



Ephesians 4:22-24 NLT

²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

BBC Deacon's Corner:

BY: Deacon Randy Gilbert

A New Year, A Fresh Work of God: Embracing Spiritual Renewal

As we enter a new year, we naturally reflect on the victories we've experienced and the burdens we've carried. For believers, this moment is more than a change of dates—it is a spiritual reminder of God's promise to renew His people. Scripture teaches that in Christ we are not simply improved but made entirely new.

The Scriptural Foundation for Change

The Apostle Paul offers a clear vision of this transformation. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we are told that anyone in Christ is a new creation—a radical identity shift where the old life gives way to the righteousness of Christ. Renewal is also a daily practice. Ephesians 4:22–24 urges us to “put on the new self,” choosing each day to walk in holiness, truth, and grace rather than slipping back into old patterns. And in Colossians 3:9–10, we are reminded that this renewal deepens as our knowledge of God grows, shaping our minds and hearts to reflect His will.

The Baptist Heart: Repentance and Discipleship

In the Baptist tradition, new beginnings flow from the ongoing rhythm of repentance and grace. Though our salvation is secure, discipleship calls us to continually turn toward Christ. As we step into this year, we are invited to release the sins and weights that hinder us, reflect on God's faithful guidance, and recommit ourselves to the work He is completing in us.

Walking Forward in Faith

May this year be marked by genuine spiritual awakening—rooted in prayer, strengthened by Scripture, and expressed through loving service. Rather than fearing the unknown, let us embrace the fresh work God desires to do in our hearts and through our lives.

Women's Release Social Saturday, December 6, 2025

By : Evangelist Laura Gantt



THE FASTING CONNECTION

I know you may be thinking this fasting thing can't be for me. According to the words of JESUS, it is the duty of every disciple and every believer to fast. The pharisees ask JESUS why His disciples didn't fast, JESUS replied to the pharisees that His disciples would fast once He is going (MARK 2:20). There is a connection between fasting and the new wine. Fasting prepares you for a new anointing and the new wine represents the fresh changed life and the grace of the new covenant, JESUS brings.

JESUS said "no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins"(MARK 2:22). A wineskin was a goatskin sewed together at the edge to form a water tight bag.

Our heart, like wineskin, can become rigid and prevent us from accepting the new life that Christ offers. If we want new wine, new miracles, new closeness, new intimacy with the LORD, then it's time to call a fast and shed that old skin for the new.

Cedine
2026 Ladies' Retreat
His Name is Near
PSALM 75:1
JEHOVAH
Yireh the Lord my Provider
Shalom the Lord is Peace
Shammah the Lord is There
Mekoddishkem the Lord who Sanctifies
Raah the Lord my Shepherd
El Roi the Lord who Sees

SPEAKER
NADIA TERRY



2026 DATES
March 13-15
April 24-26
October 9-11
November 6-8

EARLY BIRD
\$165/person
(for registrations received earlier than 30 days prior to event)

REGULAR FEE
\$200/person
Register Online
cedine.org

Attention all Ladies -
Information is now available in the vestibule for our April 24-26 2026 Cedine Ladies Retreat.

If you have questions, you may leave a message at 803 772-7112 for the committee to return your call.

Register by 01-31-2026 and your fee is discounted to:
\$150.00

Thank you,
2026 Cedine Ladies Retreat Committee

Register at: <https://www.cedine.org/register/ladies.php>

Thanks! Christmas Volunteers

by: Ryan Simmons

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers for making the Christmas Banquet 2025 so special. Your generosity and spirit truly reflect the reason for the season spreading joy, love, peace, and hope to our community. We appreciate everything you did to bring us together and help celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Church Annual Christmas Banquet December 13, 2025



Annual Giving Tree ~ Dec 19th

The Deaconess Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the members of Bethlehem Baptist Church for your generosity through the Giving Tree. Your thoughtful donations blessed many and beautifully reflected the love of Christ and the caring spirit of our church family.



