief of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, was baptized on Father's Day. Less than a year ago, he had never owned a Bible. But that changed when he met the people of One Church in Avon, N.C. "These people — they are changing this town," Hopkins said about the church plant. "You can see the change they've brought to this community. ... I don't think a lot of people understood that at first."

Avon is a village in the Outer Banks located about an hour away from most fast-food restaurants or the nearest Walmart. The area welcomes millions of tourists every year. But with a population in the hundreds, it can be difficult for newcomers to find their place. Many locals work in the service industry and often feel overlooked by tourists who are only there for short-term stays, said KJ Ellington, lead pastor at One Church. They can feel jaded when new neighbors move in but leave soon after discovering the realities of a remote lifestyle. It took one woman, who is now part of the church, about a year to befriend Ellington's family and other One Church members. "I was scared I would like you, and then you were going to leave," she told him. Ellington has long had a heart for small, isolated communities. After growing up in North Carolina, he pastored a church in Jordan, Montana, where he served for 16 years. A few years ago, he and his wife, Sharon, sensed God calling them to use what they learned in Montana to reach other similar places. They came across a video about the Outer Banks. Ellington contacted SendNC Director Mike Pittman to ask about church planting there. There was not yet any interest from churches or planters to plant in the area. "That's my place then," Ellington said.

In the summer of 2021, the family spent time in the Outer Banks, praying from Corolla to Ocracoke about where God wanted them. "Avon's where He led us," Ellington said. They moved in 2022 and spent more than one year making connections and building friendships. They met other families through their kids' sports teams. They frequented the same restaurants and got to know servers and business owners. A certified Emergency Chaplain, Ellington served with the Highway Patrol. Then he connected with the Fire Department, where One Church now gathers on Sundays. When the church started meeting for Bible study in the fall of 2023, they met in people's homes or at a park on Tuesdays. That's where Hopkins first noticed them. "They would be there in the rain, they would be there when it was hot, they would be there with the mosquitos," Hopkins said. "I'm going, 'Who are these people?'"

When Ellington volunteered to serve as the chaplain for the Fire Department, Hopkins didn't realize he was the pastor from the group he observed at the park. Their conversations turned to God and faith, but Hopkins hesitated to accept an invitation to church. In January, One Church hosted Baptists on Mission's mobile dental clinic and health screening ministry at the Fire Department. On the dental bus, Hopkins chatted with a volunteer who quoted Peter from Scripture. "I have no idea what Peter said. Who is Peter?" Hopkins remembered saying. "I had no idea about the Bible." Ellington gave him one before the day ended. They began studying the book of John together. Then Hopkins started attending One Church's gatherings. "I realized it's a bigger thing than me," Hopkins said. "Still, I wasn't sold on the whole thing because I didn't know." He went to church a few more times and kept reading the Bible until he realized "that this guy, Jesus, is one of the most awesome people in the history of the world."

On March 21, Hopkins was working on a tear-out of a house by himself. He stepped outside for a break, and "it just came to me," he said. "I dropped to my knees, and I gave myself to God. It was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life." Dennis Conner is a Great Commission catalyst for North Carolina's regions one and two, where Avon is located. He witnessed how the Ellingtons have "woven into the fabric of the community." "KJ is the most natural North American missionary I have encountered in nearly 20 years," Conner said. "He and his family came from a very different place, quickly learned and adopted the local language, adapted to the culture and rhythms of life, and developed trust with locals who have demonstrated a willingness to follow him. "He has used that trust to lead them to Jesus." Paul Ortiz, a church-planting strategist with SendNC, quickly recognized the Ellingtons' heart for the unreached in rural areas, even before they moved to the Outer Banks.

"It was easy to develop not only a relationship with KJ, but also partner with him and his family in ministry," Ortiz said. "They have integrated well, working hard to plant roots and become part of the community they have been called to." Ortiz hopes to see more church planters raised in North Carolina with the same commitment and ability to understand the people and area they're reaching with the Gospel. "KJ does prayer drives every day through our village. He's there for the community. He's there for the people," said Hopkins. "It's a blessing to have their family and the church here." Just as church planting looks different in different places, supporting plants takes various forms in unique contexts. One Church, for example, needs teams more in the winter than the summer. The county meets most benevolence needs, so that's not a relevant need among locals. "They need to be willing to do whatever that planter needs them to do," Ellington said. "The biggest thing that (churches) can do is purposefully and intentionally pray for those churches." He encourages planters to trust the providence of God. "The first guy that we baptized knows everybody — he's the Fire Chief. He's invited more people to church than I have." Hopkins hopes to be part of a discipleship program this summer and notices God drawing other people in the Fire Department to Him. "They're slow going, kind of like me, but it's happening. He has big plans for here," he said.



Bereans on Mission in Spruce Pine



Berean James Tenny patching a ceiling.



Berean Luke Whedbee painting a ceiling.

Bereans James Tenny and Luke Whedbee prepare to work on the ceiling.



Berean Mike Hanson replaces ceiling tiles in a home.



Bereans Luke Whedbee and James Tenny took lunch snack donations given by Berea to Spruce Pine, NC to be given to volunteers rebuilding homes.



Berean James Tenny working on a deck in Spruce Pine, NC.





**J. Walkers June Meeting
Luncheon @ Cale October 7th.
Van departs Berea at 10:45 a.m.**



Mike Hanson is seeking lunch snack donations (i.e. individually wrapped chips, cookies, etc.) for Spruce Pine, NC to be collected at Berea for their trip in October. Please have all donations in the **parlor** no later than **October 26th**. Cash donations will also be accepted for the purchase of these items.



Chili Dinner

Join the Fellowship Committee for a chili dinner in the FLC on October 19th right after Morning Worship Service. Please bring a dessert to share with others. Sandwiches will also be provided!



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"**Kyrone**" is a determined young man whose life changed in an instant after a severe workplace injury left him unable to walk. Through months of physical therapy, he's made remarkable progress, but ongoing nerve damage still causes intense pain and limits his mobility. When Kyrone reached out to the Community Care Collaborative, he was seeking help with a utility bill while awaiting his disability hearing at the end of the month. For two years, he'd relied on the kindness of friends and family, but their resources had run out. Because of your generosity, CCC was able to do more than cover his utility bill, we also paid his past-due rent, ensuring Kyrone has a safe and stable home while he continues his recovery and prepares for his hearing. Your compassion makes moments like this possible. Thank you for standing with neighbors like Kyrone when they need it most.

"**Brandon**" lives with a seizure disorder that requires daily medication, medication that's not just essential, but expensive. When unexpected costs piled up, he found himself facing a heartbreaking decision: pay his utility bill or purchase the medication that keeps him safe. Thanks to your generosity, Brandon didn't have to choose. Through the Community Care Collaborative, we were able to cover his past-due utility bill, allowing him to focus on his health without sacrificing basic needs. Your support makes stories like Brandon's possible. Every gift helps us respond to urgent needs with compassion and care. Thank you for being part of this life-changing work.

*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 Duck & Bonnie Chappell
Barbara Seabold | 22 Mariah Michel
Brandon Sprull |
| 2 Vickie Sanders | 26 Sylvia Cahoon |
| 4 John Long | 28 Steve & Faith Long
Greg & Sydney Newell |
| 8 Miriam Alexander | Don Bunch |
| 9 Elizabeth Gallina | Ryan Robinson
Mechell Smith |
| 11 Jeff Spear
Jason Wise | 30 Henry Layden |
| 12 John & Kim Hudson | 31 Lois Hassell |
| 16 Janet Sawyer | |

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Berea Baptist Church

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