

Deaths of Relatives

By Diane Piggott

Jimmy Lee Grooms

Jimmy Lee Grooms, the brother of Deacon Johnny (Sharon) Grooms, was born on February 8, 1959 in Robeson County, North Carolina to the late Willie and Johnnie Mae Morgan Grooms. He transitioned on May 12, 2026 after a long and courageous battle surrounded by the love of his family.

Those left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife, Brenda Peay Grooms of 35 years; his sisters, Willie Mae (Thomas) Scales, Rose McIlwaine and Charlene Grooms; brothers, Johnny (Sharon) Grooms and Mark Covington; along with several aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and a close extended-in-law family. He also helped raise his stepdaughter, Janel Peay and shared a special bond with his step granddaughter, Alyssa (Deandre) Lee and step grandsons, Caleb and LJ.

He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Kelvin Bradley Foote

Kelvin Bradley Foote, the brother of Trustee Jerry (Sue) Leach, was born on February 13, 1959 in Iredell County to William Charles Rose and Shirley Ann Feimster. He was lovingly adopted and raised by the late Mary and George Foote. On May 21, he peacefully departed this life at the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home.

He was a graduate of North Forsyth High School, Class of 1977. He served four years in the US Army. He was a lover of all sports.

Cherishing his memory are his birth mother of Statesville; three children—Kelvin B. Foote, II, Tshun White and Terrance Jarrett; and one grandson, Terrance Jarrett, Jr.; seven brothers, six sisters and one aunt and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Thank you for honoring his memory during his illness and passing.

Terry Wayne Myers

Terry Wayne Myers passed away. He is the brother of Elaine Eller, Gail Culbreath, Jeanette (George) Hatcher, Jackie Shannon, Gwen Moore, Linda (William) Carter and Kim Summers. He is the uncle of Sabrina Dodd and Will Dodd. Please keep the families in your prayers.

Arrangements are incomplete at publication time.

Prayer Warriors Needed

By Constance Segers

This is the second in a series of articles requesting assistance in New Bethel Ministries. We are in need of Prayer Warriors for our Wednesday Prayer Chain Ministry.

Because of attrition, changes in schedules, sickness and deaths we have lost faithful team members.

As Christians, prayer is one of our spiritual disciplines. If you feel led of THE HOLY SPIRIT and are available on Wednesdays please contact Sisters Constance Segers or Diane Piggott or Brothers Perry Hairston or Eugene Thompson to join our team.

New Bethel needs prayer and we need you.

Mediterranean Adventure Aboard Harmony of the Seas

By Will Dodd

In just over a week, we traveled through three countries, explored centuries of history, visited some of Europe's most recognizable landmarks, and crossed the Mediterranean aboard one of the largest cruise ships in the world.

My wife, mother, sister, other family members, and friends joined me on a journey through Spain, France, and Italy that combined history, culture, impressive architecture, and plenty of memorable experiences along the way.

Our journey began in Barcelona, Spain, where we spent a day exploring before boarding the ship. One of our first stops was the area surrounding the famous Sagrada Família, allowing us to appreciate the scale and uniqueness of the basilica from the outside while exploring the surrounding neighborhood. It was a great introduction to the city.

Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas was impressive in its own right. With thousands of passengers and countless activities, it often felt like a floating city. The variety of dining options ensured there was something for everyone, while the entertainment was first-class, with shows and performances that exceeded our expectations. For those seeking adventure, attractions such as the Abyss slide and zip line provided a little adrenaline along the way. There was never a shortage of things to do.

Our first port of call was Palma de Mallorca, Spain. There we admired the impressive Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma, known as La Seu, which overlooks the waterfront and serves as one of the island's most recognizable landmarks.

In Marseille, France, we explored the historic Old Port, viewed Fort Saint-Jean, visited the Palais Longchamp, and admired Marseille Cathedral, known as La Major. As the oldest city in France, Marseille offered a unique mix of history, architecture, and waterfront scenery.

Italy provided several unforgettable experiences. In Florence, we admired the magnificent Duomo, viewed the replica of Michelangelo's David, and visited the famous Ponte Vecchio, or Old Bridge, which spans the Arno River. Walking through Florence provided

a firsthand look at a city that helped define the Renaissance. We also visited nearby Pisa, where we viewed the world-famous Leaning Tower and the impressive Pisa Cathedral.

