

THE Shining the Everlasting Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ Let His Light Shine in You

# LIGHTHOUSE

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BETHANY CHURCH OF WANCHESE · NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTER BANKS · FEBRUARY 2026

## ***Clift-Notes***

### **THE SONG OF THE CROW**

During these cold months, I long for the songs of the birds when it is warm enough to sit outside. I love the different songs they sing. I even love the sound of the crows. Most people don't care for the song of the crow. It is an awkward sound, but I love it. Let me tell you why.

I grew up in the city. When I was young, my dad would occasionally get me up before the light of day. We would go to a "pay lake" out in the country. Pay lakes were stocked with fish by the owner. You would pay a fee, and then you could fish. You kept the fish you caught.

We didn't hear the song of the birds very often in my neighborhood, not like out in the country. It was on those much-too-few trips to the lake with my dad that I learned to appreciate the crow. The crows always seemed to be there, and they always seemed to greet me when I came. I didn't mind their awkward squawking tone because the lake, while fishing with my dad, was a happy place.

I was never quiet enough for my dad. I never sat still like he wanted. And my line always seemed to get tangled. It was hard for a young boy to sit and stare at a float out in the water. There were adventures to be had. Finally, I got my own spinning rod and reel and some lures. I would walk around the lake fishing in different places, none for long, because the next place might be where I would find the "big one." It was there that I learned to love trees, the sky, the grass, fish, worms, dragonflies, frogs, and the song of the crow.

Why do I tell you this story? I tell you because as an adult, I sometimes find it difficult to hear the

amazing songs of life that are all around. There is a symphony being played if only we would listen. And that music can come from the most unlikely sources, even a crow.

To me, the Christian faith is a place of wonderful music and fantastic songs. There is the song about a God who loves us and came to visit us in Jesus Christ. There is a song about His presence with us during difficult times. There is a song about forgiveness and new chances. There is a song about new life and new possibilities.

I have learned to love the songs of our faith just as I learned to love the song I heard around the lake as a little boy. I have learned that God wants me not just to listen to the songs. He wants me to sing the songs with my voice and with my life. Sometimes I wish my life could sing the songs of our faith like a beautiful canary or lovely nightingale. But it seems that a lot of times, my song, my life, is more like the awkward squawking of the crow.

However, as I remember the songs of my childhood, I am reminded that the song of the crow can be wonderful and beautiful. I am learning that there are people God sends our way that need to hear the song the way we sing it. The ways we are "shaped." What is most important is that we sing the song. Sing the song and trust that God will use the song to bless others as he used the song of the crow to bless a little boy. Keep singing, my friends.

See you in church, the place where God's people gather to hear the song and find help to sing the song with their voices and their life.

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Date:	Nursery Workers	Acolytes	Children's Church
February 1st	Millie Barkley/ Opportunity to Serve	Owen Meekins	Jessica Davenport / Carol Saunders
February 8th	Nancy Doak/ Opportunity to Serve	Joanna Davenport	Jessica Davenport / Sheila Garrison
February 15th	Stormy Heroux/ Opportunity To Serve	Becca Tawes	Jessica Davenport / Victoria Meekins
February 22nd	Carol Saunders / Victoria Meekins	Evalynn Meekins	Jessica Davenport / Millie Barkley

**Monthly Schedule:**

**Bethany Women's Group:**

Thursday, February 5, at 7:00 pm

Hosts: Shelia and Nancy

**Bethany's Table:**

Wednesday, February 18

Preparation Day 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Thursday, February 19

Meals Packaged 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Deliveries 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Methodist Men:**

Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 pm

Dinner and Fellowship

**Special dates:**

Black History Month, *February 1-28*

Groundhog Day, *February 2*

Valentine's Day, *February 14*

Presidents Day, *February 16*

Ash Wednesday, *February 18*

**Weekly Meetings at Bethany:**

**Sunday**

9:30 am Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)

10:30 am Worship – Sanctuary

Live Stream: Bethany YouTube and Facebook

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Crossroads Kids (Fellowship

Hall)

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm His K.R.E.W. (Youth Room)

**Tuesday**

9:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Prayer Service

**Wednesday**

6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

**Friday**

9:00 am Mc Prayer  
(Darrell's Restaurant)

**Preschool**

Tuesday - Thursday

8:30 am - 12:00 noon

**MINISTRIES AT BETHANY**

Meal Train – Jennifer Hamlen 919-665-7993

Y.A.L. – Outreach to New Mothers

Sheila Garrison 804-239-5242

College Students – Sheila Garrison 804-239-5242

Web Site: [www.bethanyofwanchese.com](http://www.bethanyofwanchese.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Bethany2023](https://www.facebook.com/Bethany2023)

