

Late-Fall and Winter 2022

# HOMECOMING



**Inside:** Advent, Remembering Those We've Lost, Upcoming Events, 1987 Celebration, Photo Galleries, and more!





The image shows the interior of a church. On the left, there are large, colorful stained glass windows with Gothic-style tracery. The windows depict various religious scenes. In the foreground and middle ground, there are rows of dark wooden pews. At the far end of the church, a pulpit and other altar furniture are visible. The ceiling is high with exposed wooden beams.

# Coming home...

Since 1887, Baptists have gathered in the town of Benson with the goal of sharing the gospel and making disciples. From that first worship service at the Dog Eye School, to the worship that happens every Sunday today, our calling to be an impactful presence in our community has not changed.

As we move forward, we share a home with all of those BBCers who've called our fellowship theirs since the very beginning.

As we continue to carry our faith "home" well beyond it's castle-like brick walls, we are reminded of our mission statement that calls us to action:

*Our mission, as ambassadors for and with Christ called by the Holy Spirit, is to praise and glorify God by:*

*Uniting in family fellowship with love, gentleness and patience.*

*Strengthening our own relationship with God through prayer, worship and Bible Study,*

*Ministering to the needs of individuals, and encouraging them to walk daily in Christ-like ways and*

*Proclaiming the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ beginning in the home, continuing in the church and reaching out to all people.*

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## Our Staff

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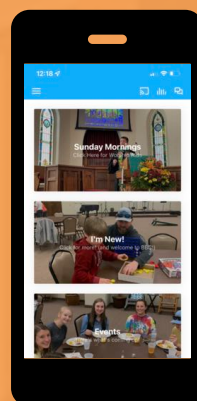
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Back

**Cover:** Top: the BBC Sanctuary  
in 2022. Bottom: the BBC  
Sanctuary circa 1920, over 100  
years prior.



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[@bensonbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/bensonbaptist)



[@bensonbaptist](https://twitter.com/bensonbaptist)



Search "Benson Baptist Church NC"  
on Youtube

[www.bensonbaptist.org](http://www.bensonbaptist.org)

Download the BBC App

# Pastor's Paragraphs

I'll admit that "homecoming" does not evoke strong emotions within me. Since I did not grow up in a local church, I did not get to experience the fried chicken, familiar faces, and seven-layer cake of a general homecoming experience.

I don't have any idea which church it was where I experienced my first homecoming service—honestly, I can't remember it at all (some of you must be thinking: "well, they must have not done it right.").

When I think of the church and home, however, my mind is not fully blank. You see, I moved around A LOT growing up. To this day, if you ask me my hometown, I will pause for a few minutes: "well, I graduated high school in Smithfield... but lived in Buies Creek for college as long as anywhere except Statesville..." I'll struggle to answer where my hometown is and often will just mumble "...well, you see, my mother was a nurse so it was easy for us to move..."

For many of you, "homecoming" evokes happy memories of luncheons and worship services sitting side-by-side alongside those who've been gone far longer than you've even realized.

For me, "homecoming" does not carry such emotions, but it does still carry strong memories.

I remember Olive Chapel Baptist, where I first entered a church of my own accord—and where I became a follower of Jesus. I remember New Horizons Church where I discovered that church could meet in a store-front and still offer Jesus, somehow. I remember Fairview Baptist where I was given the chance to lead in ways that I'd previously not in my fifteen years of life. I reflect on FBC

Smithfield where I found my calling toward higher theological education fostered. I reminisce about Bells Baptist, Baptist Chapel Baptist, Plymouth Church, Oakmont Baptist, Mosaic Church, and FBC Raleigh — places I would serve or worship that gave me the space to be the minister or lay leader God was calling me to be in that season.

You see, for me, the word "homecoming" does not evoke memories of any one place, but rather multiple places. Congregations where I was made aware of my calling, encouraged to explore it further, and given leadership opportunities to experience it first hand. I remember faces and the names of people who reminded me that God was always calling me to something more than I'd experienced to that point. I remember the desserts of grace with sides of encouragement.

