

WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

2026 CHURCH THEME:

"The Harvest truly is Plentiful..."

Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38 (NKJV)



**DR. REGINALD VAN STEPHENS
PASTOR**

"Welcoming the World to Christ"



IN THIS ISSUE



3

Letter from the Editor

Kelley Traynham, Newsletter Editor
Communication & Information Ministry

4

Mother's Spotlight: A Life Rooted in Faith, Love, and Legacy

Honoring the Strength and Influence of Mothers

Nakia McCleary-Mack, Member
Prayer Ministry

5

You Can Never Ask for Too Much From God

Priscilla Shirer, Author and Motivational Speaker

6

Curtis Walker Receives 2026 Betsy Alden Community Partner Award

Curtis Walker, Member

7

May Birthdays

GOD IS
good

From the Newsletter Editor

WRBC Family,

Happy May! I hope the month has started well for each of you. As we enter the fifth month of the year, we give thanks for God's continued grace, love, and faithfulness in our lives. As we move further into 2026, I encourage you to seek joy even in the midst of life's challenges. Each day is an opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and to find peace in His presence, no matter your current circumstance.



I would like to offer a prayer this month, and please do share it.

Dear God,

I come to you, thanking you for all you do. I ask that you surround each of us with your peace and fill our hearts with a deep and abiding sense of joy that does not depend on life circumstances. I pray that you renew our strength and bring us clarity in times when life feels overwhelming. Continue to remind us daily of your unfailing love and the countless blessings, both seen and unseen, that you bless us with.

Please guide us in all that we do because, depending on you, it is what will continue to sustain us. Thank you for ordering our paths with wisdom and purpose. Open doors of opportunity and help us to maximize our faith in you, and give us the courage to walk boldly in the direction that will move us forward in our purpose. In moments of challenge, may we feel your presence more closely than ever before, trusting everything is working all things together for our good. Our hearts will remain anchored in your abiding love.

I also pray that you grant us greater clarity and understanding as we look to you for what only You can do. Let us walk in love by both our words and actions. God continue to help us find meaningful ways to uplift others, and may you, in turn, be strengthened by the community around you. Above all, I pray we all seek a deeper relationship with Christ and put you first. We love you, God, and honor you for everything because you created us in your most perfect and precious way. To God be the Glory. Amen.

With God's Love,

Kelley Traynham

Newsletter Editor

MOTHER'S SPOTLIGHT: A LIFE ROOTED IN FAITH, LOVE, AND LEGACY HONORING THE STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE OF MOTHERS



SIS. NAKIA MCCLEARY-MACK
PRAYER MINISTRY

Mothers have long been recognized as the heart of the family and the foundation of communities. Their influence extends far beyond daily care, shaping values, nurturing faith, and building legacies that endure for generations. Whether through quiet sacrifice, steadfast encouragement, or unwavering love, mothers carry a unique ability to impact lives in ways both seen and unseen. Across homes, churches, and communities, the role of a mother is often marked by resilience and devotion. Many rise early and rest late, balancing responsibilities while ensuring that those they care for are supported, guided, and protected. In moments of uncertainty, mothers often become the steady voice of reassurance. In times of hardship, they are a source of strength.

This influence is not limited to biological motherhood. Grandmothers, mentors, and spiritual mothers also play a vital role, stepping in to nurture, guide, and uplift others. Their presence reflects a broader understanding of motherhood—one rooted in love, service, and commitment to the growth of others.

Within this spirit, a loving mother stands as a powerful example of what it means to live out these qualities daily. Known for their quiet strength and consistent faith, they have become a pillar within both their family and the community. Their life reflects a balance of compassion and discipline, offering both encouragement and guidance to those around them.

Their journey has not been without challenges. Like many mothers, they have faced moments that required perseverance, faith, and sacrifice. Yet through it all, they have remained grounded, leaning on their belief that even in uncertainty, there is purpose.

“There were times I didn’t have all the answers,” a mother shared, “but I knew how to pray. And I trusted God to do the rest.”

Those who have experienced this loving mother understand the impact they have made in their lives. From offering timely words of wisdom to simply being present in moments that matter most, their influence continues to shape those around them. Many credit them with guiding during difficult seasons and encouragement when it was needed most.

Mothers’ lives reflect Proverbs 31:26 (NIV), “She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. “Through their actions and their words, they exemplify what it means to lead with both grace and strength.

The legacy Mothers are building extends far beyond their immediate reach. Through their dedication, they are helping to shape future generations, instilling values that will continue long after today. Their story serves as a reminder that motherhood is more than a role—it is a lifelong commitment to love, growth, and faith. As Mother’s Day is celebrated, stories of a mother’s love are a profound and lasting influence everywhere. Their love not only nurtures—it transforms, strengthens, and leaves an imprint that time cannot erase.

Happy Mother’s Day to all the WRBC mothers and mother figures!

YOU CAN NEVER ASK FOR TOO MUCH FROM GOD

The following excerpt, written by American author and motivational speaker Priscilla Shirer, appeared in Relevant Magazine on July 30, 2025.

Among the boxes we tend to build for God—the various extents to which we believe or predict He will act—is the box that confines Him to responding to us the same way others do. We often limit our expectations of Him to what we’ve experienced within our human interactions. We’ve learned, for example, that not everybody who says we should get together for lunch sometime has the slightest intention of putting it on their calendar. Not everybody who says they’ll be praying for us will remember to do it. Some people hope we never find out whether or not they meant it when they told us, “If there’s anything I can do, just ask.” We think God is like that, too.