Email: [bethanymethodist@gmail.com](mailto:bethanymethodist@gmail.com)

You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvKaNdMcGqS95YiViFQ1ydQ/>

Preacher David S. Clift

Church 252-473-5254

Cell 843-957-5626

Email: [dsclift@gmail.com](mailto:dsclift@gmail.com)

The last time we had turkey for Bethany's Table many years ago, I said, "Never again." Well, you know what they say about saying never. When we were given ten turkeys at Christmastime, I knew it was a sign from God to change my thinking.

Part of the trouble with turkeys is that there is no way to know what the yield will be. One might think a twenty-pound turkey can feed twenty people, but that is not always true. After the turkeys were baking, it became clear we needed more meat power. An order of foodservice turkey breasts took the guessing out of the game.

Another problem with turkeys is that not everyone knows how to carve them. This time, however, we had a crack team of Hughie Basnight, Vanessa Foreman, Carl Garrison, and his neighbor Paul Marsee. Knives were flashing as the turkeys were brought under submission.

Accompaniments, of course, had to be dressing and gravy. We also had a corn casserole that was part corn bread, part corn pudding. Sheila Garrison and Connie Troutman worked together on producing those pans, including making our own creamed corn from an internet hack.

The Albemarle Food Bank gave us five cases of cabbage. The next menu item came from that abundance. Over Christmas, my sister made an Asian Cole slaw salad (similar to the one Merlee makes). It was so delicious that I knew we had to have that, too.

For the second year, Basnight's Lone Cedar Restaurant called us when they were closing their doors for the off-season. Many of the things they gave us (dressings and sauces) were given away at the bread stand. The key lime bars, key lime pies, and Hershey cakes were cut up so everyone could have a little taste of heaven with their meal.

In January, we served roasted turkey, dressing, gravy, corn casserole, Asian Cole slaw, and a piece of dessert to 195 people at \$1.72 per person with 25 adult and 3 young volunteers.



Dave Nicholas, Sharon Whitehurst and Shirley O'Neal enjoy chatting as they work.



Connie Troutman has a rare skill—she can operate a

restaurant-style can opener!



Hughie Basnight's butcher apron was

appropriate for turkey carving.



- 1 - Cullen Malarney
- 1 - Charles Parrish
- 1 - Zachary Davis
- 2 - Mary Schillings
- 4 - Amber Malarney
- 5 - Fred Felski IV
- 5 - Jonah Diaz
- 6 - Amanda Gaskill
- 7 - Madee Toler
- 8 - Wyatt Cooper
- 9 - Jonson Utz
- 10 - Lisa Hunter
- 10 - Jackson Utz
- 11 - Affie Machie
- 12 - Alex Midgett
- 13 - Tracy Walker
- 13 - Edith Meads
- 14 - Alanna Partridge
- 17 - Thomas O'Malley
- 17 - Hayes Wilson
- 17 - Rebecca Tawes
- 18 - Annie Fitzgerald
- 19 - Martha Tillett
- 21 - Maggie Dough
- 22 - Savannah Durand
- 22 - Kathryn Durand
- 23 - Bart Garrison
- 23 - Kylie Beasley
- 23 - David Whitehurst
- 24 - Stormy Heroux
- 26 - Demi O'Malley Walker
- 29 - Jacob Robinson



- 8 - Ned and Penny Ashby
- 9 - Shaylor and Tess Meekins
- 14 - Doug and Misty Curles



### TITHES

DECEMBER AND JANUARY  
We needed \$5,932.61 weekly in 2025 and need \$6,109.33 in 2026.

In December, we needed \$23,730.44 and our offerings were \$25,012.  
In January, we needed \$24,437.32. As of January 26, our offerings were \$18,375.10.



### Bethany Methodist Men Meeting

On February 19, the Bethany men will meet (the third Thursday of each month). This meeting will be held on the second floor of the fellowship hall due to a space conflict. We will share the meeting with Dare Challenge participants.

We will have dinner starting at 6:30, a devotion, and continue planning discussions about attracting younger new members.

Our ultimate goal of growing the Methodist Men fellowship which will also include involving young men.

I encourage you to join us to learn and grow in our faith in Jesus.

Larry Franklin  
Bethany Methodist Men's Leader



### Thank You Note

Dear Bethany Church

Thank you for your love, prayers, and all acts of kindness

during my recent knee surgery.

