



Start with Stones (SWS)
Together, We're Building a
Strong Foundation

SWS Capital Campaign
February 2025 Prayer Calendar

Each of you take up a stone on your shoulder so
that this may be a sign among you.

Joshua 4:5-6



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Introduction

The Generosity Prayer team is pleased to present to members and friends of New River Presbyterian Church this 2025 “Start with Stones” Prayer Calendar for the month of February.

Steps for Daily Prayer:

Step One: Read the reflection for the month. Be sure to get paper or purchase a notebook or journal to keep your written answers to the question you will be asked to answer regarding the reflection. You will also need a bible and an appointed “quiet time” when you will not be interrupted. We suggest a minimum of 15 minutes per day.

Step Two: Read the scripture indicated for the week, daily. Move through the passage slowly. Try to imagine the place, the sounds, the smells the emotions that are expressed.

Step Three: Keeping in mind the scripture you have read, write down the answer to the reflection questions. These same questions should be asked and answered daily utilizing the same scripture reference for the week. Don’t over analyze your answer, simply list thoughts that come to you.

Step Four: Please end your daily time of reflection in prayer for yourself, the members and friends of New River Presbyterian Church and other prayer concerns you may have.

Step Five: At the end of the week read the answers to your questions. Can you see any pattern in your answers? What is God saying to you?

February Theme: Setbacks Matters

February is Black History Month, a period dedicated to highlighting the contributions of African Americans in the United States. Despite chattel slavery, Jim Crow laws and the racism and injustices we encounter, African Americans have worked hard and made considerable contributions in building this nation. Due to recent executive orders, there is concern about a setback in our nation's progress toward racial justice and civil rights. These setbacks are noteworthy as we celebrate Black History Month.

Setbacks are challenging. Despite the efforts to ensure this nation adheres to the principle that all people are created equal and have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it is evident that further work remains. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to “do justice, love kindness and humbly walk with God.” This calling obliges us to continue advocating for what is right, irrespective of any executive order or laws enacted. We are called to operate in the fashion of the Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde who delivered her sermon at the national prayer service at Washington National Cathedral on January 21, 2025. Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde received criticism for her willingness to speak the truth in love, and to plead for mercy for the LGBTQ+ and migrant communities from the U.S. Our history shows those who seek freedom and justice, must be willing to deal with the criticism and the back lash that comes with speaking truth to power. In the words of Frederick Douglas: “Where there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

I remember some years ago witnessing the opening of Greensboro's first and only International Civil Rights Museum. It was a cold, icy morning. The freezing overnight temperatures caused the snow left on the ground to make the road slick, yet my husband, Mondré and I got up early that morning, like many others to attend a 5:30 a.m. breakfast and to see the ribbon cut signifying the opening of this new museum. I knew that we were witnessing history. I was even more inspired when I reflected upon the sixteen years it took to open this museum. There were many setbacks. Guilford County Commissioner, Melvin Skip Alston and State Representative Earl Jones had to work hard to make the dream embedded within them a reality.

Similarly, as New River Presbyterian Church works to make God's vision for this community a reality, setbacks will occur. Setbacks are an intrinsic part of our spiritual journey. We may start enthusiastic but feel like giving up when setbacks arise. This is when the need for bold faith becomes essential. Setbacks show our need for help and reliance on the Holy Spirit, who empowered Jesus in his earthly journey. Remember before his crucifixion, Jesus faced setbacks and prayed for relief (Luke 22:42). Through prayer and reflection, he moved forward with bold faith. His setback became a setup for God to bless his life and the lives of many others. The setbacks tested Jesus' determination and led him to fulfill his destiny. May our setbacks lead us to do the same.

Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

Scripture Readings:

Week 1:	Read Joshua 1:1-8
Week 2:	Read Luke 4:1-14
Week 3:	Read Nehemiah 4:1-6
Week 4:	Read Matthew 20:29-34



Daily Reflection Questions:

What stands out to you about setbacks in today's scripture?

How have you grown in faithfulness when handling setbacks?

How are you responding to God's call and sharing God's generosity with others?