

BereaOne Life

WISE Musings

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Fall brings a world of opportunities. Beginning in August (not yet Fall, but you know what I mean), the new school year shapes our lives in significant ways. Students return to class, meet new teachers, and continue to grow in knowledge. Families wrap up vacations and settle into the “normal” routine. Even churches organize their year around the structure of the academic calendar.

Berea certainly follows this pattern. While our summers are never quiet, things do ramp up in September.

September 1 begins our new “church year,” with new committee members and deacons beginning their terms.

September 2 begins our new Awana year! Students (age 3-High School) arrive at 6:15pm for a meal and the evening finishes at 8pm. This will be Berea’s 13th year of Awana! Awana (the name comes from 2 Timothy 2:15, “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed”) is a children’s program that teaches children the truths of Scripture through Bible lessons and memorization. Children also have game time, a meal and various “theme nights” to encourage participation. This is such a fantastic ministry that you should send any kids you know & volunteer as you are able!

September 2 also begins our Wednesday Evening Bible Study. This study is ideal for Awana parents to drop off their kids and spend time in small-group fellowship around the Word. Our first study for the new year will be on the book of Ruth: “Faithfulness in Famine.” Parents (and other adults) will drop off their kids and then come to the “Old Fellowship Hall” (small building) for coffee, fun and discussion around God’s Word.

Wednesday mornings at 11am we continue to have our Adult Bible Study. For the remainder of 2026 we will continue discussions based on our “Journey Through His Word” as we read through the New Testament and my brief devotionals.

Sunday mornings at 10am we, as always, have Sunday School for all ages. The Christian life is not something we can manage alone; it is vitally important to build a community of believers who will spur on our faith. Sunday School is an excellent way to get to know your fellow Bereans and to grow closer to God.

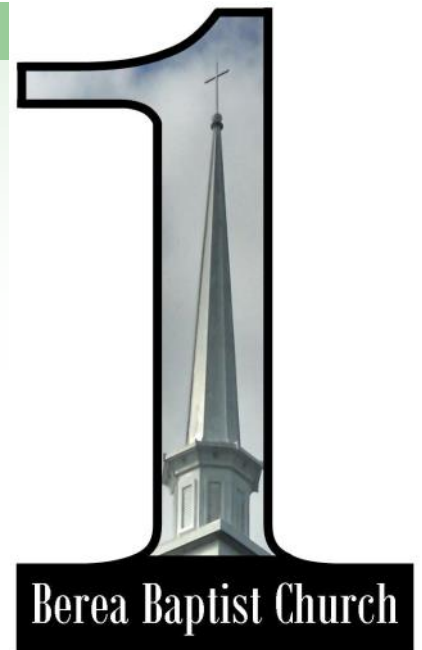
Sunday evenings at 5pm our Puppet team gathers on the Gym stage to rehearse for their next presentation. If you’d like to express your worship with this creativity you should join them.

Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm our Youth Group (6-12th grade) meets in the FLC. They begin by just hanging out, shooting hoops, or playing games, they have a meal and conclude with Bible Study.

Wow, those are a LOT of weekly opportunities to deepen our walk with God and one another! In addition to those our J Walkers (Senior Adults) meet on the third Monday, Agape (Women on Mission) the third Tuesday and well...driving by our lot any day shows that there is always something going on at Berea!

As you enjoy the “new creation” God has made us to be, I pray you will join in many of these opportunities to serve and draw closer to Him!

Love you all,
Pastor Jason



September 2026

Inside this issue:

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- ★ Handyman Ministry
- ★ Parent’s Night Out
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- ★ 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)

September @ a Glance:

- ★ Business Meeting
9/13 @ 12:15pm
- ★ Fellowship Meal
9/20 @ 12:30pm
- ★ Newsletter Deadline
9/23 @ 12 pm
- ★ Church Council
9/27 @ 12:15pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons



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

Colossians 3:12-13

Paul tells us to “put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” In other words, these are qualities we choose to wear each day as we follow Jesus, forgive others, and learn to love well.