Just For Fun Match God's title to its meaning

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jehovah Jireh | _____ |
| 2. Jehovah Nissi | _____ |
| 3. Jehovah Shalom | _____ |
| 4. Jehovah Rapha | _____ |
| 5. Jehovah Tsidkenu | _____ |
| 6. Jehovah Shammah | _____ |
| | |
| A. The Lord Is Peace | |
| B. The Lord Our Righteousness | |
| C. The Lord Who Provides | |
| D. The Lord Is There | |
| E. The Lord My Banner | |
| F. The Lord Who Heals | |

Adapted and revised from an original Christmas message by Reverend Stanley M. Nash

Beloved in Christ,

As we step into this New Year, coming out of a season that was full of lights, music, Christmas movies, and late nights with friends, it's easy to still feel caught up in all the excitement. Honestly, there's nothing wrong with that! I loved the joy and energy of the Christmas season just as much as you do.

But as we turn the page and move forward, I want to encourage you to slow down for a second and remember what that season was really about. At its core, Christmas was about hope—the kind of hope that came into the world in the most unexpected way, as a baby born in a manger.

Isaiah 9:6 says, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

This isn't just a nice verse we read during the Christmas season. It's real, and it still matters as we begin a new year. In fact, Scripture reminds us in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

Jesus came to be all of those things for us—for you. He is the One we can turn to when life feels overwhelming, when we don't have all the answers, or when we simply need peace in the middle of chaos.

So yes, enjoy the memories made this Christmas season—the laughter, the traditions, the caroling, and the moments of rest. But as we move into this New Year, don't forget to make space for the One who makes it all matter—Jesus. He remains the true reason our lives have meaning in every season.

He is the greatest gift we received and the One we continue to unwrap every single day. Jesus brings light into our darkest moments, peace into our chaos, and hope into the deepest parts of our hearts. The best part is that He came for you and for me—personally, intentionally, and with so much love.

As we begin this New Year, remember that Christmas is not just a story from long ago. It's our story. It's God reaching out to us with the most incredible gift of all—Himself.

Wishing you a blessed, hopeful, and Christ-filled New Year!

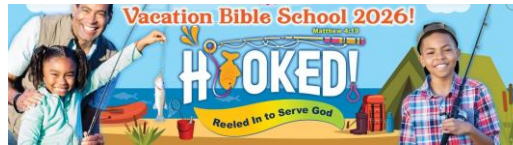
Because He Lives,
Reverend Stanley M. Nash
Youth Pastor

Tacky Holiday Sweater Sunday ~ December 21st

Pastor's Choice Award



Sunday School Christmas Program~ December 21st



Get Hooked on Serving! VBS 2026
Calling all volunteers! Vacation Bible School is coming in the summer of 2026, and we need *you* to make it a splash!

We are currently recruiting passionate individuals to join our VBS team. We have roles available for everyone, including group leaders, craft coordinators, game masters, snack servers, and more! Your time and talent are invaluable in helping our children discover what it means to serve God. If you are ready to get "hooked" on making a difference, please volunteer your time and talent.

Thanking you in advance “
Vacation school Committee.



WKFLC January 2026 Calendar

- **Aerobics:** Mondays & Thursdays – 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
- **Food Pantry Distribution:** Fridays – 10:00 AM
- **Children’s Church:** Sundays (Jan 11 & 25) – 9:00 AM

Special Dates

- **Jan 3** – New Year’s Prayer Breakfast (8:00 AM)
- **Jan 6** – Vegetable Distribution (11:00 AM)
- **Jan 8** – FoodShare Orders Due (12:00 PM)
- **Jan 15** – FoodShare Pick-Up (12:00 PM)
- **Jan 20** – Senior Bingo (10:00 AM)
- **Private Events:** Jan 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 24

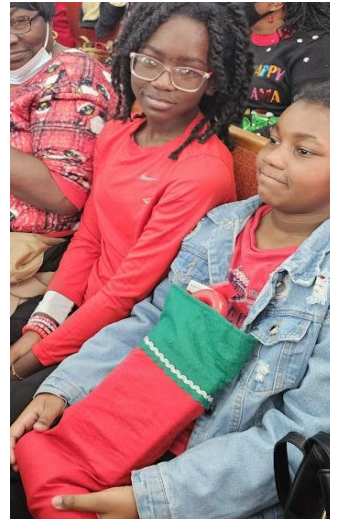
December 21st

Girl Scouts Share Candy Cane Blessings with Our Congregation



Adults received Christmas treats from the Sunday School Christmas Program cast

The Deaconess Ministry distributed stuffed stockings to the cast of the Christmas Program



Junior Brotherhood: Growing Together in Faith and Fellowship

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

What an exciting year it's been for the junior brotherhood! This year, our young men came together for a memorable 3-day retreat at Morris College, dove into scripture through our Bible Bee, raced and cheered at the Track & Field Meet, and bonded under the stars on our Camping Trip. Each activity was designed to help nurture and guide our boys as they grow into strong Christian men—living out our mission to inspire leadership, faith, and friendship.

