

Ashe Baptist Association News



JANUARY
2026



OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM Monday—Friday
Location: 204 Beaver Creek School Road West Jefferson, NC
Mailing Address: PO Box 850 Jefferson, NC 28640
Phone: 336-846-5631 **Website:** www.ashebaptist.org

Appalachian
Bald Mountain
Beaver Creek
Big Flatts
Big Laurel
Blue Ridge
Bristol
Buffalo
Calvary
Farmers Memorial
Fletcher Memorial
Friendly Grove
Friendship
God's Will Missionary
Grassy Creek
Happy Trails Cowboy
Healing Springs
Laurel Knob
Liberty Grove
Little Helton
Midway
Mission Home
Mount Olive
New River
North Beaver
Oak Hill
Obids
Old Fields
Orion
Phoenix
Pilot Mountain
Pine Swamp
Pleasant Home
Pleasant Valley
Riverview
Round Knob
Trinity
Tuckerdale
Wagoner
Warrensville
Welcome Home

Preacher David's Corner

Rev. David Blackburn, Director of Missions

Email: domdblackburn@gmail.com



Christmas in Ashe Baptist Association 2025

High in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the mountain air turns crisp and the first shy flakes of snow falls down from a pearl-gray sky, the 43 churches of the Ashe Baptist Association prepared to celebrate Christmas. The mountains stand like ancient witnesses, their ridges dusted white, as steeples and modest church buildings glowed with warm light against the early winter dusk. Gravel parking lots filled with trucks and cars, and the sound of laughter and greetings carry with the cold air. Inside each church, the scent of pine wreaths, wood polish, and meals slowly cooked wrapped the congregations in comfort.

Choirs gathered beneath softly twinkling lights, voices rising in harmony. Old hymns echoed through sanctuaries both large and small—"O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World." Some choirs wore matching robes, others stood in everyday clothes, but every voice carried the same message of hope and joy. The music spilled out into the night, drifting across valleys and hills as if the mountains themselves were singing along.

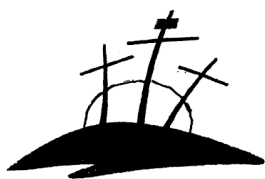
In fellowship halls and church kitchens, long tables filled with food prepared by loving hands. Steaming pots of soup, cornbread fresh from the oven, casseroles, and plates of homemade desserts are shared freely. No one was turned away. Church members served neighbors in need, families passing through hard seasons, and one another alike—because Christmas, they believed was meant to be shared. Conversations flow easily, stories are exchanged, and warmth fills every room despite the cold outside.

Children practiced eagerly for their Christmas pageants, their excitement nearly as bright as the stars over the mountains. Dressed as shepherds, angels, and wise men, they stood nervously at first, then proudly, as they told the story of Christ's birth. Small voices recited familiar words, sometimes stumbled, often smiled, always sincere. Parents and grandparents watched with misty eyes, reminded of how faith is passed gently from one generation to the next.

In the evening, adults presented cantatas—beautiful, reverent retellings of the Christmas story through song and Scripture. The choirs sang of Mary's quiet obedience, the shepherds' wonder, and the holy night in Bethlehem. Candles were lit, Scriptures were read, and silence settled briefly over the congregations, broken only by the soft sound of snow falling outside.

Gifts were given, not in abundance or extravagance, but with purpose and love—much like the offerings of the Wise Men long ago. Some gifts were wrapped, others were envelopes slipped quietly into hands, baskets of food, warm coats, or simple acts of kindness. Each gift carried the same meaning: honoring Christ by caring for others.

As Christmas drew near, the 43 churches of the Ashe Baptist Association stand united—not just by location, but by faith, service, and love. In the cool mountain air and falling snow, amid songs and prayers, meals and memories, the true spirit of Christmas lives on. And in the quiet moments between carols and candlelight, one could almost imagine the hills themselves bowing in worship, rejoicing in the season of Emmanuel—God with us.



