

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

¹Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them... ³But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing... Matthew 6:1, 3

Giving is a sticky topic at church. No one wants to hear the message about tithing, or be told how to spend their resources. Even there, I just did it, the word "money" sounds so "dirty" in a church context that we use euphemisms like "resources." Jesus was not so hesitant, nor did He "beat around the bush." Jesus made it clear that the way we are, or are not generous with our money (and other resources) reveals a LOT about our hearts.

Generosity is the key. Our God is a generous God. He has given us more than we deserve (after all, our sin deserves hell) and continues to bless us with abundance. Jesus was not stingy with His blood, but generously gave of Himself to the point of death, for our salvation. As we grow in our relationship with God we will naturally start to look more and more like our Savior. We will naturally begin to resemble the name given our faith in Antioch: Christians (literally: little Christs).

Living out Christ's generosity takes many forms. It is a sharing of your resources, whatever kind of resources they may be, for His purposes. Generosity involves regular giving of financial resources to our local church. To aid in this type of faithfulness Berea has a revamped website which has now added the option of online giving. If you go to bereaone.org and click the "give" button at the top of the page you will be given options to give a one time offering, or to set up recurring offerings on whatever schedule best fits your needs.

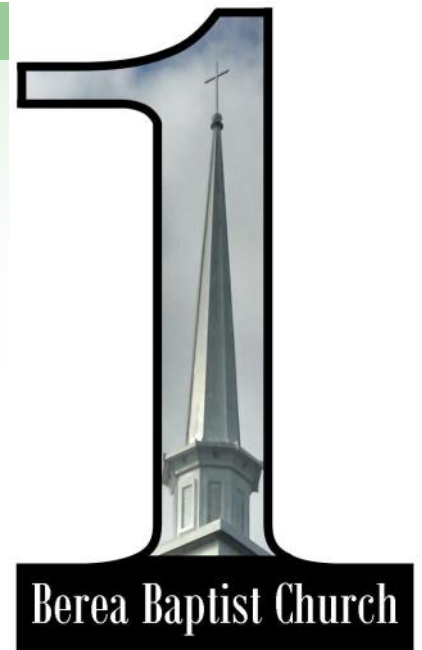
Generosity involves giving of your time to build the Kingdom. The entire church, no one is an exception, has been gifted for service. We ALL have unique talents that can be used powerfully by God to grow His church, and more importantly heaven. Where has God called you to serve? Are you stingy with your time?

Generosity involves giving of our stuff. If your neighbor came to your door and asked for a cup of sugar, would you give it? Likewise the church is called to be a generous neighbor to our community. God wants us to be generous in the ways that we use His blessings to strategically grow His family. Berea should be known in the community for our generosity, our support for our neighbors and our faithfulness to see them grow in Christ.

Every Sunday we end our worship service by reciting, together, out loud, the Great Commission. These are our marching orders dictating how we should live our lives. We should maximize every resource, opportunity and our unique giftedness to accomplish this task: "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."

How generous are you? How generous do you lead Berea to be? Are you obeying the Great Commission?

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



May
2026

Inside this issue:

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- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ AWANA Grand Prix
- ★ Biblical Recorder
- ★ Coming Events
- ★ Birthdays & Anniversaries

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)

May @ a Glance:

- ★ Newsletter Deadline
5/14 @ 12:00pm
- ★ Business Meeting
5/17 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Church Council
5/24 @ 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

Psalm 34:1-7

Whenever we face tough moments, God promises to be with us. Like a caring teacher and guide, He wants to help us, but it is important that we get ready to listen and respond. It is natural to want direction in life, whether we are young or old. The Bible shows this desire with the image of a thirsty deer searching for water (Psalm 42:1). We, too, should look for God's guidance, waiting patiently instead of rushing ahead on our own.