Today, as we continue to seek where Christ is calling us as a congregation I know that, for many of you, "homecoming" brings you back to faces and places long gone. The memories might even evoke longings to go back to "the way it was." As someone who has been at BBC for only (almost) three years, I cannot share those feelings because I did not live them.

What I can fully say is that I know we follow a God who recognizes the fullness of the path we journey. I can say that I know that the God that guided your grandmothers and grandfathers and mothers and fathers is still guiding us today. I can say that the good news of Jesus has not changed as we move forward together.

I can also say that I know that Christ is calling us to a reality where "homecoming" is more than just memories— but also a challenge to ask "what's next?" How can we make this "home" even more Christ-like than it ever has been? This is our challenge. May we hear the God of *immeasurably more* calling us to home— but to oh, so much, more.



**Rev. Dr. Lawrence Powers**  
Senior Pastor  
[lawrence@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:lawrence@bensonbaptist.org)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence", with a stylized flourish at the end.



# All Saints Day 2022



On Sunday, October 30, we'll remember those we've lost since November 1, 2021.



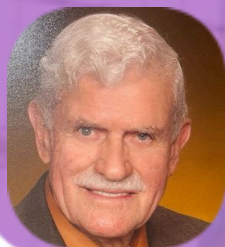
**Robert Rowland**

November 29, 2021



**Shirley Byrd**

January 17, 2022



**Jack Hester**

April 21, 2022



**Larry Martin**

May 19, 2022



**Faye Massengill**

September 19, 2022

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!



**Craig, Sarah, Lennae,  
and Bethany Kornegay**



**Greg and Amy  
Asbelle**



**Ainsley  
Blasius**

# WILL'S WHIMS

**H**omecoming. The dance every teen either looks forward to or dreads like a visit to the orthodontist. After all, there are a lot of factors to consider: Will I ask someone? Will I get asked? Do I even want to go? Do I have to actually dance? Events like these are hyped up to such an extent that they often leave teens reeling with anxiety. I myself am not a dancer. The youth can attest from this past summer's dance at youth camp. That said, neither is Lawrence. I strongly believe that when someone is called to ministry, they have to give something up. That something is the ability to dance.

The beauty of dancing though is that you do not have to be able to do it to enjoy it! Albeit, others might enjoy it more. In 2 Samuel 6, scripture tells us that David "danced before the Lord with all his might." So much so that Saul's daughter, Michal confronted him and made sure he knew how foolish he looked. David replied, "I was dancing before the Lord, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the Lord, so I celebrate before the Lord. Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!"

Intentional community, the way church is intended to be, is a dance. Sometimes we are good at it and sometimes we fall. Sometimes we wonder if we even want to go or if we have to dance at all. It is no easy thing, but that is what makes it special. Our children and youth ministries are thriving, and that is in no small part a reflection of our larger church family. We at Benson Baptist are an intentional community, and have been for 135 years. How might the next 135 years shape our community? How might we invite others to this dance? A dance that we are willing to look foolish doing because we are dancing for God.



**Rev. Will Raybon**

*Associate Pastor for Children, Youth,  
and Families*

[will@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:will@bensonbaptist.org)



# Retreat With Us in 2023!

In 2022, twenty six BBCers met in Oak Island, NC for our first annual Church-wide Spiritual Formation Retreat. Over the course of two nights we worshipped together, got to know one another, and explored the island and forts at Camp Caswell.

In March 2023 we're doing it again! You're invited to join us as we gather for worship, Bible study, fellowship, and a time of relaxation and rest.

## Details:

March 17-19, 2023  
Camp Caswell Beach  
Oak Island, NC

\$75 per person (\$200 family cap). \$50 deposit per person (\$75 for families) due January 5, 2023.

The retreat is open to all ages (infant-senior adults!). There is a special track for children run by volunteers.

