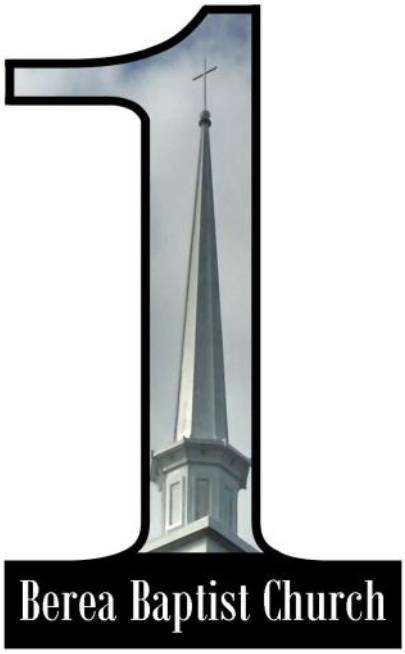
BereaOne Life



WISE Musings

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His great mercy He has given us new birth into a Living Hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4

Go, therefore, and Make Disciples of all nations… Matthew 28:19

As we turn the final pages of our calendars the working world tends to slow down a bit, family life gets busier and we collectively contemplate thankfulness, new birth and the meaning of it all. This is the Christians' time to shine.

While the world around us is thankful to "the universe," excited to celebrate the birthday of an ignored king and wrestles with life's meaninglessness, we have the answers. Just in case they need to be spelled out for you: God is our Provider; we are thankful to Him, Jesus is the Savior; we worship Him, and we're still here for a purpose; to know Him and make Him known.

Peter explains it beautifully (above). The Father has had such great mercy on us to provide for our salvation and our eternity.
Thanksgiving is coming… that's a reason to give thanks!
Christmas is coming... that's a reason to hope!
A new year is coming… that's a reason to share!
The holiday season is one of generosity and celebration. As we give gifts to our own families, we also turn an eye to those less fortunate. Many of us find ways to give to those who would otherwise not have gifts under their non-existent Christmas tree. Others provide food to temporarily fill impoverished bellies.

Here at Berea we use the Christmas season to give the greatest gift of all, Good News. There are two primary means through which we do this.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
These are small, shoebox sized, gift boxes stuffed with a wide variety of toys and useful items (go to operationchristmaschild.com for details). The 200+ shoeboxes we will collect this year will go around the world to share the joy of Christmas and the message of salvation through Jesus.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions
Every December Southern Baptists collect funds to send Missionaries to share the Good News everywhere. Since the Cooperative Program already covers the infrastructure costs of the ministry, every penny collected for this offering goes overseas. The $10,000 we will collect this December will support Missionary families and provide for their needs as they "make disciples of all nations" (go to lmco.org for more information).

As our calendars turn to their final pages I ask that you seek the Lord to see what He would have you do to take the Good News of our Living Hope around the world. Bereans, may God lead us to be generous, like never before, to see the hope we enjoy spread to all nations!

Love you all,

Pastor Jason

November 2026

Inside this issue:

- Deacons' Reflections
- Handyman Ministry
- Fellowship Meal
- Biblical Recorder
- Coming 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
- 6:30pm Adult Bible Study (OFH)

November @ a Glance:

- Business Meeting
  11/8 @ 12:15pm
- Fellowship Meal
  11/15 @ 12:30pm
- Newsletter Deadline
  11/19 @ 12 pm
- Church Council
  11/22 @ 12:15pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons

DEACONS
Following to Lead | Leading to Serve

Mike Hanson — Chairman
Fahey Harrell— Vice Chairman
Matt Reed— Reflections
Cameron Quigley— Secretary
Don Alexander
Greg Newell
Brendan Quigley
Gary Smith
Chris Vallas

Colossians 1:11–12

Paul's prayer for the Colossians gives us a clear picture of what spiritual growth looks like. He prayed they would know God, experience His strength, and give thanks with joy. We learn to know God as we read His Word and obey Him. We receive His strength when our own isn't enough. And we give thanks—even in hard moments—because God is present and faithful.

Today, let these three simple prayers shape your heart:

Lord, help me know You.

Strengthen me with Your power.

Teach me to give thanks with joy.

Next Deacons' Meeting will be November 2nd @ 6:00pm in the choir room.

Handyman Ministry

Berea Handyman Ministry

The team put up our wheelchair lift for Mrs. Brent Meads who had surgery on her foot.







They built two sets of steps for James Walton Jr.

Our Children and Youth!

YOU Are Being Called to Serve!
3 & 4 Year- Old Sunday School Teachers
We are looking to put together a rotation of adults to lead the 3 & 4 year - old class during Sunday School. Please speak with Pastor Charlie to secure your opportunity to serve.

Awana Buddies & Backup Helpers
Awana continues to grow as more and more children & youth are attending each week. This past week we had 53 children & youth, and now, more than ever we need your help. Spend time with clubbers both young & old. All you need is a sprinkle of patience, lots of love, and the ability to listen & read to children of all ages. Your one-on-one time can make an eternal difference in our clubbers as God uses YOU to help them go deeper into God's Word. Simple things like reciting & reading are all you need to make a lasting impact in a child's life. 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 memorization.

