

# BereaOne Life

## WISE Musings

“Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?” Acts 8:36

Baptismal waters are stirring again at Berea! Having only Baptized one so far in 2024 and one other since 2021, we witnessed two Baptized in August with four more scheduled to be Baptized in September! God is Good!

Baptism is the first, and easiest public profession of faith we have as new Christians. It is the sign that our faith is real and it is one of the primary signs of a healthy church.

Baptism’s significance has led us to follow the “Three Week Baptism Plan” proposed by Jonathan Smith who serves Texas Baptists in their Center for Church Health.

The Three Week Baptism Plan makes Baptism a priority and hopes to see Baptism become a regular part of our weekly worship services, rather than relegating it to being a special once or twice a year practice. Here’s the plan:

### Preach Baptism

In an attempt to display the church we want to become I will preach a sermon focused specifically toward Baptism as least twice a year (join us September 1 for Timothy Bradshaw’s Baptism & a Baptism sermon).

As a part of this plan we will only Baptize one person per Sunday (except family ), rather than bunching up multiples together. This will make it so we can experience the blessing of Baptism more often and so if you miss a Sunday, you hopefully won’t miss Baptism.

### We will be celebrating Baptism for three weeks:

**Week 1** we will announce that there will be a Baptism next week (see September 1, 8, 22) and we will encourage the one to be Baptized to invite as many family and friends as possible to witness their public profession of Jesus.

**Between weeks 1 & 2** the one to be Baptized will create a brief testimony video explaining their path to Jesus and how Berea played a part in their spiritual journey.

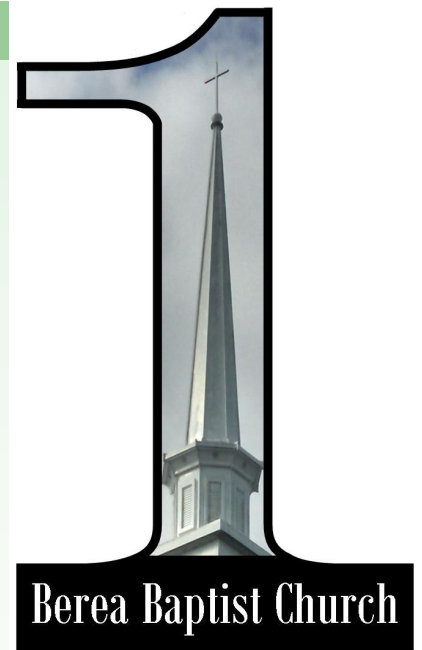
**Week 2** we will show that testimony video first and then Baptize. As a way to emphasize the importance of Baptism it will take place in the middle of the service, rather than at the very beginning or end where people would potentially miss it having arrived late / left early.

**Week 3** we will show the testimony video again followed by the actual Baptism video as a way to celebrate what God has done in the individual’s life. They will then be presented with their Baptismal certificate, after which they will be welcomed by the congregation coming forward to greet them. Their name & picture will also be added to our New Member board in the Parlor.

**Baptism is a celebration!** We know from Luke 15:10: “there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.” That’s a familiar verse, but what we haven’t considered is how long is the celebration? At Berea our Baptismal celebration will last for at least 3 weeks.

Is it time for you to be Baptized? Do you know someone who needs to see the picture of what Jesus has done for us? Would you come celebrate Baptism with us?

Love you all,  
Jason



## September 2024

### Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons’ Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Awana’s Back
- ★ ServeNC
- ★ CCC Updates
- ★ Event Pages
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Weekly Activities:

#### Sundays

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

#### Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:30pm Awana

### September @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting  
9/8 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Deacon’s Meeting  
9/9 @ 7:00pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline  
9/19 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Church Council  
9/22 @ 12:15pm



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

Next Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm.

## Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons

Many deceivers have gone out into the world: they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and antichrist. Watch yourselves so that you don't lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teachings but goes beyond it does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching do not receive him into your home, and don't greet Him.

2 John 7-10

Truth matters...God calls us to love and to tell the truth. To love God is to love the truth. Our problem as mortals is that we are prone to drift from the truth when it is convenient or profitable. Truth isn't always convenient, but truth *is* loved by God. God hates lies and liars.

## Handyman Ministry



Johnna, the caregiver for two men, both needing either a walker or wheelchair to get out of the house, desperately needed a ramp. It was funded by Albemarle Commission.



This ramp was built for Carlton Forbes to enable him to get his wife in/out of the house. She has Parkinson's disease.

This ramp was built for Mr. Varavetta. He is an amputee and lives alone. The ramp allows him to get out of his house via a motorized wheelchair.







