



1 Peter 5:2-3 NIV

²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

BBC Deacon's Corner:

BY: Deacon Michael Glover

We Are Here to Serve YOU

Do you know your deacon?

Every member of Bethlehem is assigned a deacon to support and assist you in your spiritual walk. If you have not connected with your deacon, we encourage you to do so—find out who they are and let them know who you are.

In addition to caring for our members, each deacon is also responsible for supporting the ministries of the church. Every ministry is assigned two deacons to serve as resources and support.

To all ministry presidents: do you know your assigned deacons? Please reach out to them and call them whenever you have concerns, questions, or challenges.

If you are not sure of your assigned deacon, please email Deacon Gilbert at randy.gilbert7@gmail.com.

Building strong relationships requires TEAMWORK—and together, we grow stronger in service and fellowship.

Deacon Michael Glover, Chairman
Deacon Oscar Edmunds, 1st Vice Chair
Deacon David Brown, 2nd Vice
Deacon Walter Ingram, 3rd Vice
Deacon Trent Barr
Deacon Franklin Black
Deacon John Campbell
Deacon Teddy Canzater
Deacon Chico Carter
Deacon Earl Gantt
Deacon Michael Gladman
Deacon Robert Gooden

Deacon Randy Gilbert
Deacon Willie Henderson
Deacon Theodore Jackson
Deacon Willie Metze
Deacon Jacob McKie
Deacon Celess Squirewell
Deacon Gregory Tucker
Deacon Charles Washington
Deacon Emeritus
Deacon Gary Bowens (E)
Deacon St. Clair Corbin (E)
Deacon Truman Dorsey (E)
Deacon Ralph Kennedy (E)
Deacon Willie Shuler (E)

Just For Fun Find all the Deacons (Last Name Only)

U S E Q Y B D X W C O R B I N Q Q N O E
T U C K E R O J F Q R H F C I N G R A M
E S C B R H R O K E S H F A Q O V T T U
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M C J G R A E G O O D E N P B B N S R A
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E F D A N A W R D R V X T K D D A M O C

Meet BBC's Newest Members

Contributor: Randy Gilbert



Darrell Harper



Betty James



Kaleleake Miller



Jhene Hollens

JERSEY
SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
SUNDAY

Wear your favorite team jersey and worship with us!

02.08.2026
10:00 AM

1028 EASTMAN STREET, COLUMBIA, SC

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Established 1895

Inspirational Message

By : Evangelist Laura Gantt

COMMUNITY AND IMPACT

Community And Impact is described in **HEBREWS 10:24-25**, to encourage Christians to gather together to urge love and good work.

As believers we are not to neglect gathering together, but to use the community to stir up love and good works. This implies staying connected to the world and one another, while strengthening faith.

As we move toward spiritual maturity, with faith, hope and love that begins with the heart of the Christians life.

Our relationship with God begins with faith which helps us realize that we are delivered from our past by Christ's death.

As hope grows, we learn all that GOD has in mind for us that gives us the promise of the future.

And the love of GOD fills our lives and gives us the ability to reach out to our community.

Christians are designed to grow in community not in isolation.

Wiley Kennedy Family Life Center

Weekly Programs

- Aerobics: Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
- Food Pantry Distribution: Fridays – 10:00 AM
- Children's Church: 2nd & 4th Sundays – 9:00 AM
- Senior Bingo 3rd Tuesday - 10:00 AM

Leadership Retreat January 20- 23, 2026



TECH ZONE:

Turning Off Your Phone: Is It Getting Harder?



BY: Deacon Randy Gilbert

Have you noticed that it now takes two hands to turn off your cell phone? With recent updates—on both Android and iPhone—the simple one-button shutdown has become a bit more complicated. Fortunately, there are easier alternatives that don't require holding multiple buttons at once.

Below are quick tips for both Android and iPhone users.

Android: Quick Way to Power Off

1. Swipe down from the upper right corner of your screen.
2. Look for the power icon in the menu.
3. Tap it to Power Off or Restart your phone.