Love each one of you and thank you very much.

Button Daniels



### CUDWORTH CEMETERY

Please remember your cemetery dues for mowing at the Cudworth Cemetery.

Dues are \$25.00 per lot, annually.  
Make your payment to: Cudworth Cemetery Fund  
P. O. Box 100 Wanchese, NC 27981.

If you don't remember if you paid this past summer for mowing, check with Connie 252-473-0989.



## FINANCE REPORT

As we close the door on 2025, the Administrative Leadership Team would like to thank everyone who contributes to this church. It has been another wonderful year of worship, fellowship, and financial needs being met. Collections for the year were up (approx. \$5K) compared to 2024. Praise God! We would like to share, below, a financial summary of the church accounts. This is a year-end financial summary for the calendar year of 2025:

Church Operating Account balance 12/31/25  
\$36,486

Revenues Year-to-Date 12/31/25

\$ 262,092 Collections \*

\$ 21,611 Add: Fundraisers and other

\$283,703 Total revenues

\*does not include collections for special designated funds such as Bethany's Table, Haiti Mission, Scholarships, etc.

Total Expenses Year- to- Date 12/31/25 \$282,352

Building (Trustee) Account Ending balance  
12/31/25 \$10,527

(amounts are rounded to nearest dollar)

Our weekly bulletin will provide the dollar amount needed each week to fund the church budget for 2026. There is an ongoing list of repairs and upgrades that need to be done to our church building. Your continued support is important. Thank you to everyone that helps fund this church with monetary donations. It pays for our operating expenses and, most importantly, Kingdom work.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". 2 Corinthians 9:7

Blessings,  
Jim Troutman, Chairman for Finance



Following January 20 Tuesday morning Bible Study, Bethany Servants set up an impressive production line in the kitchen to build 24 deli style sandwiches and pack overstuffed lunch bags for the Manteo High School Basketball team to enjoy on their way to an away game. Connie Troutman, Nancy Gray, Liz Ann Creef -Meekins and Sheila Garrison pulled it all together from scratch to finish using many delish donations from within the church.



## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

The next college students care package assembly will be Tuesday, February 3, following the Tuesday morning Bible Study in the fellowship hall. We are hoping for some creative Valentines Day theme items for this shipment to 16 students currently on our roster. Candy, baked goods, cards, and other fun surprises are welcome!



## MEAL TRAIN

The Bethany Meal Train is chugging along nicely and responding to member requests for meals for those in need on an as needed basis. The servants on the train provide a temporary (short term) once a day meal upon request through Bethany. Typically, the requests are following surgeries or procedures that prevent someone in our flock from providing for themselves.

Contacts Jennifer Hamlen 919-665-7993  
Sheila Garrison 804-239-5242

# FEBRUARY 2026

*Lift Up Your Hearts and Rejoice... He is Lord!*

Sunday

Monday




Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4:30 – 6:30 Crossroads Kids His K.R.E.W.		9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Packing College Boxes (Valentine theme) 7:00 Prayer Service	6:30 Praise Team Practice	7:00 Bethany's Women Hosts: Sheila and Nancy	9:00 McPrayer	
4:30 – 6:30 Crossroads Kids His K.R.E.W.		9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Service	6:30 Praise Team Practice		9:00 McPrayer	
4:30 – 6:30 Crossroads Kids His K.R.E.W.		9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Service	1:00 – 3:00 Bethany's Table Preparation Day  7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	Bethany's Table 3:00 – 4:00 Meals Packaged 4:00 – 5:30 Deliveries 6:30 Methodist Men Dinner & Fellowship	Newsletter Articles Due  9:00 McPrayer	Project Glam Girls 15 – 21 Reserved Fellowship Hall and Dining Room
4:30 – 6:30 Crossroads Kids His K.R.E.W.		9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Service	6:30 Praise Team Practice	5:45 – 8:00 Administrative Leadership Team Dinner & Meeting	9:00 McPrayer	

## SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.



Join Bethany Church for their Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18, in the church sanctuary.

## STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to **STOP**. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to **LOOK**. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to **LISTEN**. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

## INVITE TO LENT SERIES OR SMALL GROUPS

This Lent, draw closer to Jesus with us. Whether it's a Bible study, weekly services or personal practices, we're growing together in faith and trust. See what's happening at church and join in!





## THE UPSIDE-DOWN BLESSING

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They're a radical redefinition of

what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn't just mean "happy." It describes a deep, untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is "the joy which shines through tears."