Your Servant, David



AT APPALACHIAN CHURCH

One Night, Big Impact

APPSTUDENTS FUNDRAISING DINNER

February 7th 6pm

THIS FUNDRAISER WILL ASSIST WITH FINANCES FOR THE
TEENS TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP, MISSION TRIPS AND FUN
ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED, SO SECURE YOUR
BABYSITTER SOON!



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR TICKETS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 12	A- Rev. & Mrs. Steve Allen
January 17	A-Rev. & Mrs. Keith Woodie
January 18	B- Mr. Nathan McLeese
January 20	B- Rev. Steve Ashley
January 23	B- Mrs. Hope Bare
January 24	B- Mrs. Ann Farmer
January 29	B- Mrs. Elaine Cox
January 31	B- Rev. Gene Shumaker

Special thank you to Healing Springs Baptist, Orion Baptist, Welcome Home Baptist, Round Knob Baptist & Phoenix Baptist for your Christmas Cards & gifts to Linda & i. We appreciate it so much. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

2026 Ashe Baptist Associational Calendars
Come pick yours up today!!!!

**ATTENTION Ashe Baptist Associational Church Clerks
& ACP Contacts 2025 ACP's are due January 31, 2026!**
See Page 10 for info or call the office at 336-846-5631.

Thank you! 😊

Ashe Baptist Association

would like to thank our sponsors
for the Ashe Baptist News heard on WSKS
each Saturday and on SoundCloud on the Web.

Randy Marion Ford West Jefferson
Randy Marion Chevrolet - West Jefferson
Josh Harrold, General Manager

Tri-County Paving
Lucian and Patricia Jordan

Tri County Monuments
Mike and Lisa Peters

Riverside Excavation & Grading LLC
Shepherds Collision & Repair
Sam & Victoria Shepherd

We appreciate our sponsors & encourage you to call
them when you need their services!

Ashe Really Cares

336-846-5234

ashereallycares@gmail.com

ARC November Impact Report

Food Pantry

- 180 households served
- 420 individuals supported

Clothing Pantry

- 215 households served
- 581 individuals supported

The holiday season is a time of joy and celebration for many; however, for some, it can also be a time of hardship and isolation. Thanks to **Project Star**, ARC was able to nominate 18 of our senior neighbors for sponsorship and provide Christmas gifts from their personal wish lists. Sharing in the gratitude, smiles, hugs, and even tears made this experience incredibly meaningful. We are deeply grateful to everyone involved in this program for helping us deliver extra Christmas love and joy each year.

We are also thankful to **Quiet Givers**, who awarded ARC a \$1,250 grant to help address the increase in food insecurity caused by recent government cutbacks and shutdowns. This funding allowed us to purchase additional nonperishable food items to meet the growing needs of our community over the past few months. We are grateful for this partnership and their continued support of our neighbors.

Current Needs List

Food Pantry Needs

- Boxed or packet oatmeal
- Pancake syrup
- Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- 15 oz canned items: diced tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, mixed vegetables, and pinto beans

Clothing Pantry Needs

- Adult gloves and mittens
- Men's, women's, and children's winter clothing (long-sleeve shirts, sweaters, etc.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at **Ashe Really Cares**! A special thank you to every donor and volunteer who makes it possible for us to continue this ministry and serve our community.

Twila Miller

Director of Ashe Really Cares





READ
ALL
ABOUT
IT!

**HOPE FOR THE MOUNTAINS
PRAYER TEAM
MEETS EACH TUESDAY 8:00 AM
MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
EVERYONE IS WELCOME !**

GOOD SOIL MINISTRY would like to remind everyone that we accept your used literature and other materials monthly at Ashe Really Cares. This literature goes out all over the world to assist in aiding those you are spiritually orphaned. We do appreciate your support with this mission.