Just a couple of swipes—no need to press and hold two buttons.

iPhone: Quick Way to Power Off

1. Open the Settings app.
2. Scroll down and tap General.
3. Scroll to the bottom and select Shut Down.
4. Slide to power off.

This avoids the newer two-button method and can be done one-handed.

Congratulations:

Mr. Dwight and Mrs. Sherronda (Bridges) Penn. May their union be blessed with love, peace, and prosperity for many years to come!



BBC Young Women's Bible Study Ministry

The Butterflies Announce



Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15 AMP

Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skilfully teaching the word of truth.

Email: bbcwbs25@gmail.com

Text: 803-517-1426

Congratulations:



Dr. Jacqueline Walker Mobley

2025 Graduate of Columbia International University with a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership.

"To say I "Proud of Myself" is an understatement! I began this journey in the midst of Covid-19. My kids were being home schooled virtually, I built my real-estate accounting business along with Avon, continued through the uncertainty serving in ministry. Through it all... God sustained me! He protected my mind; He encouraged my spirit and gave the strength to finish. I am forever grateful! Glory! Hallelujah!

I am Dr. Jacqueline Walker-Mobley, a 2025 Graduate of Columbia International University!

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Monthly Ministry Rotation & Food Focus System

We are implementing a "Ministry of the Month" rotation. This distributes the responsibility across the church and ensures a steady variety of supplies.

Monthly Ministry Rotation & Food Focus

This schedule aligns food types with seasonal needs (e.g., soups in winter, snacks for back-to-school).

Month	Lead Ministry	Type	Theme	Primary Food Items to Collect
Jan	Elders/Deacons	Winter Warm-up	Canned soups, stews, chili, and saltine crackers.	
Feb	Trustees	Hearty Proteins	Canned tuna, chicken, spam, and beef jerky.	
Mar	Deaconess Ministry	Breakfast Bar	Cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix (add-water only), and syrup.	
Apr	Greeters /Ushers	Pasta Night	Spaghetti, macaroni, rotini, and canned pasta sauce.	
May	Pulpit Aid	Side Dishes	Rice, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, and helper meals.	
Jun	FLC/Foundation	Summer Snacks	Granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, and popcorn.	

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

Cedine Ladies Retreat

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 at:

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

2026 Fees

Early Bird \$165.00/per person (Before March 24)
Regular Fee \$200.00/per person (After March 25)

Thank you,
2026 Cedine Ladies Retreat Committee

Bowling at Royal Z

Attention Everyone! You asked for another round to roll, so let's make some strikes!

Join us on Saturday, February 7th for another Fun Day of Bowling at Royal Z Bowling Alley, located at 8512 Two Notch Rd. Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Cost: \$10.00 per person (includes shoes)

If you're interested, please sign up on the sheet located in the vestibule. For more details, contact Sister Stroman or Trustee Thomas at 803-479-7029.

Just For Fun

Answer Key



Submitted by Deaconess Sharon Gladman, Chairperson
Intercessory Prayer Ministry

As a church family, we began 2026 in a posture of praying and fasting, asking God to bless us indeed! Evangelist Lottie Brown was the speaker at the New Year Prayer Breakfast, where the Jabez Prayer from 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 was shared. In addition, a Jabez Prayer Guide was given to the members.

The sound of prayer was amazing when members prayed together in groups. We thank God for a Spirit-filled atmosphere, where a movement of the Holy Spirit was evident, prompting prayer and the Laying of Hands on Pastor McCallum.

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry relaunched a newly designed website (bbcprayerministry.org) that was instrumental in the success of communicating this year's theme and vision for Bethlehem's 21 days of praying and fasting. Utilizing the devotional book, *Thirsty*, by Jamie Morgan, members were able to view a video of prayer warriors presenting the "thirsty" prayer focus for the day and a prayer of intercession. Food demonstrations and Daniel Fast recipes are also on the website.

The finale of the 21 days of praying and fasting ended in a celebration program on Monday, January 26th, where members shared testimonies and praise reports and had prayer and communion. A delicious spaghetti dinner was had by all as we fellowshipped together.

There are some things that will only be changed because of prayer and fasting. Would you want to miss something that God has for you only because you did not pray and fast?

