

January 2023

# RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE*

# 2023

*Living Our  
Redemptive  
Purpose*



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*As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends. Let us keep God--of our own understanding--in our hearts and chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right.*

*Let us remember that we are all one, discriminating against none [and] embracing all.*

*May your year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.*



# OUR 2023 NEWSLETTER FEATURES IMPACT SECTIONS

Greetings from the Public Relations Committee's newsletter team! We are delighted to share another year of news about the ministries of Rafting Creek Baptist Church. The newsletter is now organized into **Impact** sections, all of them telling the story of how we are *growing as a church with a redemptive purpose*.--Alvenia Drakeford Dinkins, Editor-in-Chief

## 01

**SPIRITUAL  
IMPACT**

The Spiritual Impact section provides information that uplifts and encourages Rafting Creek Baptist Church members and friends as well as enriches Christian development as we collectively and individually move toward our redemptive purpose. Expect to see prayers, scriptures, and messages that encourage engagement with God's Word.

## 02

**HEALTH  
AND  
WELLNESS  
IMPACT**

The Health and Wellness Impact section informs and encourages Rafting Creek Baptist Church members and friends to live healthfully in "body and mind." This section focuses on the entire healthful-living spectrum. Look for information about whole-person health: maintaining and restoring health, promoting resilience, and preventing diseases across the lifespan.

## 03

**MINISTRY  
IMPACT**

The Ministry Impact section shares information on the work of the ministries of Rafting Creek Baptist Church: building up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:12). Look for information from our ministries about meeting people's needs with love and humility and devotion to Christ.

## 04

**CONNECTIONAL  
IMPACT**

The Connectional Impact section focuses on the importance of connectedness across communities. Look for information about family life, birthdays, Sumter County, SC, the Wateree Association, and connectional conferences.

# SPIRITUAL

## EPIPHANY

### God's Revelation to the World

*Epiphany means “appearance or manifestation.” Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6--[twelve] days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as “Three Kings Day.” On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles [were] represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God’s gift of the Good News is for all people. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus’ baptism on this day. His baptism revealed [H]is identity to mankind. In the East or the West, Epiphany celebrates God revealing [H]imself to the world.*

<https://www.christianity.com/>



# SPIRITUAL

## NEW YEAR'S SCRIPTURES New Creations Following God's Will

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. – 2 Corinthians 5:17**

*Paul has written that Christ's death for sin has changed the way he regards people. Instead of looking at each person as a mere human being, he must view those who are in Christ as something entirely different. Those who are "in Christ" are those who have faith in Him, credited with Christ's righteous life, and their sin forgiven by Christ's death in their place. Such people are new creatures. . . Their identity has changed from being the fallen version of themselves, to being associated with the righteousness of Christ. That's who they are now.*

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Solomon offers sound advice for life. Human understanding is always subject to error. What appears to be the right choice may be the wrong choice. But the Lord sees the big picture and He always knows what is best for us. If we want perfect direction in life, . . . in all our ways we should acknowledge the Lord. He will not only guide us in the right way but also remove obstacles from our path. The apostle James admonishes us to consult the Lord's will when we need to plan our days (James 4:13-15). This doesn't mean we'll get answers to every question we might ever have. A blunt figure of speech used in English points out that life is already hard, and it's only harder when one makes foolish choices. Following God's plan and His will is a good way to avoid added struggle.*

Commentary quotes are from <https://www.bibleref.com/>.

# SPIRITUAL

## NEW YEAR'S SCRIPTURES New Creations Following God's Will

**And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25**

*Christianity is not a faith which God intended to be lived out alone. Encouraging others and being encouraged by others are both central to the life of an obedient believer. . . . Personal contact with other Christians is not merely suggested by the Bible: it is commanded. Relationships with other believers are one way to be encouraged to live out the faith we proclaim. We are called on to "hold fast," through our own spiritual maturity. Growth in faith, however, is greatly influenced by having Christian examples around us.*

**You crown the year with your goodness and your paths drip with abundance. – Psalm 65:11**

*God crowns the growth cycle with His goodness. Wherever His feet have passed, the stream of plenty flows. . . . The pastures yield rich supplies of fodder. The little hills are covered with lush vegetation, as if hilarious with joy. The pastures wear a sheepskin coat, clothed as they are with innumerable flocks. Ripened grain bends in rhythmic cadence across the floors of the valleys. It seems that all nature is celebrating the arrival of the age of the Messiah.*

Commentary quotes are from <https://www.bibleref.com/>.

