

# ENKA Baptist Church

ESTABLISHED 1930

"A Great Commission Church"



## TEN Years!

It's July, which means I have had the privilege of being your pastor for a decade...TEN years. That breaks down to 120 months; 3,652 days; 87,648 hours; 5,258,880 minutes; 315,532,800 seconds of being part of your lives.

It's hard to believe, but when our family arrived in July of 2015, the twins were eight and Olivia was five. Now here we are...Rebekah and Samantha have graduated high school and are getting ready to go to college, and Olivia will be a sophomore. Ten years of growth.

My children have grown, I have grown, our congregation has grown, our budget has grown, and our



faith has grown. You have seen me through completing my bachelor's degree and my master's degree, you have helped me through the death of my father, and we have mourned many faithful members together.

June 14, 2015, in front of this congregation and some family and friends of mine, you voted in affirmation 100% that Enka Baptist Church was where God wanted me to be, and He still does. In these ten years we have faced many challenges, and not only have we survived, but we have thrived. We have seen a lot of change and yet we maintain the truth of the Gospel. Your faithfulness to the Word, prayer, and your Creator is why we are where we are today.

Our community is stronger and better because Enka Baptist Church is here. It's better because you are here. In 2015 the beacon in our lighthouse had grown dim, but now it is shining brightly in the Enka-Candler community once again simply because of your faithfulness, humility, and servanthood. God is moving. He is using Enka Baptist mightily. We have a strong legacy of faithfulness that began when Rev. John Bennett, Sr. had a vision of what "could be" in the winter of 1929, and now 96 years later here we are living and worshipping in part of that vision that is known as Enka Baptist Church. Enka has a rich history of a great past, but I genuinely believe that our best days are not behind us but they are indeed in the future that is ahead of us. If I were to use one verse to describe Enka Baptist over the last ten years it would be Galatians 6:9:

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (NIV)*

You, my church, have been the epitome of what this verse means. Many of you, even during difficult days, have not given up. I am proud of all of you and how much God has used you in the years past, and we will keep pressing forward to the future.

There is much more that God wants to do because ...  
**#Gods\_Not\_Done!**

Thank you for ten phenomenal years!  
I love being your pastor!  
Chris L. Reese

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# July 2025 EBC Connect

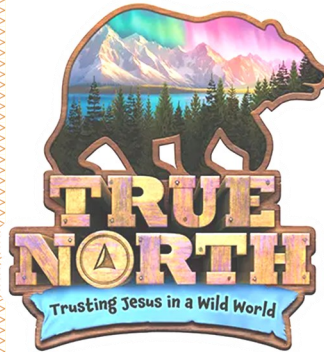
DISCOVER~DEVELOP~DISCIPLE

Helping people discover and develop into disciples of Christ

## Vacation Bible School Already?

YES my fellow churchgoers... it's that time of year again!

July 14- 18 ~ 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.



Enka Baptist Church **Vacation Bible School** is excited to host children from far and wide ... **July 14-18** as we teach them about **True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**.

True north is a fixed point on Earth's globe. Unlike magnetic north, true north is **unmoving, unchanging, reliable, resolute**.

If you're reading this, chances are that Jesus is your true north. You've trusted him to be a faithful friend when life's journey got lonely. You've relied on his unchanging love through life's ups and downs. You've turned to Jesus' comforting words of hope when the world felt cold and dark. And you want to share all of that with kids in your community!



Like you, we love Jesus, and we love kids. We know that kids today may find their world untamed and wild. We understand that kids' source of truth may shift, depending on the latest news headline, trend, or social media influencer. We long for kids to boldly step out in faith, knowing that Jesus always points them in the right direction. **He is their true north.** Now...and for eternity!



That's why we're so glad to invite you to join us on this adventure! Think of our VBS team as trail guides, going ahead to make sure the terrain is smooth, and the trail is well-marked. And we're praying that God's vast love amazes and astounds these kids as we lead them into the wonder of a friendship with Jesus. It's hard to find your way in a world gone wild.

**But we have Jesus—our true north!**



Together and with your prayers and support for the staff, children and families that will be impacted, help us give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever.

At **True North**, kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, enjoy a meal together, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' love, and test out science experiments they'll never forget.



Kids at **True North** will also join a missions effort to provide children in need with school supplies through the **Appalachian Backpack Ministry**.

True North is for kids aged 3 to rising 5th grade and will run from 5:45-8:30 p.m. each evening.

**Get excited and invite all the kids you know!**

And...we can always use a few extra hands to help make the event possible. If you're interested in volunteering, or for more information contact Brandy Reese at 828-273-2405 or Rachel Mann at 828-279-9995, or see them on Sunday mornings after church. When you donate money to this ministry event, please indicate **VBS Backpack Ministry** on your offering envelope.

God bless you and thank you for your support.





## Did You Know? VBS...A Short History

Most of us know what VBS is... Vacation Bible School... And most of us know it's been around a long time...but do we really know its history?