Matthew 17:21: However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

Members can join the Intercessory Praying Ministry via Zoom every Monday at 6:00 p.m. and every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. In addition, "Meet Me at the Altar" is held every first Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Prayer Breakfast Jan 3, 2026



What does a spa day have to do with Women's history?

A women's spa day aligns with Women's History by honoring self-care as strength. Throughout history, women carried families and movements. Creating space for wellness recognizes their resilience and affirms that women deserve rest, restoration, and joy—not just responsibility. We are pleased to offer spa-related and home-based vendors the opportunity to host a booth and share products or services with attendees. This is an unpaid opportunity designed to provide exposure, build connections, and reach new clients in a supportive environment. We welcome businesses offering handmade bath and body products, custom aromatherapy, Scentsy, Mary Kay, Avon, and similar self-care brands. For more information: Contact Sis Gooden at 915-422-7006.

January 17

Sunday School students attended **CHAD LAWSON COOPER's justice on trial reloaded**. The plot features two fearless civil rights attorneys suing the U.S. Department of Justice for historical and ongoing grievances, bringing iconic figures to life to testify, including: Emmett Till Harriet Tubman Medgar Evers & W.E.B. Du Bois



African American History Facts

By: Jennifer Gooden

Editor's Note: The following article contains graphic historical accounts of physical violence, systemic abuse, and sexual assault. These details are shared not to sensationalize, but to accurately honor the immense courage and survival of those who endured the unthinkable.

Unbroken: The Bizarre and Beautiful Defiance of the Stolen

History is often taught as a series of dry dates, but the reality of the African American struggle is filled with stories so outrageous they sound like fiction—until you realize they were fueled by pure, unyielding grit. From a man who literally stole a Confederate ship to a woman who successfully sued her kidnapper a century before the Civil Rights Movement, these heroes didn't just survive; they pulled off the impossible. Prepare to be stunned by the audacity and the absolute triumph of these six extraordinary souls.

- **Henrietta Wood (c. 1818–1912):** After being kidnapped and sold back into slavery as a free woman, she did the unthinkable by suing her captor and winning a \$2,500 settlement in 1878. She remains the only person known to have successfully sued for and received individual reparations for her enslavement, using the funds to send her son to law school.
- **Mae Louise Walls Miller (1943–2014):** In a gut-wrenching 1961 escape, Miller fled a Mississippi plantation where her family was held in literal, "modern-day" chattel slavery nearly a century after the Civil War. They were whipped, hunted by dogs, and sexually violated by the landowners, making her eventual flight through the woods and her testimony to the Department of Justice a staggering victory over a nightmare that wouldn't die.
- **Robert Smalls (1839–1915):** In the middle of the Civil War, Smalls pulled off a move so bold it feels like a movie: he hijacked the CSS Planter, a Confederate ship, disguised himself as the captain, and sailed his family right past the enemy to freedom. He didn't just escape; he became a naval hero and eventually a U.S. Congressman.
- **Elizabeth Freeman "Mum Bett" (c. 1742–1829):** After hearing the words "all men are born free and equal" from the Massachusetts Constitution, she walked to a lawyer's office and sued for her freedom in 1781. She won, effectively bringing an end to slavery in the entire state through the sheer power of her own logic.
- **Cudjo Lewis (c. 1841–1935):** As a survivor of the Clotilda, the last illegal slave ship to reach the U.S. in 1860, his life was a bridge between two worlds. He survived the Middle Passage and the Civil War to help found Africatown, Alabama, a vibrant community where he spent the rest of his long life speaking his native tongue and preserving his culture.
- **Mary (c. 1800–unknown) and Polly (c. 1820–unknown):** This mother and daughter duo took on the Missouri legal system in the 1830s, winning two separate "freedom suits" by proving they had lived in free territory. Their victory is a heartwarming reminder that even in a rigged system, a mother's determination to free her child can move mountains.

These stories are a gut-punch of reality, but they leave you with a grin because they prove that the human spirit is far more resilient than any chain. They remind us that even in the darkest chapters of history, there were individuals who looked at the impossible and said, "Not today."