We want to give a special shout out to our very own Prem Grant who was selected to represent SC as the Master of Ceremony at the 27th Annual Walter Cade, Jr. Southeast Regional Laymen's Workshop.

We're grateful to the Bethlehem Baptist Brotherhood for their unwavering support, encouragement, and prayers. Your involvement makes every adventure possible and meaningful.

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday from 10:00 AM to noon in the Fellowship Hall come see what we're all about! We are open to all young men aged 6 to 17. If you're 21 or older and looking to make a difference, we invite you to join us as a volunteer in 2026.

Looking ahead to the first quarter of 2026, mark your calendars for these upcoming events: January brings Spiritual Gifts Assessments, February features our Soup for Souls service project, and March wraps up with a Spring Camping Trip. We can't wait to see what God has in store for us next!

Yours in Christ,

Junior Brotherhood Ministry

Get Involved Today!

For more information, scan the code to contact us.



Women's Bible Study

Women aged 41+

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 6:30 via Zoom

Young Women's Bible Study

Women aged 18- 40

Vision Board Party Jan 17, 11am -2pm Fellowship Hall

Community service, fun activities, rap sessions



BY: Deacon Randy Gilbert

How to Quickly Find Any App on Your Phone

If you know an app is on your device but you just can't spot it on your home screen, there's a simple way to locate it. Both Android and iPhone devices include a built-in search tool that makes this easy.

Follow these steps:

On iPhone

1. Unlock your phone and go to the Home Screen.
2. Place your finger anywhere on the screen and **swipe down**.
3. A search bar will appear at the top.
4. Type the name of the app you're looking for.
5. Tap the app when it appears in the results.

On Android

(Android devices vary slightly by manufacturer, but most follow this pattern.)

1. Go to your Home Screen.
2. **Swipe up** to open the App Drawer.
3. Look for a **search bar** at the top of the App Drawer.
4. Type the name of the app.
5. Select the app from the list.

Using the search feature saves time and keeps you from scrolling through multiple screens or folders. It's the fastest way to find any app on your device

BBC Intercessory Prayer Ministry Daniel Fast

Bethlehem's annual church-wide 21-day Daniel Fast is scheduled to begin on January 4, 2026, and end January 24, 2026.

Meet in the church sanctuary on Monday, January 26, 2026, for prayer, communion, testimonies and praise reports at 6:30 p.m.

For more information contact Deacon and Deaconess Gladman or follow this link <https://bethlehemprayerministry.org/>

New Laws & Updates for 2026

- **Solid Waste and Recycling**
[Find Your Collection Schedule Here](#)
<https://publicworks.columbiasc.gov/waste-wizard/>
- **Hands-Free Driving Enforcement (Feb. 28, 2026):** Prohibits drivers from reading, composing, or transmitting any text, email, app interaction, or website interaction on a mobile electronic device. It also prohibits viewing movies, video games, or participating in video calls while driving. \$100 for a first offense
- **Short-Term Rentals:** Continued moratorium on *new* short-term rental permits in residential zones. Existing rentals can renew, but *no new permits are being issued*
- **Business license renewals begin February 2, 2026.**
- **Liquor Liability & Tort Reform**
Venues that serve alcohol may be able to lower minimum coverage. Mandatory alcohol-server training is now required for those serving alcohol. Businesses will only be responsible for up to 50% of damages in drunk-driving lawsuits
- **Personal Privacy Protection Act**
Officers/judges can request removal of their home addresses, phone numbers, or certain property from government websites
- **SNAP Updates:** Benefits were updated Oct 1, 2025, and starting Aug 31, 2026, candy, energy drinks, soft drinks, and sweetened beverages are restricted

Don't let your ministry's efforts or personal accomplishments go unnoticed. Send your submissions of special moments to
BBCcpnewsletter@gmail.com