



June 25, 2025
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ROOTED IN FAITH
GROWING IN LOVE



That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height.
Ephesians 3: 17-18

Holding Steady in An Unsteady World By Dr. Bruce Barnes

We live in times of unrest, both in our personal lives and globally. It's easy to feel unsettled by the headlines—rising tensions in the Middle East, threats of war, cultural confusion, and political division. These are not light matters. People are troubled, and rightly so. But for the follower of Christ, these trying times call for something more than worry or reaction—they call for faith that stands firm.

The Apostle Paul, writing from prison, urged believers to “take up the whole armor of God.” His words in Ephesians 6:13 are not abstract. They are instructions for how to live when darkness presses in. Paul doesn't say to flee. He says to “withstand” and “stand.” The battle is not theoretical—it is spiritual, emotional, and sometimes even physical. But God's Word gives the believer a reason to hold steady: we are not standing in our strength.

Faith in God during difficult times is not just a spiritual accessory—it is the very root of inner peace. We may not know what the news will bring tomorrow, but we know the One who rules tomorrow. He is not distant or caught off guard. He has promised to be near to the brokenhearted and to keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3).

“Peace Does Not Come from Perfect Circumstances!”

Peace does not come from perfect circumstances. If that were the case, we would rarely know it. Peace comes when we settle in our hearts that God is in control and that His will cannot be overturned. When we trust His character—His wisdom, power, and goodness—we no longer have to scramble for answers. We can rest. Resilience in trials flows from that kind of settled trust. It's not about pretending the problems don't exist. It's about knowing they don't have the final word.

Many today feel anxiety about world events, especially the volatility in the Middle East. Prophetic passages come to mind. Questions stir. Are these signs of the end? Will war break out? What about Israel, God's chosen nation? These are valid concerns, and Scripture tells us not to be ignorant of the times. But Scripture also tells us not to fear them. Psalm 46:6-7 says, “The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” God has never lost control of history—not once—and He won't start now.

Faith gives us the ability to look at the storm and say, “I will not be moved.” We do not base our hope on world peace but on the Prince of Peace. The armor God provides is meant for battle, not for comfort. Yet, in the wearing of it, we find comfort—because it keeps us close to Christ, who is our shield and strong tower.

What do we do, then, in uncertain times? We keep praying. We continue to read and apply God's Word. We continue to show kindness and share the Gospel. We teach our children to fear the Lord, not the news. We worship in spirit and truth. And when we've done all, we stand.

We may bend in the wind, but we do not break. Why? Because we know whom we have believed, and we are persuaded that He can keep what we have committed to Him until that Day (2 Timothy 1:12).

CHURCH NEWS

“Lord, when the world feels unstable, help me to stand firm in Your truth. Strengthen my faith so that I trust You more than I fear the future. Remind me that You are in control, and that You have not called me to panic but to peace. Let my life reflect the quiet confidence of one who knows that You will never fail.

In case you missed last week's announcement, the leadership team has several items to bring before the church at the next business “a.k.a. family” meeting. Here is a list of things we need to discuss.

1. The parking lot needs a facelift. We appreciate Dexter Webb's effort in getting several people to look at it. It appears the church will need to budget \$30,000 to fill the cracks and resurface the parking area. We will bring this up at our next business meeting in the form of a motion.
2. Brother Randy Bisette has given so much for our church. For years, he has directed the choir, led congregational music, developed and led praise teams, organized music on special days, and done so much more. Due to his workload at the shop and his health, Bro. Randy can't lead the choir anymore. The Leadership Team certainly understands the sacrifice our dear brother has made, and we appreciate everything he has done for Jesus. Because music is so important in our worship, we have decided to invest in a part-time music director. Someone who can lead the choir every week and help ease the load for Bro. Randy. Of course, this will require the church's permission. But we hope everyone will agree that Randy needs help. And we want our choir back. Please pray with us over this decision, and that the Lord will bring the right person.
3. God has answered so many prayers this year for our ministry. To name a few:
 - Various positions in the daycare have been filled. Some young people who needed summer employment have met the guidelines of the state and are serving at Bailey Christian Childcare. Thank you, Cassie Wall, Savannah Comstock, and Julianna Dubon, for serving at the church. Another young lady will start in August as the Assistant Daycare Coordinator. She is currently serving as a counselor at a youth camp for the summer.
 - Brother Bradley Reel has jumped into his role as the Youth Pastor of the church. We have purchased a new ping pong table, hosted a “Get to know you” pizza event, and he is currently at teen camp with some of our teens. What a fine young man! Let me encourage you to introduce yourself if you don't already know him.
 - Glenda Carroll's last week serving as the Office Administrator is the first week of July!. We certainly appreciate the 4 years she has served the Lord at White Oak. During her tenure as the Office Administrator, our church launched the Baily Christian Childcare. She was an invaluable part of the process. Not only did Glenda help get B.C.C. open, but she has also served as the coordinator since its inception. She has helped direct our children's ministry in the absence of a youth pastor, taught Wednesday classes and S.S. classes, assisted me in preparing for the Harvest Festival, and led our children for special services (Palm Sunday march, Christmas drama programs, etc. Please let Ms. Glenda know how much we appreciate her selfless effort for the Lord at White Oak Hill. She and Shannon sacrifice so much for Jesus Christ and are true servants of the Lord. Glenda, thank you for everything you have done at White Oak Hill FWB Church. Our staff will miss you.
 - As I mentioned last week, Teresa Price volunteered to serve the Lord at the church as the Office Administrator. But her skills didn't include accounting. But she would repeatedly tell me, “Preacher, if the Lord brings someone who can do accounting and the office work, I will step aside.” And that was our prayer. What a servant's heart! Well, God did answer that prayer. The Lord wouldn't let Michelle Beamon find peace unless she agreed to serve at the church. Michelle has an accounting background and can do everything that Glenda is currently doing in her role as Office Admin. Ms. Teresa graciously understood and accepted God's timing. It would be better to have someone who can handle the finances in the office. With Michelle Beamon in the office, that would allow Ms. Glenda the time to help her father and grandson (Jaxon). But that doesn't mean Ms. Teresa isn't disappointed. She was looking forward to serving the Lord in a full-time capacity. Please let this sweet woman of God know how much we appreciate her servant's heart and her sweet spirit. She and Michelle are two amazing ladies! I appreciate both of them and their willingness to serve God at White Oak Hill FWB Church. God is so good!! We will vote on Ms. Michelle at our next quarterly business meeting. Please pray for the Lord to bless her ministry and family.



