

**RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
*GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE*  
**JANUARY 2025**

# **2025** *Church* **THEME**

**"EMBODYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN AN UNPEACEFUL WORLD"**

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

# ABOUT THE THEME

## *Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World*

Dear Members and Friends:

Recently, the deacons, trustees, ministers, and ministry leaders have carefully chosen a theme that we believe will guide and inspire us in 2025. The theme is **Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World**. “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18).

In his letter to the LORD’s followers in Rome, the apostle Paul called their attention to specific challenges of living as believers. He advises them, saying, “Bless those who persecute you . . . Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud . . . Do not be conceited . . . Do not repay anyone evil for evil . . . Do not take revenge . . .” (Romans 12:14-19, NIV). Paul’s advice, in my opinion, is particularly essential to our **Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World**.

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

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## **ABOUT THE THEME, CONTINUED**

### *Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World*

Amid life's pressures and conflicts, Rafting Creek Baptist Church has a significant role to play. We are to be a living testament to the grace of GOD and the power of the gospel in this world. GOD intends for believers to unmask the world's pretense and deception by being a people of faith. The biblical response of the church to the un-peacefulness of its time is always to be "steadfast, unmovable" as GOD's faithful people.

I ask the members of Rafting Creek Baptist Church to pray for the discernment to understand the importance of Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful world and the courage to take the step in doing so. Living under the sovereignty of our LORD and being loyal and faithful to Christ and the Kingdom of GOD will help us resist much of the turbulence and agitation portrayed in the world.

Let us hope, pray, and work so that this theme will not only enhance us in decisive ways but also lead to a deepening of our relationships and a growing love and trust for one another. May it intensify our dependence upon prayer, worship, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we set aside our agendas and preconceived notions and receive "The Creek" as a gift from GOD, we will see relationships healed and love and trust for one another growing.

Happy New Year's, Rafting Creek Baptist Church! As we begin our journey through 2025, may the LORD GOD bless us abundantly and fill our hearts with peace.

Melvin Mack  
Minister

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**"EMBODYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD  
IN AN UNPEACEFUL WORLD"**



# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## A YEAR OF JOY AND PEACE *Prayer of the Month*

Dear God, as I embrace this new year with high expectations, I want to thank you for who you are and for allowing your Son to take on all of our sins on the cross. Thank you for your goodness and faithfulness. And thank you for caring about every detail of my life.

As I go forward into this new year, Heavenly Father, I ask you to take hold of my whole heart as I seek after you. Give me a hunger for you, and let your words be the only path that I will follow. Give me the willingness to follow only you, God. Use me, Lord, for your glory.

Lord, my heart says, "Yes, Lord" to you; let your Holy Spirit take full control of me. Lord, thank you for all that you brought us through last year.

Please Lord, lift up the broken hearted and the downcast. Fill their heart with joy. Encourage those who overheard someone who they thought was a close friend/family saying mean and hateful things about them. Help them to remember that Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. For those who have gotten a bad report from the doctor, help them to remember that God has the final say. Glory Hallelujah!

Lord, please help the youngest to the oldest children to remember that they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

This is your world God; turn all hearts and minds back to you; turn hate to love; turn sadness to joy. Lord, I pray your blessings over the homeless. I ask for healing over all the sick and the ones that are suffering. We love, honor, praise, and adore you, Lord. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### *Manifesting the Characteristics of Christ in Our Lives*

#### **The First in a Series About the Fruit of the Spirit**

The Fruit of the Spirit is a phrase found in Galatians 5:22-23. It refers to nine attributes of a Christian's life inspired by the Holy Spirit living within them. These attributes are love, joy, peace, patience (or forbearance), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each of these qualities is important for living a life that is pleasing to God.

When we seek the presence of God with humility and faith, we can experience true joy and peace from living according to God's will. The Fruit of the Spirit is something to strive for daily: a fruitful life in communion with God. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Paul used "fruit" to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit who lives inside every believer. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not by the Christian. The Greek word is singular, showing that "fruit" is a unified whole, not independent characteristics. As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.

Yet, like physical fruit that needs time to grow, the fruit of the Spirit will not ripen in our lives overnight. Like a successful gardener must battle against weeds to enjoy

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# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## *Fruit of the Spirit, continued*



the sweet fruit they desire, we must constantly work to rid our lives of the world.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to reject those old sinful desires. We can say “no” to sin and accept the “way out” God faithfully provides (1 Corinthians 10:13) by following the Holy Spirit’s leading.

As we give the Spirit more control of our lives, He begins to do in and through us what only He can do – to shape us and grow us to look like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).



# MINISTRY IMPACT

**A KING FOREVER AND EVER**  
*Our God Reigns*

*Studies in Ruth, 2 Samuel, Psalms, Matthew, Luke*

*Adult Sunday School Lessons:*

**The Lord Is King**  
January 5

**The Lord Is Active**  
January 19

**The Lord Is Majestic**  
January 12

**The Lord Is Praised**  
January 26





# MINISTRY IMPACT

## SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL ON LAST SUNDAY OF 2024 *"By Faith, A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight"*





# HEALTH IMPACT

## GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

*"See Beyond the Unseen: Protect Your Sight,  
Check for Glaucoma"*



### National Glaucoma Month...

reminds all of us to get regular eye exams and show support for those suffering from this condition. Glaucoma is a disease where pressure builds up and damages the eye's optic nerve. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of vision loss and blindness. Glaucoma is often called "the sneak thief of sight" because glaucoma has few symptoms or warning signs in its early stages. It can be diagnosed only by a full eye exam by an eye-care practitioner.

