



The SPARK

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

August 4, 2026

Supply Pastor
Andy Barnes
(804) 837-0772



Music Director
Donna Hutchinson
(276) 393-5004

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, August 9

Sunday School
10 AM

Worship Service
11 AM

Wed., August 5th
Dinner at 6:00 PM

Wed., August 12
Dinner @ 6:00 PM
Andy Barnes Speaking
at 7:00 PM

Next Choir Practice
Wed., August 26
@ 7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 5th, 6:00 PM



Seeking Assistance

Martha Blackburn will be renting to 3 college students in a few weeks when school starts back at UVA-Wise. The boys are in need of single beds (long if possible), mattresses, and something to use as desks for classwork. If you have any of these items you would be willing to loan out, they will be well taken care of and returned to you upon their departure. Please contact Martha if you are able to help.

Cell: 704-473-0156

INSIDE

Prayer Requests	Page 2
Announcements	Page 2-6
Music, Etc.	Page 7
Opportunities	Page 8

DEACONS 2025 - 2026

John Mark Adrian	328-5564
Debbie Collins	393-3875
Jeff Elkins	393-5700
Ron Helton	393-6145
Lewey Lee	393-5370
Matt Meade	393-9177
John Ponish	870-1593
Ruby Salyers	870-0590
Ray Spenilla	639-2313

Deacon Emeritus:
Bob Adkins

How to Join Wise Baptist Church:

Express one of the following to the Pastor during the closing hymn:

- † **Transfer of Letter** Transfer membership to Wise Baptist Church
- † **Baptism** Desire to express faith in Christ through baptism
- † **Statement of Faith** Baptized believer not on a membership roll
- † **Watch Care** Desire to be connected to our Church family without official membership

A place for faith and fellowship with family and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving is an Act of Worship

Our stewardship of God's work at Wise Baptist Church is an opportunity of spiritual sacrifice. Our stewardship is an opportunity for each of us to express our love and gratitude to the One who has given us everything. And our stewardship allows us to be a part of God changing lives and souls.



For those who cannot physically attend Sunday morning worship services in the sanctuary, your tithes and offerings may still be mailed to Wise Baptist Church, P.O. Box 777, Wise, VA 24293 or brought by the Church office anytime during open hours.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Congratulations

Wise Baptist Church wishes to extend joyful CONGRATULATIONS to Beth Snodgrass, Karen Ponish, & Ron Helton upon their well deserved retirements from long-lasting, impactful, and successful careers!

The lives you have touched are too numerous to count, and we wish you many blessings for this next chapter of your journey!

With Love,

WBC

As you pray, please remember...



Leona & Jerry Jessee, Greg Johnson, Annie Tomlinson, Laquata Land, Linda Bailey & Family, The Edmiston Family, David & Sandy Mullins, Pauletta Hubbard, Janet Hensen, Stephanie Dellinger & Baby, Kathleen Rasnick, Peggy Stillwell, Deanna Adkins, The Family of Aaron Collier, Vicki Stephens, the family of Joe Bandy, Jeannie Knotts & Family, Terry Winters & Mom, Christy Kelley, Ann Wade, John & Diana Roberts, Dawn Hawes, Johnny & Renee Robinson, Robert Raines & Family, Family of Susan Rose, Gwyn Carlton, Lewey & Brenda Lee, Jerry & Wanda Baird, Cecil & Glenna Mullins, Alan Adkins, David & Natalie Luther, Irene Humphries, Mike Peak, Megan Moody, Jane Hughes, Grace Allio, Kathy Helton, Jim & Judy Sturgill, John & Kathy Kennedy, Jordan Joseph (grandson of Virginia Ebert), Jim & June Dotson, Cyrus Jones, Andy Johnson (Cyndi Newlon's brother), Lorna Wherry & Brian Plester (siblings of Brenda Kunigelis), Beth Snodgrass, doctors, nurses & all medical/pharmaceutical personnel, law enforcement & emergency personnel, all the cancer patients in our area, our men & women in the military, our college students' studies and jobs, and our pastor search committee.