The Holy Spirit helps this fruit grow in us, and everyday life gives us plenty of chances to practice it.

Patience is not just about waiting. It is staying with people through their struggles—listening, helping, and continuing to serve. In a hurried world, patience can be a real gift.

Since patience is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), it is something God can grow in each of us. So today, let’s put it on and use it to honor Him and serve others.

Next Deacons’ Meeting will be September 8th @ 6:00pm in the choir room.

Handyman Ministry



We built a platform and short step to enable Carolyn Madre to get in/out of her house after foot surgery.



Mrs. Lois McLawhorn was having knee surgery and needed her steps replaced because they were in bad shape.



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, or even collecting canned goods for families in need.

Grocery Staples

Are you making your monthly run to Sams Club or BJ's? Consider grabbing a bulk item for our Awana dinners such as Lemonade Drink Mix, frozen chicken nuggets, corn dogs, sliced cheese, hamburger patties, nacho chips & cheese, individual apple sauce and fruit cups. These items and many more are used to provide Wednesday night dinner for hungry clubbers and removes the burden from families so these clubbers can come (often straight from after school activities) to hear the Word of God.

Awana Buddies

Join our Awana Volunteers as a buddy to clubbers working to memorize verses and complete sections. One on one attention is crucial with those studying and working hard to latch onto the deeper truth found in God's Word. 45 minutes of your time each week can make the difference in a child memorizing and understanding a passage of scripture.

Mark Your Calendar - SPECIAL Kid's Night Out @ Berea (11/27/26)

Clubbers can come 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



Sept. 13 - @MACU Worship Experience

Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 - Youth Led Service @ Brookdale

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

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 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.



"Oh be careful little tongue what you say. Oh be careful little tongue what you say. There's a Father up above looking down in tender love. Oh be careful little tongue what you say." A familiar tune you probably remember from days gone by in Sunday School. The words could certainly use some updating, perhaps to "be careful little fingers what you type, or text". Okay, I'm no song writer and while my modern remix may not get into your favorite play list, the fact is words, no matter how they are conveyed, are powerful. Scripture speaks often of the power of the tongue both to bring healing and harm. Proverbs speaks to this very concept as it compares the words of the reckless as a piercing sword and James compares the tongue to a spark of fire that sets the whole forest ablaze. Both healing, and destruction are found in something that produces simple words. Consider your words today. Are they building up or tearing down?

"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18

Further reading: Ephesians 4:29; James 3:5-6

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

Parent's Night Out



NC Baptist churches 'ServeNC' to see communities flourish

Driven by a shared mission to love their neighbors and share the hope of Christ, hundreds of North Carolina Baptist churches mobilized across their towns for the third annual ServeNC Week. From distributing school supplies and hot meals to hosting free community markets, local churches stepped outside their walls to meet tangible physical and spiritual needs.

"Love looks so different to so many people in this lost world, but to us, love means pointing people to Jesus."

That was at the core of Green Street Baptist Church's backpack giveaway in High Point on Aug. 4, shared Melody Dowdy.

Dowdy, whose husband Jeff serves as Green Street's senior pastor, said, "It's the love of Jesus that empowers and mobilizes us to love our community. ... What we want to do through ServeNC is be on mission for Jesus."

Green Street volunteers served local families in their community by providing backpacks and school supplies for the new school year. Children also enjoyed face painting and bounce houses.

It was one of hundreds of service projects North Carolina Baptist churches participated in during ServeNC Week from Aug. 1-8. Across North Carolina, local N.C. Baptist churches identified needs in their communities and took part in different tangible acts of service to meet practical needs, connect with neighbors and point to the hope of the Gospel.

More than 440 churches participated in ServeNC Week this year — the third consecutive year of the statewide service emphasis. N.C. Baptists launched the initiative in 2024 to invite local churches to commit part of or a whole week to serving their local communities.

