

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

STEPHANIE MOODY SHAFFER *Faith and Community Engagement Manager, BRHF*

**Micah 6:8** "He has shown you what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

After the recent natural disaster which devastated many parts of North Carolina, I heard a local minister thank a congregation for their generous response in collecting supplies and money to assist those in need. The minister then added, "I wonder what our world would look like if we put this much effort into taking care of people in need all the time?"

That simple statement caused a lot of people, including me, to stop and think. Are we fulfilling what God has shown us is good? Do our actions reflect justice, mercy, and humility? And if not, what changes should we make?

As God's people we are called to care for others, especially orphans, widows, and elders. The Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation exists to fulfill these requirements as God commanded. We are grateful for the gifts that help us do what is good in the sight of God, and pray you will join us with compassionate generosity as we show justice, mercy, and humility to older adults in our state.

Thomas A. Jackson wrote lyrics to one of my favorite hymns entitled "We Are Called to Be God's People." The second verse is a beautiful accompaniment to our ministry.

*We are called to be God's servants, Working in His world today.  
Taking His own task upon us, All His sacred words obey.  
Let us rise then to His summons, Dedicate to Him our all.  
That we may be faithful servants, Quick to answer now His call.*

## 2025 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults



**JANUARY 27, 2025 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

All gifts received will help provide quality care for older adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve.

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES  
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**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025**

**REED VANDERSLIK** *President and CEO*

**Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

As we reflect on the calling to care for others, it's essential to remember the often-overlooked caregivers of older adults. These individuals pour their hearts and souls into supporting loved ones, often at great personal sacrifice. The journey can be overwhelming, leaving caregivers feeling isolated and exhausted.

In Galatians 6:2, we are reminded of our responsibility to "bear each other's burdens." This verse beautifully captures the essence of community and compassion. Caring for an older adult involves not only meeting their physical needs but also providing emotional and spiritual support. As caregivers face daily challenges, they need encouragement and help in carrying their burdens.

Consider how we can actively support these caregivers. It may be as simple as offering a listening ear, helping with household chores, or providing respite care. Just as the early church rallied around one another, we too can create a network of support that uplifts those who give so much to others.

Jesus modeled this selfless love, teaching us to look beyond ourselves and to bear the burdens of those around us. By coming together as a community, we can reflect Christ's love and make a significant impact in the lives of caregivers.

We are working on a project that will introduce a new concept where the caregiver of someone with dementia is allowed to continue to live with their spouse and yet have ready access to caregiver support when needed all within the confines of its own distinct community. We plan to introduce that new concept at the Brookridge campus.

Let's take time to help and pray for all caregivers today. Ask God to grant them strength, peace, and moments of rest. In doing so, we not only honor their sacrifices but also fulfill the law of Christ through our love and service.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**

**KEVIN COOK** *Director of Development, BRHF*

**Matthew 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'"

Love God. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. These two simple commandments stand above all others, and serve as a guiding light for all of us. The people in the ThriveMore family of communities are filled with your neighbors. People just like you, from all walks of life, living and thriving with the supporting values of faith, family, and fulfillment.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 5:1-3 to treat our elderly neighbors as if they were our parents: "Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

Just like the neighbors in any community, some of the residents of ThriveMore communities have more financial need than others – but our love and care for them is unchanged. We can't do it alone though. The mission of the Baptist Retirement

Home Foundation is to care for those older neighbors in our community, as Jesus instructed, and we invite you to be part of that mission. Your care, prayers, and support ensure that we can continue to love our neighbors, as we love ourselves.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025**

**DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.** *Spilman Memorial Baptist Church*

**Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2** As a pastor for over 20 years, I have seen the tension in families between aging parents and adult children. While the parents are very much in control of their lives, often we find the adult children begin to take on the role of the parent to their parents. Many adult children today are struggling with the best way to honor their parents, while at the same time, maintain their employment, take care of their children and stay actively involved in their grandchildren's lives. The "sandwich generation" is squeezed on both ends with family responsibilities.

More and more, senior adults have taken the bold step in planning for retirement and actually executing that plan. They have recognized their decreased ability to meet all the physical demands of maintaining a home, driving, cooking and preparing meals, and managing the ever-increasing number of pills needed each day to maintain their health. Some seniors have sought out and welcomed a retirement community while others reluctantly went kicking and screaming.

Today, I am thankful for the initial vision of the NC Baptist Retirement Homes to provide safe places for people to continue to thrive. I am thankful for the growth of this vision to encompass a wider community, thus the recent name change to Thrivemore. We all want to thrive in life. We can thrive during our retirement years as well!

I am praying for families as they attempt to live out the commandment to "Honor thy father and mother." After all, it is the only commandment that promises us a longer life if we do!

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025**

**REV. KEITH DIXON** *Boiling Springs Baptist Church*

**Isaiah 58:12 (NIV)** "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations."

What is a Foundation? Simply defined it is a base for something. We usually think of foundations of buildings, of a business, of our faith, or foundations that provide resources for needs. Each of these are created to be a starting point. If foundations have nothing built on or added to them, the purpose will not be achieved.

The Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation is the base through which excellent care can be provided for older adults with little or no resources. Since its inception, churches and individuals have helped build resources that are vital to the mission of providing quality health and spiritual care for many in need throughout North Carolina.

With the rising cost and demand for healthcare among older adults, would you pray for hearts to be moved to continue and expand these opportunities? Rest assured, 100% of all donations are directed to this growing need.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts!