Rome offered one highlight after another. We visited the iconic Colosseum, viewed Palatine Hill, Circus Maximus, tossed coins into the Trevi Fountain, climbed the Spanish Steps, and spent time in Vatican City. Standing in St. Peter's Square and viewing St. Peter's Basilica was one of the most memorable experiences of the trip. We also visited the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, where tradition holds that the Apostle Paul is buried. Each site provided a unique glimpse into both ancient Roman history and the enduring influence of Christianity.

Our stop in Naples provided another opportunity to experience Italy's rich heritage. Among the highlights were the Basilica of San Francesco di Paola and the Royal Palace located across the square. The city made for a memorable visit.

Following our Mediterranean cruise, we returned to Barcelona for an additional stay before heading home. This gave us the opportunity to experience more of the city, including a tour of the interior of the Sagrada Família and a visit to the famous La Rambla. Seeing the inside of the basilica proved to be one of the highlights of the entire trip, while La Rambla offered a chance to experience the energy of the city, with its shops, restaurants, and constant flow of visitors.

Of course, some of the best memories came from the moments shared together. Whether enjoying meals, taking photographs, exploring historic streets, or searching for what I still consider the best gelato of the trip in Pisa, the journey provided countless opportunities to connect and enjoy one another's company.

As our adventure came to an end and we prepared to return home, we left with a greater appreciation for the history, culture, and beauty of the Mediterranean region. While the destinations exceeded expectations and Harmony of the Seas delivered an outstanding experience, the time spent with family and friends made the trip truly unforgettable.

Clockwise from top left – Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma in Mallorca, St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Palais Longchamp in Marseille, Colosseum in Rome, Carrara Marble Region, Apuan Alps in Tuscany Italy, and Trevi Fountain in Rome



THE SPOTLIGHT

IF YOU ARE ABLE AND
CARE, COME TO CHURCH
WITH A CAN IN YOUR
HAND FOR CRISIS CONTROL.
S.J.D.



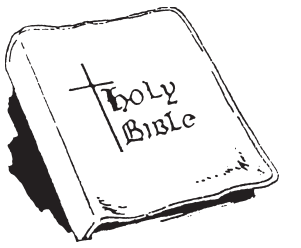
THE SPOTLIGHT

72 Years of Continuous Service
for
New Bethel Baptist Church

1016 North Trade Street
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

July 5, 2026

OUR CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT IS "to reach, teach, and preach to every segment of our church and community with the love of Christ."



VOLUME 73, NO. 3



REV. DR. JOHN MENDEZ

Rev. Dr. John Mendez Spoke for 79th Men's Day

By Susan B. Hunt

On Sunday, April 26th, the men of New Bethel presented an awesome program in celebration of their 79th Annual Men's Day.

The theme for the program was "Men Rooted and Grounded" with a background scripture from Colossians 2:6-7.

Worship leader, Deacon Thomas Atkins definitely set the tone for the service by having the congregation recite Psalm 34:1&3 in unison. **"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together"**

The spirit of the Lord was constant throughout as the chorus was outstanding as usual.

Trustee Eric Smith read the holy scripture and Deacon Johnny Grooms read announcements and welcomed visitors and friends. Trustee Jerry Leach made a presentation to the church of a much needed medical bag as well as a defibrillator.

Brother Herbert Richardson very eloquently expounded on the Men's Day theme and the occasion.

Brother Charlie Davis did a great job introducing the guest speaker, the honorable Rev. Dr. John Mendez who now serves as the Pastor Emeritus of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Dr. Mendez is a highly sought after speaker and social activist, he has served on many international and national boards and



DR. TELIKA MCCOY, PH.D.

79th Annual Women's Day Celebration

By Susan B. Hunt

For a few days prior to May 17, 2026, there was a beautiful flier being shared on social media as well as on the large screens during church services announcing the upcoming **79th Annual Women's Day Celebration** at New Bethel Baptist Church. The anticipation was building as the flier announced that the guest speaker would be Rev. Dr. Telika McCoy and urged visitors to come to celebrate the strength, resilience, and faith of women walking in God's Grace. The theme of the program would be, **"Women of Grace and Strength"**. The beautiful flier further invited everyone to come expecting "grace for your journey and strength for your battle". Well, by Sunday, May 17, 2026, the sanctuary at New Bethel Baptist Church was filled with women beautifully dressed in white with a touch of lavender, which was this year's color. As well as many men who were there in support and anticipation of a wonderful message from this dynamic woman of God.

