



RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPITIVE PURPOSE

SEPTEMBER 2025

Just
IN THE
Love

WITH ALL YOUR HEART



SEPTEMBER 2025

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"EMBODYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN AN UNPEACEFUL WORLD"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**"Happy Birthday to You" • Public Relations Ministry's Anniversary
Recognition • Meetings and Rehearsals**

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18).



SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

GODLY WISDOM: A TREE OF LIFE

Prayer of the Month

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed. My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck (Proverbs 3:13-14, 18, 21-22 NIV).

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word, which reminds us of the importance of asking You for godly wisdom when we feel that we are lacking in understanding or discernment. You have promised to give generously to all who ask in faith.

We ask for wisdom from above to build up others, to speak words of wisdom and grace to encourage others, and to bear with one another's weaknesses and spiritual immaturity with patience and love.

Lord, we thank You for Your Son Jesus, our Lord and Head of the Church universal. We pray for a spirit of wisdom and revelation to the Body of Christ that we know the hope of our calling.

Gracious Father, we thank You for continual wisdom as we individually and as one Body in Christ seek to fulfill the redemptive purpose for which You created us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Julia M. Dinkins



SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

OUR FATHER ANSWERS PRAYERS

Monday's Prayer

The Lord/Jesus knows all about our troubles. He is there till the day is done.

Lord, I praise you and thank you for your presence in our lives. Lord, you are an everlasting presence during our times of storms. If not for your merciful and gracious presence that keeps us, what would we do? For you are the one and only God/the one and only Living God. Father, it is you that answers prayers, collectively and individually. You are our Alpha & Omega.

Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable love for each of us--that undying love. Father, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Count your many blessings one by one. (SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.)

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Deacon Wallace Dinkins

Gentleness: **Fruit of the Spirit** *An humble and considerate demeanor, reflection of Christ's meekness*

The way a Christian engages with others is what the fruit of gentleness is all about.

The ability to discern when to use a gentle word is an invaluable gift of the Spirit. This is especially the case in tense moments when unkind words or manners are typically the first response. The Christian who responds with gentleness is a true reflection of Jesus and the kingdom of God.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1 NIV).

The Bible-project

CHURCH TRENDS *A Ministry of Service*



More than 71% of predominantly Black congregations name serving their local communities as a top priority, compared to 58% of predominantly white churches.

Service to those in need is a bedrock value of Christianity, spelled out in Matthew 25:35. In it, Jesus instructs his followers to provide care for the hungry and thirsty, the sick, the naked, the incarcerated and the stranger.

At least 23% of Black Protestants identify with historically Black denominations

Religious affiliations of Black Protestants

Historically Black Protestant denominations	23%
National Baptist Convention USA	9
Church of God in Christ	6
African Methodist Episcopal	3
National Baptist Convention of America	2
Progressive National Baptist Convention	1
African Methodist Episcopal Zion	1
Christian Methodist Episcopal	1
Full Gospel Baptist	<1
Other Black churches	<1
Vague or ambiguous affiliations (e.g., “just Baptist” or “just Pentecostal”)	32
Independent Baptist	10
Protestant/Christian not further specified	7
Baptist not further specified	7
Apostolic Pentecostal	3
Pentecostal not further specified	2
Missionary Baptist	1
Holiness not further specified	1
Methodist not further specified	<1
Others	1
Nondenominational	15
Evangelical or mainline Protestant denominations	30
	100