Being open to learning is important at any age. When we ask God for help, even challenging times can become lessons that help us grow. Hannah found hope when she prayed for a child (1 Samuel 1:1-28; 1 Samuel 2:1-10). Mary and Martha learned to trust God after losing their brother Lazarus (John 11:17-27). If we keep a willing spirit, we can discover what God wants to teach us. Sometimes we do not know the solution, but God asks us to commit to His way first. He invites us to walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), and to realize we need His help (John 15:5). Choosing God's way is always the best path, no matter our stage in life.

Everyone experiences trouble, but even tough times can teach us something valuable. God promises to see us through, and all He asks is that we have soft hearts, are willing to learn, and keep saying "yes" to Him.

Handyman Ministry

Next Deacons' Meeting will be May 11th @ 6:00pm in the choir room.



Glennie Burnham uses a walker to get around. The ramp allows him to get out more easily.



This ramp was built for Lenora Basnight. She is 97 years old.





Our Children and Youth!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Ministry Needs

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

Contact Pastor Charlie to begin serving in these vital areas of the church.

Awana on Wednesday Nights from 6:15-8:00

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

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am

Awana Schedule

May 6th 80's Night

May 13th Scribbles & Nibbles

May 20th Carnival Night

May 27th Store Night
(Last Night of AWANA)



Youth Group News



June 7 - Burger Bar Fundraiser

July 26-August 1 - Built to Serve Philadelphia - \$125 Due 5/31

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.



Years of working in admissions for a Christian University gave me the opportunity to see one of the favorite verses of athletes everywhere. On countless applications athletes would identify their favorite verse as 2 Timothy 4:7 where it says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." It makes sense as each competition they've experienced saw them work hard to the final place of successful completion. The Apostle Paul wisely likened our faith to that place of competition.

Each day we move through this life, we are moving ever closer to the finish line. Each day we look at the race we are running; a race we understand to be something of substance. We are not merely wandering aimlessly, rather moving with intent towards a finish line that God has set before us. It is this pursuit of the finish line, and more so how we move towards it, that will ultimately allow us to look back on the race and say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race". Of even greater importance, it will allow us the privilege to hear: "well done, good and faithful servant." How about you? As you look back on the race you have run, whether it's the most recent lap you ran last week, or what feels like a lifetime of laps, what do you see? More importantly, how do you intend to finish the race? For each of us, the race is not over, run it well. Serve the Lord with every step you take and every lap you complete, that you may look back and say, "I have run a good race."

Philippians 3:13-14

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Further reading: Matthew 25:23: Hebrews 12:1-2

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

AWANA Grand Prix





Audit finds NC Baptists on Mission in ‘full compliance’ with \$3M Helene grant

RALEIGH, N.C. — A recently released report by the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) found that N.C. Baptists on Mission, which was awarded grant money by the state to assist with Hurricane Helene relief, followed all funding requirements while completing repairs to homes damaged by the storm.

The OSA reviewed \$3 million in state grant money that Baptists on Mission received and spent on home repairs in western North Carolina following Helene. The report found that the organization “maintained full compliance” with the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management grant requirements and adhered to “all statutory, contractual, and financial management standards.”

Moreover, the report found that Baptists on Mission delivered home repairs at a fraction of the estimated cost.

“It’s exciting as State Auditor to tell a success story. Baptists on Mission met people in Western North Carolina where they needed to be met, and did so with a sense of urgency,” State Auditor Dave Boliek said in a press release shared in conjunction with the report’s release on April 10. “They were able to leverage public dollars to complete hundreds of individual projects, and effectively managed volunteers all throughout the Western North Carolina region. This combination of public funds and focused motivation allows for the type of return on investment that should be replicated moving forward.”

According to the report, Baptists on Mission completed 472 grant-related home repair projects from February 2025 through October 2025. Analysis shows the average expenditure from grant funds was \$6,392 per home. Baptists on Mission initially estimated repair costs at approximately \$20,000 per home.

The report said Baptists on Mission reduced project costs by utilizing volunteer labor, securing disaster relief discounts from retailers and purchasing building materials in bulk.

In Baptists on Mission’s response to the report, the organization noted that while some projects included some additional funding sources, the group agreed with the overall assessment that it was able to reduce project costs through volunteer labor, securing discounts and bulk purchasing.