Our Shut Ins: Andrew Johnson (Cyndi Newlon's dad)
Appalachia, VA

*If you know of other prayer concerns, please contact the church office (328-6247).

This Week's Scripture:

Proverbs 1:5, 8

5 Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.

8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Nominations

On Sunday, **August 9**, the Church will submit suggestions for 3 new deacons for the 2026-2027 church year.

- All suggestions will be received until 12:30pm on August 9.
- We are asking that each church member suggest 3 qualified Church members as new deacons.
- Suggestions will be received in 1 of 3 ways:
 - 1) Suggestion Slips will be provided to all *Church members* in attendance at the live service in the sanctuary on August 9.
 - 2) For members who are not in attendance at the live service in the sanctuary on August 9, an email may be sent to Jeff Elkins (jeff@jeffelkinsesq.com) with your 3 suggestions for new deacons.
 - 3) For those who cannot be in attendance on Aug. 9, but would prefer to use a written Suggestion Slip, please contact Jeff Elkins (jeff@jeffelkinsesq.com), and a deacon will deliver a Suggestion Slip to you to be completed at that time.

The following members are not eligible to be nominated as they are either already serving or are rotating off:

- Current deacons who are rotating off this year:
Jeff Elkins, Debbie Collins, Matt Meade
- The remaining active deacons are:
Bob Adkins (Emeritus), Ron Helton, Lewey Lee, Ruby Salyers, John Mark Adrian, Ray Spenilla, John Ponish

Please be in prayer about the leaders of our church that you may wish to offer as suggestions for deacons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Elkins (jeff@jeffelkinsesq.com).

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

New Pastor Search Committee email and announcement.

Dear Church Family,

The Pastor Search Committee wishes to inform the congregation that the previously announced Special Called Business Meeting to vote on the Committee's recommendation for our next pastor has been extended by one week.

Accordingly, the Special Called Business Meeting will now be held on Sunday, August 16, immediately following the morning worship service.

This one-week extension will provide the Pastor Search Committee with the additional time needed to complete the remaining steps in the process before presenting its recommendation to the congregation.

The notice previously provided to the church remains in effect, with only the date of the meeting being changed.

We appreciate your patience, your understanding, and, most importantly, your continued prayers as we seek God's will for Wise Baptist Church.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Committee, the prospective pastor and his family, and for our church as we move forward together in faith.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to gathering as a church family on August 16 for this important decision.

Wise Baptist Church
Pastor Search Committee

Additionally, please find links to other sermons he has done in the past.

https://youtu.be/FcSXwp64_N0

https://youtu.be/wF_UEmKnqg4

--

Sincerely

Jeffery L. Elkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Personnel Committee

Dear Church Family,

As we prepare for the upcoming church year, it is time to confirm that our church ministries are covered for another year.

This year, we are introducing a simpler and less time-consuming annual confirmation process.

Everyone who currently serves will receive a brief email listing their present ministry role or roles.

When you receive your email, simply hit Reply and confirm that you are willing to continue serving. That is all your Personnel Committee needs!

Thank you in advance for responding promptly—and, most importantly, thank you for sharing your time, gifts, and talents through the ministries of our church.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

—1 Peter 4:10



A new year of church programming will kick off with potluck tomorrow (Aug. 5) and I thought it would be fun to try something new. I would like to collect recipes from the Wednesday meals and compile them to share at the end of the

year. Church cookbooks are some of my very favorites, and we have many excellent cooks at Wise Baptist. When you bring a dish to potluck, or if you serve on a cook team, please bring a copy of your recipe. I will collect them, put them all together next year when we take our summer break, and make them available to all. What form that will take, I'm not sure yet, and suggestions are welcome. If you would like to include a couple of sentences about the origin of your recipe, that would be even better! I hope you will plan to participate.

Diane



As we begin another year of school, please be in prayer for our children and students, our teachers and staff, our leaders and community.

Make time to welcome back our College Crew.