## Sign-Up:

[bensonbaptist.org/  
caswell2023](http://bensonbaptist.org/caswell2023)



## October

Jennifer Teske 10-1

Austin Spears 10-2

Matt Frazier 10-4

Halle Adams 10-5

William Massengill 10-5

Beth Pate 10-6

Anne Lee 10-6

Debbie Smith 10-6

Reagan Vanek 10-7

Jake Vanek 10-9

Westin Vanek 10-9

Betsy Stevens 10-10

Sue Price 10-11

Maynard Barnes 10-13

Brian Naig 10-13

Braston Newton 10-13

Linda Herring 10-19

Charley Catherine Johnson 10-20

Tommy Rogers 10-21

Gayle Holmes 10-22

Belinda Kiziah 10-22

Robbie Hood 10-24

Kendall Tart Dunn 10-24



# The View from Debbie's Desk

**A**s I'm writing this. I'm a little emotional. As most of you know both of my parents passed away less than 2 years ago and only 6 ½ months apart. Today they would have been married 60 years. I had really been looking forward to celebrating their anniversary with them this year. 60 is huge to me. So special. They almost made it to 60 but no not quite. One good thing is that they're together now. They've had their homecoming. They are now with Jesus.

A little about how they became my parents. My birth mother got pregnant in the Army and was told she had to get out. She never told anyone who my birth father was. I've wondered if she even knew. She went home to Ohio to have me. Her brother (Lester) was living at home at the time. Mary (my birth Mother) went into labor and my Uncle Lester, and my grandmother took Mary to the hospital for me to be born. My Uncle Lester was there for me from the beginning. He was my rock. I could always count on him. He was my hero.

Mary had me before she was ready to have children. From what I've been told after I was born, she went a little wild. She married a guy and then had 5 more children. He ran away and didn't come back. She had 6 children to take care of on her own. I know that was tough. She used to pawn us off on her brothers and their families (she had 5 brothers), we would stay with them for a few weeks or months at a time. She always sent me to My Uncle Lester and his wife, Sandy's home. I stayed with them many, many times. When I was in 2nd grade, I stayed the entire year with them.

The summer before I started 5th grade Mary asked Uncle Lester and Aunt Sandy if I could go live with them again for a while. This time they told Mary that if I went to their home, it was to stay for good. That they wanted to adopt me. They told her that they loved me and that it was hard on them when I left. Mary didn't fight it. I went to live with them on

a trial basis. They told me that I had a choice of whether to live with them or not and that I would live with them until I decided. I was 10 and I was torn about what to do. I had loyalty to Mary and loved her, but you know how much I loved my Uncle! Plus, I had guilt about leaving my half brothers and sister. Some advantages living with my Uncle and Aunt were: I had food to eat every day, new clothes and a nice home to live in. There were rules but I liked that too. I came from a home with no rules. I found out that I liked the dependability of rules. Plus, they took care of me and made sure no harm came to me.

My Uncle and Aunt could see that I was struggling with my decision, so they sent me to spend a few days with my grandmother (Mary and Lester's mom) to decide. She convinced me that I would be better off with my Uncle and Aunt rather than my birth mom. We went to court. (Mary didn't show up to fight for me) I talked to the judge and then he ruled that the adoption could go through, and I was adopted that day. Uncle Lester and Aunt Sandy were now my Dad and Mom. I was officially home. It was where the Lord wanted me to be. It was my homecoming. I love both my Dad and Mom with all my heart. The Lord, of course, knew what was best for me and gave me the best parents anyone could ever ask for.

---

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,  
says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil,  
to give you a future and a hope."*

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)*

*Debbie*

**Debbie Champagne**  
Administrative Assistant  
[debbie@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:debbie@bensonbaptist.org)





# Children's Events

Tart's Mega  
Corn Maze

\$16

SUNDAY, 10/23 @ 3PM



TRUNK OR TREAT, GAMES, COSTUMES,  
CANDY, & MORE!

