

## January 2026

**Dear Members and Friends of Northside Baptist Church,**

My name is Pastor Jim Townsend, and it is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce myself as your Interim Pastor beginning January 1, 2026. My call here is for a limited, transitional time to help guide the Church through this season and prepare for the arrival of your next installed pastor.



I have been in full-time ministry for over 25 years, serving in various roles, including as missionary, associate pastor and pastor. I look forward to working together with all of you as we seek to embrace God's call for Northside during this time of transition.

As we walk together, during this "in-between time," my focus will be to supply church leadership, conduct worship services, and provide pastoral care.

My home is in Mechanicsville, where I live with my wonderful wife, Marcie. She plans to join me here at Northside as she is able. We have been married for 42 years and have two married daughters, Kate and Caroline, and one granddaughter, Scarlett.

Over the coming months, I look forward to getting to know many of you and worshiping together. Please feel free to reach out or stop me on a Sunday morning to introduce yourself. I would be honored to connect with you.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year!

*Pastor Jim*



4<sup>th</sup> JoAnn Hufner  
 5<sup>th</sup> Joyce Corey  
 8<sup>th</sup> David Barnes, Sue Davis  
 11<sup>th</sup> Wayne White  
 15<sup>th</sup> Bob Strang  
 16<sup>th</sup> Dee Hufner  
 26<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jeff Scott  
 29<sup>th</sup> Lynn Clark, Kathy Donner,  
 Colin Etheridge

### Healing Quilts

The quilts are great to give to those who are celebrating a new baby's arrival, to comfort those who are suffering an illness, or to comfort those who have lost a loved one.

Our group also makes some lap-sized fidget quilts that are great for those who have dementia.

**Healing Quilts** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 10:00am. **Next meetings are January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.**

## Important Dates and INFORMATION

Sit & Get Fit Monday & Thursday @ 9:30am – Fellowship Hall

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays @ 8:00am – Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Study Tuesdays @ 10:00am – Acts Classroom

### Wednesday Nights in January

Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30pm

**Bible Study @ 6:15pm**

Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00pm

### **Happy New Year's Day – 1/1/26**

Missions Team – 1/7/26 @ 4:30pm – Conference Room

Fellowship Dinner – 1/7/26 @ 5:30pm – Fellowship Hall

Bible Study – 1/7/26 @ 6:15pm – Fellowship Hall

Healing Quilts – 1/8/26 @ 10:00am – Conference Room

Deacon Team – 1/11/26 @ 8:00am – Conference Room

Joy Lunch – 1/13/26 @ 11:00am – Fellowship Hall

Bunco – 1/18/26, 3-5:30pm – Fellowship Hall

Naomi Circle – 1/19/26 @ 1:00pm – Fellowship Hall

Painting Class – 1/20/26, 1-3pm – Fellowship Hall

Healing Quilts – 1/22/26 @ 10:00am – Conference Room

Harbour Square – 1/25/26 @ 11:30am

**Newsletter Articles for February due by 1/22/2026**

If your contact information has changed,  
don't forget to let us know!





### **Donations Needed:**

**Beets  
Mayo  
Ketchup  
Canned Meat  
Fruit Cocktail**

### **Bloom Pregnancy Resource Center**

Bloom PRC of Richmond is a non-profit organization in the Tuckahoe area that offers free, confidential services for those facing unexpected pregnancies including medical-grade pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, options counseling, and parenting/support classes. They provide a supportive environment to help individuals explore their options and offer resources for parenting, post-abortion recovery, and material assistance, with all services provided at no cost.



## **~ Mission Moments ~**

**First Responders** – Planning a visit to Laurel Meadows Fire House with homeschoolers. (kids on Mission!) Date mid-January at noon.

**MCEF** – collecting beets, mayo, ketchup, canned meat, fruit cocktail.

**Healing Quilts** – meeting regularly. Quilts were presented to the Scotts 12/14 for their retirement celebration. Quilt presented to Ann Atkinson who is recovering from a fall.

**Naomi Circle** – met 12/09. Card ministry to all loved ones on the list. Gift cards to college and other kids. Missionary names distributed for prayer. Feminine products collected for MCEF. Gifts were wrapped for two families (4 boys and two Moms). Dinner followed attended by members and spouses.

**CARITAS** - (30 meals for the ladies' facility) Thanks to Gloria Harrison for coordinating this ministry. Delivery Feb. 2026. Homeschoolers decorate bags for this project. (kids on Mission!)