ASHE BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE
Rev. David Blackburn, DOM
Mrs. Debbie Miller, ABA Ministry Assistant
phone: 336-846-5631 email: ashebaptist@gmail.com

ASHE REALLY CARES STAFF
Mrs. Twila Miller, Ashe Really Cares Director
Mr. Nathan McLeese, Ashe Really Cares Assistant
phone: 336-846-5234 email: ashereallycares@gmail.com

We want to CELEBRATE with you and share the GOOD NEWS when exciting things are happening at the church you attend! Please send articles, pictures or flyers to our e-mail address at: ashebaptist@gmail.com, and we will announce on our WSKS weekly radio show, post on the events page of our website, ashebaptist.org, and on our Facebook Page, in addition to printing in this monthly newsletter publication that is posted in color on the website and mailed to 580+ folks in Ashe Co., all across NC, and neighboring states! As you set dates for church events, Special Singings, Revivals, or Speakers, let us know! You must submit articles for the Newsletter NO LATER THAN the 20th of each month in order for them to appear in the next month's publication.



Worthy is the Lamb!

**Life of Jesus Easter Special
March 26 - 28 & April 1 - 3 at 7pm**

Appalachian Church

787 RAY TAYLOR RD
WEST JEFFERSON

Reserve your seats now Appchurch.org!

Church Announcements

Bald Mountain Baptist –Come join us! Sunday School- 9 am and Worship Service -10 am. Wednesday night services are at 6: 30 pm. Pastor, Rev. John Elledge welcomes you to attend.

Big Flatts Baptist - invites you to join them each Sunday for Sunday School at 10 am & Worship at 11 am. Wednesday Evening Choir Practice at 6:30 pm and Bible Study at 7 pm. Sunday, January 25th- Baptist Men's Day- the Men's Choir will be providing our music and following the service, we will have lunch in the fellowship hall. Pastor Darien South & the congregation welcome you. The Church is located at 2373 Big Flatts Church Road in Fleetwood.

North Beaver Baptist- Welcome you to come and Worship with them at North Beaver Baptist Church, 8000 Hwy 163, West Jefferson, NC. Sunday School starts at 10:00 -Worship Services starting at 11:00 -Bible study and Prayer service, Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30, Pastor Matthew Tilley will be starting the New Year with a sermon series about "How to Live as a Christian"

Sermons for January

January 4 - "How to live as a Christian" (James 1:19-25)

January 11 - "Knowing and Doing God's Will" (2 Peter 1:1-11) We will have a Gideon Speaker coming to give us an update on their work & reemphasizing the importance of God's word in the life of the believer

January 18 -- Psalm 119: Praying the Scripture for "Insight & Holy Living"

January 25 -- Come join us for Baptist Men's Day, breakfast will be provided by the men of North Beaver Baptist Church, starting around 9:00.

No Sunday School, Worship Services starts at 11:00. Special Music will be provided by the North Beaver Baptist Church Men's Choir

Our Guest Speaker will be Pastor Gerald Hodges. Pastor Hodges has been working for the Three Forks Baptist Association in Boone and with Baptist on Mission (notably on their work overseeing Helene recovery work). Pastor Hodges is from Bethel Baptist in Vilas. Be in prayer about how you can be on a mission for the Lord in 2026! Everyone is welcome by Pastor, Rev. Matthew Tilley and the congregation.

Warrensville Baptist located at 130 Church St. Warrensville will have a Blood Drive on Saturday, January 3 9:30 am to 2 pm in the fellowship hall. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. For more info. Contact Beth Eastridge 828-406-8897. Pastor is Rev. Jackie Stone.



a day when churches across the nation come together to celebrate God's precious gift of life, remember the many lives lost to abortion, and reaffirm our commitment to protecting human life at every stage. Join us and millions of believers in churches nationwide to celebrate National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday this weekend. Pray for the unborn and the pro-life movement, asking the Lord to continue saving lives. Together, let's continue to honor the sanctity of life and stand united as voices for the voiceless.

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY The fourth Sunday in January is the designated day each year for Baptist Men's Day. Churches use this day to remind their entire congregation of the importance of Baptist Men's ministry within the church, community, and the world. In 2026, the 92nd observance of Baptist Men's Day falls on January 25. However, if January 25, is not a convenient date for Baptist Men's Day in your church, please feel free to plan it for any other Sunday.