But as the Bible says, “God is not a man, that He should lie” (Numbers 23:19). When He tells us to ask—as He does on multiple occasions in Scripture—He’s not just trying to sound neighborly. He’s trying to involve us in His blessing. He wants us to experience the fullness of our inheritance in Christ. He’s using a prayer transaction to build trust and a relationship. Now let me be clear: I’m not suggesting we need to seek God’s will about what we should wear before we can get dressed in the morning. I’m saying that when we have a concern, when something is causing us apprehension or uneasiness, we should never shy away from bringing it to our heavenly Father just because we feel He doesn’t have time for something so minor. He has invited us to do that. And His desire for a relationship with us is, at least in part, why I think He’s done it.

Asking God doesn’t make us pushy, not according to the Bible. Nor, of course, does it mean He’ll give us whatever we want. But when we take Him up on His invitation to ask for what we need—both the big things and the small things—one of the greatest things He gives us is the opportunity to recognize exactly where our help is coming from. When we request, and He answers, we are enabled to know beyond any doubt that He was the One working in our experience.

When we truly ask of the Lord, we’re not just hoping in general; we’re relating with our Father. We’re asking and seeking and knocking, just as His Word instructs us to do (Matthew 7:7). And when He gives, when we find, when the door is opened to us, we don’t sit there wondering how in the world that happened. By inviting us to ask, He is continually connecting His life with ours. Every blessing becomes another noticeable expression of His loving care.

He is able to do “all that we ask.” Beyond it, actually. But even that’s not all. (And this part gets me so excited, I can barely stand it.) Since we can’t often pinpoint the exact reason for the ache in our heart that needs healing or the worry that’s keeping us from sleeping, God doesn’t need for us to find the right words before He responds. He is willing to do beyond what we ask, yes, but He’ll even do beyond what we can think. The things we don’t know how to pray, as well as the things we don’t even know to be praying for at all, are still under His control. He can do all that we can “ask or think.” Beyond what we could think to ask are things that only God knows.

And out there, in here, wherever our words come up short, His Spirit fills in the blanks, not allowing anything to touch our lives that cannot be co-opted to conform to His will.

You and I are completely covered. Totally. Because God is able.



Each year, Duke Service-Learning recognizes a student, faculty member, and community partner whose work reflects the core values of service-learning: meaningful partnership, critical reflection, and a commitment to community-engaged learning.

Coach **Curtis Walker**, Physical Education (PE) teacher at EK Powe Elementary School in Durham, NC, has a theory about what makes a PE class work: relationships. Since 2023, the Health & Physical Education Specialist at E.K. Powe Elementary has partnered with Duke students through Partners for Success—and he has shaped the experience into a genuinely reciprocal one.

He matches volunteers to age groups based on what they want to practice—whether that’s pedagogy, facilitation, or just showing up. The kids notice. “When they have someone they really connect to who says ‘you can do it’—they really light up and come to life,” he said.

Duke students agree: many continue volunteering in his gym long after a course requirement ends, and one reflected that Coach Walker “taught me a lot about teaching and how to be a good human.”

Congrats to Coach Walker!

May



BIRTHDAYS

Wishing You Joy and Prosperity as You Celebrate Your Birthday!

Vanessa Parker, 1
Juanita Harrison, 2
Deborah G. McCrae, 2
Karl Spencer, 2
Omar Brown, 3
J. Randall Byrd, 3
Robert Allen, 4
Sonny Harris Jr., 4
Ellis Merriweather, 4
Linda Curtian, 6
Tammy McCall Vaughan, 8
Pamela V. Reams, 8
Leah Hartsfield, 9
Rev. Nancy Ross, 9
Kimberly Sherrill, 9
Leon Carter Jr., 11
Margaret A. Brown, 12
Maddison Spencer, 13
Realitee Thorpe, 13
Alma Sutton, 14
Kimberly Simms, 16
Sharon Romney, 17
Fred White, 17

Gloria Brown, 18
Bridgette Coles-McAden, 19
Sallie Banks, 20
Earnestine Goods, 20
M. Wayne McNeill, 21
Camille Moore, 23
Karen Cheston, 24
Betty Evans, 25
John Hunter Jr., 25
Monica Curry, 26
Saundra Hartsfield, 26
Youlanda H. McCoy, 26
Shawn Cheston, 28
Sophia Curtis, 29
Rev. Christopher S. Norwood, 29
Brett Dixon, 30
Katrina Walker, 31



White Rock Baptist Church

“Welcoming the World to Christ”

**White Rock Baptist Church
Dr. Reginald Van Stephens, Pastor
3400 Fayetteville St., Durham, NC 27707
Phone: 919-688-8136, Fax: 919-688-9152
E-mail: wrbc@whiterockbaptistchurch.org
Website: www.whiterockbaptistchurch.org**

Schedule of Services

**Sunday School Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
New Disciple Orientation/Bible Study. Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Prayer Wednesday @ Noon & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesday @ 7:10 p.m.**

The Lord’s Supper (1st Sunday during 9:30 a.m. Worship Service)

**Newsletter Editor - Kelley Traynham
(Submit newsletter articles to newsletter@whiterockbaptistchurch.org)**

Newsletter Design— Kelley Traynham