Truth &  
Training



## Children's Ministry News

### Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8pm

September 4th is drawing near and with it comes the excitement of a new year of Awana. Scripture Memorization, Bible Study, Games, Amazing Theme Nights, and new this year, Dinner for all our clubbers. That is just some of what can be expected when clubbers walk through the doors of Berea this fall. Be in constant prayer for our clubbers, and volunteers, while prayerfully considering how God would lead you to support the Awana ministry.

**Sunday School - Sunday Mornings @ 10am**

### Awana Schedule

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** – Kickoff

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** - School Colors

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** - Crazy Hats

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** - Ice Cream Sundae

## Youth Group News



**Trek for Middle School Students - Wednesday Nights during Awana**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10am: Breakfast & Bible Study!**

**SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30pm in the FLC**

Please consider providing a meal for our Youth Group on Sunday Evenings. Contact Pastor Charlie to find out how you could sponsor a dinner like Lasagna, Burgers or a youth group staple...Pizza!



In the middle of summer I was walking through the tall grass in my backyard to feed my animals when I suddenly found myself lying face down in the grass. My foot had slipped into a hole I couldn't see and I fell hard and fast, in the process hurting both my pride and my foot. What did I do exactly, I'm not sure, but I can tell you this, it hurt and it affected how I stood, how I walked, how I knelt, and more. That in turn affected everything I physically did or did not do for quite a while.

The experience reminds me of Paul's words to the Corinthians as he describes the body of Christ. Paul's words describe us as a unified body knit together in such a way that each part is clearly dependent on the others. As each part is performing its own indispensable task, it brings honor to the whole and we know ultimately shines a light on our Heavenly Father. Likewise, when even one part, say a hurt foot, is not performing as it should, it causes the whole to suffer.

That leads me to consider my role, as I hope it would cause you to consider yours. Are you, am I, doing the ministry God has called us to do, or are we a hand that's trying to be a foot? Have we heard the Lord's call in our life and yielded to it, so that each of us can find our place within the body?

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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



Isabelle Biter  
 Timothy Bradshaw  
 Dontrel Lee  
 Chris Lester  
 Julia Lester  
 Ryan Robinson  
 Jared Tenny  
 Jeremiah Tenny  
 Joel Tenny  
 Judah Tenny  
 Charlie Troxell  
 Jessica Troxell  
 Noah Troxell  
 Leia Troxell  
 Joshua Wise  
 Emma Lee Wise  
 Samuel Wise

The Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia was a success! We had 17 people (see list of names at left) go and share God's love all around the city. They ran VBS, packed food boxes for seniors, served water, ice, and pretzels to neighborhood children, prepped and served a meal to local homeless people, and many other opportunities to share God's love. They did some sightseeing around Philly and ended the week with a trip to Six Flags amusement park on the way home. Great job to all of them for their time and hard work! Excited for next year!





## ‘ServeNC’ week sees nearly 1,200 churches unite to support NC communities

Members of Redemption Church at New Hope in Wilson helped with cleanup efforts in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Debby as part of the church’s “ServeNC” efforts.



When shoppers began checking out their groceries at a local Walmart in Morehead City, N.C., earlier this month, many were surprised to find out that their items would be covered. Members of Local Point Church from nearby Newport, N.C., had arrived at the store on Saturday, Aug. 3, with \$5,000 to pay for people’s groceries. “If we’re going to love people well, if we’re going to love people big, we believe part of that is being generous,” said JT Riley, pastor of Local Point.

One by one, volunteers from Local Point approached shoppers at checkout kiosks, offering to pay for their items. Most were taken aback but accepted the offer with gratitude. “No expectation from them, other than just being loved and receiving it.” Riley said. Morehead City was just one of countless towns in North Carolina that experienced acts of service last week as nearly 1,200 churches partnered together on Aug. 3-10 to support North Carolina communities through an emphasis called “ServeNC”

The “ServeNC” initiative, organized by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and its partnering organization Baptists on Mission, encouraged churches to consider and respond to the needs of local neighborhoods by taking on service projects within their communities. By the time the emphasis week ended on Saturday, Aug. 10, 1,172 churches in 92 of North Carolina’s 100 counties had committed to serve.

“N.C. Baptists demonstrated and declared the good news of Jesus during ‘ServeNC,’ from Murphy to Manteo and everywhere in between,” said Todd Unzicker, Executive Director-Treasurer for N.C. Baptists. “The whole nation saw N.C. Baptists for who they are all year long — a movement of nearly 3,000 independent, autonomous churches that partner together to reach, train, send and serve for the advancement of Jesus’ kingdom.”

The emphasis encouraged churches to direct service projects to the particular needs of their surrounding neighborhoods, paying special attention to those most vulnerable in their communities. As a result, churches participating in “ServeNC” engaged in a variety of service projects, which were highlighted daily on social media through the hashtag #ServeNC and in recap articles posted on the state convention’s website.

“Jesus said He was building His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven,” Unzicker said. “N.C. Baptists worked during ‘ServeNC’ to build that kingdom in North Carolina as it is in heaven.”

Across the state, volunteers served by giving away backpacks and school supplies, completing landscaping projects, delivering gifts to first responders, partnering with local nonprofits and more. In Concord, Friendship Southern Baptist Church joined “ServeNC” by putting on a “prom night” for a local nursing home. Iglesia Bautista Bet-el in Lumberton spent a day picking up trash along the roads in surrounding neighborhoods. North of Raleigh, North Henderson Baptist Church hosted a one-day Vacation Bible School for community members with disabilities. In western North Carolina, the Women’s Ministry Team from the Catawba River Baptist Association served by building a handicap ramp for a member of the community. Together, volunteers from the ministry team — a group representing four churches from across Burke County — took time to learn how to build a ramp prior to “ServeNC.” “Our Director of Missions encouraged us to really step out of our comfort zone,” said Christy Buchanan, volunteer from Zion Baptist Church in Morganton.

Despite taking weeks — and even months — to prepare their projects prior to “ServeNC,” some churches found themselves needing to pivot on their plans as new needs arose. In Wilkes County, one church took up an unexpected service project after a woman with dementia went missing in the early hours on Sunday, Aug. 4. Following their Sunday morning service, members of Springfield Baptist Church set up a command center on the church’s property as local authorities and community volunteers searched for the missing woman, who was eventually found unharmed.



Our Senior Ministry packed insulated bags to give out to the community. We handed them out to our meals on wheels route and set up a booth outside a local Pharmacy. We made cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry, painted poles at our local High School, and built a ramp and hand rails for people in our community.



### ...Continued from previous page

"We ended up serving in a way we didn't plan to," said Patricia Dvorak, a member of Springfield Baptist.

Other churches were called upon to take on disaster relief projects after Tropical Storm Debby swept through North Carolina in the middle of "ServeNC" week. In Wilson County, volunteers from Redemption Church at New Hope completed storm relief and cleanup assignments on Saturday, Aug. 10, in addition to preparing school supply baskets and serving at a local nursing home and social services organization. The church's disaster relief efforts were reflective of a broader response by N.C. Baptists to the storm, as Baptists on Mission disaster response volunteers deployed late last week to prepare meals and assist in cleanup efforts in Robeson County.

Though Redemption Church at New Hope did not anticipate serving after a storm, members of the church were ready to respond to this unexpected need. "We hoped to shine the light of Christ into our community through these practical acts of love," the church shared in a Facebook post.

Churches have been encouraged to report testimonies from the week. Already, churches have begun to share how "ServeNC" has been beneficial to the community — and to the local church, as well.

In Durham, a team of 40 students and young adults from Hanmaum Church gathered to clean up trash on nearby streets. After completing their service project, Senior Pastor Jae Cho shared that multiple community members stopped the volunteers to thank them for their work. "It was incredibly uplifting to hear such support," Cho said. "Everyone truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community." According to Cho, "ServeNC" has prompted the church to consider other ways they can support and invest in their local neighborhoods. "This experience made us realize how much more we can do for our community," Cho said. "We're eager to continue serving for the glory of God's kingdom."



**Greetings, dear community members!** As we step into August, our community impact program continues to thrive, driven by the unwavering commitment of our volunteers and the resilience of our residents. This month, we shine a spotlight on our newest advisory members who began their 3-year term in July to ensure our program continues to grow and ignite hope to those in need.

As we move forward, let's continue to uplift one another. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer or know a family who could benefit from our program, reach out to our team. Together, we can create a brighter future—one where every individual feels supported, empowered, and ready to make a difference.

Thank you for being part of our community's journey. Stay tuned for more updates in next month's newsletter!

Warm regards,

Alexandra Lekki, Community Care Collaborative Program Manager

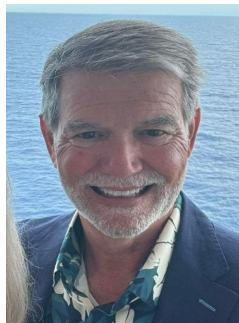
## Welcome to our newest Advisory Board Members!



**Rev. Jason S. Wise**

Jason has served as the Senior Pastor of Berea Baptist Church for over 10 years. He also serves as Treasurer of the Chowan Baptist Association and as a Chaplain for Pasquotank-Camden EMS.

Jason enjoys watching baseball and eating tacos with his wife Michelle and their three children, Joshua, Emma Lee and Samuel.



**Fred Womble**

Fred is originally from Harnett County and has lived in Elizabeth City since 1995. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Lisa for 41 years. Together, they have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

Fred retired from CenturyLink in 2019 after 39 years. He volunteers at the Foodbank driving an 18-wheeler doing mobile food distributions and was selected as their 2023 Volunteer of the year.