Jesus flips the world's idea of success upside down. The "blessed" aren't the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as "Congratulations, you who feel broken, God's kingdom belongs to you!" His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God's favor.

Real blessing isn't about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It's the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we're struggling to stay afloat. And it's not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a we more than a me. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

### A TASTE OF LOVING-KINDNESS

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."



## SHINE WITHOUT WAX

How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help others see Christ in us.

The word *sincere* comes from an old Latin phrase meaning "without wax." In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly solid and not hiding any imperfections.

When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; He restores us. As His light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely His.



## THE LOVE GOD DESIRES

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we

love others, we reflect His very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "*If we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.*"

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*"

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So, ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as His disciple by the way you love?

# Our Prayer List.. *In Your Mercies Lord. Hear our Prayers*

## NEW PRAYER CONCERNS

Button Daniels  
Katy Dettmer  
Toni Franklin

Claudia Zamor Garci  
Ted Midgett  
Craig Parker



Logan Bonner  
Elizabeth Chabay  
Jason Galloway  
Kyle Gaskill, Jr.  
Darren Gibbs  
Dylon Griffin  
Vova Lebediev  
Colby Moore  
John Snider  
Jonson Utz

Unspoken  
Unsaved  
Caregivers  
Haiti  
Our Nation and Leaders  
People in Nursing Homes  
The Peace of Israel  
Those in Prison  
Ukraine

## ONGOING PRAYERS

Donald Adams  
Roy and Sharon Ambrose  
DeLana Barkley  
Wayne Barnett  
Ethan Basnight  
Tyisha Basnight  
Walter Baum  
Freddie Blackmon  
G. G. Bonner  
Nathan Boone  
Glenn Bradley  
Jimmy Bulfin  
Marilyn Burrus  
Eric Craddock  
Santa Daniels  
Joe Doak  
Tedrick Dough  
Linda Dunn  
Kathy Elks  
Jordan Ford  
Dawn Gerakarib  
Siobhan Hall  
Kristine Hamilton  
Rusty Hardee  
Ruth Hayes  
Ted Hemilright  
Clint Hepler

Susan Johnson  
Vova Lebediev  
Brandy Mann  
Dewey Mann  
Linda Mann  
Denise Mariner  
Sammy Mariner  
Karen Martin  
Donna Medeiros  
Babs Meekins  
R. S. Meekins  
Paul Midgett  
Tom and Connie Miss  
Mamie Morrill  
Linda O'Neal  
Bill Parker  
Sharon Ralph  
Ginger Reber  
Robin Smith  
Allyson Snapp  
Razph Sparks  
Colin Tibbs  
Carrol Tillett  
Gayle Tillett  
Tim Whitehurst  
Debbie Williams  
Joe Willis



## LOST LOVED ONES

Family of Hattie Duprey  
Family of Ethan Stone  
Family of Bonnie Strawser

Family of Lois Gallop  
Family of Gail Shelson  
Family of Donna Tillett

# HAITI MISSION

Tensions in Haiti are still up. Long story short, Sonson was walking the streets without his ID card and was arrested and put in jail. He didn't have his card with him because he had to leave it at the hospital for money he owed. It's the hospital's way of insuring they'll be paid. Now that we've paid the money, they will still hold him for a couple more days.

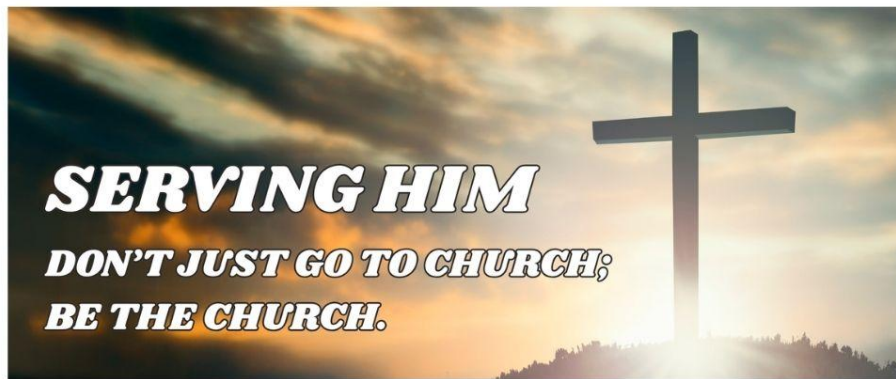
But on a brighter side, someone had donated to feed kids in Haiti for a Christmas party. Each year Pastor Cladel has a youth Christmas party and ask me if our church will help with it. We sent him \$500 to feed the kids and they each got a small gift. As always in Haiti, the meal consisted of rice, beans and chicken.



