

## Christmas Mailbox Reopened for 2025

By Carol Poe

The New Bethel mailbox was opened this past season in December of 2025 for those who wanted to send Christmas greetings to members of the congregation. The Christmas mailbox had been closed previously due to the pandemic. Sharifah Perry, a dedicated and active member of New Bethel, chose to oversee this task so that time and money could be saved on post office visits and stamps. So, check with Sharifah to see if you "GOT MAIL."



## One Night in Bethlehem

Unscramble the words below to find a special Christmas message.

UJSSE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
RAMENG	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
BTLHEEEHM	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
YRMA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
EIEERPNINK	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
REDSHSPEH	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
JPEOSH	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ASTR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
GAELN	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
SRAVIO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
WNSEIME	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
AEANHTZR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TVAYNITI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
EASBLT	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TGSFI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18



*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

**Isaiah 43:18-19**

## Leach Returns Home

by Sue Leach

Jerry and Sue Leach are delighted to welcome their daughter, Jenner and their grandson, Jackson, back to the Winston-Salem area. Jennifer has lived in Alexandria, Virginia for the past ten years where she attended Living Water Christian Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Jenner is excited to return to New Bethel Baptist Church, where she looks forward to being active in service and church activities. Her son, Jackson, is an energetic and sociable six-year old. He enjoys meeting new people and will be entering the first grade at Southwest Elementary School upon his return to North Carolina.

Please join us in warmly welcoming them back into the New Bethel Family.

## THE SPOTLIGHT

### Deaths and Funerals of Relatives

by Diane Piggott

#### Jabbar Lassiter

Jabbar Lassiter, the nephew of Mrs. Debra Moore, passed on November 27, 2025. Services were held on Saturday, December 20, 2025 in Portsmouth, Virginia

#### Danielle Coward

Danielle Coward, the niece of Mr. Tony Moore passed. Her services were held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Baptist Church in Statesville, NC.

#### Curtiss Denard Pauling

Curtiss Denard Pauling, nephew of Jake Pauling, passed on December 7, 2025. Services were held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Russell's Funeral Home Chapel at 12 noon.

#### Mary Tillery Pauling

Mary Tillery Pauling, sister-in-law of Jake Pauling and with whom he resided, passed on November 30, 2025. A funeral service was held for her on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Clark S. Brown Funeral Home was in charge of services.

#### Mrs. Hazel Lyedy

Mrs. Hazel Lyedy passed away at the age of 102. She was the aunt of Ruby Cain and great aunt of Gregory Cain. Her services were held on Friday, December 19 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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



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



DR. KENNETH ROCKER, JR.



REVEREND DR. SYDNEY RICHARDSON



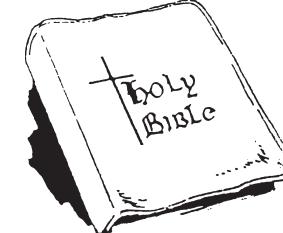
DR. KENDALL D. JONES

## THE SPOTLIGHT

### 72 Years of Continuous Service for New Bethel Baptist Church

1016 North Trade Street  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

January 4, 2026



VOLUME 73, NO. 1

### Dr. Sydney Richardson Speaker for 29th Annual Prayer Breakfast

by Susan B. Hunt

The Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on Saturday, January 3, 2006 at 9 am. This service of reverence and Thanksgiving has been sponsored by the wives of the Deacons and Trustees of New Bethel for the past 29 years. The purpose of the breakfast is for members to feel a sense of beginning the New Year with thankful hearts, while enjoying the blessings of God's grace and mercy for allowing us all to see a new year and praise him for all He has done for us.

The Deacon and Trustees' wives worked together to organize the breakfast and it is always a very reverent and moving service filled with many prayers of thanksgiving, adoration, faith, divine intervention; and prayers of petition, all done by the Deacons and Trustees of the church.

Massey University in New Zealand is where Dr. Rocker received Doctorate in Communication. During this time he was able to observe the similarities between Maori people and African Americans. White settlers came in and took over the land and adopted a lot of their practices. However, the only difference between America and New Zealand is they are putting more initiatives to try to get their native population involved.