Pastor Appreciation Banquet will be held Friday, January 9th -6 pm at the Bald Mountain Baptist Church Barn. Menu consists of Roast Beef, Chicken, vegetables, dessert and drink. Please contact the ABA Office 336-246-5361 or Bald Mountain Baptist Office at 336-877-1550 ASAP - to let us know your choice of meat and the number of people in your party. There will be games, prizes and lots of fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there! Bald Mountain Baptist Church is hosting and sponsoring this year's meal. We appreciate and thank Bald Mountain for doing this for us!

Ashe Really Cares Quarterly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6th @ 7:00 PM at the Ashe Baptist Conference Room. All Committee Members and interested folks are urged to attend.

Ashe Baptist Executive Committee Meeting Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, January 8th- 7 pm at Big Flatts Baptist Church. All committee members and pastors are urged to attend.

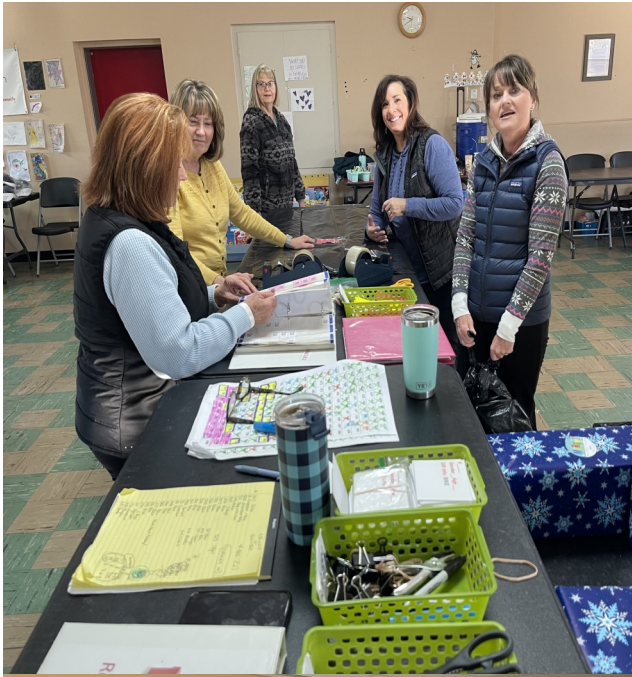
When you pray, please remember Mt. Olive Baptist, Pleasant Home Baptist, Liberty Grove Baptist, Riverview Baptist & Wagoner Baptist as they search for a pastor.

New Church Announcements: please send updated church information for the church you attend to: domdblackburn@gmail.com or ashebaptist@gmail.com. We will get all new information provided on the Saturday Radio Program, the www.ashebaptist.org and the November - January newsletters. Thank you.

2025 Ashe County Children's Christmas Project

Bikes and bags all in rows and volunteers anxious to hand out gifts to parents of Ashe County Children. Kinza Baptist Church handed out back packs to each child also! Gideons greeted everyone and gave out Testament's, prayers were prayed with many as another ACCCP goes down in the books!!!!

We appreciate everyone from donors to volunteers making it possible to help many families this year! Happy New Year to each and everyone!!!!





Gifts coming in from many, many donors and all gifts now on the gym floor at Family Central!!!!



Members of Kinza Baptist Church from Stanley County brought Back Packs for each child.







Building Resilience

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST AGING MINISTRY

STATEWIDE AGING WELL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

10am–2:30pm

Woodlawn Baptist Church

440 7th Street Place SW, Conover

Guest Speaker - Dr. George Fuller, Jr.

"Faithful Stewards of Life & Legacy"

To register or to learn more about this conference, please go to
<https://ncbam.org/events> or contact NCBAM at (877)506-2226.

ncBAM!



- 9:30am - Registration & refreshments.
- Cost - \$20 per person (Group rate for 10 or more \$18) includes conference materials, refreshments & lunch.
- There will be a special "give-away" at the end of the day.
- This conference promises to be filled with practical tools for building resilience into the daily lives of Senior Adults!

They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, Psalm 92:14 NKJV

2026 Presentations

A.I. for Aging Adults

A biblical view of the ever-changing landscape of Artificial Intelligence that will encourage & inform senior adults

Better Sleep

Throughout our lives, sleep patterns are impacted by our circumstances (newborns, work, volunteerism, retirement). Learn how to do a hard reset on your sleep patterns by providing real-life tips and applications for a better night's sleep.