Our expectations were met immediately by the holy spirit that was in the service even before it began. The praise and testimony period just before the service set the tone for the service as the congregation clearly brought church in their hearts on this morning. Worship leader, Dr. Sydney Richardson continued to uplift the congregation with a beautiful call to worship followed by scripture by Sister Ashley Smith.

The music for Women's Day was outstanding. Although the chorus consisted of only three male musicians, their exceptional talent, harmony and presentation filled the



REV. R.B. ALEXANDER

Reverend Alexander Brought Anniversary Message

By Carol Poe

Rev. RB Alexander delivered the 136th church anniversary of New Bethel Baptist Church during the 10:30 am service on June 14, 2026. The anniversary theme was "Grace in Every Season" referencing 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Rev. Alexander described how the journey shaped his passion for outreach especially for young men in the community. He has been preaching the gospel since 2009 and was officially licensed and ordained on March 22, 2022. He currently serves as associate minister at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. In 2025 he was honored with the Outstanding Community Service Award for Outstanding Community Service, recognized for his commitment to making a difference beyond the church walls. He currently serves at Mt. Zion Baptist Church as a van driver, counselor, and friend to the seniors.

His text was taken from Hebrews 13: 8: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Rev. Alexander reminded the congregation that God loves you just as you are, but he also asked the question "Do you know Him?" Rev. Alexander described himself as a servant of God whose life is a true testament of grace, redemption, and purpose.

Others appearing on the program were: Trustee Eric Smith (Worship Leader), Ms. Carol Martin (scripture), Mrs. Gwen King (Invocation), Mrs. Connie Smith (Announcements/Welcoming Visitors), Mrs. Carol Poe (Recognition of Silver Star and

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*Dedicated to those who are
Interested in New Bethel*

Editorial

**Why Sunday School
Still Matters**

By Myra Wilson

In a world filled with social media, podcasts, YouTube sermons, artificial intelligence, and endless streams of information, some may wonder whether Sunday School is still relevant. The answer is a resounding yes.

Sunday School remains one of the church's most valuable ministries because it helps believers grow in biblical knowledge, spiritual maturity, fellowship, and discipleship. While worship services inspire and encourage, Sunday School provides an opportunity to study God's Word more deeply, ask questions, engage in meaningful discussion, and learn how to apply biblical truths to everyday life.

Many Christians are familiar with Bible stories but struggle to understand the larger message of Scripture. Sunday School helps bridge that gap by providing context, teaching, and practical application. As Paul instructed Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Sunday School also strengthens relationships within the church. In a time when many people feel isolated, small-group learning fosters fellowship, encouragement, accountability, and prayer support. It transforms a congregation from a gathering of individuals into a family of believers.

Additionally, Sunday School helps develop future leaders and nurtures children and youth in their faith. A strong church is built not only on worship but also on discipleship, and Sunday School continues to be one of the greatest tools for building both.

Reverend Alexander

{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 3 }

Deceased Members) and Ms. Connie Marks (Introduction of Speaker).

Silver Star members were Ms. Jessica Leach, Ms. Jennifer Leach, and Geneva Wright. The deceased members were Ms. Jackie Taylor, Ms. Rosa Rice, Mrs. Barbara Eure, Mr. Dexter Barr, Mrs. Barbara Glenn, and Mrs. Judith Conner. A delicious repass was held following the service in the Drayton Fellowship Hall.

**Honor Roll and
Recognitions**

By Dr. Sydney Richardson, Ph.D.

Below are the students who made honor roll, graduated from elementary school or middle school, and/or had other recognitions.

Charlayah Kemes - graduated from WSSU Headstart program and will attend Ashley Elementary School for kindergarten.

Chareyanna Kemes - graduated from early Pre-K at WSSU and will attend Pre-K at Ashley Elementary School.

Zimere Smith - honor roll; graduated from 8th grade at Lowrance Middle School and will attend Carver High School.

Samara Jones - honor roll; Graduated from 5th grade.

Christian McDaniel - honor roll; Graduated from 5th grade at Konnoak Elementary School and played soccer. Going to Konnoak Middle School in the fall.

Canaan Richardson - honor roll; promoted to 7th grade at Lewisville Middle School, played viola in the school orchestra, soccer, and participated in 4-H club.

Avery Richardson - honor roll; graduated from 8th grade at Lewisville Middle School, played track all three years (shot put), participated in Craft and Baking Club, Environmental Science Club, Chorus, and Girl Scouts. Will attend Reagan High School.