The time spent in New Zealand allowed Dr. Rocker to take away more that just the cultural and historical similarities, he gained

The keynote speaker for the breakfast this year was Reverend Dr. Sydney Richardson, and her husband, Mr. Herbert Richardson showed his great pride as he was happy to introduce his wife as the speaker for the morning.

Reverend Dr. Sydney Richardson did an awesome job as the speaker for the breakfast this year, as she elaborated on the theme: "Peace in the Pathway of Prayer" based on the scripture: **Philippians 4:6-7**.

Attendees were able to ask for special prayers for relatives and friends at the lighting of Intercessory Candles as petitions to God were quietly uttered with the faith the God who answers prayers is certainly

{ Continued on Page 2, Col. 1 }

{ Continued on Page 2, Col. 2 }

### Experiencing Divine Hope in 2026

by Dr. Kendall D. Jones

Romans 15:4 – KJV... For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

This article is a synopsis of the sermon delivered on December 7, 2025.

As we ponder the meaning of hope, we come to realize that hope is that thing that allows us to get out of the bed each morning. Hope is that thing deep down in each of us that informs us that good possibilities can or will happen to us or for us regardless of the challenges of life.

Even in the darkness of night we know through hope that the sun will rise in the morning. Hope allows us to press on, and it gives us strength for the "Now" as we look forward to a brighter future.

Hope is good medicine for the totality of man – mind, body and spirit. For without hope mankind will cease to exist. For without hope there are **no** tomorrows. **Hope is a state of mind based on the expectation of positive outcomes.** Hope sees the cup half full rather than half empty. This hope is not based on fantasy, but in the belief that our God is able. **Hope never gives up.** We realize that our God is bigger than our problems. Divine hope gives us the strength to **persist, press on, and endure.** **Divine hope gives us New Life in Christ Jesus.** Hope allows us to start anew with a God who is ready to forgive. May we all experience anew the hope found in God in 2026 and beyond.

*The New Bethel Spotlight*  
Published Quarterly  
by the Journalistic Society  
of New Bethel Baptist Church

**STAFF**

Senior Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Kendall Dwayne Jones, Sr.  
Assistant Pastors \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. C. Dianne Horton,  
Rev. Azurée Johnson-Dalton  
Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Piggott  
Co-Editors \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Myers, Carol Poe  
Copy Editors \_\_\_\_\_ Ruby Cain, Valjean McKinney,  
Wanda Davis, Elinor Walker,  
Susan Hunt, Brenda Witherspoon  
Youth Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Serenity Albright  
Special Reporters \_\_\_\_\_ Barbara Ford,  
Brenda Redd, Connie Smith, Dollye Mack  
Photographer \_\_\_\_\_ Eugene Thompson

*Dedicated to those who are  
Interested in New Bethel*



**Ronald McDonald  
House Project**  
By Dr. Sydney Richardson

**Youth Service Project #1: Sweet Treats  
at the Ronald McDonald House**

November was a month for service projects. On November 22nd, the youth of New Bethel partnered with a local 4-H group (led by Bro. Herbert Richardson and Rev. Sydney Richardson) to provide service within the Winston-Salem community. The first service project was baking cookies for the families of the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House, located at 419 S Hawthorne Rd, provides living accommodations and emotional support for families with children receiving medical care at nearby hospitals. The house offers 36 private rooms for families, a community style kitchen and dining room, along with libraries, a playroom, and various living rooms. Our youth group signed up to work in the kitchen and bake cookies for the 36 families. For two hours, the youth prepped ingredients, stirred cookie dough, baked cookies, and separated them into individual bags. Some of our youth got to meet families staying at the Ronald McDonald house as well. After baking the cookies, the weekend manager took our group on a tour of the entire house. It was a fun and enlightening service opportunity and everyone was interested in baking for the families again. The Ronald McDonald House takes volunteers year round to provide meals and treats for the residents. You may learn more about the shelter, please visit [www.ourladyofsalem.org](http://www.ourladyofsalem.org).