# FALL FESTIVAL

October 30, 2022

6:30 PM



BBC Kids

GAMES  
&  
S'MORES



M A R \_ \_ \_ \_ L O \_  
C H O \_ \_ \_ \_ T E

Friday, 11/4 @ 6pm





## Welcome Our Newest Staff Members!



**Jordan Hines**

*Contemporary Worship Leader*

[jordan@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:jordan@bensonbaptist.org)



**David Woolsey**

*Minister of Traditional Music & Organist*

[david@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:david@bensonbaptist.org)

## 2022-23 Diaconate & Committee Chair Cohort

### Deacons:

Connie Barnes  
Rayvon Best  
Diane Duncan  
Natalie Farris  
Marie Fox  
William Massengill  
Braston Newton  
Anita Tart  
Amy Whittington

### Committee Chairs:

**Baptist Men:** Chris Underwood  
**Bridge Club Women's Ministry:** Brandi Whitman  
**Baptism:** Sean & Natalie Farris  
**Benevolence:** Cari Willis  
**Budget and Finance:** Jason Hall  
**Church/Pastor Liaison:** Greg Asbelle  
**Emergency Preparedness:** Gregg Bennett  
**Flower & Social:** Beth Rogers & Anita Tart  
**Kitchen & Family Night:** Chris & Renee Underwood  
**Lord's Supper:** Rick & Belinda Kiziah  
**Memorials:** Michael Adams  
**Music:** Betty Wheeler  
**Nominating:** Elaine Massengill  
**Nursery:** Heather Powers  
**Outreach:** Margene Holak  
**Personnel:** Natalie Farris  
**Properties:** None  
**Scholarship:** Jane Pope  
**Sound:** Ken Tart  
**Ushers:** None  
**Van:** Rayvon Best  
**Youth & Children:** Brandi Whitman



Aleen Langdon 10-25

Mary Helen Paige 10-25

William (Billy) Herring 10-26

Jenna Hope Johnson 10-27

Tommy Dixon 10-28

Liz Whittington 10-28

Deborah Turner 10-29

Darlene Martin 10-31

## November

Emily Canaday 11-1

Daniel Powers 11-1

Cody Barnes 11-2

Josh Williams 11-2

Alyssa Newton 11-5

Vanessa Carrillo 11-8

Jaxon Frazier 11-9

Charles Tolley 11-11

Victor Barfield 11-12

Penny Hester 11-13

Mark Godwin 11-15

Judy Oberbauer 11-15

Kathy Byrd 11-16

Chris Spears 11-16

Lee Campbell 11-17

# Bentern's [Intern]al Thoughts

I am coming up on a full year here at Benson Baptist Church, I have learned and done a lot of things I never thought I would have the opportunity to do. The experiences that I have been given are allowing me to follow my dreams, and they are teaching me what I want to do with my life. This congregation has been so welcoming to me and has wanted me to thrive from the very beginning, even before I came on as the Ministry Intern. I appreciate that very much. From a person coming up and asking me about school, or theatre, or just life in general, I am forever grateful to this congregation and the start they are giving me.

If you do not already know who I am, my name is Benjamin Wright. I am originally from a very small village in North Carolina named Gold Hill, which is about 45 minutes north of Charlotte. I currently attend Campbell University, where I am double majoring in Christian Studies and Theatre with a performance concentration.

Once I am out of the undergraduate program, I intend on going to divinity school to pursue a masters in divinity, and become a youth or children's minister. Ever since I was about 9 years old I have wanted to be a minister. I bounced back and forth between different ministries, but once I got into college, I realized that I had a passion for both children's ministry and youth ministry. These passions ended up landing me here at Benson Baptist after looking around for ways to plug into the community, and plug into my own calling.

Since the beginning of the year, I have been given the opportunity to lead Sunday School, lead bible studies, plan events, plan and participate in trips, return over the summer as a CBF student.church intern, preach, and so much more. These events and opportunities that I have been given allow me to learn more about what ministry is like. Will Raybon and I work closely together to figure out what I am doing well and what I can grow in. Both Will and Lawrence have given me many chances to work with

people and things I had not worked with before. This has allowed me to come to an understanding of what real ministry is, and how much more passionate it makes me want to dive into working with, and growing our ministries.

I wouldn't say that I have a favorite thing that I have done, but one thing that I very much enjoyed was getting to know all of our youth. Over the summer we met almost every week to chat, do projects, and eat some great food. Getting to go with them to Unidiversity and the Fall Retreat, also allowed me to grow with all of our youth. I have also enjoyed the random conversations I have with our children in Sunday School or at events. They know how to make me laugh and they are wonderful students who know a lot! I have a lot of memories with both programs already and I can not wait to make more with them.