Chloe Smith - honor roll and promoted to 11th grade at Reagan High School

Cydney Smith - honor roll and promoted to 11th grade at Reagan High School

Trinity Dalton - honor roll and participated in all county chorus for middle school, track team (shot put and 4x4), battle of the books, and was student government treasurer

Talent Dalton - made honor roll, graduated from 5th grade at Stoneville Elementary School; certified bilingual and participated in dual language program, and participated in all county chorus for elementary school.

Jade Galloway - graduated from Central Elementary School in Eden and will attend Eden Middle School in the fall. She was recognized for A/B Honor Roll, perfect attendance 3rd quarter and received an outstanding Art Award.

Ari Piggott - completed ninth grade at the Middle College School at NC A&T SU. She made all A's in ninth grade; made a perfect score on the End of Year Test and will the School of Math and Science for a week this summer. She is enjoying taking In-Car for the Summer so that she will be able to go for her Driving Permit in the Fall.

Daniel Piggott, III - is in his junior year at NC A&T SU and taking courses towards a Master's Degree.

Women's Day Celebration

{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 2 }

sanctuary with beautiful praise and worship.

Sister Jennifer Leach graciously extended a warm welcome to our visitors and guests and shared important announcements for our church family.

Sister Susan Hunt gave a heart felt thank you to all of the women of the church for their dedication, their faith and the hard work that they have done to carry on the task that was started 79 years ago. She also presented a gift as a thank you to Rev. Dr. Telika McCoy from the Women's day committee for accepting our invitation to speak. Mrs. Hunt also gave an explanation of the occasion and the theme.

First lady Mae Jones very eloquently introduced the speaker.

Dr. Telika McCoy, Ph.D is a native of Winston Salem. She holds a sociology degree from Shaw University and a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University Divinity School, graduating with honors. She also has a Ph.D highlighting public service leadership from Capella University.

Currently Dr. McCoy serves as Youth Pastor of Mount Peace Baptist Church, Seminary Professor & Project Director for Shaw University Divinity School, and Advisory Board member of Louisville Institute.

Rev. Dr. Telika McCoy was a very dynamic speaker and her message from the Lord was all that that beautiful flier had promised this audience would receive-she was indeed electric as she delivered a message that certainly touched every heart in some way. Hearts were uplifted and encouraged not only by the message but by the surprise of her awesome singing voice at the benediction.

Rev. Dr. John Mendez

{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 1 }

committees. Dr. Mendez was the first pastor to serve two terms as president of the Minister's Conference in Winston Salem. Noted for his contributions to Civil and Human Rights, Dr. Mendez served as a consultant on many international fact finding commissions.

Dr. Mendez's lecturing and preaching experiences have taken him to many colleges and university campuses. Dr. Mendez received his BA from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina; Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He is also a graduate of the Post Graduate Center of Mental Health in New York City in Pastoral Counseling. Dr. Mendez was inducted into the Circle of Preachers and Advocates of Justice at Shaw Divinity School in 2022. He recently received the Lifetime Achievement award from the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

He is married and has two adult children, and five grandchildren.

Dr. Mendez had a strong word from the Lord for the congregation and especially the Men.



CAMILLE POE

**Kenya: Beyond Nairobi
- A Journey I'll Never
Forget (Part 2)**

By Camille Poe

After spending several days exploring Nairobi and adjusting to life in Kenya, it was time to venture beyond the capital city. During my month-long stay, I was blessed to visit several incredible destinations, including Lake Naivasha, Diani Beach, Mombasa, and Kisumu.

At that point, I realized I was experiencing the trip of a lifetime. Exploring different regions of Kenya allowed me to see the country's diversity, beauty, and culture in ways I never imagined. There were many more places I wanted to visit, but time simply would not allow it. Thankfully, we were able to fly to several destinations. A two-hour flight certainly beats a six-hour drive!

One journey we did make by road was to Lake Naivasha, and that drive introduced me to the Kenyan countryside.

To be honest, I was nervous at times. As we traveled through small villages and rural towns, I found myself praying that our vehicle would not break down. Along the roads, I watched young children herding sheep and cattle. Women and girls carried buckets of water, baskets of fruit, and other goods on their heads as they walked from one place to another. Men worked diligently constructing homes and buildings with brick and cement.