**Harbour Square** - Desiree Lytton heads this ministry. Deliveries last Sunday of each month to 25 families. Missions Team applied for a grant from the Watson Offering Funds to support this ministry.

**Kroger** – 52 households participating. Encourage others to sign up. Instructions for signing up located in Common Grounds. Check for last quarter was \$172.83.

**Church Hill (River City Faith Network)** – Beverly Sweeney attends Bible Study, and reports needs to this team. Items from the Warming Tree will be shared with this ministry. Check for annual donation sent in Nov. (\$400)

**Moments of Hope** – continuing to collect single pup tents, sleeping bags, blankets, coats, underwear, socks, flashlights, and batteries for the homeless. The Director picks up items on a regular basis.

**Bloom (PRC)** - We will provide baby bottle banks once a quarter to be filled with cash/checks to donate to this ministry. Next collection planned for January 18<sup>th</sup> "Sanctity of Life" Sunday.

**Lottie Moon Offering** – \$ collecting through December 14th. 2025 goal \$2500

This offering supports International Missionaries.

**Misc.** –

1. We are collecting tabs from cans to donate to Ronald MacDonald House. They use them to pay the electric bill.
2. **Warming Tree** will receive hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks of all sizes. These are shared with MCEF, Moments of Hope, and The River City Faith Network. Tree stays up till February 2026.



1/18/2026 3-5:30pm

## Holy Rollers

### Bunco Bunch

No Skill. No Strategy  
Just Fun & Snacks!

Invite friends, bring a snack, and  
come laugh with us!

**Four Winners Every Time!**

Please contact Joyce Gunn with any questions.

## Painting Classes

**January 20th**

**1-3:00pm**

Fellowship Hall



Contact Robert Gibson – 804-370-0340 or  
Sharon Gibson 804-241-3449 for details  
or questions.

## JOY Lunch

January 13<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am

**Guest Speaker:**

**Laurel Meadows Fire Dept.**

Cost \$6.00/person and canned food for  
food pantry

With Debbie's retirement, a **NEW**  
**PERMANENT LIST** will be created.

Please contact Crys, 804-746-4952 or  
email: [crys7600@gmail.com](mailto:crys7600@gmail.com).

Thank you.

## Sit & Get Fit

Chair Exercise for Senior Saints

Monday & Thursday  
9:30am – 10:30am







I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Joyful Sound for their incredible work in putting together a truly wonderful Christmas Cantata last Christmas season. I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to the Handbells for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Their practice and dedication were instrumental in making our worship services so enjoyable.

A special shoutout to our praise band players for their unwavering commitment to endless practice every Sunday morning. Their passion and energy are truly inspiring, and we couldn't do it without them.

Lastly, I want to thank our tech team for their remarkable efforts in producing live recordings, sending them out, and sharing them with the world. Their dedication to our ministry is truly commendable.

I'm filled with excitement for the new year and all the blessings God has in store for our church and ministry. I can't wait to see what the future holds for us and for the entire community.

May God bless you all,  
*Eric Schlaud*  
Director of Music Ministries

### Wednesday Nights in January

Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30pm

Bible Study with Jim Townsend @ 6:15pm

Choir Rehearsal starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

### Sermons in January

Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	A Prayer for the New Year Psalm 25:1-10
Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Trusting God's Ways Genesis 15:1-6
Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Walking with God Exodus 3:1-12
Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Meaning of God's Presence Deuteronomy 31:1-6



### Encouraging, Joyful, Compassionate

A little over 15 years ago, we agreed together that Northside Baptist would be an encouraging, joyful, and compassionate family of faith. We set out to love each other and love others with the love of Jesus. Looking around today, we see the result of that decision. We are indeed a family that loves, a family that cares, and a family where hugs are as plentiful as laughter.

Debbie and I could not be more proud of investing these years of our life and ministry with you. We thank you for loving us, supporting us, praying for us, and celebrating life's ups and downs with us.

Your generosity, care, and many expressions of love as we embrace our retirement years have touched us deeply. We love you all and look forward to reading of God's amazing work among you in 2026 and the years to come. It will be exciting. Debbie and I are delighted to have been the first pastor and senior adult director of Northside's second one hundred years of ministry to the glory of God!

Encouraging, Joyful, and  
Compassionate... that's our church!

With Love & Thanksgiving,,  
*Dr. Jeff & Debbie Scott*