**Youth Ministry  
Christmas Party**

By Dr. Sydney Richardson

On December 13th, the youth ministry hosted a church Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. The goal of the evening was to wind down from a busy year, play games, eat good food, and just have fun. Our kitchen committee, led by Mrs. Sharon Grooms, served chips and dip, pizza, chips, cookies, salad, holiday punch, and hot chocolate. Everyone who attended also took home a gift bag of hot chocolate, marshmallows, and candy canes. The selected movie of the evening was *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*, and then everyone played a rousing game of Bingo. The game was led by Sis. Myra Wilson and Bro. Herbert Richardson. Winners of the game picked out gifts of candles, lotions, coffee mugs, toys, and more. Everyone who played was also allowed to choose a gift to take home for being such good sports! It was a fun evening and a great way to celebrate the Christmas season. New Bethel's youth ministry will take a nice and needed break during the holiday season and return in February. Thank you to our church family for your love, prayers, and support! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Prayer Breakfast**  
{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 2 }

listening to everyone.

Just as sweet as the whispered prayers was the aroma of the delicious breakfast that lingered throughout the room. Everyone was able to enjoy their breakfast as they listened to the beautiful prayers being sent to God's ears. Some people were even enjoying their second helping if they were able to eat more!

The menu included oven fried bacon, country fried apples, grilled beef sausage, sausage patties, scrambled and boiled eggs, baked apples, golden fried salmon patties, buttered grits, oatmeal with all the trimmings, buttered grits, jelly, coffee, orange juice, water and a variety of fruit Danish.

The Choir sang beautifully as usual, and that made the breakfast just perfect.

**Rocker at Xavier**  
{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 1 }

new philosophies that will follow him into his own teaching career. Living in New Zealand, working with Massey kind of taught him that, you know, mental health is an important thing we all deal with.

When given the time to reflect and speak on the upcoming school year, Dr. Rocker's enthusiasm and excitement were evident. He wants everyone to know that his office door is open and you are always welcome to walk in.

Sending my love! "Happy New Year!"

**HAPPY  
New Year**

**Youth Service Project  
- Woman's Shelter -**  
By Dr. Sydney Richardson

For New Bethel's youth, December was another time for giving. On December 6th, our youth once again partnered with our local 4-H group and prepared lunch bags for a women's shelter. Our Lady of Salem Shelter for Women provides overnight care, meals, and to-go lunch bags for approximately 25 women experiencing homelessness in Winston-Salem on a first come, first serve basis. The shelter, located at St. Timothy Episcopal Church, operates during the winter months, usually November through the beginning of March. The youth prepared lunch bags of turkey sandwiches, fruit, pretzels, water, and a sweet treat. During this time, they also learned about food options for homeless people, along with safe and nutritious food items to give when wanting to be of help. While the youth were not allowed to assist with dropping food off, all of the meals were delivered in the evening to the church shelter. This opportunity sparked interest among the youth to continue serving Winston-Salem in different ways. To learn more about the shelter, please visit [www.ourladyofsalem.org](http://www.ourladyofsalem.org).

**Editorial**

**Look to God**

By Diane Piggott

As I sit to write this editorial, I am distracted by the abundance of calamities that are besetting our world. We are no longer isolated in our towns and cities because technology and innovations have made us a stone's throw away from any disaster.

I am so blessed to know Jesus Christ as my Savior. Without Him in my life, I would be deep in despair. I am at peace because God comforts me daily. I lift up families that I hear are beset by sickness, tragedies, accidents and death. My church has instituted weekly Bible Study so I can increase my knowledge of God's Word. I make way to Bible Study whenever it is in session. It is building up my spiritual strength.

Just in the recent week, a local 16 year-old high school student was stabbed and died at school, a 3-year was shot during a domestic dispute, and just yesterday and plane crashed in a nearby city killing 7 on board. I have a son teaching in a local high school, I live in a neighborhood that I feel rather comfortable and I live within 5 miles of a local airport. I could become very distraught because these things could happen in my back door. God is my comforter and I hope he is yours. If you haven't accepted God as your personal Savior, seek Him out in 2026. I pray that this is a great year for you.