Encourage and lift up our students, invest in their lives, and continue to make Wise Baptist Church a warm, loving home for them!

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, MUSIC, ETC.



July 28	Ron Helton Oliver Ray
July 30	Melissa Blackburn
August 1	Angie Brady Greg Hutchinson Matt Meade
August 3	Caroline Wilson
August 5	Maci Cantrell Morgan Meade
August 7	Abbie Crutchfield
August 10	Ben Duncan Maci Conway Lewey Lee



Happy Anniversary

August 2	Jamie & Stacy Hopkins
August 5	Jake & Caroline Jessee Chuck & Lulia Maine
August 8	Matt & Stephanie Collins
August 11	Johnny & Renne Robinson

WBC Music Ministry

In our fast-paced world, rest is often treated as a luxury rather than a necessity. Yet, from the very first pages of Scripture, God models a different rhythm for life. After six days of creation, “God rested on the seventh day from all His work” (Genesis 2:2). This was not because the Almighty grew weary, but to set a pattern for His people—a rhythm of work and rest that reflects His wisdom and care.

For Christians, rest is more than physical recovery; it is a spiritual discipline. The Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8–11) reminds us that rest is an act of trust. When we pause from our labor, we acknowledge that the world does not depend on our constant activity but on God’s sustaining power. In Christ, we find the ultimate fulfillment of this rest. Jesus invites the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest (Matthew 11:28–29), offering not only relief from exhaustion but peace for the soul.

In a world that glorifies busyness, choosing to rest can feel countercultural. Yet, it is in stillness that we hear God’s voice more clearly, in quietness that our hearts are renewed, and in Sabbath rhythms that our lives are reoriented toward what truly matters. Rest is not wasted time—it is holy time, a gift from God to restore our bodies, refresh our minds, and deepen our communion with Him.

I am leaving on my “rest period” on Saturday and will miss out on many important occurrences here in our church, but I know that with prayer, things will be as they are meant to be. Abbey will be leading our worship on August 8 and Andy Messick will be leading the entire worship service on the 16th. He will conduct the service the way he anticipates our worship services will be conducted if he is called here.

I’ll see you on the 17th of August and in the mean-time, I’ll get me some real rest. I love y’all.

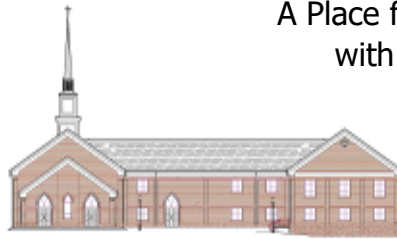
Peace, love & joy, Donna

Volunteers this Week

Deacons On Call	8/2-8/8	John Ponish, Ruby Salyers
	8/9-8/15	Jeff Elkins, John Mark Adrian
Building Stewards		Ron Helton, Scott Snodgrass
Instrumentalists		Susan Mullins, Susan Smith
Sunday School Greeters	August	Jack & Marsha Tolbert
Children's Church	August 9	TBA
Offering Ushers	August	Jeff Dotson Team
	September	Ron Helton Team
Tellers	August	Matt Meade, Mike Strouth
	September	Cliff Carson, Jeff Dotson
Wed. Night Meals	8/5	Potluck Sherry Collie, Diane Cornett
	8/12	Hot Dogs, Slaw, Baked Beans Teresa & Team



A Place for Faith and Fellowship
with Family and Friends



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Worship	11:00 am
Monday	Piecemakers (1st, 3rd, 5th)	9:00 am
	Caring Friends (2nd & 4th)	
Wednesday	Dinner	6:00 pm

A MERRY HEART
DOETH GOOD
LIKE A MEDICINE.
PROVERBS 17:22

Phone: (276) 328-6247 Website: www.wisebaptist.com Email: matt@wisebaptist.com Fax: (276) 328-6204

Wise Baptist Church
P.O. Box 777
Wise, VA 24293



Like us at:
Wise Baptist Church

TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR
HEART
(proverbs 3:5)

Thought for the Week:

Sin-Burn
is prevented by
Son-Screen