Please don't forget we are recording a video this Sunday morning to be sent to Heritage Church in Ohio. They will host a retirement ceremony for our good friend and former pastor, Rev. Tim Stout, next month. I hope you will be a part of the service/video to encourage the Stout family and wish them a happy retirement. We will record the video during the 10:30 service.



Brother Bradley Reel will be taking some elementary age kids to camp next Monday. They will be leaving the church at 12:15. Please pray for him, the kids, and the preacher who will be speaking next week. They will be at Camp Anchorage, located at Lake Waccamaw.



Lastly, Cindy and I would like to thank you for the kindness shown to Cindy last Sunday. She enjoyed an amazing birthday and would like everyone to know how much she loves each of you. OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS AMAZING!



The Prayer Needs in the church this week are listed below.

- Judith Grant- Please pray for Ms. Judith! Please pray specifically for her lungs to function normally.
- Patricia Register- Please continue to pray for our dear sister as she recovers from a medical procedure. Her dialysis is going well.
- William and Gail Pridgen-Let's pray for Ms. Gail. Her chemo treatments are finished, and we are waiting for the results from the PET scan to see if she is cancer-free. William had his surgery this week and is recovering. Pray ALL the cancer is removed.
- Bobby and Shirley Dew-Both of these wonderful seniors are struggling with health issues. Bobby is having fainting spells, and Ms. Shirley is suffering from stomach problems.
- Amber Dew (Dennison's wife)-Amber is struggling with cancer. She is having a very difficult time.
- Brinson Gaynor-This young man is pastor Hal and Cindy's grandson. Brinson is doing much better. He has started a new treatment plan that appears to be working.
- Please pray for Israel and America
- Marlene Watson- Marlene was in a house fire and severely burned. She is currently at the UNC Burn Unit in Chapel Hill.
- Judy Jones-Judy is Paul Thorpe's sister. She has cancer.
- Sue Bissette-Please pray for Sue as she recovers from cataract surgery.
- Earlene Pitts-Many of you know she has been struggling with Parkinson's disease for years. She is having a very difficult time. Please pray for Brother Gene and Ms. Earlene as they navigate this season of life.
- Charles Price Sr. -Charles is having to use larger oxygen bottles to enjoy a good quality of life. Let's pray he regains his strength.
- Jimmy Barnes- Even with cancer, Jimmy continues to enjoy this season of life. His treatments are working, and your prayers are making a difference.
- Bradley Reel-Let's pray for this young man's ministry at White Oak. He will be attending the Propel Kids camp next week.
- Morris Joyner-Brother Morris has cancer and needs our prayers.
- A.W. and Bernice Pitts- This sweet couple is struggling physically. Please pray for them and this season of physical difficulty. Bernice fell and broke her arm.
- Our young adults-Many of our young adults are struggling to find a job. Let's pray that the Lord will open the right door for a promising career.
- Debra Pierce-Debra is battling some extreme health problems. Pray the medications continue to help.
- Melisa Belcher-Melisa's P.T. is going well, but she and her dad (Donald) are still hurting from the loss of Ms. Teresa. The family will have to make some major decisions in the days ahead regarding his care.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal

Galatians 2:20

Congratulations to Natalie Webb! Natalie recently read a book about our National Parks and correctly answered the question listed on the bulletin board by the library. Way to go, Natalie!!! Check out a book and join the fun to find the answer.