“We are pleased to acknowledge that the audit report contained no findings,” Baptists on Mission’s Director Richard Brunson wrote in his response, which is included in the report. “We appreciate the thoroughness of your audit team and their professional conduct throughout this process. Baptists on Mission remains committed to maintaining high standards of financial stewardship, transparency, and internal controls.”

Baptists on Mission was selected by the Office of State Budget and Management to help lead relief and recovery efforts in western North Carolina following Helene. Working in conjunction with N.C. Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, Baptists on Mission have deployed thousands of trained volunteers to serve in counties impacted by the storm.

Grant-funded projects were completed in Burnsville, Spruce Pine, Hendersonville, Marion, Boone, Canton, Weaverville and Swannanoa. In the aftermath of Helene, Baptists on Mission set up six rebuild centers across western North Carolina to house and feed volunteers, and the organization continues to operate five centers across the region. Baptists on Mission plans to continue rebuild efforts in western North Carolina over the next five years. Individuals and churches interested in serving can learn more by visiting helenerebuild.org.

As of April 9, Baptists on Mission volunteers have completed repairs on 845 homes in western North Carolina and recently dedicated the first home rebuilt completely from the ground up. Repairs on more than 200 other homes are currently in progress with more in the pipeline.

The state auditor’s office made no recommendations for Baptists on Mission in its report, which is available online.

AWANA Grand Prix



J. Walkers Meeting
May 18th @ 10:30 am in the OFH.





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



Agape Meeting
Tuesday, May 19th @
6:00pm in the OFH. All ladies
are invited to join.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

"Paul"

After more than six months of living out of his vehicle, a local man came to CCC determined to rebuild his life. He had been working steadily and saving every dollar he could. His perseverance finally paid off when he found an affordable place to live. The only barrier left was getting the utilities turned on in his name, a cost that exceeded what he had been able to save after months of hardship.

With support from our donors and partner churches, CCC was able to cover the utility deposit he needed to move in. That final step opened the door to a new beginning: a safe place to sleep, cook, rest, and reclaim his sense of home.

Today, he is settling into his new space and continuing to work toward long-term stability. His story is a powerful reminder that sometimes the smallest piece of assistance; a utility deposit, a moment of compassion, can change the entire trajectory of someone's life. Your generosity made that possible.

"Hannah"

"Hannah" is a single mother who holds a strong, stable job and typically manages her household expenses without assistance. But when unexpected health issues forced her to miss several weeks of work, she was temporarily furloughed and lost the income she relied on. She used every bit of her savings to stay afloat, but by the time she returned to her job, she simply couldn't catch up on the rent that had piled up during her recovery.

When she reached out to CCC, she was doing everything right, she was back at work, rebuilding her routine, and determined to regain stability but facing an eviction notice she had no way to resolve alone.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, CCC was able to step in quickly and cover the past-due rent needed to keep her and her children safely housed.

Today, she is fully back on her feet, working steadily, and relieved to have her home secured. Her story is a powerful reminder that even the strongest families can face unexpected setbacks, and that a little support at the right moment can prevent a temporary crisis from becoming a lasting hardship. Your compassion made this stability possible.

*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.*

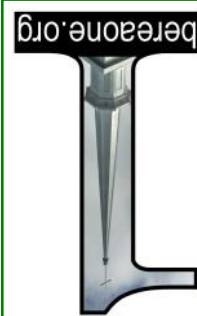
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Regina Quillin | 15 Terry Taylor |
| 3 Felicity Barragan | 19 Chris & Cindy Vallas |
| Kristy Poulson | 20 Geraldean Thompson |
| Becky Winslow | 21 Cody Hudson |
| 7 Garland & Carolyn Sanders | Judah Tenny |
| 8 Gary & Cathy Markham | 23 Kim Meads |
| Don Alexander | 26 Frank & Dawn Lilly |
| William Sanders | 31 Jezreel Tenny |



Non-Profit Organization
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Permit #2



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Monday – Thursday
9:00am – 2:00pm