#### Some Important Facts You Should Know About Glaucoma in Adults:

- More patients than ever are affected: Over 3 million people in the United States have glaucoma, and the number is rising.
- Glaucoma can affect people of all ages: The most common form of glaucoma, Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma, becomes more prevalent with increasing age. However, glaucoma can strike anyone, even infants and children, but it is rare.
- Demographics do play a role: Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness among African Americans; it's also highly prevalent in Hispanics over the age 65.

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## *Glaucoma, continued*

- Is glaucoma hereditary? The risk of developing Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma is up to nine times more likely if parents or siblings have the disease.
- Hope for future glaucoma patients: Although there is no cure for any form of glaucoma, early diagnosis and treatment help control the disease and slow the process of vision loss or blindness.



**National Glaucoma Awareness Month reminds all of us to get regular eye exams. Don't let glaucoma steal your sight! The best way to protect your sight is to get an annual comprehensive eye examination.**

Source: <https://discoveryeye.org/january-is-glaucoma-awareness-month/>

# HEALTH IMPACT

## CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH *Be Proactive About Your Health*

***Cervical Cancer Awareness Month is observed every January. The aim is to raise awareness of cervical cancer and to promote information about prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and cure.***



### **Here are some things to know about cervical cancer awareness:**



Early detection screening tests can detect cervical cancer at an early stage, when treatment is more effective. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that women start getting Pap tests every three years, beginning at age 21.

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# HEALTH IMPACT

## *Cervical Cancer Awareness, continued*



More than 90% of cervical cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). There is a vaccine to prevent HPV infection.



***You can watch these videos at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to learn about the actions taken by these women:***

- Val took steps to prevent cervical cancer by removing precancerous cells that were found during a cervical cancer screening.
- Joy took control of her health by having abnormal cells removed to prevent cervical cancer.
- "If I didn't go to that appointment, I might not be around for my kids," says Cindy. Her cervical cancer screening test found precancerous cells.
- "The routine cervical screenings changed my life," says Jasmine, after a test found precancerous cells
- This short video reminds women that screening tests help prevent cervical cancer.

# YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

## **YOUNG ADULT TAKES TO THE SKY** *Certified Instrument-Rated Commercial Pilot*



### **SHAMERE TUCKER,**

a first-generation pilot and only pilot in her family, began her journey on February 6, 2023. She received her private pilot's license on August 11, 2023; thus, becoming one of the 1% of Black female pilots in the world and 3.4% of Black pilots in the world.

Shamere continued to study so that one day she could fly worldwide for commercial airlines. She completed flight school and became a certified instrument-rated commercial pilot on September 19, 2024. (A pilot with this certification is qualified to fly an aircraft in a variety of weather conditions and navigate complex airspace using instruments instead of visual references.)

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# YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

## *Shamere Tucker, continued*

Shamere is the daughter of Shamika Mickens and granddaughter of Roger Mickens. She was raised in Rembert, SC, living with her mom and Uncle Rickey. Later, she spent most of her time with her grandparents, Helen and Arthur Alston, while her mother attended college. At age seven, she moved back to Camden, SC, with her mother. While in Rembert, she attended Rafting Creek and was a member of the Children's Choir. She graduated in 2014 from Camden High School.



Shamere dares to be different, and she has this message for anyone that has a dream or a goal she/he wishes to accomplish

*Read your Bible and pray to God then show God that you really want it and do the work, realize that you will have to sit out on a lot of things but the reward will be so much bigger upon completion. Focus on the goal and make it a reality you can do it!!*

CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

HAPPY  
*Birthday*  
JANUARY CELEBRANTS

**MAY GOD make each day of  
your life as beautiful and as  
golden as you are. May the  
Almighty go on to add more  
years of happiness and good  
health to your life.**



# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## NEWS FROM THE REMBERT RAFTING CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER *Seniors Enjoy Christmas Fellowships*



*Breakfast Fellowship at Shoney's, Tuesday, December 17, 2024. County Councilman Washington joined the group. Ms. Myra C. Wright took the photo. Center member not shown: Mr. Wallace Dinkins.*

**Bottom:** *Seniors enjoy Christmas get-together on December 20, 2024, at the center. Mrs. Myrtle Wright and her son, "Woody," take a swirl around the dance floor.*



# Meetings and Rehearsals

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

## **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 Committee

## **Wallace Dinkins**

*President and Editor*

## **Alvenia Drakeford Dinkins**

*Web Editor/Content Manager*

## **Myra Wright**

*Connectional Contributor/Secretary*

## **Nancy Dinkins**

*YouTube Video Specialist*

## **Emma Dinkins-Jackson**

*Health & Wellness Specialist*

*(Social Media Platforms & Newsletter)*

## **Bonnett Nash**

*Researcher/Chaplain*



# **RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

**GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE**

***The Reverend Melvin Mack, Pastor***

## ***Embodying the Presence of GOD in an Unpeaceful World***

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**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.**