MacDonald, W. (1995) Believer's Bible Commentary. Thomas Nelson Publishers. Nashville, TN.

# SPIRITUAL

## NEW YEAR'S SCRIPTURES New Creations Following God's Will

**For nothing will be impossible with God. – Luke 1:37**

*For with God nothing shall be impossible. That is consistent with his nature and perfections, with his counsels, purposes, and promises: every thing that he has said, purposed, or promised, he is able to do, and will; every word that he has spoken, every thing predicted by his prophets, or declared by his angels, and particularly this of a virgin's conceiving and bearing a Son: so that the angel not only answers her question, how this should be, but confirms her faith in it, partly by the instance of her cousin Elisabeth, and partly by observing the infinite omnipotence of God.*



Commentary quote is from [biblehub.com](https://biblehub.com).

# SPIRITUAL

## LASTING AND PURPOSEFUL RESOLUTIONS

Strengthening Our Spiritual Well-Being

As 2022 comes to a close and we usher in 2023, let us take time to give God the praises that He alone deserves. This is all that we can do: Praise Him for what He has done, for what He is going, and for what He will do!

As we reflect on the things of the past year (both the mountain and valley experiences), we praise and give glory to God for His bestowed blessings. Not only can we say hallelujah for God's presence in our lives, but also we can pray that God strengthens us as we strive continually to live purposefully.

New Year's resolutions will be made that pertain to our earthly and physical selves. Most important, however, there should be a focus on our spiritual lives. "Growing As A Church With A Redemptive Purpose" is the mission here at Rafting Creek Baptist Church. With each year, we should grow continually as a church, a person, and a community. Is this not what Jesus has commissioned us to do? Let's see what is written in Matthew 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

# SPIRITUAL

## LASTING AND PURPOSEFUL RESOLUTIONS

Strengthening Our Spiritual Well-Being

(continued)

The second part of our mission statement includes, “with a redemptive purpose.” We all know that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer. He has promised us much, as written in John 14:3.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Let's make lasting resolutions this year: Resolutions that will strengthen our spiritual well-being --and will result in the edification of our God.

*Happy New Year,*

Deacon Wallace E. Dinkins

Happy New Year

# SPIRITUAL

## NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

A Petition for Peace and Goodwill

*Peace on Earth. Oh God, we confess our sins; we repent, we pray and consecrate ourselves to your plan for peace on Earth.*

*We earnestly request in faith and believe that you will give us the right mind, the right spirit, and the right determination so that we can work with others who are determined to bring peace on Earth and goodwill among men.*

*Oh God, please hear and answer our prayer. For without you, we will perish. In your mighty name we pray. Amen.*

Deacon William Sanders

# SPIRITUAL

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS From Darkness to Light

### Unit 2: God's Promises

*We have been saved by God's grace through faith. We've been called out of darkness--out of the tyranny of our self-gratifying desires, out of the allure of the world's pleasures and baubles, and out of our deception by the devil's games. What a relief! In Christ we have been brought into the light of God's kingdom--a kingdom of righteousness and peace. What a tremendous reality!*

*But this calling is not a passive, "some in Heaven" prospect. It's here! It's now! Consider the words for the church in Ephesus: "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord"*

(Ephesians 5:8-10).

**God Promises to Hear and Forgive**

*2 Chronicles 7:12-22*

**God Promises to Restore**

*Isaiah 43:1-4, 10-12*

**God Promises to Guide**

*Isaiah 48:3-8a, 17*

**God Promises Light**

*Isaiah 58:6-10*

**God Promises His Presence**

*Joel 2:21-27*

# HEALTH

## A HEALTHY YOU! MIND. BODY. SOUL. Protect Yourself From Seasonal Flu



**Everyone aged 6 months and older needs to get a flu vaccine every year. Seasonal flu vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others from the flu. For many people, seasonal flu is a mild illness. But sometimes, the flu can be serious or even deadly.**

The flu:

- Is linked to serious infections like pneumonia;
- Can make existing health problems worse (for example, long-term heart or lung disease);
- Can lead to hospitalization or death,

Flu vaccines can help prevent people from getting sick with the flu – and lower the risk of hospitalization and death caused by the flu.

The flu spreads easily from person to person. So when you get a flu vaccine, you don't just protect yourself. You also can help protect everyone around you.

For detailed information, visit <https://health.gov/myhealthfinder/doctor-visits/vaccines-shots/protect-yourself-seasonal-flu>

# HEALTH

## A HEALTHY YOU! MIND. BODY. SOUL. Tips on Staying Healthy



### Boost Your Brain Health

#### **Make weekly exercise dates.**

You can easily talk yourself out of a workout, but it's more difficult to do when you have a standing commitment to work out with a friend. Overall, aim for 150-plus minutes of weekly moderate-intensity aerobic exercise.



### Go to Sleep Easier

#### **Face your alarm clock toward the wall.**

Face your clock toward the wall and place your cellphone facedown. Artificial light disrupts sleep. Instead of night-lights, keep a flashlight next to your bed to use when needed [or use our phone's flashlight when needed].



### Shake Off the Stress

#### **Take a daily "do not disturb" break.**

Whether at your desk, in your kitchen or on a deck outside, close your eyes and do not open them for anyone. Even five minutes will feel wonderful!



### Pump up Your Heart Health

#### **Walk off your cravings.**

Smoking puts you at a higher risk for heart disease and stroke. When a craving hits, try lacing up your shoes and heading out for a quick walk. Breathe some fresh air. Who knows? You might just want to keep going!

To see all tips, "Google" AARP's 60 tips on healthy living.

# HEALTH

A HEALTHY YOU! MIND. BODY. SOUL.

Keeping an Eye on Glaucoma

Save Your **EXES**

NATIONAL  
**GLAUCOMA**  
AWARENESS  
M O N T H  
J A N U A R Y

This #GlaucomaAwarenessMonth, see what it's like to live with this common eye disease. Follow the link below to see what living with glaucoma is like.

<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/resources-for-health-educators/see-what-i-see-virtual-reality-eye-disease-experience>

# MINISTRY

Join  
Us  
For

# Youth SUNDAY!

RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

**Jan. 29**

**10AM**

*Join Us in Our Sanctuary or Online.*

# MINISTRY

## CHRISTMAS TREES SHOWCASED. 2022

Symbols of the Birth and Resurrection of Christ

*In Christianity, [the] Christmas Tree is symbolic of [the] birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The tree's branches and shrubs are viewed as an emblem of immortality and are said to symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross.*

*The green [of the] Christmas [tree] was chosen because green symbolizes immortality, eternal life, new growth, renewal, and resurrection since it's the color of vegetation. Psalm 1:3 says that "the leaf shall not wither."*

*Red evokes the color of blood and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the cross. Red also symbolizes fire and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit.*

*Silver is a symbol of purification. The process of heating silver to burn off the dross and other imperfections is a metaphor used throughout Scripture. God's Word itself is described in value beyond silver. "The promises of the Lord are pure, like silver in a furnace and purified seven times" (Psalm 12:6).*

Source:

[www.colorexplained.com/christmas.colors](http://www.colorexplained.com/christmas.colors)



# MINISTRY

## CHRISTMAS TREES SHOWCASED. 2022

What Resplendent Presentations!



**Trustee Ministry**  
**FIRST PLACE**



**Ministrial Team**  
**SECOND PLACE**



**Sunday School Ministry**  
**THIRD PLACE**



**Angel Tree Ministry**



**Senior Missionary Ministry**



**Pastor's Aide Ministry**



**Young Women's Auxiliary**

# MINISTRY

## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL. 2022

*Oh Lord, How Excellent Is Thy Name*



# CONNECTIONAL

# Happy Birthday

Rachelle Daniels

Trequan Joe

Shane Daniels

Desiree McMillan

Christina Holmes

Destyni Wright

Wallace Dinkins

Myron Dinkins

Rebecca Crim

Dylin Brown

TeJan Crim

# CONNECTIONAL



## DREAM WALK 2023

Monday, January 16, 2023  
USC Sumter Campus

"The Fierce Urgency of Now"  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Presented By



Join us for the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Walk on Monday, January 16, 2023. The Dream Walk is a free community effort created to acknowledge and celebrate the meaning and purpose of the holiday.

Dream Walk 2023 is a 3-mile walk starting and ending at the USC Sumter Nettles Building (near the corner of University Dr and Theater Dr). Registration for the walk will be at 8:30 a.m. A celebration program will be held at 9.m. and include a speech from the walk's Grand Marshal, Lance Newman, and songs from the Morris College Choir.

The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. Commemorative t-shirts are only available online! All shirts are adult sizes. The shirt will be light blue in color and a poly-blend material.

The Dream Walk, sponsored by **Central Carolina Technical College**, **Morris College**, and **USC Sumter**, is free and open to the public.

For other events happening during January 2023, see [Calendar | City of Sumter, SC \(sumtersc.gov\)](https://www.sumtersc.gov/calendar).

# CONNECTIONAL

COMING IN 2023

**COOKING**

by  
the

**CREEK**

We are publishing a cookbook of recipes by members of Rafting Creek Baptist Church. And **YOU** can include some of your favorite recipes in ***COOKING BY THE CREEK***. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase some of your favorites.

Additional details--as well as the recipe forms--will be provided by the Public Relations Committee



## ON THE NEW YEAR'S TABLE

### Black Eyed Peas

*"Southern U.S. tradition dictates that eating black eyed peas on New Year's will bring luck and good fortune. Often served with cabbage or collard greens, black eyed peas are seen as symbolic stand-ins for coins and financial prosperity."*

Black eyed peas are famous for being an important ingredient in "Hoppin' John," a popular Southern American dish believed to bring good luck. People have been eating Hoppin' John on New Year's Day for decades, though its origins are a subject of debate.

Like other beans, black eyed peas are highly nutritious and are a good staple food. Black eyed peas are rich in fiber and protein, which make them an excellent energy source. energy and fiber, and help with weight loss.

Black eyed peas are also an excellent source of: Calcium, Iron, Vitamin A, Magnesium, Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Folate, and Vitamin K. Black eyed peas contain antioxidants like flavonoids, which help the body fight disease. The fiber in black eyed peas helps the body absorb flavonoids and other helpful nutrients.

*Continued, next page*



For more information about the health benefits of black eyed peas , visit <https://www.webmd.com/diet/health-benefits-black-eyed-peas>

## ON THE NEW YEAR'S TABLE

### Black Eyed Peas

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. dry black eyed peas
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 large onion, diced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 serrano peppers, sliced (optional)
- 1 jalapeño, deseeded and mince
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cayenne
- 1/2 tsp. ground white pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 lb. smoked pork neck bones
- 6 c. low-sodium chicken broth or water

*Continued, next page*



# CONNECTIONAL

## ON THE NEW YEAR'S TABLE

### Black Eyed Peas

#### DIRECTIONS

**Step 1**

In a large bowl, combine peas and baking soda and add water to cover by at least 4". Cover and let soak for at least 6 hours and up to overnight. Once fully hydrated, rinse beans and drain completely.

**Step 2**

In a large pot over medium-high heat, heat 2 tablespoons oil. Add onions, garlic, celery, serrano (if using), jalapeño, and salt, and cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly golden, about 10 minutes.

**Step 3**

Push vegetables to the edge and make an empty well in the middle of the pan. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in the well, then add in all the spices and stir spices until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add in pork, peas, and broth. Bring to a simmer, then reduce heat to medium-low.

**Step 4**

Partially cover pot with a lid, and let simmer until peas are tender, about 35 minutes. To concentrate broth, remove lid and continue cooking until liquid has reduced to desired consistency, 10 to 20 minutes more.

**YIELD: 6 to 8 SERVINGS**

<https://www.delish.com/holiday-recipes/new-years/a34658357/new-years-black-eyed-peas-recipe/>

# RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

*Growing As A Church With A Redemptive Purpose*

**Web:** [www.raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org](http://www.raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org) **Email:** [prcommittee@raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org](mailto:prcommittee@raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org) **Phone:** 803-432-5411  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/)

## Public Relations Committee

<b>Wallace Dinkins</b>	President	<b>Hattie Wade</b>	Health & Wellness (Newsletter)
<b>Alvenia Drakeford Dinkins</b>	Chief Publisher	<b>Emma Dinkins-Jackson</b>	Health & Wellness (Facebook)
<b>Myra C. Wright</b>	Secretary	<b>J. E. Perry</b>	Production/Photographer
<b>Nancy Dinkins</b>	Web Updater	<b>Bonnett Nash</b>	Researcher/Chaplain

## Meetings and Rehearsals

*Meetings and rehearsals will be held by Zoom or Conference Call until notified otherwise.*

### **Deacon Ministry**

Thursday, Before 1st Sunday, 6pm

### **Brotherhood**

2nd Saturday, 9am

### **Children/Youth**

Saturdays, Before 2nd & 4th Sunday, 12pm

### **Inspirational Choir**

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 11am

### **Male Choir**

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am

### **Minister & Deacon Spouses Ministry**

3rd Saturday, 12pm

### **Pastor's Aide Ministry**

2nd Saturday, 11am

### **Senior Missionary Ministry**

2nd Saturday, 12pm

### **Thursday Night Bible Study**

Weekly, 7pm

### **Young Women's Auxiliary**

1st Saturday, 10am

### **Trustees**

2nd Wednesday, 6pm

Winter Months, 4th Sunday, After Church