As for WNC, we delivered the gifts just before Christmas but haven't been back. Not sure our help is needed anymore as far as the disaster goes. The need still exists though for the ones who just can't get ahead. It's a very poor part of our state.

Peace in the New Year.  
Chetty & Craig





## Ways to Serve with Bethany Church of Wanchese

- **Worship Servants** ~ Greeters - Greeters are needed for all services. If you can help please contact the church office. If this is an opportunity you are interested in, please contact Denise Mann 252-216-6373. Communion Steward(s) - Servers needed. You will serve along with other Bethany Church Members, and our Preacher. If this is an opportunity you are interested in, please contact Denise Mann. Music Ministry - Through the Praise Team, the Music Ministry plays an important role in our worship here at Bethany. There are opportunities for permanent and flexible scheduling for musicians and singers. If this is an opportunity you are interested in, please contact Bob Furr 252-619-2113. Sound/Media Technicians needed at all worship services! - The Media Team runs everything you see on the screen on Sunday mornings for the 10:30AM service. Volunteers can serve on a rotational basis, and we can work with your availability. The time needed is from 10:00 AM -11:45 AM Sunday mornings. If this is an opportunity you are interested in, please contact Denise Mann. Altar Flowers - Altar Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate and remember those we love. This sign up sheet is across from Denise Mann's office. If you would like an announcement in the bulletin, please notify Denise.
- **Children's Ministry Servants** ~ Nursery Workers (sit with newborns-Age 4 children during the 10:30 AM worship service), Sunday School Teacher (Assist with teaching school age children Bible lessons during weekly classes), Children's Church (Seeking second adult to volunteer one time a month during with the Coordinator of Children's Ministries for children's worship service 10:30 AM), Crossroads Kids & His K.R.E.W. Youth (Seeking volunteers to help with craft activities, preparing meals, and cleaning up after meetings). If these are some things you would be interested in, please contact Jessica Davenport, 252-256-4275. Vacation Bible School- Assist with set up, decorating, serving as a group leader, and food preparation and servings, crafts, and games. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Denise.
- **Food Ministries** ~ Bethany's Table - Ways to serve would be helping prepare meals, and delivering meals. If this is something you would like to help with, please contact Nancy Gray, 252-423-1295. College Care Packages - Donations and helping hands are always appreciated. If this is something you would like to help with, please contact Sheila Garrison, 804-239-5242 . Feed the Lifeguards - Ways to serve would be helping prepare meals and serving on the second Thursdays of June, July, and August. If you are interested in helping, please contact Becky Beacham 252-216-8599 . Meal Train - Ways to serve would be to prepare a meal and serve the meal as needed for those in crisis or in need. Please contact Jennifer Hamlen 919-665-7993.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BEST BE SERVING GOD, AND BE THE CHURCH.  
WE WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE WAYS TO SERVE IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

# Autumn's

BRIDAL SHOWER  
ENGAGED TO SAM DOUGH

SATURDAY  
3-6 PM

07

FEBRUARY  
2026

WANCHESE COMMUNITY CENTER  
295 OLD SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD  
WANCHESE

FLOATING  
COME MEET AUTUMN AND ENJOY  
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

AUTUMN & SAM ARE SAVING FOR A HONEYMOON IN THE FALL AND  
FOR REMODELING THEIR HOME  
LOWES & HOME DEPOT GIFT CARDS ARE WELCOME  
HONEYMOON FUND:  
[WWW.ZOLA.COM/REGISTRY/SAMANDAUTUMNMARCH7](http://WWW.ZOLA.COM/REGISTRY/SAMANDAUTUMNMARCH7)





## TRUSTEE REPORT

As you all know, there is a multitude of rental homes spread across our glorious Outer Banks. Things can be super busy during the months of late April until, generally, late October. After the renters have slacked off on weekly rentals comes a time when repairs, remodels and upgrades are performed during our winter months on these rentals. We at Bethany Church are experiencing some of that “joy?” ourselves. In November we were introduced to our Pastor, Preacher David. As would be expected, we find ourselves helping in furnishing a place for him to live on the property. As of this writing, we have been going full steam ahead on making our parsonage into a comfortable, useful and practical abode for PD (I hope Preacher David is OK with this abbreviation). Many hands have been on deck with moving furniture, cleaning and making improvements that help in making the place a little spiffier. We are giving a shout-out to those who have participated hands-on, donated monetarily, or provided emotional support. The project is almost complete, and we thank all the members of our wonderful church for their kindness and concern. As Andy Griffith would say, “Appreciate It, y’all”. Until next time....