The origins of VBS began in New York City's streets in 1898. Mrs. Virginia Hawes noticed that when schools let out for the summer, "the streets and open squares in a near section of the East Side swarmed with idle and sometimes unruly children." Hawes decided that something needed to be done so she began the first Daily Vacation Bible School where she offered Bible stories and great kindness. Children sang hymns, made crafts, memorized long passages of scripture and studied the Bible together. Hawes wrote of the pupils in 1900, "They often surprised us by questions about Scriptures that showed they understood and reasoned about the Word of God. A great many questions were asked about living the Christian life and trying to do His will."



Virginia Hawes

By 1916, VBS was "accepted as one of the established, most blessed means of sowing the gospel seed in places where otherwise it might never fall."

At first vacation Bible schools were interdenominational, but in the 1920's most denominations became invested in VBS work. In 1922, a young pastor in Georgia, Homer Grice, decided to hold their first VBS in their new education building. In 1924, Lifeway, then known as the Baptist Sunday School Board, made Grice a job offer. Grice became Lifeway's first VBS curriculum producer with only a desk and a chair. He hired writers, developed curriculum and set to work. Grice said the Holy Spirit inspired him with a vision for VBS to reach the multitudes. From there, VBS became a force used by God each summer to reach thousands upon thousands of children for Jesus!

*In 1992, Southern Baptist Vacation Bible School hit an enrollment record of 3,709,174!*

Through the years, Vacation Bible School has continued to bring the gospel to children all over the world. Many of those children have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and have grown up to become godly men and women

who follow Jesus as adults. Virginia Hawes, Homer Grice, and many other godly people like them have served through VBS to evangelize millions.

This month, as we prepare for our VBS, *True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*, let us not forget the rich history of VBS. Let's focus on the gospel of Jesus and allow this to be a huge evangelistic event this summer for the kids in our community!

### A Prayer for VBS

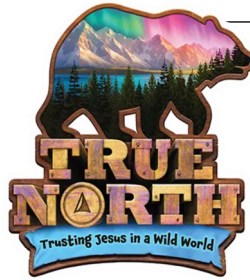
Abundant and Energetic God,

You fill your world with a season of summer delights, sunshine, warm breezes, a slower pace to enjoy your creation. Fill us with the joy of this season.

We gather around your Word in the midst of our summer. May our days together lead to new friendships, new activity, new insights, and a strengthened relationship with you. May your Spirit shower upon our teachers, leaders, and volunteers; giving energy, creativity, and patience. May your love embrace the children who join us for Bible School so they may come to know you more deeply. May your people experience good fellowship in these days as we study, create, and play.

Bless us, O God, as we seek to learn from your Word and to share your love. As you gather us in for summer Bible School, send us out beyond this place to show the world what we have come to know: that your grace and welcome and wonder are for everyone.

We pray in the precious name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



### JULY MISSION PROJECT AT EBC

Our **JULY MISSION PROJECT** is to support our **TRUE NORTH Vacation Bible School** (July 14-18) with monetary donations for the **Appalachian Backpack Ministry**, which provides children in need

with school supplies. Our VBS kids are excited to bring their offering for this important mission project. It makes them proud to be "missionaries" to less fortunate kids. Your donation will really help them be able to provide many backpacks to kids in need!

Please indicate on your offering envelope the amount you wish to go to the VBS backpack ministry.

We also need to borrow these specific items:

- ♦ Small or medium sized Christmas trees (undecorated)
- ♦ 5 gallon buckets
- ♦ Camping lanterns

(Please label these items so we can return them accordingly.)

We are so grateful for how much time, energy and love you contribute to our ministry, and its such a blessing to know we can always count on you!



*Small Groups  
meet every Sunday  
at 9:30 a.m.  
(unless otherwise noted)*

<b>JUL 01</b>	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
<b>JUL 04</b>	 <b>HAPPY 4th of JULY</b>	Celebrate the peace and commemorate the heroes!
<b>JUL 06</b>	6:00 p.m.	<b>Happy 10th Anniversary Pastor</b> Quarterly Business Meeting CIA / Youth
<b>JUL 08</b>	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
<b>JUL 13</b>	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Celebration No Evening Service VBS Final Preparation
<b>JUL 14-18</b>	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> <b>No Group Bible Study on 15th</b>
<b>JUL 20</b> ABCCM SUNDAY	12:30 p.m.	<b>Celebrating our Pastor's 10th Year at Enka Baptist with lunch in the fellowship hall</b> <b>No Evening Service</b>
<b>JUL 22</b>	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
<b>JUL 26</b>	8:00 a.m.	 <b>Men's Breakfast</b>
<b>JUL 27</b>	10:55 a.m.	Rev. Scott Lynch No Evening Service
<b>JUL 28</b>	All Day Long	 <b>Pastor Chris!</b>
<b>JUL 29</b>	10:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting