

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 29:19-20

Every Sunday, since the second Sunday of this year, we have heard/recited the Great Commission at the end of our Worship Service. This has been the “last word” from the pulpit before we return to “the real world.”

The “last word” can be important in debate. Many of us, myself included, struggle to let someone else have the final word in a disagreement. We want our position to be the “last word” ringing in the ears of our counterpart, or any observers nearby.

I have very intentionally planned our times of worship to follow a similar pattern. The “last word,” like the catchiest song tune, should ring in our ears for the week to come. And that “last word” is fittingly Jesus’ final commission to us. It is to be our marching orders. It should shape all we do.

I’m not sure what effect this repetition has had on our congregation, but I sincerely hope it has focused the missionary task on us, not them. We often think that God has chosen a few “super-Christians” to take His message of salvation to the ends of the earth; He has chosen a few “professional-Christians” (Pastors) to bring His love to our communities, and He has chosen us to... well, I guess we’re not very sure of that.

My prayer, through this year of Great Commission reminders, is that we see ourselves as recipients of this command. After all, the Great Commission is not a suggestion to be ignored; it is a command to be obeyed (or disobeyed).

I am extremely thankful for those I see walking in obedience. I know there are many more, but here are a few:

First-time Deacons: Greg Newell, Brendan Quigley

Camp Cale Interns: Tim Bradshaw, Joel & Judah Tenny, Emma Lee Wise

Triple R Ranch Counselor: David Quillin

Built to Serve Philadelphia: Isabelle Biter, Carolyn Bowman, Tim Bradshaw, Karlee Joines, Natalie Moore, Liam Nolan, Leia Troxell, Hayden Winslow, Emma Lee & Sam Wise; Charlie & Jessica Troxell

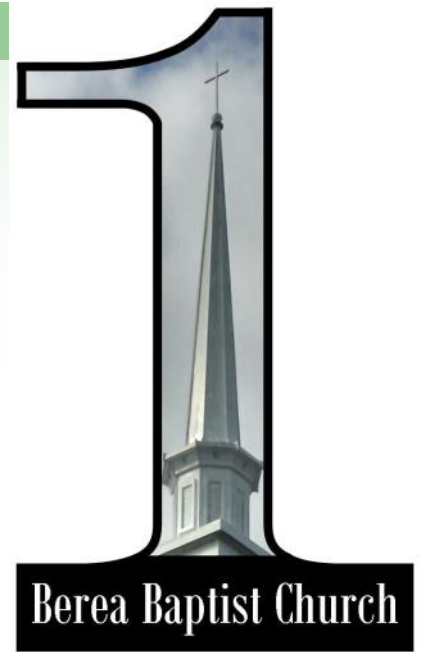
Baptists on Mission (Spruce Pine): Mike Hanson, Jared, Joel, Judah, Ross Tenny

Returning Deacons: Mike Hanson, Fahey Harrell, Gary Smith, Chris Vallas

I thank God often for the faithfulness of His children to serve Him! These are the ones I “see.” I pray you are serving & Making Disciples in ways that I may not see, every day as well.

How will you be obedient to the Great Commission today? Let’s “Go... and make disciples!”

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



August 2026

Inside this issue:

- ★ Deacons’ Reflections
- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Kids’ Summer Program
- ★ Biblical Recorder
- ★ Coming Events
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

- ★ 11:00am Adult Bible Study
- ★ 6:30pm Kids’ Summer Program
- ★ 6:30pm Adult Bible Study (OFH)

August @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting
8/9 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Deacon Ordination
8/16 @ 11:00am
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
8/19 @ 12 pm
- ★ Church Council
8/23 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Lord’s Supper
8/30 @ 11:00am

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



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

Isaiah 55:8-9

When disaster strikes, it is natural to ask: Why would the Lord allow this? Where is He in the middle of so much pain?

These questions are not new. Job, the psalmists, and believers through the ages have wrestled with them. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours, even in a fallen world marked by suffering (Matthew 5:45).

God is not the author of evil, but He is never distant from our pain. Nothing escapes His loving care, and He works through suffering to bring comfort, strength, and restoration.

When we cannot understand His purposes, we can rest in what Scripture reveals: God is faithful, present in suffering, and will one day make all things new (Revelation 21:4). His ways are higher, and His heart is good.

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons' Meeting will be August 18th @ 6:00pm in the choir room.



Mrs. Barbara Allsbrook had trouble going up and down steps. She needed a ramp for stability.



We removed an old dilapidated ramp and built a new one for Mrs. Deborah Boone.





Our Children and Youth!



Awana Returns September 2

Doors Open at 6:15 for Dinner, 6:30-8pm we play games, do crafts, and most importantly dive into God's Word through study and scripture memorization. On top of all that each week has a different theme where clubbers are encouraged to have fun dressing up or meeting local heroes

Awana Needs

Our kitchen needs items like Lemonade Drink Mix, frozen chicken nuggets, corn dogs, hamburger patties, nacho cheese, nacho chips, individual apple sauce and fruit cups. Got questions, call Pastor Charlie.

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

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am



Youth Group News



July 26-August 1 - Built to Serve Philadelphia

September 13 - @MACU Worship Experience

October 23/24 - Youth Lock-in & Built to Serve Berea

January 9 - Worship Rally hosted by Berea Youth

August 16 - Youth Led Service @ Brookdale

September 20 - Youth Led Service @ Brookdale

December 20 - 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.



Please be in prayer for our Built to Serve Philadelphia Team:

Isabelle Biter, Carolyn Bowman, Timothy Bradshaw, Karlee Joines, Natalie Moore, Liam Nolan, Leia Troxell, Hayden Winslow, Emma Lee Wise, Sam Wise, Charlie & Jessica Troxell.

This year we will be serving with Roxborough Salvation Army doing local cleanup, Vacation Bible School and a community day. In addition we will also be serving with the Share Food Program of Philadelphia assisting with Senior Food Box packing, product preparation and cleaning at their warehouse. Along the way we will be traveling around the area checking out the city and enjoying some of the local attractions. On top of all of it we will spend time each evening in Bible Study as we attempt to disconnect from the normal day-to-day and seek to reconnect and walk closer with the Lord.

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

Further reading: 1 Peter 4:10-11

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

Kids' Summer Program





Saddle up! NC church turns annual rodeo into ministry opportunity

POLKVILLE, N.C. — As grandstand lights illuminate the summer sky behind Polkville Baptist Church each June, thousands of spectators gather for an event that might seem unexpected for a local congregation: a professional rodeo.

For the past 26 years, the church has hosted the annual rodeo to raise money for missions, turning an unconventional fundraiser into a long-standing outreach that shares the Gospel with attendees and supports ministry efforts across North Carolina and around the world.

“We just want to bless our community,” said Will Davis, Polkville Baptist’s pastor.

The rodeo traces its roots to Hurricane Floyd, which devastated eastern North Carolina in 1999. Like many Baptist churches across the state, Polkville Baptist partnered with N.C. Baptists on Mission — then known as N.C. Baptist Men — to help rebuild homes destroyed by the storm.

“We knew we didn’t have the funds,” Davis said. “So we took this on with faith that God would provide.”

The idea came from an unlikely source. Davis recalled that a retired rodeo clown suggested to the church’s deacons that they host a rodeo. Church leaders embraced the concept and worked with two men in the church who had connections in the rodeo industry to recruit sponsors, organize the event and launch the church’s first rodeo the following spring.

“The plan was to hold it for a year,” Davis said.

Instead, church leaders took another step of faith. They left the grandstand lights in place, scheduled another rodeo the following June and trusted God to provide once again.

He did.

Attendance steadily grew over the years, transforming the event into one of the area’s largest annual gatherings and drawing thousands of visitors to the rural community in the foothills of western North Carolina. After the rodeo was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, crowds surged when it returned the following year.

“In 2021, we had 9,000 people,” Davis said. “We had more people here than we could accommodate.”

This year’s rodeo drew approximately 7,000 people over two nights, June 19-20.

“We had the stands completely full on Friday,” Davis said. “On Saturday there was nowhere to sit.”

The annual rodeo in Polkville features eight competitive events and is sanctioned by the International Professional Rodeo Association, making it a regular stop for professional competitors. The event attracts visitors from across North Carolina and beyond, and its family-friendly atmosphere has helped build a loyal following among returning guests.

For Polkville Baptist, however, the rodeo has never been about entertainment alone. Throughout the event, church members build relationships with attendees, serve their community and share the Gospel in a unique setting. Funds raised from the rodeo support missions and ministry efforts locally and around the world.

Locally, proceeds help send children to Bible camp, support a local hospice ministry, contribute to the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association and assist other ministries throughout the county.

The church also supports other work through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Following Hurricane Helene, rodeo proceeds helped support the disaster relief work of N.C. Baptists on Mission. Funds also maintain the church’s own disaster relief trailer, which has been deployed across North Carolina to assist communities following storms and other emergencies.

Beyond North Carolina, the rodeo helps support missionaries serving in Japan and another undisclosed country, along with a church planter in St. Louis, Missouri. Additional proceeds help send Polkville Baptist members on mission trips to partner with churches in Africa and South America.

The annual rodeo has become an important resource for Polkville Baptist’s missions efforts, helping the church continue serving both its neighbors and people around the world.

The rodeo’s decades-long success has prompted ministry leaders to explore how the concept could be adapted in other communities, giving churches another way to engage their neighbors while supporting missions.

The unusual combination of church and rodeo often prompts the question: Why has it lasted so long?

“The grace of God,” Davis said. “God has a purpose for it. I don’t know why other than that. We have a good product, and God has allowed it (to continue).”

Davis said the event would not be possible without the faithful work of church members, the rodeo committee, the support of local sponsors and volunteers, and the community that returns year after year. But above all, he points to God’s faithfulness.

“He’s been gracious to give us the event to spread His Gospel and His Good News,” Davis said. “We try our best to be good stewards.”

Next year’s Polkville Rodeo is scheduled for June 18-19, 2027.

Built To Serve Philadelphia



Please pray for our Built to Serve Bereans (from left to right)

Back Row: Hayden Winslow, Liam Nolan, Tim Bradshaw, Sam Wise, Isabelle Biter, Carolyn Bowman, Jessica Troxell, Pastor Charlie.

Front Row: Emma Lee Wise, Leia Troxell, Karlee Joines, and Natalie Moore.



J. Walkers Meeting

August 17th @ 10:30 am in the OFH.



Berea now has online giving! Scan the QR code or visit our revamped website, bereaone.org, to give.

"Thank You" Card

Dear Berea Baptist Church,

We wish to thank you and the members of your organization for your generous gift of \$1,200.00 made to the Albemarle Area United Way. Your contributions have a direct impact on the local community and make it possible to provide services and programs to meet the needs of so many people. Every donation helps to fund necessary and life-sustaining services in the areas such as emergency and crisis assistance, health and wellness, youth development, and support for families and children. Serving nine different counties, we work hand in hand with our partner agencies to improve and enhance the quality of life for those living in the Albemarle area.

This kindness shows how much you care about making a positive difference in the lives of your friends and neighbors right here in northeastern North Carolina. By contributing at this level, we are pleased to include you in United Way's leadership giving group, the Keel Club. Please know how much we at the Albemarle Way appreciate your desire to support these important programs and services.

Bill Blake, Executive Director United Way



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Sarah"

As a single mother of three children, Sarah works hard to provide for her family and maintain stability in her household. When her vehicle unexpectedly required necessary repairs, she was faced with a difficult choice: pay for the repairs needed to get to work or keep up with her monthly bills.

Because reliable transportation was essential for maintaining her employment and caring for her children, Sarah used her limited savings to cover the repair costs. As a result, she fell behind on her power bill and received a disconnection notice.

Concerned about losing electricity and the impact it would have on her children, Sarah reached out to CCC for assistance. After reviewing her situation, CCC was able to provide financial assistance toward her past-due electric bill. This support covered the amount she could not afford and prevented her power from being disconnected.

Thanks to CCC's assistance, Sarah was able to keep the lights on, maintain a safe and stable home for her children, and continue working while recovering from the unexpected financial setback. This support provided much-needed relief during a challenging time and helped her family avoid a larger crisis.

"Michael"

Everything changed when Michael was involved in a serious car accident on his way home from work. Although he was grateful to survive, he suffered injuries that prevented him from returning to work for several weeks. Without a steady income during his recovery, his bills quickly began to pile up.

As the weeks passed, Michael fell behind on his rent. Despite his best efforts to stretch his savings and make partial payments, he soon received a notice that put him at risk of eviction. The stress of losing his housing weighed heavily on him while he was still trying to heal physically and emotionally.

Feeling overwhelmed, Michael reached out to CCC for assistance. After reviewing his situation, CCC provided rental assistance that helped him catch up on his overdue rent and avoid eviction. The support came at a critical time, allowing him to remain safely housed while focusing on his recovery.

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jubilee Tenny | 16 Colt Phelps |
| 2 Carson Anderton | Dominic Thrasher |
| Alton Bundy | 19 Suzanne Ennis |
| Brittany Stickle | 22 Robin Temple |
| 7 Lou Brickhouse | Amber Vallas |
| Jessica Reed | 24 Alice Lewis |
| John & Regina Quillin | 28 Kaitlyn Guerrero |
| Ed & Becky Winslow | 29 Andrew Blacketer |
| 9 Duck Chappell | 30 Christian Carawan |
| Matt & Jessica Reed | Emma Sue Smith |
| 13 Kathy Waters | 31 Isabelle Biter |

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Berea Baptist Church

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