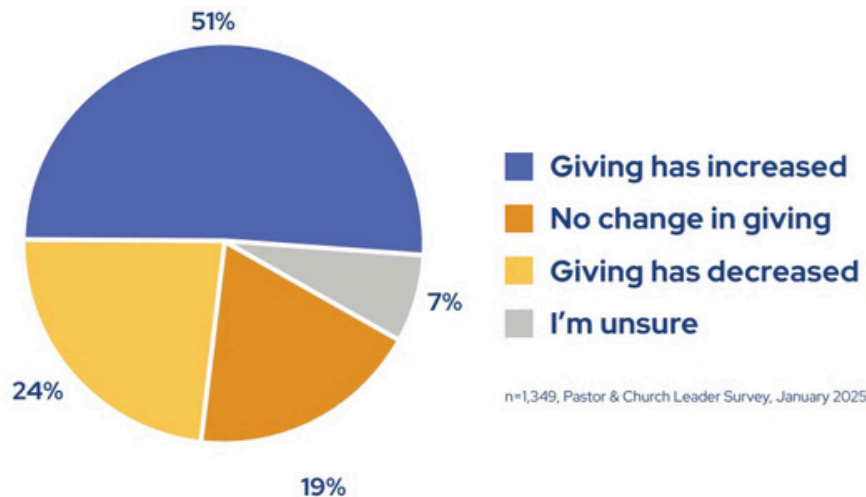
MINISTRY IMPACT



Giving is Up

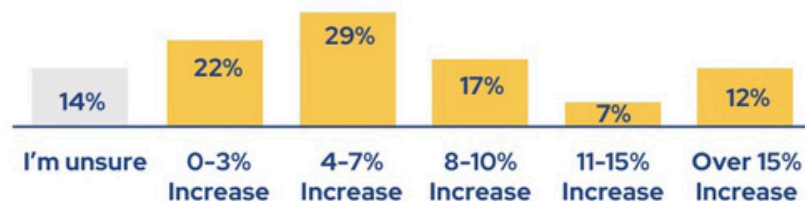
In 2024, 51% of surveyed churches reported an increase in giving, a trend seen consistently across both Catholic parishes and Protestant churches.

CHURCH TRENDS *Giving Is Up*



Among churches that reported an increase in giving, the most common growth range was 4-7%.

How much has giving increased in 2024?



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

TEXT
CONTEXT

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Biblegateway.com. John 4 :19-24 NJKV.

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September is National Preparedness Month, . . .

highlighting emergency readiness and fall safety, including topics such as flood safety, wildfire safety, winter-weather preparedness, and power outages.

Additionally, it's National Food Safety Education Month, focusing on preventing foodborne illnesses. September also includes Pedestrian Safety Month, emphasizing safe practices for both pedestrians and drivers.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COUNTY FAIR TO FESTIVAL: Great Family Fun



Sumter Fair by American Legion Post 15

 FALL FAIR DATES ~ SEPTEMBER 9-14,
2025!



LaShonda Garvin

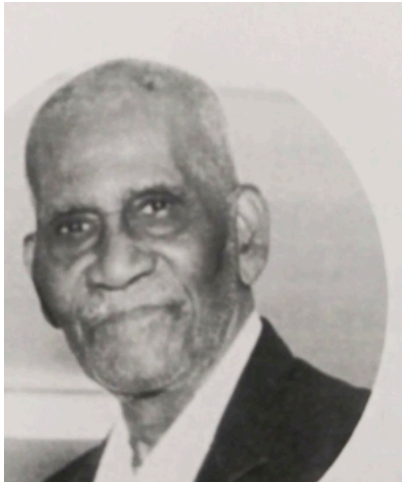
LaShonda Garvin, daughter of John and Steral Singleton, is a proud 1996 graduate of Hillcrest High School. She continued her education at Armstrong Atlantic State University, where she earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education.

Residing in Savannah, Georgia, LaShonda has dedicated nearly 14 years of service to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System. She currently serves as the Assistant Principal at Garrison School for the Arts, where she is committed to fostering academic excellence and supporting students in their educational journey.

Besides her professional responsibilities, LaShonda is actively involved in her church and treasures the time she spends with her children.



FROM THE PAGES OF OUR HISTORY



Loman Brooks Sr.

Mr. Loman Brooks Sr. was a farmer, construction worker, and mill worker. Saved at a young age, he was a faithful member of Rafting Creek Baptist Church. When he was the oldest male elder at Rafting Creek, he was honored as the "Father of the Church." He was a son of the late Thomas Sr. and Jeretha Miller Brooks.