Thank you for investing time and effort into me, a college student who has a passion for ministry, and giving me the opportunity to be here. I do not think there is any way I could truly show my appreciation to everyone here who has given me the ability to learn. Thank you for all the memories that we have made together, and I am so grateful to all who have provided me with a smile, positive encouragement, or getting to know who I am. I have no plan on leaving this church for a while, and I am thankful that everyone is supportive of the ministry I do here at Benson Baptist Church.

**Ben Wright**

*Ministry Intern*

[ben@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:ben@bensonbaptist.org)





BBC Youth

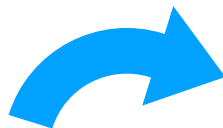
# NC STATE FAIR

Sunday, 10/16 @ 2pm

Cost: \$13



"Georgie" is the official mascot of BBC YOUTH



BBC Youth

# Christmas PARTY

DEC 10 | 6pm

BBC YOUTH

# BIG GAMES NIGHT

FRIDAY, 11/18 @ 6PM

Joy Lynn McGee 11-17

Erin Warren 11-17

Sue Guin 11-18

Donna Johnson 11-18

Jeffrey Jones 11-18

Rebecca Neighbors 11-18

Penny Dixon 11-22

Hilda Honeycutt 11-24

Lindsey Dixon 11-25

Sterling Holmes 11-25

Judy Johnson 11-26

Rick Kiziah 11-27

Bromley Royal 11-28

Heather Powers 11-29

## December

Loretta Byrd 12-5

Adleigh Mae Herring 12-7

Gordon McLamb 12-7

Laynelle Stancil 12-7

Ann Johnson 12-8

Avery Lynn Neighbors 12-9

Hannah Jernigan 12-12

Brian Killebrew 12-12

Natalie Farris 12-13

Brittany Adams 12-17

# fall festival 2022

Trunk-or-Treat is now **fall festival**! This year we're going bigger than we ever have before as we host a fun event for the kids of BBC AND the larger community! We'll have booths, trunk-or-treated up cars, an inflatable, food, and much, much more!

We need your help to make this event the best it can be! We are looking for:

- **Trunks\*** - You'll come early and decorate your vehicle (the theme is up to you) and give out candy to the kids that come to the event!
- **Booths\*** - You'll sponsor a booth and come up with a fun activity for kids (ideas: face-painting, crafts, games, and more!).
- **Tailgating Tents** - for the booths, we need to borrow your tailgating tents! If you have one we can use, let us know!
- **Candy** - We'll need LOTS of candy to make this event happen! You can donate candy in the drop box outside of Debbie's office or in the FH Welcome Center area.

*\*You can sign-up to host a booth or car in the Fellowship Hall Welcome Center area or by emailing [will@bensonbaptist.org](mailto:will@bensonbaptist.org).*



*Note: Not the actual set-up, just a mock-up to give you an idea of the scope of the new event!*



# ALL SAINTS' DAY

## REMEMBRANCE



# Baptism Sunday



## October 30, 2022

-- Unity Service @ 11:00 AM | BBC Sanctuary --

Come as we remember those we've lost and celebrate in the baptism and faith of those who've joined us!

*If you'd like to talk about being baptized this day, please contact a minister!*





## CHURCH

# Thanksgiving

## MEAL



SUNDAY, NOV. 20, 5:30 PM



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 24-25





Coming in  
2023

## Fellowship Sundays

Join us for ONE worship service on Communion Sundays as we share at the table of Christ together.