Mark Your Calendar - SPECIAL Kid's Night Out @ Berea (11/27/26)
Clubbers can hang with us from 6-8:30 for dinner, games and fun, while adults enjoy stress free Christmas shopping or just a quiet night at home! FREE FOR AWANA CLUBBERS!

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

Children's Church - Sunday Mornings @ 11 am

Youth Group News

Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan 17 - Youth Led Service @ Brookdale
December 20 - Youth Christmas Party
January 9 - Worship Rally hosted by Berea Youth

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:
All Students, 6th grade and above, are welcome to join us Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30 in the FLC, as we share a meal, shoot hoops, play games and study God's Word.



For many years I spent time in my father's shadow helping him with whatever task he agreed to do at church. When he drove the church van to pick up folks for church, I opened the door and unfolded the side steps for senior adults while dodging hair pins being poked at me. If he was on the riding mower cutting the church grass, I was somewhere pushing a mower and grumbling about the height of the grass. When he was running the sound board, well I slept through most of that, or played with G.I. Joes. Sometimes, I could tell Pop was exhausted. Sometimes, I'm certain he wanted to say no, but not once did I ever hear him complain or contemplate rest. In fact, even as I stepped into leadership roles in ministry, he showed up and served.

His service and the memory of long hours spent working behind the scenes reminds me how thankless and wearying the job can be. So allow me a moment to say "thank you!" Thank you to each of our volunteers who serves from the babies in the nursery to the students in high school. From making grilled cheese sandwiches (with MAYO!) to leading Bible lessons in Children's Church & Sunday School to simply taking time to love on a child by your mere presence. From teenagers to adults, your service is appreciated and whether it's seen or not, know that it is seen by our Heavenly Father. As my father would often tell me, and I hear ringing in my ears to this day, "keep pushing forward," and as the Apostle Paul reminds us, "As for you brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." To all of our volunteers, you are loved and greatly appreciated!

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

Coming Events

The Fellowship Committee has 1 Pound bags of BBQ for $10.00. This was left over from our Luncheon October 18. If you would like to purchase a bag, please see Kathy Waters. Proceeds will go towards future fellowship meals. Thank you.





It's time for Berea Basketball! Open to boys and girls from Kindergarten to HS. Everyone makes the team and plays. Signups will be November 3rd and 6th for grades 3 -12 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. For Kindergarten to 2nd grade, signups will be November 4th and 11th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm prior to Awana. All signups will take place in the gym. You do not have to be a member of Berea to play in this league. Adults are welcome too! We could use help with coaching, scorekeeping, equipment, and concessions. For more information contact Chris Vallas @ 252-435-7216.



Monthly Business Meeting

November 8th @ 12:15pm



J. Walkers Meeting

November 16th @ 10:30 am (OFH).

Agape Meeting

Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:00pm in the OFH. All ladies are invited to join.



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

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL, EVERY CHURCH CAN TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
NCBAPTIST.ORG/COOPERATIVEPROGRAM

Lincoln County pregnancy center marks 25 years, dedicates new ultrasound machine

LINCOLNTON, N.C. — The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Lincoln County marked 25 years of ministry Friday (Sept. 25) with the dedication of a new ultrasound machine, made possible through a partnership between N.C. Baptists and the Psalm 139 Project, a pro-life ministry of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

Leaders from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the ERLC, the South Fork Baptist Association and area churches gathered at the center to celebrate the anniversary, dedicate the machine and pray over the center's staff and clients. Paula McSwain, Executive Director of Crisis Pregnancy Center of Lincoln County, welcomed attendees and thanked the staff, board members and volunteers who have served the center since its earliest days in a single donated room above a Lincolnton storage building.

"We're celebrating 25 years of the goodness of God in Lincoln County," McSwain said. Bobby Reed, chief financial officer for the ERLC, gave a brief history of the Psalm 139 Project, which began in the early 2000s as a way to give Southern Baptists a tangible way to engage pro-life ministry. Every dollar donated to the project goes directly toward purchasing ultrasound machines or funding the training required to operate them.

Reed said the day represented a beautiful partnership that reflected what Southern Baptists are about — cooperating at the national, state, association, church and individual church member levels. "This was a beautiful partnership today, because today we had represented all the different levels of Southern Baptist life," Reed said. "We had everything from us representing a national entity to the state convention, local association, church pastors and then volunteers that come from churches all over the area."

Reed said over the course of the Psalm 139 Project's existence, more than 100 ultrasound machines have been placed across the country and around the world. Many placements have taken place in North Carolina.

Seth Brown, director of convention relations for N.C. Baptists, has helped coordinate ultrasound placements across the state and offered remarks and a prayer of dedication over the new machine. "The work you do is in the trenches of ministry," Brown said, speaking to the staff and volunteers. "The lives of children are often in question. And you do your work not just with their physical lives in your prayers, but their eternal lives as well. If you hear nothing else today, I want you to hear, 'Thank you.'"

