



JANUARY 2026



Rolling Roads Baptist Church

LOOKING OVER JORDAN

The Baptist Church: A Cultural Bedrock

On the radio someone was recently talking about the concept of "cultural bedrock." The term refers to something so widely known and accepted that it never truly disappears; it remains ever-present in spite of emergencies, tragedies, natural disasters, the passage of time, sudden changes in political fortunes, or famous deaths. People may change their minds and habits about many things, and technology may alter how we live and work, but the cultural bedrock endures.

As I considered this idea, I realized that the Baptist Church is a fundamental part of the cultural bedrock of our society. We may not be consciously aware of it, and we may not think about it every week, but Baptists have a long and significant history in our culture, predating the American Revolution.

Some of you may remember the Sandy Creek Revival, which took place in the 1740s not far from here. The First Baptist Church at Charleston was established in colonial times, in pre-colonial times even. Roger Williams, a key figure in the founding of American religious freedom, became a Baptist and established Brown University in Rhode Island while transitioning in his faith journey from a Puritan to a Quaker. We should also never forget about Thomas Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptists just across the border, a few miles from here in Virginia. That letter became a founding document for religious freedom, later enshrined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.



When a person drives around the South, they will pass Baptist churches. When driving around New England or urban areas across the country, one will see Baptist churches. Some may no longer be in use; some are very old; some are only half full. Some may no longer be in use; some are very old; some are only half full.

But what do they stand for? What do they

BIRTHDAYS

COOPER JORDAN
JAN 15

STACY WEST
JAN 27

DIANE GARRETT
JAN 31



*If nothing seems to go
my way today, this is
my happiness: God is
my Father and I am
His Child.*

Basilea Schlink
*How great is the love the
Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called
children of God!*
1 John 3:1

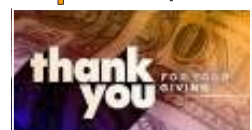


Financial Report

NOVEMBER

Income: \$7387

Expense: \$7112





Church Family - Thank you for giving so graciously and generously to all of the missions we support throughout the year.

Thank you for giving to our outreach projects: Baptist Children's Home Food Roundup, Pregnancy Network Share the Change, Operation Christmas Child and our new Blessing Box.

Thank you for your gifts to support Rolling Roads Baptist. You are a blessing to all of us and the community we reach out to.

May God bless you immensely in the year ahead.



LOOKING OVER JORDAN

represent? They represent a certain tradition of worship of the only true and living God. They represent the rule and reign of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior on this earth. They represent public worship, which was so very important to a generation now gone. This weekly worship is, I believe, a part of our cultural bedrock.

People who feel lost or confused today, people who are wondering about their purpose in life, should think about worship. They should consider why people participate—and why they are not. They should realize that they are missing out on something profoundly important.

As we begin 2026, I encourage you to be proud to be a Baptist, to understand more about the Baptist heritage, and to realize that you are involved in something vital: worship, which is what all people were created for.

Happy Because of Jesus,

Pastor James