Church Attendance

June 18th	
Wednesday Night	55
June 22nd	
Sunday School	90
Sunday Morning Worship	145



CHECK OUT WHAT IS RIGHT NOW MEDIA

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content/details/842994](https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/842994)



White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church
3967 W Hornes Church Rd
Bailey, NC 27807-9517



Dear Pastor Jones,

For some, the change in our country's leadership was a major sigh of relief, and in some ways, many have concluded that attacks on churches will cease and the fight against our Christian institutions, such as our Christian schools and daycares, will go away.

Sadly, that just isn't true. The lawsuits aren't stopping. The attacks aren't slowing down. And without your help to ensure the National Center for Life and Liberty has the resources to help churches fight back, some churches may fold.

We've seen what happens when pastors and ministries are left without legal defense. ***The churches end up in ministry-ending situations.***

But together, we're changing that.

As we continue this important work, I ask for just one thing: **please keep us in your prayers.**

We have a deep and ongoing need for God's wisdom, protection, and favor. Your prayers are vital as we advocate, advise, and stand beside churches on the front lines.

And if you've ever wondered whether your partnership truly makes a difference—please take a moment to read the enclosed note from a pastor we helped recently.

Served with a million-dollar lawsuit. Denied coverage by insurance. No idea where to turn. Until he called us.

Because of partners like you, he didn't face that battle alone. Your support keeps that kind of help available when the next pastor calls.

Lawsuits Are Surging!

(over, please)

Every lawsuit forces churches to divert precious time and resources away from outreach and discipleship—toward legal fights they never expected. And for some, that burden becomes too great.

These cases aren't rare—they're happening every day.

Out of the dozens of urgent calls we receive each day, here are just a few that reveal how serious these threats have become:

A Christian School Pressured to Compromise Its Beliefs

Multiple families attempted to enroll students who openly identified as LGBTQ+. The school, rooted in biblical doctrine, explained its position with clarity and care—but that wasn't enough.

They were accused of discrimination. Threatened with lawsuits. Targeted on social media. Even their accreditation was at risk. *Leadership turned to the NCLL for help.*

We reviewed their admissions policies, fortified their legal protections, and walked with them through every conversation, every threat, and every board meeting. We helped them communicate their convictions with truth and grace—without opening the door to devastating legal consequences.

In the end, the school stood firm—without compromising its mission or legal standing.

A Student Threatens Violence—and the School Has Minutes to Respond

It happened without warning. A student brought a weapon to a Christian school—and made a deadly threat against classmates.

Panic set in. Teachers scrambled to secure classrooms. Law enforcement rushed to the scene. Parents demanded answers.

The school's leadership knew one wrong move—legally or publicly—could jeopardize everything.

They called the NCLL.

We responded immediately—guiding them through mandatory reporting, protecting student privacy, assessing liability, and preparing a clear public response.

Because of swift action and sound legal counsel, the school kept its doors open, its students safe, and its mission intact—proving that even under threat, faith-based education can stand strong.

A Church Confronts a Serious Allegation—and Seeks the Truth with Grace and Integrity

It began quietly—a private allegation that soon became a formal complaint.

A church employee was accused of sexually harassing a fellow congregant. The individual notified church leadership and filed a police report within days.

The accusation sent shockwaves through the congregation. Staff were shaken. Trust was at risk. Leadership faced a legal and moral crisis—with no room for error.

They turned to the NCLL for help.

We knew this required more than legal expertise. It demanded truth, compassion, and precision.

Our team stepped in—advising on immediate legal compliance, protecting the rights of all involved, coordinating with law enforcement, and guiding church leadership through every step.

We helped them respond with wisdom and integrity—avoiding gossip, retaliation, and missteps.

In the end, the church handled the matter lawfully and biblically—protecting their people, preserving their mission, and proving that even in crisis, the Church can be a place of justice and refuge.

The Risks Are Real—And They're Rising

Pastor Jones, you know that legal battles are relentless, draining time, money, and energy from pastors and Christian schools. That's exactly what the enemy wants—to use the courts to silence and weaken the Church.

The NCLL's mission is to stand in the gap—so pastors can keep preaching, schools can keep teaching, and ministries can stay focused on the Gospel.

And we're able to do that because of partners like you.

Your continued partnership ensures that when the next urgent call comes in—and it will—we're ready to respond with clarity, wisdom, and strong legal support.

We're grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

As we press forward, please keep our team in your prayers. Please ask the Lord to give us favor, endurance, and discernment as we defend churches and protect the freedom to live out the Gospel without compromise.

Your prayers and partnership are making a real difference.

Sincerely,



David C. Gibbs III
President and General Counsel

Thank you for partnering
with us in the Gospel!

P.S. — As I have the privilege of helping ministries in their hour of need, I'm only able to do so because of your prayers, friendship, and partnership. Again, if you haven't already, please read the enclosed note from a pastor we helped recently — we want to be there just like this for you as well.