Thomas Boston "TB" Wright

Mr. Wright was a visionary who understood the concept of economic development and empowerment. Not only did he succeed economically, but he also helped others with homes and farming and provided jobs opportunities when he owned and operated a cotton gin, saw mill, country store, syrup mill, and community hall. He and his family also providing land for Rafting Creek Elementary School and to Rafting Creek Baptist Church. He served as a deacon at Rafting Creek Baptist Church and was an active member of the Wateree Baptist Association Lower Division.

FROM THE PAGES OF OUR HISTORY

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS



Do you see yourself in one of these children's choirs? Do you recognize any of these members? Let our church clerk know.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR: Myra C. Wright

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

SEPTEMBER Celebrants

**Wishing you a day filled
with joy of GOD'S
presence and the
peace of His promises.
"Happy birthday day to
you. Happy birthday."**



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

The essence of worship lies in our mind's true vision of God and our spirit's authentic affections for God. This means that whenever we display the worth of God by words or actions that flow from a spirit that treasures him as he really is, we are worshipping in spirit and in truth.

crossway.org

When we worship the Lord in spirit and truth, we encounter the transformative power of God. His Spirit ignites our hearts, renewing our passion for him and aligning our lives with his purposes. In the presence of the Almighty, we find joy, peace, and strength to navigate life's challenges.

[Today Daily Devotional](#)

To say that we must worship God “in spirit” means, among other things, that it must originate from within, from the heart; it must be sincere, motivated by our love for God and gratitude for all he is and has done. Worship cannot be mechanical or formalistic. That does not necessarily rule out certain rituals or liturgy. But it does demand that all physical postures or symbolic actions must be infused with heartfelt commitment and faith and love and zeal. . . . This worship, however, must also be “in truth.” This is easier for us to understand, for it obviously means that our worship must conform to the revelation of God in Scripture. It must be informed by who God is and what he is like.

thegospelcoalition.com

Detailed Breakdown of Key Safety Topics for September

National Preparedness Month

- General Preparedness
- Specific Hazards
- Flood Safety
- Wildfire Safety
- Winter Weather
- Power Outages
- Lead Safety



From AI Google Overview

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Detailed Breakdown of Key Safety Topics for September

National Food Safety Month

- Food Safety Practices
- Salmonella Awareness

Other Notable Safety Topics

- Pedestrian Safety
- Driver Safety
- Night Driving
- Wildlife Awareness
- General Health



**PUBLIC
RELATIONS
MINISTRY'S**

*Anniversary
Recognition*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS

*Meetings and rehearsals will be held as scheduled,
Monday through Saturday.*

Morning Prayer

Monday–Friday, 6:30am

Deacon Ministry

Thursday, Before 1st Sunday, 6pm

Brotherhood

2nd Saturday, 9am

Inspirational Choir

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am

Tuesday Bible Study

6pm, via Zoom & Conference Call

Ministers & Deacons Spouses Ministry

3rd Saturday, 12pm

Pastor's Aide Ministry

2nd Saturday, 11am

Senior Missionary Ministry

2nd Saturday, 12pm

Scriptural Presentations

Thursday, 6pm

Young Women's Auxiliary

1st Saturday, 10am

Trustee Ministry

2nd Wednesday, 6pm

Winter Months, TBA

Public Relations Ministry

1st Tuesday, 7pm

Via Zoom

Public Relations Ministry

Wallace Dinkins

President and Editor

Alvenia Drakeford Dinkins

Web Editor/Content Manager

Myra C. Wright

Connectional Contributor/Secretary

Nancy Dinkins

YouTube Video Specialist

Emma Dinkins-Jackson

Health & Wellness Specialist

Bonnett Nash

Researcher/Chaplain

Nylasia Alston

Video Specialist

Julia Dinkins

Graphic Designer/Content Creator



RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPITIVE PURPOSE

The Reverend Melvin Mack, Pastor

2025 THEME

Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World

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Phone: 803-432-5411

Facebook: www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@raftingcreekbaptistchurch>

**Join us on Sunday for Sunday Church School at 9AM,
in person, and worship service at 10AM, in person or via Facebook
livestream.**

Melvin Mack, Minister