Dave Whitehurst

## • FLOWER CHART •



The new flower chart for 2026 is up in the hall outside the Pastor’s office. If you would like to place flowers in the church during the year, please sign up on the chart. If you would like an announcement in the bulletin, please let Denise Mann know or put a note in the box on the secretary’s door the Wednesday before the Sunday you put flowers in the church.

Denise Mann 252-216-6373  
[mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com](mailto:mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com)



## MITTEN TREE

We donated these items to the children at Manteo Elementary School.

Thanks to everyone who donated.

32 – pairs of gloves, 2 – scarves, 9 – hats, 1 – coat and 26 – pairs of socks.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Methodist Men Ken Doughty Scholarship \$1,000.00**

All applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2026.

You can stop by the church office or email Denise at [mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com](mailto:mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com) for an application.

**Steve Basnight, Jr., Memorial Scholarship \$500.00 per each Dare County High School**

All applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2026.

You can stop by the church office or email Denise Mann at [mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com](mailto:mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com) for an application.

**Melvin R. and Carrie E. Daniels Scholarship \$1,000.00**

Applications are due by June 1, 2026. You can stop by the church office, contact Paula Mann, or email Denise Mann at [mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com](mailto:mannfarmyard@embarqmail.com) for an application.

We will also have the applications available on the church website under resources.

celebrating our  
PROJECT  
GLAM GIRLS 11TH ANNUAL

MAKE *dreams* COME TRUE!

Project Glam Girls is to help ensure EVERY girl and guy has everything they need for their prom at no cost to the students.



**PLEASE HELP BY DONATING:**

Age Appropriate Long Evening Gowns • Shoes  
Hand Bags • Jewelry & Accessories  
Men's Suits & Tuxedos • Ties & Bow Ties  
Men's Dress Shoes  
Full Length Mirrors • Hangers • Dress Racks  
Monetary donations for plus size dresses  
(Made out to Bethany Church of Wanchese, financial donations are tax deductible)

**DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS**

*Currituck County Library:* 4261 Caratoke Hwy., Barco, NC  
*Atlantic Realty:* 3210 N. Croatan Hwy., Suite 3, Kill Devil Hills  
*Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce:* 101 Town Hall Dr., Kill Devil Hills  
*Outer Banks Association of Realtors:* 201 W. 8th St., Nags Head  
*Bethany Church of Wanchese:* 101 Old Wharf Rd., Wanchese  
*Fesseden Center:* 46830 N.C.-12, Buxton

**EVENT DATE**

**February 19, 20, 21**


Thursday - 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday - 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION**

**Bethany Church of Wanchese**  
101 Old Wharf Rd., Wanchese

(252) 216-9362 • [projectglamgirls@gmail.com](mailto:projectglamgirls@gmail.com) • [facebook.com/projectglamgirls](https://www.facebook.com/projectglamgirls) 

**PLEASE DROP OFF ALL DONATIONS BY FEBRUARY 17**



28 Day Scripture Writing

# FEBRUARY

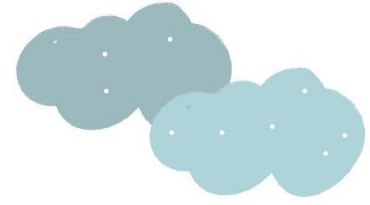
God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day to write down the following scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write. Come back next month for a fresh scripture writing challenge!

February 1	Psalm 3:2-6	February 15	John 3:16
February 2	Ecclesiastes 7:9	February 16	Zephaniah 3:17
February 3	Proverbs 3:5-6	February 17	Jonah 2:2
February 4	Psalm 34:14	February 18	Psalm 22:19
February 5	Matthew 11:28	February 19	Malachi 1:11
February 6	Psalm 37:37	February 20	1 Samuel 2:2
February 7	Titus 1:15-16	February 21	1 Chronicles 16:11
February 8	James 1:5	February 22	Isaiah 40:30-31
February 9	Mark 12:30-31	February 23	2 Timothy 4:7
February 10	John 13:34	February 24	Jude 1:20
February 11	1 John 4:7	February 25	Hebrews 11:1
February 12	Ephesians 4:2	February 26	Galatians 5:22-23
February 13	Isaiah 54:10	February 27	Matthew 21:21
February 14	1 Corinthians 13:4	February 28	1 Peter 1:21



# Lenten

READING PLAN



## Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*
- The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
- The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
- The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
- The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
- The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
- The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make Lent more meaningful

### Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



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# BETHANY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

## SUPER BOWL KICKOFF PARTY

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2026

TIME: 4:30 - 6:45PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE,  
AND LETS BARELY WATCH THE GAME TOGETHER!