Sending my love! "Happy New Year!"

**Rock at Xavier**

{ Continued from Page 1, Col. 1 }

new philosophies that will follow him into his own teaching career. Living in New Zealand, working with Massey kind of taught him that, you know, mental health is an important thing we all deal with.

When given the time to reflect and speak on the upcoming school year, Dr. Rocker's enthusiasm and excitement were evident. He wants everyone to know that his office door is open and you are always welcome to walk in.

When given the time to reflect and speak on the upcoming school year, Dr. Rocker's enthusiasm and excitement were evident. He wants everyone to know that his office door is open and you are always welcome to walk in.



**New Bethel Baptist Church Flower Club  
69th Anniversary**

By Sharon Grooms

The New Bethel Flower Club held its 69th Anniversary on Sunday, September 27th, 2025. This year, they chose to honor the oldest, dedicated, charter member of the Flower Club, Mrs. Nira Robinson, who turned 90 years old. The members stood to honor her, as president, Sharon Grooms made the presentation. Two signed cards and a

**How to  
Boost Your Energy**

By Connie Smith, RN

- 1. Stay Hydrated:**  
Dehydration causes tiredness and sometimes chest pain. Drinking a glass of water when you feel tired can be quick fix.
- 2. Exercise:**  
Even 10-30 minutes of walking can increase circulation or a 20 minute power nap can restore alertness.
- 3. Manage Stress:**  
Practice breathing for 3 counts and breathe out for 4 counts, meditation and stretching can combat fatigue. Slow deep breaths send more oxygen to the brain.
- 4. Don't skip breakfast:**  
A healthy breakfast like yogurt, fruit and an egg.
- 5. Change Scenery:**  
Step outside or look at nature to feel more refreshed.
- 6. Cold Splash:**  
A quick shower of even splashing cool water on your face, can wake you up.
- 7. Avoid Crash:**  
Limit sugar and processed foods that cause energy spikes and drops.
- 8. Prioritize Sleep:**  
Quality sleep is crucial for muscle repair and mental clarity. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night if you are an adult. Teens need 8-10 hours and up to 10-13 hours for younger kids.
- 9. Listen to Your Body:**  
If you frequently feel tired after sleeping or have trouble sleeping, consult a doctor, as individual needs vary.

**Quarterly Activities  
and Events for 2026**

By Carol Poe

**January 3rd –**  
New Bethel Prayer Breakfast

**January 19th –**  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance

**January 25th –**  
Missionary Union Meeting at New Bethel

**February –** Black History Month

**February 14 –** Valentine's Day

**February 15 –**  
New Bethel Leadership Service

**February 18th –** Ash Wednesday

**March –** Women's History Month

**March 8th –** Daylight Saving Time Begins

**March 20th –** First Day of Spring

**March 29th –** Palm Sunday

**Laymen's League  
Sponsors A Clothing  
Give-Away**

By Susan B. Hunt

During the Thanksgiving season, the Laymen's League has always reached out to members of the community to give. This season, on November 16th, members of the Laymen's League and other members who very willingly volunteered their time, sponsored a clothing give-a-way for the homeless.

For several weeks prior to the giveaway, there was an appeal for clean and gently used clothes and blankets and other items for the event, as usual, New Bethel members responded and brought lots of items. The Laymen's League also purchased personal care items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, and mouthwash. They were put together in individual plastic bags for the people to have. The clothing was organized and put on clothing racks, making it easy for all to browse through.

All of the people who came were able to peruse the clothing racks and get whatever they wanted without any limitations. They were blessed and they were very humbled and voiced their gratitude. However, the Laymen would say that they received much more than they gave away that day; for it is always more blessed to give than to receive.

The event began at 8 am with many already in line outside the church before it started. It ended by noon and there was a steady stream of those persons in need coming through to get items from the give-a-way.

As an extra special treat, everyone could get one or two hot donuts, orange juice or bottled water as well as other snacks to go. and everything that was left over was taken to the Salvation Army and donated there.

Everyone who helped with the event felt a sense of thankfulness for being able to help our neighbors. Certainly all were blessed during a season of giving.