This summer, volunteer teams cleaned up school facilities, delivered snacks to nursing homes and first responders, prepared welcome kits for teachers, provided meals for homeless individuals, built wheelchair ramps and completed home repairs for older adults, and more. Angela Aguirre works for C3, a nonprofit organization that provides support to children and families in crisis situations. Green Street partners with C3, opening up their facility for meetings and inviting C3 to collaborate on outreach events like the backpack distribution. "When churches open up their doors and involve the community, it really shows that we're all in this together," Aguirre said. "This shows the love that Jesus has for us, and if we could just show a little bit of the love that He has given us to others, then I think it encourages people to get closer to Him."

In Charlotte, Mercy Church held a similar event Aug. 3. Volunteers served more than 600 families at Sugar Creek Charter School's back-to-school open house. The outreach also acted as an outlet for Mercy Church's youngest members to put into action what they learned during Kids Week several weeks earlier. Throughout Kids Week, children learned that following Jesus includes recognizing needs and responding with compassion and generosity. They and their families were then invited to purchase backpacks and school supplies to donate to Sugar Creek. "It was encouraging to see children not only learn what it means to love their neighbors, but also have an immediate opportunity to put that teaching into action," said Rashard Barnes, pastor of community engagement at Mercy Church. "Mercy Church's partnership with Sugar Creek extends beyond one event," Barnes said. "Our desire is to build meaningful, long-term relationships with the school's students, families, teachers and leaders. By consistently showing up, meeting practical needs and sharing the hope of Christ through our words and actions, we are praying to see lives strengthened and the school community flourish."

In Rockingham County, New Vision Fellowship mobilized more than 80 members, including families and children, to serve across their community in various ways. Teams completed landscaping and beautification projects at Huntsville Elementary School, while others served fire departments, nursing homes and at food pantries. Antioch Baptist Church in Waynesville began ServeNC Week by asking a simple question: "How can we help?" They found their answer by connecting with a local school principal. The church came together to help teachers prepare for the school year and clean up around the campus. Other churches across western North Carolina also leveraged ServeNC Week to help local schools get ready for the school year. Dutch Cove Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church and Crestview Baptist Church all partnered with their respective elementary schools to work on campus beautification projects and gathered school supplies to deliver to teachers. Volunteers from Crestview Baptist Church helped families in need by hosting a free marketplace, including school supplies, clothing and housewares.

Columbus Baptist Church worked with the local sheriff's office to provide 290 bookbags to children in the community during their back-to-school event. Midway Baptist Church had a similar partnership with their local sheriff, distributing Bibles and lunches to families. Reaching out to large swaths of their community, Jonesboro Baptist Church made ham dinner plates, complete with sides and a dessert. The church made 70 of these plates and delivered them to shut-ins, people recovering from illness and surgeries, and to families in need. They also held a card writing marathon, giving words of encouragement to 50 members of the community.

Since ServeNC started in 2024, more than 2,100 projects have been completed by participating churches to help their communities and share the Gospel all across North Carolina.

Hurricane Helene and Berea

September 27, 2024

Written by: Mike Hanson

Hurricane Helene, the most destructive and the third deadliest storm in North Carolina history, ravaged the mountains of our state. Berea and its mission-focused congregation had folks in Spruce Pine the very next day. In the last 2 years, Berea has continued that support for Baptist on Missions, Spruce Pine First Baptist Church, the Town of Spruce Pine and its residents.

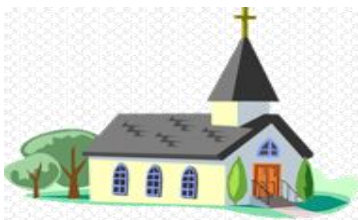
Berea, along with outside partners, have contributed over \$50,000. We have sent teams for 18+ weeks, which equals more than 300 man days of work in this mission field. What has been accomplished on these trips is amazing to say the least. Houses have been gutted, doors, windows, and flooring installed, shingling, framing of a house, outside siding, trenches dug, electrical work, supplies picked up and carried to job site, and so much more.