The dedication service also included Scripture readings and prayers from area pastors over expectant parents and unborn children. The program closed with a reading from Psalm 90 and a prayer over the center's staff and volunteers led by Todd Unzicker, Executive Director-Treasurer of N.C. Baptists.

The center's new machine replaces one that was roughly 10 years old — double the typical five-year replacement window for the equipment. Staff were trained on the new machine throughout the week leading up to the dedication, performing 17 scans before the unit was formally dedicated. McSwain said the difference in image quality between the old and new machines has already proven significant in conversations with expectant mothers.

"We thank You, Father, for the provision of a sonogram," Stockman said in his prayer. "Even though it's a piece of equipment, what it does can help deliver life instead of death." McSwain also read aloud a letter she received the day of the dedication from the mother of a former client who had a baby at the center. The family was moving out of state, and the mother wrote to thank the center's staff for supporting her and her daughter, adding that she hoped to open her own pregnancy center one day "to give back what has been put into me."

Founded 25 years ago, Crisis Pregnancy Center of Lincoln County began in a single room before eventually purchasing its current building, which is located in the former offices of a retired OB-GYN. The center offers pregnancy testing, maternity clothes, ultrasounds, parenting education resources, a life skills class for high schoolers, and ongoing material support for clients until their child turns 2. "My prayer is that we continue to generously equip as many pro-life clinics as possible with technology that offers a window into the womb. Each mother who walks into one of the many incredible pregnancy centers across this state should be greeted with a beautiful image of the child they carry, and embraced with the love of Jesus Christ flowing through staff and volunteers."

Fellowship Meal













Community Care

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories

Albemarle Area United Way

"Michael"

For many families, a medical crisis can quickly create financial hardship. This was the reality for a local veteran who turned to Albemarle Area United Way's Community Care Collaborative (CCC) program after a series of unexpected events placed tremendous strain on his household.

When his wife was diagnosed with lung cancer and required surgery, he made the difficult decision to leave his job because the long commute made it impossible to provide the care and support she needed during her recovery. While he was eventually able to secure new employment closer to home, the temporary loss of income created challenges in keeping up with household expenses, including their mortgage.

Beyond the financial burden, he was navigating responsibilities that had traditionally been managed by his wife. With her focused on treatment and recovery, he found himself overwhelmed by mounting bills, uncertainty, and concern for her health. Like many caregivers, he was so focused on caring for a loved one that he wasn't sure where to turn for help when his family needed assistance.

Through the Community Care Collaborative, we were able to provide mortgage assistance that helped prevent further financial hardship and gave the family time to regain stability while adjusting to their new circumstances. Veterans and their families often face unique challenges when illness, disability, or caregiving responsibilities affect employment and household income.

Nearly one in three veteran households includes a service-connected disability, making unexpected health events especially difficult to navigate. Caregivers frequently experience increased financial strain, stress, and disruptions to employment while supporting loved ones through serious medical conditions.

Today, this veteran is back at work, his wife continues her recovery journey, and their family has one less burden to carry. Their story is a reminder that sometimes a helping hand during a temporary crisis can make all the difference in helping a family remain secure, housed, and focused on what matters most: healing and caring for one another.

"Alivia"

In September, Albemarle Area United Way's Community Care Collaborative (CCC) program assisted a single mother who is working tirelessly to support her family while navigating a devastating medical crisis. Her young son, who had previously been in remission, recently learned that his leukemia has returned and is once again undergoing treatment. As many families know, a serious illness impacts far more than a child's health.

It affects work schedules, household finances, transportation, and daily routines. While their mother continues working to provide for the family, an older sibling has stepped into a caregiving role, helping care for their brother and accompany him to medical appointments when needed.

For many Hispanic and Latino families, strong family bonds and caregiving across generations are an important cultural value. When challenges arise, family members often come together to share responsibilities and support one another. Yet even with that support, the financial strain can be overwhelming.

Through CCC, we were able to provide assistance with past-due rent, easing one burden so this family could focus on what matters most: their son's health and well-being. Stories like this remind us that a temporary setback can quickly become a housing crisis when illness strikes. Hispanic children in North Carolina experience poverty at a higher rate than their peers, with nearly one in four living in households below the poverty threshold.

Because of the generosity of our donors, community partners, and volunteers, families facing difficult circumstances can find support when they need it most. Sometimes, helping a family remain safely housed during a crisis is more than financial assistance. It's hope, stability, and the reassurance that they are not facing their challenges alone.

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.

Berea Baptist Church

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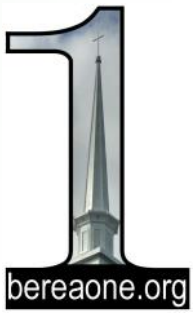
Regular Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
9:00am – 2:00pm



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2 Dawn Johnson
7 Mary Dozier
Bonnie Spear
10 Doug Beasley
Mike Duncan
13 Mary Muntz
14 Jeffrey Coley
16 Ramona Hodges
Mike Johnson
Drew Krebs

ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate together!

17 Kelly Winslow
18 Gary & Mechell Smith
19 Vernon Smithson
20 Steve Coley
23 Geralene Smithson
26 Chris Vallas
29 Frank Lilly