Fred also volunteers with the Albemarle Commission doing Meals on Wheels and is a member of Corinth Baptist Church serving in various capacities as well as serving on the board for the EC Morning Rotary Club.



**Tony Lee Coley, Jr.**

Tony is a 2012 (Elementary Education) and 2016 (Masters of School Administration) graduate of Elizabeth City State University. Tony has worked for Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools, Gates County Schools and Elizabeth City Pasquotank Schools (as principal of Northside Elementary). He has served as a teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal as well as principal.

As an Elizabeth City resident, Tony is very involved in many local agencies as well as the school district. He, his wife and two children, attend New Birth Fellowship Church of Elizabeth





# Chowan Baptist Association Training Day

September 14, 8:30-1 PM

Corinth Baptist Church

1035 US Hwy 17 S, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

8:30 a.m. — Breakfast

9:00 - 9:20 a.m. — Registration & General Session

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• **Session 1 – 9:25 - 10:35 a.m.**

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*Joey Hobbs – Body Life Evangelism*

Every Church Can Do Evangelism: Dialogue vs. Monologue

*Wayne Proctor – Becoming a Master Teacher*

Teaching the Jesus Way

*Terry Long - Church Revitalization*

Any Church Can Be Renewed

*Dennis Connor – Leadership Development Tool-Box*

Any Pastor, Any Church, Any Size Can Develop Leaders

*Matt Martin – Growing in Faith as You Age*

Any Follower of Christ Can Strengthen Their Faith

*Trey Rogers – 10 Keys to a Christ-Centered, Flourishing Youth & Children's Ministry*

Any Church Can Reach Young People

*Rebecca Lindhout (WMU) – How To Make Your Meeting Exciting*

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• **Session 2 – 10:45 - 11:55 a.m.**

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*Joey Hobbs – Body Life Evangelism*

Every Church Can Do Evangelism: Dialogue vs. Monologue

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Teaching the Jesus Way

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Any Church Can Reach Young People

*Rebecca Lindhout (WMU) – How To Make Your Meeting Exciting*

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12:05 p.m. - ?? — **Closing Session**

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Questions? Contact Greg Carr at 252-335-7287 / [pastorgreg@corinthbaptist.com](mailto:pastorgreg@corinthbaptist.com)

**Training**

Knowledge  
useful abilities  
backbone of co  
quired for a tr  
...day





Join us for a Spaghetti dinner on September 29<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15pm in the FLC. We will serve garlic bread, spaghetti, and tea. Please bring a dessert to share with others. We look forward to getting back to fun and fellowship with everybody!



Women on Mission  
Tuesday September 17th  
@ 7:00pm in the OFH.



**Senior Adult Ministry has a new name:**

**J Walkers**

**(Walking with Jesus)**

Our Monthly meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am. Come join as we will be voting on our new logo to go with our new name!



**Church Business Meeting**

September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15pm

**Church Council Meeting**

September 22<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15pm

Our Puppet Team rehearsals are on Sundays from 4:30-6:15pm. If you are interested in joining the team or have any questions please contact Ross Tenny.



September 29th - Spaghetti dinner

October 20th - Chili dinner

November 16th - Vendor Fair

November 17th - Church-wide Thanksgiving dinner

December 15th - Church-wide Christmas Party

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service

More information will be available as we get closer to the dates.

**We hope to see you at all of our upcoming events!**



### Library News

Please stop into the Library for some wonderful Knowledge and Adventure.

**New DVD's added.**



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Christina" is newly divorced and trying to get back on her feet while navigating a single-income household. Unfortunately, the home she owns was facing foreclosure due to her being behind on the mortgage payments. CCC was able to collaborate with "Christina," preventing the foreclosure and allowing her to regain financial stability.

"Marcus" was at risk of eviction for falling behind on his rent. Following a meeting to establish a manageable budget, CCC provided assistance to prevent the eviction and equipped him with the necessary tools for self-sufficiency in the future.

*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

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Dawn Lilly            | 10 Cassandra Hodges     |
| 2 Doug & Mary Pritchard | 11 Nancy Romaine        |
| Nicole Hudson           | 12 Don & Peggy Bunch    |
| Sawyer Smith            | Jasper Nelson           |
| 3 Shirley Temple        | 16 Marta Boyce          |
| 4 Kaliyah Jackson       | 17 Troy & Penny Elmore  |
| Jared Tenny             | 23 Sam Mickey           |
| Kaitlin Whitehead       | Libby Sanders           |
| 5 Montgomery Smith      | 25 Rick & Nancy Romaine |
| 7 Tom & Lisa Finley     | 26 John & Terry Gregory |
| Sam Keith               | 28 Mike & Bobbie Hanson |
| Eliab Long              | 29 Janet Quillin        |

**Berea Baptist Church**

2033 North Road Street  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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