Sixteen pick-up truck loads of much needed items have been delivered, including: water, lots of snacks and homemade cookies for workers. Lunches, sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, propane bottles filled with gas, paper products for serving meals, and many miscellaneous bits and pieces to finish projects. Also a donated camper was transported from Elizabeth City to Spruce Pine by a church member.

We are blessed to have a van that was used to transport our mission members on several trips. We can't forget to include the behind-the-scenes work of administrative duties, cleaning bathrooms, laundry, and feeding those hungry volunteers.

Berea, you should be very proud of the financial support you have provided over the last 2 years. And how can anyone put a value on prayer support for the residents and volunteers? Remember, there is still a great deal to accomplish to get this community back to where it was before September 27, 2024.

Join the Mission field without leaving your home. The Kitchen Committee raises funds to provide meals for grieving families. Along with the meal, **homemade** cakes are provided for dessert. We are very blessed to serve these families. We would like to create a list of church members willing to provide these **homemade** goodies. If you would like to participate, please call Mike Hanson (252- 338-6976). If no one answers please leave a message and he'll get back with you.



Church Business Meeting
September 13th @ 12:15pm



Agape Meeting
Tuesday, September 15th @ 6:00pm in
the OFH. All ladies are invited to join.

Community Care



J. Walkers Meeting

September 21st @ 10:00 am (OFH).



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



"Keith"

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Success Stories



Albemarle Area United Way

After living in the same home for several years, one individual found himself facing an unexpected housing crisis when he lost his residence and was unable to secure another place to live. For over 11 months, he experienced homelessness, relying on his vehicle as shelter while searching for a path forward.

As summer temperatures in North Carolina intensified, his situation became increasingly dangerous. The battery in his vehicle failed, leaving him without the ability to roll down the windows and creating serious health and safety concerns during the extreme heat.

Recognizing the urgency of his circumstances, Community Care Collaborative (CCC) worked to identify a safe solution. Through compassionate case management and coordination, staff learned that he had a family member in Wilmington who was willing to help him get connected to a local shelter and support network. CCC purchased a bus ticket, allowing him to safely travel out of the area and reunite with family support.

This outcome highlights the importance of community partnerships and timely intervention. What began as a situation marked by uncertainty and significant health risks ended with a renewed opportunity for stability, safety, and connection. Through collaboration and a commitment to meeting people where they are, CCC was able to help one individual take a critical step toward a more secure future.

"Cheyenne"

An unexpected vehicle repair created a financial hardship that left one individual struggling to keep up with rent and other essential expenses. As bills mounted, the risk of eviction became a very real concern.

CCC stepped in with timely assistance, helping address the housing-related expenses that threatened their stability. With this support, eviction was prevented, allowing them to remain safely housed, maintain employment, and regain financial footing.

This success story demonstrates how a single unexpected expense can place someone at risk of homelessness and how targeted assistance at the right moment can make all the difference.

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 Dawn Lilly | 14 Rayman & Amber Vallas |
| 2 Nicole Hudson | 16 Marta Boyce |
| Doug & Mary Pritchard | 17 Jeff Elliot |
| 4 Jared Tenny | Diana Heatwole |
| 6 Sydney Newell | 19 Blake & Suzanne Ennis |
| 7 Sam Keith | 23 Denise Layden |
| Eliab Long | Libby Sanders |
| Tom & Lisa Finley | Sasha Thrasher |
| 10 Cassandra Hodges | 24 Dakota Thrasher |
| 11 Nancy Romaine | 25 Rick & Nancy Romaine |
| 12 Jasper Nelson | 26 John & Terry Gregory |
| Don & Peggy Bunch | 28 Janet Quillin |
| | Mike & Bobbie Hanson |

Berea Baptist Church

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