I praise You because  
I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made;  
Your works  
are wonderful,  
I know that  
full well.  
*Psalm 139:14*

During the month of January, the children and youth of Bethany Church had fun jumping into the new year, and gathering together weekly. Memories were made making s'mores, enjoying a bonfire, playing games, and as always, enjoying some good food. Some of our favorite scriptures we have studied are James 1:17, Psalm 139:14, Matthew 3:1-3, and Luke 2:8-20. We understand that Jesus came to offer us the mercy we need in order to have peace with God. Through our readings we learned that all good comes from God, and He mercifully gives us the opportunity to accept His truth and turn away from our sin. Moving into February, we plan to discuss ways we can serve the Lord, and become active members of Bethany Church. Our moto for 2026 is "Don't Just go to church; be the church".



## Bethany Church Children's Ministry February Calendar

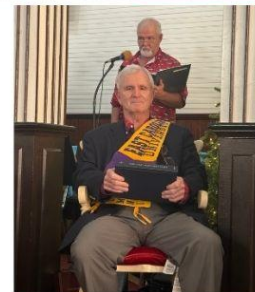
EVERY SUNDAY: 9:30AM Sunday School; 10:30AM Children's Church and Nursery; 4:30-6:30 PM Crossroads Kids & His KREW Youth Meetings

**PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR UP TO DATE EVENTS (BETHANY CHURCH OF WANCHESE)**

**Crossroads Kids** = Open to children ages 3 - 10. **His K.R.E.W. Youth** = Open to Youth age 11 and up.

# BETHANY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

12 / 21 / 2025



We had 190 people in the Sanctuary for the Bethany Christmas Play on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.  
  
Thank you to everyone who came out to worship with us!  
We wish you Jesus!





## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We had the best time Caroling with our church family! Thank you for opening your doors to us, and allowing us to share the joy of the Christmas season. We hope you were blessed, because you sure blessed us!

# FRIENDS & FELLOWSHIP



## S.A.L.T. Sisters

### MONTHLY MEETING

Miss Kate, Jessica, Lindsey, and Emma sure made Mrs. Mari LaRose proud!

As for the rest of us, well, we tried! As usual, lots of laughs, a little competition, and a good time was had by all! We were also blessed by Super Mom (Stormy) and her two beautiful girls for their first SALT Sisters Meeting.



# BABIES AT BETHANY

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE  
NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE BETHANY  
CHURCH FAMILY!

*"EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM  
ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER  
OF THE HEAVENLY LIGHTS, WHO DOES NOT  
CHANGE LIKE SHIFTING SHADOWS."*

JAMES 1:17



## TEDDY

Welcome to the World, Teddy Wayne Shackelford! Teddy was born on the second day of the year, 1/2/26. He is the beautiful son of Austin and Bailey Shackelford. His proud grandparents are Britton & Audra Shackelford and Curtis & Tammy Bundy. Teddy's loving Great Grandparents include Edith Meads, Vivian Shackelford, Tommy Shackelford, Nancy Crisp, and Marge Davenport.



## EZEKIEL

Welcome, Baby Ezekiel David Coak! Ezekiel was born on January 15, 2026. Ezekiel is the precious son of Kaya and Kacey Coak. His proud grandparents are Amanda Newman and Brandy Coak. His excited great-grandparents include Anthony & Marlene Newman, and Morris & Kathy Myers. Join us as we welcome this beautiful baby boy to our Bethany family!



## TWINS!

Welcome to the World, Jennette Skye and Genevieve Rose Cooper! these little ladies arrived on Christmas Eve! Netty and Eevee are the beautiful twin daughters of Stormy Heroux and Chris Cooper, Sisters of Wyatt and Gauge Cooper, and granddaughters of Bonnie Waits, Robert & Charlene Heroux, Debbie Jackson & Tony Cooper.

# PRESCHOOL SCOOP



This month our preschoolers have been busy learning and writing the letters L, M, N, and O! Our 3- and 4-year-olds practiced number writing with the number 1, while our 5-year-olds were excited to move ahead and write 11. We also explored our color of the month, blue, and learned all about the diamond shape through fun, hands-on activities. It's been a month full of growth, practice, and proud little learners!