Care for the Caregiver

Learn how caregivers can better care for themselves so they can better care for their loved ones, and how to better support the caregivers in your church.

Care Villages for Churches

Learn about this missional model of ministry for Aging Adult Ministry and how to implement it in your church

Disaster Preparedness

Learn practical ways churches can help aging adults be prepared for emergency situations

Down, But Not Out

Discover the symptoms of depression in aging adults and how to battle that in your life or in the life of others

Fall Prevention

Examine the keys to preventing falls and staying active and healthy longer

Let's Stop the Hurting

Study how to recognize elder abuse, what to do about it, and how the church can prevent that in your community

My Prayer Life for All Life

Using Jesus as our example - we'll explore how our prayer life can shake the Heavens & make an eternal impact for the advancement of His Kingdom

NCBAM Overview

Discover who NCBAM, how we can serve your church, and how you can make a difference in the life of aging adults

Reducing Stress

The Golden Years often present new stresses and participants will discover how God desires for us to handle these pressures & demands.

Scams & Frauds

Learning how to protect yourself and not become a victim of the latest scams & frauds.

ATTENTION

Ashe Baptist Association Church Clerk's

We value your on mission together partnership! Earlier this year, we shared some exciting changes to the Annual Church Profile (ACP) church survey for N.C. Baptists — featuring a new user-friendly [online form](https://ncbaptist.org/acp). Learn more about the benefits of this online form at ncbaptist.org/acp.

Beginning Jan. 1, we need your help to get every church to complete their 2025 Annual Church Profile! Churches who complete their ACP by Jan. 31, 2026, will be entered into a drawing to win a free weekend stay at Fort Caswell for their pastor. Your association can be an ambassador and advocate for this annual survey.

As a reminder, the submitted data for the 2025 ACP. Churches can complete their ACP at ncbaptist.org/acp.

Our goal this year is to have all of our Associational Churches to turn in their Annual Church Profile! If you need any assistance please call the Ashe Baptist Office at 336-246-5631.



THE DIGITAL
CHURCH SURVEY IS

QUICKER AND EASIER

THAN EVER!

**ANNUAL
CHURCH
PROFILE**

NCBAPTIST.ORG/ACP

The graphic features a background image of a church steeple. A dark square logo with a white stylized 'N' and 'B' is in the top right corner. The text 'THE DIGITAL CHURCH SURVEY IS' is in a sans-serif font. Below it, 'QUICKER AND EASIER' is in a bold, italicized sans-serif font inside a dark grey rectangular box. 'THAN EVER!' follows in the same sans-serif font. The words 'ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE' are in a large, bold, teal sans-serif font, with 'CHURCH' having a white outline. At the bottom, 'NCBAPTIST.ORG/ACP' is in a white sans-serif font on a dark grey background.



Ashe Baptist Association
PO Box 850
Jefferson, NC 28640

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Discipleship Tip of the Month

Happy New Year!

On New Year's Eve, the house fills again—not with gifts, but with hope. Bibles scripture are read, clocks are watched. At the final seconds, everyone stands still, holding their breath together.

When the countdown reached zero, it isn't a loud joy that arrives first, but a calm certainty. Christmas is now a fond memory, neatly wrapped and placed behind them. Ahead waited a year untouched, open as fresh snow.

We step into it smiling, carrying the warmth of Christmas forward, and greeting the New Year not as strangers, but as friends ready to begin again. God is in control so lets follow him in 2026!

January

- 1 Happy New Year
ABA/ARC Offices Closed
- 6 ARC Committee Meeting 7pm
@ABA Board Room
- 8 ABA Executive Committee
Meeting 7 pm at Big Flatts Baptist
- 18 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 25 NC Baptist Men's Day



2026 JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				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	29	30	31

February

- 8 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 16 President's Day
ABA/ARC Offices Closed



2026 FEBRUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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

March

- 1-8 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
North American Missions
- 8 Spring Forward
- 20 Spring Begins



2026 MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
29	30	31				