*More coming soon!*



## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

January 11, 2023



**Starts At 6 pm**

Returning January 8

# Sweater Weather Sundays

Food | Games | Fun



# Save the date

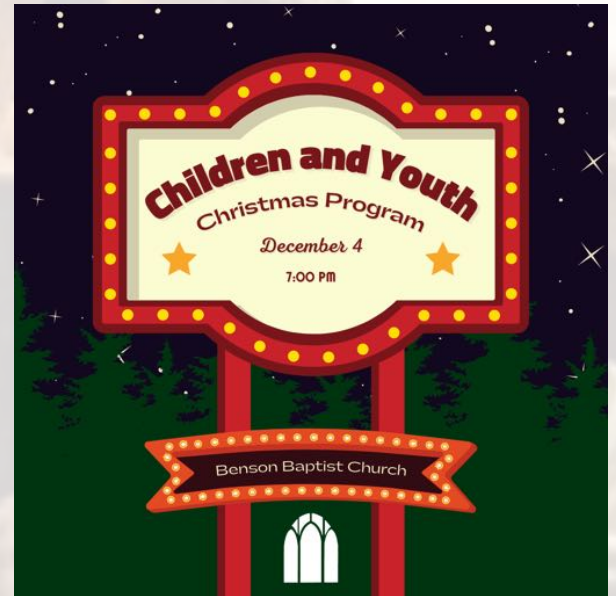
**MARCH 17-19, 2023**  
BBC Spiritual Formation Retreat  
Fort Caswell | Oak Island, NC



# The Countdown to Christmas Begins Again!



A  
D



V  
E



N  
T





# Vision Team Covenant

As our Vision Team gets closer to having our vision plan ready to share with the congregation, we wanted to share the covenant that has driven our conversations to date. We ask that you continue to pray for our Vision Team as they seek the Spirit's guidance for where Christ is calling us forward, together!

## **We love this church.**

### **We believe:**

In the future of Benson Baptist church,  
In each other,  
In a Spirit breathed process,  
In the balance between honoring traditions and affecting change,  
That we can accomplish our goals,  
That we are purposefully called,  
That the Spirit is with us,

### **We will:**

Be open minded,  
Envision all that church can be while honoring where it is,  
Prayerfully and respectfully challenge assumptions and habits,  
Pray for this group, for the visioning process, and for the mission of this church in this place,  
Dream without being afraid of new or creative ideas,

### **So that:**

Benson Baptist Church will grow, not for the sake of growing, but so that we might be a bigger blessing to the community,  
Benson Baptist Church can better do Kingdom work in this community,  
The church community and the community of Benson might recognize the Spirit at work,  
The team and the church will participate in expanding (and not limiting) God's work in the world.

### **The BBC Vision Team:**

*Natalie Farris, Brandi Whitman, Penny Hester, Diane Duncan, Kendall Dunn, Greg Asbelle,  
Rev. Will Raybon, Dr. Lawrence Powers*





Brittany Adams 12-17

Richard Johnson 12-17

Michelle Naig 12-17

Judy Warren 12-17

Janet Matthews 12-18

Devon Powers 12-18

Angelina Victoria Carrillo 12-19

Joshua Naig 12-19

Rene' Honeycutt 12-21

Earl Honeycutt 12-21

Loria Lay 12-26

Jane Pope 12-27

Sally Miller 12-28

Maria McQuade 12-29

Kara Johnson Stevens 12-30

## January

Cody Hoyle 1-1

Emi Poole 1-2

Bennett Coats 1-3

Joe Dunn 1-4

Bennett Harris 1-5

Robbie Harper 1-5

Victoria Lambert Carrillo 1-7

Emily Warren 1-8

Jan Hodges 1-9







Lois Hood 1-9

William Johnson 1-9

Caroline Massengill 1-10

Rodney Harris 1-11

Taylor Long 1-13

Clay Pope 1-14

Sheila Cagle Jones 1-15

Ainsley Blasius 1-16

Amelia Jackson 1-16

J.H. Langdon, Jr. 1-17

Jeffrey Lambert 1-17

Jenny Johnson 1-21

Jacob Dunn 1-23

Sandra Massengill Jones 1-24

John Paul Worthington 1-24

Dina Adams 1-25

Judy Kennedy 1-25

Mackenzie McGee 1-26

Chris Underwood 1-26

Larry Parker 1-27

Mary Bowman Aylin 1-28

C.C. Canaday, III 1-30



# From the Archives: Centennial Celebration, January 25, 1987