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever - Hebrews 13:8

### Important Dates:

- February 5th: Show N Tell
- February 12th: Valentines Party
- February 17th: Dress Up: Red, White, and Blue
- February 26th: Aquarium Field Trip

Please be sure to check out our bulletin board for more information about upcoming activities



This month we learned about Martin Luther King Jr. Day, focusing on kindness, fairness, and loving others. "Love your neighbor as yourself" The children also enjoyed learning about the winter season, talking about cold weather, winter clothing, and seasonal changes. Through stories, discussions, and hands-on activities, our preschoolers are growing in understanding and compassion while exploring the world around them.



We had so much to celebrate this month! We welcomed our new friend Colton to our preschool family and celebrated three special birthdays with Colton, Cash and Ariel! The children were thrilled by a visit from the firetruck, where they learned about community helpers and fire safety. We are also incredibly thankful to everyone who donated and volunteered to help make our fundraiser a success. Your generosity and support mean so much to our school and families.



Thank you to everyone who served, donated chicken and silent auction items, made baked goods, or helped with the entertainment!



**WE RAISED AROUND  
\$6,800.00**



Also, thank you to everyone who came out and supported Bethany Preschool!

# PUZZLE

## LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

**Change:**

C's to L    Z's to H    P's to R  
 J's to A    Q's to T    X's to E  
 K's to O

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Y \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ W I Q Z \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J C C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J N D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ W I Q Z \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S K U C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J N D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Y K U P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J N D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ W I Q Z \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ J C C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Y K U P  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S Q P X N G Q Z "

**Mark 12:30**

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

### Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge



Answer: (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

## LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

**What you do:**

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

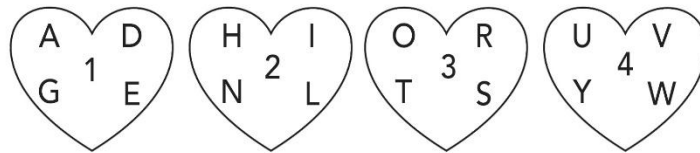
"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."  
 -1 John 3:18 (NIV)

# Puzzle!

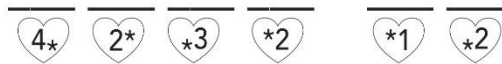
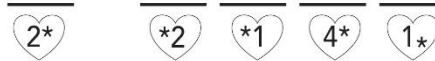
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

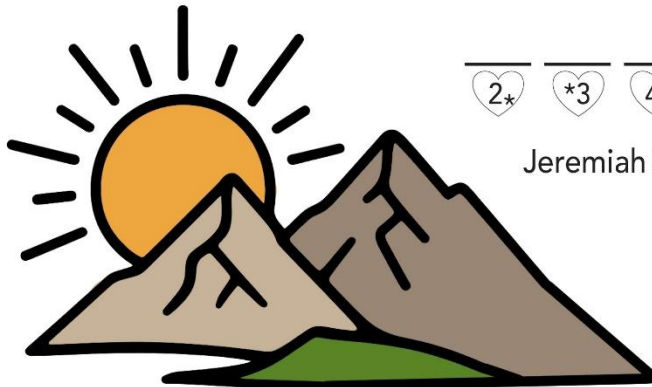
**CODE:**



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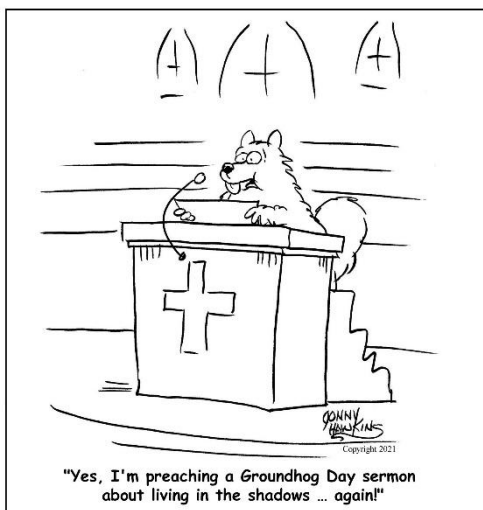
Jeremiah 31:3



Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

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**A VISION ROOTED IN FAITH AND FREEDOM**

Washington's wisdom has been an inspiration for large numbers of our leading men and women in every decade since his time. He had the uncanny foresight of seeking to build a nation upon the bedrock of strong patriotism, unquestioned integrity, opportunities for all, high ideals and love of God.

May our great land, conceived in prayer for peace, bring new concepts of living to all the peoples of the world.

— James Francis Cook, in The Etude