What stood out to me was the heat. It was extremely hot, yet most people were fully clothed in long sleeves, pants, and long dresses. Their attire reflected a modest and conservative culture.

That drive humbled me.

For the first time, I felt I was seeing what many would consider real poverty. In America, I think we sometimes use the word "poverty" very loosely. While there are certainly communities that struggle, my experience in Kenya gave me a new perspective. It reminded me of many things we often take for granted, such as public education, access to water systems, social services, and other basic resources. But that's a conversation for another day.

Then we arrived at Lake Naivasha's beautiful Spa Resort.

As we approached, I was unsure of what to expect. The surrounding area appeared simple and modest. But once the gates

opened, everything changed. A winding road led through tall grasslands, and suddenly giraffes appeared, freely roaming the property. It felt like entering another world.

The resort itself was stunning. Zebras, giraffes, and other wildlife casually wandered nearby while guests enjoyed the peaceful surroundings. Sitting on my deck watching God's creation unfold before me was an unforgettable experience. The fresh food, breathtaking scenery, and peaceful atmosphere gave me time to reflect on life, blessings, and God's favor.

The adventure continued along Kenya's breathtaking Indian Ocean coastline at The Zubeida in Diani Beach and Sarova Whitesands in Mombasa. White sand beaches, crystal-clear water, friendly people, and incredible food made it difficult to leave. Watching camels stroll along the shoreline felt like something from a travel magazine.

These experiences gave me a completely different perspective of Kenya than what I had seen portrayed elsewhere. Kenya was vibrant, welcoming, beautiful, and unforgettable.

And believe it or not, I've saved the best for last. Kisumu deserves its own story.

See you in Part 3!



TRUSTEES JERRY LEACH & DANIEL PIGGOTT

**Men's Ministry Presented
Gifts to Church and
Community**

By Carol Poe

The Men of New Bethel Baptist Church celebrated their annual Men's Day Anniversary on April 26, 2026, with a spirit of worship, fellowship, and generosity.

During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, Trustee Jerry Leach presented two special donations on behalf of the men's ministry. First, he donated a First Response Medical Bag to the church. Mr. Leach explained to Pastor Jones that Mrs. Sue Leach and Mrs. Gwen King had discussed the need for emergency medical equipment to help ensure the safety and well-being of church members and visitors. Drawing from Mrs. Leach's extensive nursing and medical experience, plans are underway to develop a response team. Mr. Leach invited anyone interested in serving on this ministry to contact Mrs. Leach or Mrs. King.

The men's ministry also presented a donation to the Winston-Salem State University football program for its 2026 season. Coach Tory Woodbury and several players joined the congregation in worship and graciously accepted the gift with heartfelt appreciation.



SAMARA JONES AND KENDALL JONES III

**Samara and Kendall, III
Completes Catechism**

By Dr. Kendall D. Jones

With hearts full of gratitude, we are blessed to announce that Samara and Kendall III received their First Holy Communion at Holy Family Catholic Church on May 3rd 2026.

This special day marks the culmination of a two year journey of catechism classes, where they learned about Jesus Christ, His love and sacrifice for us on the Cross, and the profound meaning of receiving the Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

Through prayer, study, and spiritual preparation, they came to understand that Holy Communion is a sacred encounter with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

We are incredibly proud of their faith journey and pray that they continue to grow in their love for God and His Church. May Jesus always guide and bless them.

VBS Very Successful

By Diane Piggott

Vacation Bible School was held at New Bethel Baptist Church from Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11. It met nightly from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dr. Alfreda Smith was principal, Beverly Brown was her assistant principal and Diane Piggott registered the students as they entered. The school's theme was "Hooked-Reeled In To Serve God" based in Matthew 4:19.

There were teachers for all ages: Jennifer Leach was in charge of ages 2 to 5. Sharifah Perry instructed those aged 6 to 9. Sabrina Dodd worked with the 10 to 15. Dr. Sydney Richardson was teacher of the adults, ages 19 and up.

Parents could easily pick up their children and bring them over right after work and they could get a filling meal. Monday night's meal was tacos with chips, fruit and punch. Tuesday's meal was spaghetti, a salad, fruit and punch. Wednesday's meal was the All-American hot dog with all the fixings. Finally, Thursday's meal was the biggest hit with pizza and chips and punch.

Each evening the students came in full of enthusiasm. They were excited about the idea of fishing and turned the symbolism into fishing souls for Jesus Christ.